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LOK SABHA DEBATES

First Session
(Seventh Lok Sabha)



सत्यमेव जयते

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LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
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LOK SABHA DEBATES

I

LOK SABHA

Friday, February 1, 1980/Magha 12,
1901 (Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Irregularities committed by Madura Bank under its Prize Deposits Scheme

*81. SHRI PIUS TIRKEY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of complaints have been received about irregularities committed by the Bank of Madura in conducting monthly draws in respect of their Rs. 500/- Prize Deposits scheme;

(b) if so, full details thereof and action taken against the Bank of Madura management;

(c) whether this Bank is also not permitting refund of these deposits to the depositors; if so the reasons; and

(d) whether Government propose to direct the above Bank to refund the deposits taken under the scheme as is permissible in case of fixed deposits taken by Banks?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House. However, if the Hon'ble Member forwards any specific complaint the same will be looked into.

SHRI PIUS TIRKEY: It is the practice that the question should be

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answered by the Minister. Then only a supplementary can arise from this side. So I am not asking any question about it and I am waiting for the answer.

MR. SPEAKER: That is the answer of the Minister.

SHRI PIUS TIRKEY: As no information has been received by the Government, I am waiting for the information.

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY: If there are no complaints, I want to know whether the Minister has received any appreciation of the work of that Bank. Has he found out from the Bank?

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: I did not say that there are no complaints. The complaints are sent to the Reserve Bank of India. I have asked for information from the Reserve Bank of India as to the nature of the complaints and that information has to come from the Reserve Bank of India. I will collect that information and place it on the Table of the House. Meanwhile, if the Member has any specific complaints, he may write to the Government and I will look into it.

DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: Will the hon. Minister inform us since what time these draws have been in practice and how many deposits have not yet been paid even after the draw period is over?

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: The scheme is this. People deposit for a period of ten years and during that period the prize draw is conducted. If the person is successful, then he gets the prize and his name is removed from the further prize draws. But within a period of ten years for which he has made the deposit, he cannot withdraw that amount.

MR. SPEAKER: Q. No. 82. Shri Daga. Not here.

SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV: Since I also come from Rajasthan, may I be permitted to put this question?

MR. SPEAKER: No. Have you got the written authority from the hon. Member?

SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV: No.

MR. SPEAKER: Then, you cannot do that. Next question, Q. No. 83.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Question Numbers 83 and 89 may be taken up together as it is exactly the same.

MR. SPEAKER: All right. Mr. Fernandes.

Distribution of Essential Commodities through Public Distribution System

*83. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government intend to pursue the policy to distribute essential commodities to the people through the public distribution system.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c), Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The distribution of certain selected items of essential commodities through the public distribution system has become an important function of Administration today. The policy of the Government is to strengthen the public distribution system by enlarging the area and population coverage, streamline the arrangements for pro-

curement, bufferstocking and supplies of these essential commodities and to improve the monitoring of information and supervision of the system. Accordingly the States have been advised to ensure that every village or group of villages having a population of 2,000 and above is covered by a fair price shop. The headquarters of a village Panchayat, irrespective of the population, is to be covered by an independent fair price shop. In the remote and inaccessible areas, particularly the tribal belts, the population to be covered by a fair price shop of a village or a cluster of villages, could be 1,000. While the Food Corporation of India, the Public Sector Oil Corporations, Coal India Ltd., have been continuing their operations in procurement and distribution of cereals, kerosene, and soft-coke respectively, the State Trading Corporation was brought in a big way for distribution of imported edible oils through the fair price shops. The National Cooperative Consumers' Federation was entrusted the task of procurement and distribution of tea along with the controlled cloth which it had already been distributing. Arrangements were made with the Indian Soaps & Toiletry Makers' Association for supply of toilet soap through the public distribution system by various soap manufacturing concerns. The Khadi & Village Industries Commission has already started distribution of match-boxes under the system to some States. The arrangements made for procurement and distribution of various selected items of essential commodities are being constantly reviewed by the Department of Civil Supplies in consultation with the State Governments and the various Central agencies. The National Advisory Council set up at the National level has also met last November and reviewed the arrangements for distribution of various essential commodities. The State Governments have also been advised to keep the public distribution system under constant review by setting up State level Coordination Committees.

(c) Does not arise.

Public Distribution Scheme

*89. SHRI R. K. MHALGI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the progress made by Public Distribution Scheme (of essential commodities) which has come into being since 1st July, 1979;

(b) how many shops under the scheme are working throughout the country, (State-wise);

(c) whether the shops are being provided with adequate stock regularly and whether prices of the commodities are regulated and controlled properly; and

(d) whether Government propose to make the said scheme more effective, if so, the measures under consideration?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES AND CIVIL SUPPLIES. (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

The Production-cum-Distribution Scheme was launched all over the country from 1st July, 1979, to strengthen the existing public distribution system by enlarging the area and population coverage and also adding some more essential commodities for distribution through the outlets of

the fair price shops. The additional commodities recommended for distribution under the Scheme were toilet soap, match-boxes, tea, coffee and exercise-books. The implementation of the Scheme has, however, varied from State to State depending upon the administrative set up already in existence for running the public distribution system. The agencies nominated by the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations are being supplied the various commodities recommended for distribution under the Scheme by the various National level agencies such as Food Corporation of India, Public Sector Oil Corporations, National Cooperative Consumers' Federation, Khadi & Village Industries Commission and toilet soap by the various private manufacturing units at prices fixed by the Central Government. The Production-cum-Distribution Scheme is under periodical review in consultation with the State Governments, Central Ministries and other agencies. The Central Government has also set up an Advisory Council at the National level to advise it regarding the implementation of the Scheme, and similarly the State Governments have been advised to set up State level Coordination Committees to supervise the functioning of the public distribution system to make it more effective to cater to the requirements of the vulnerable sections of our society. A statement showing number of fair price shops in the country, statewise is enclosed.

Statement

(Prepared on 15-1-80)

State	Number of fair price shops	Population covered (in lakhs)	As on
Andhra Pradesh	22,183	435.0	31-12-79
Assam	13,576	168.4	31-7-79
Bihar	27,109	632.3	30-6-79
Gujarat	8,578	324.4	30-9-79
Haryana	4,075	120.0	30-11-79

1	2	3	4
Himachal Pradesh	2,530	37.7	30-9-79
Jammu & Kashmir	1,369	30.1	31-3-79
Karnataka	14,000	293.0	30-11-79
Kerala	11,648	226.2	31-7-79
Madhya Pradesh	17,487	398.5	30-11-79
Maharashtra	26,737	578.0	31-10-79
Manipur	525	13.8	30-9-79
Meghalaya	1,466	15.3	30-9-79
Nagaland	101	2.5	30-11-79
Orissa	7,716	136.8	31-7-79
Punjab	7,423	168.2	31-10-79
Rajasthan	7,971	286.1	30-9-79
Sikkim	13	0.2	31-3-79
Tamil Nadu	17,002	491.3	30-11-79
Tripura	692	1.0	31-5-79
Uttar Pradesh	21,891	934.4	31-5-79
West Bengal	17,914.7	518.4	31-12-78
TOTAL (STATES)	2,32,006	5,828.6	

Union Territory	Number of fair price shops	Population covered (in lakhs)	As on
A & N Islands	186	2.0	31-10-79
Arunachal Pradesh	110	1.5	30-6-79
Chandigarh	184	4.1	31-12-79
D & N Haveli	24	0.8	31-5-79
Delhi	2,156	56.9	30-11-79
Goa, Daman & Diu	391	10.3	31-10-79
Lakshadweep	22	0.4	31-10-79
Mizoram	308	4.2	30-9-79
Pondicherry	178	6.1	31-12-79

TOTAL (UNION TERRITORY) 3559 86.3

TOTAL ALL INDIA 2,35,565 5,914.9

(£)—Includes 2805 ration shops in statutory rationing areas covering a population of 97.4 lakhs.

श्री जार्ज फर्नांडीस : जो विवरण सभा पटल पर रखा गया है उसके अनुसार दो हजार से अधिक आबादी वाले गांवों में ये दुकानें स्थापित करने का फैसला किया गया है। इसका मतलब यह है कि लगभग चार लाख दुकानें समूचे देश में स्थापित होंगी। इस में यह भी बताया गया है कि नेशनल कंज्यूमर कोओपरेटिव फेडरेशन की यह कहा गया है कि वह चाय का प्रोक्योरमेंट करके इन दुकानों के जरिये लोगों को देने का काम करे। इंडियन सोप ऐंड टायलेट्स मैनुफैक्चरिंग एसोसिएशन को कहा गया है कि वह साबुन देने का काम करे। साथ ही खादी एंड विलेज इंडस्ट्रीज कमिशन वालों ने जो दिवासलाह के बक्स उसके द्वारा बनवाए जा रहे हैं उनको देने का काम भी शुरू कर दिया है। मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि अब तक कितनी दुकानें अस्तित्व में आ चुकी हैं। चार लाख दुकान होनी चाहिये अगर सरकार की जो योजना है वह सही माने में कार्यान्वित हो जाती है। चार लाख में से अब तक कितनी दुकानें अस्तित्व में आ चुकी हैं और अलग अलग संस्थाओं के जरिये यह सारा काम करने का जो संकल्प किया गया है उस में आपको कहां तक कामयाबी हासिल हुई है क्योंकि खादी एंड विलेज इंडस्ट्रीज के द्वारा जो आप दियासलाई देने की बात कर रहे हैं।

Khadi and Village Industries Commission is hardly producing one per cent of the total match boxes produced in this country.

ऐसी हालत में अगर इस पब्लिक डिस्ट्रीब्यूशन स्कीम में सिर्फ शासन रिपिजिशन करके कोई चीज देने का इंतजाम करने वाला है तो इसका मतलब यह है कि इससे कुछ लाभ नहीं होगा। मंत्री महोदय विस्तार से मेरे इन प्रश्नों का उत्तर दें तो बड़ी कृपा होगी।

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, so far as the first part of the question regarding the number of fair-price shops available is concerned, state-wise, the break-up of the information which we have received from the various States is that the number of fair-price shops operating is 2,32,006; in regard to the supply of the match box through the Khadi Village and Industries Commission, it is true that a very small percentage of the total production is covered by it. It is also known to you and to the hon. Member as he himself was in charge of the Industry Ministry, the Khadi and Village Industries Commission

was also under his administrative control.

We have identified the agencies for public distribution system; it is not possible for me to indicate by what time it would be possible for us to see that all these essential commodities which had been identified are distributed through the Public Distribution System I hope that we will be able to arrive at a stage of full satisfaction regarding this over the period. But, efforts are being made in this regard. Various State Governments and agencies are being involved with a vast area and so, much depends upon the cooperation of the State Governments. We are trying to streamline the procedure. Certain State Governments took initiative long time ago. Because of the change of policy—as the hon. Member already pointed out, we have more fair-price shops—what happened was this. The sugar was decontrolled, the dual price system was given up by the earlier regime and, as a result, a large number of fair price shops were closed down. So, it will take some time to put them into operation.

श्री जार्ज फर्नांडीस : अध्यक्ष जी, मैं मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं कि क्या सरकार ऐसी योजना बनाने के लिए तैयार है जिसमें जीवनोपयोगी वस्तुओं जैसे अनाज, मिट्टी का तेल, चीनी आदि ऐसी जीवन आवश्यक वस्तुओं की समूचे देश के पैमाने पर एक ही दाम बनाव और उन चीजों की दुलाई में जो खर्च होता है उसको सरकार अपनी तरफ से भर कर समूचे देश के पैमाने पर एक ही दाम पर यह चीजें इस देश के गरीबों को मिलने का इंतजाम करे। जो जवाब मंत्री महोदय ने अभी दिया है उसके आधार पर मैं इतना ही जानना चाहता हूं कि राज्य सरकारों के माध्यम से ही इसकी सफलता जब होनी है तो अभी जो राज्य सरकारों की तरफ से इस व्यवस्था को चलाने का प्रयास है उसमें कोई कमियां आपको दिखाई दे रही हैं ?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, there are certain shortcomings, for instance, the application of the Essential Commodities Act many State Governments have not taken up seriously. So far as the building up of infrastructure for the public dis-

tribution system is concerned, a lot of improvement is to be made in the various areas. So far as uniform price system is concerned, it is a big policy matter and I cannot reply to this question right now. So far as certain other items are concerned, essential commodities like foodgrains, cereals, etc. we are trying to distribute them through the Food Corporation of India, for kerosene, through Oil India Corporation, etc. Certain other items have also been identified and these are known to him.

श्री जार्ज फर्नांडीस : मैंने पूछा था कि क्या समूचे देश के पैमाने पर एक ही दाम पर कुछ जीवनोपयोगी वस्तुओं को लोगों को देने की कोशिश करेगी।

SHRI R. K. MHALGI: It has been stated in the reply that the Production-cum-Distribution Scheme is under periodical review in consultation with the State Governments, Central Ministries and other agencies. May I know whether any such review has been effected recently? If it is so, when and with what result? It has also been stated in the reply that the Central Government has also set up an Advisory Council at the National level to advise regarding the implementation of the scheme and similarly the State Governments have been advised to set up State level Co-operative Committees to supervise the functioning of the public distribution system, etc. May I know whether any of the meetings of such Advisory Council has been held? Who are the Members of this Council? If any such meetings have been held, what are the recommendations of the Council?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: So far as the meeting of the National Advisory Council is concerned, one meeting was held last year. It is a committee consisting of the Minister of Civil Supplies as the Chairman of the Committee, representatives of the State Governments either at the Ministerial level or their nominees and certain other agencies. So far as the periodical review is concerned,

the hon. Member is well aware that this Government started functioning just a couple of weeks ago. So, it will take sometime to look into the review work. So far as information and other matters are concerned, we are in touch with the State Governments and one of the important predicaments in these areas is when the Ordinance for preventing black-marketing and profiteering was promulgated, some of the State Governments did not utilise it. This enabling provision was made and the State Governments were provided with the power to take care of the profiteers, hoarders and blackmarketeers. But some of the State Governments did not utilise it.

SHRI R. K. MHALGI: I asked a specific question. May I know the names of the persons who have been included in the Council?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: I have already mentioned that the Minister of Civil Supplies and some of the agencies like Food Corporation of India, Indian Oil Corporation and National Cooperative Consumers' Federation are represented. I think their Chairmen of those organisations are the nominees of this Council.

SHRI R. K. MHALGI: When was the meeting held?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: I told you that in November 1978 one meeting was held.

डा० राजेंद्र कुमारी बाजपेयी : क्या मंत्री जी यह बतायेंगे कि अकाल की जो स्थाित हमारे देश में फैली हुई है उस को देखते हुए प्रदेश की सरकारों को यहां से ऐसा आदेश दिया जायगा कि हर पंचायत लेवल पर एक केयर प्राइस शाप हो जिस में अनाज भी सस्ते दामों पर मिले, कपड़ा भी सस्ते दाम पर मिले और विशेषकर मिट्टी का तेल जो कि बहुत ज्यादा कीमत पर, कहीं कहीं पांच रुपये और छः रुपये बोतल मिल रहा है उस के बजाय कंट्रोल पर मिले। मेरी जानकारी है कि जनता राज में बहुत जगहों पर दुकानों को बन्द कर दिया गया था।

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: It is true that a large number of fair

price shops were not operating, particularly when the decision for decontrolling sugar was taken by the earlier regime.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Were the shops selling sugar only?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sugar is an important item and as a result of this when they found that it was not economically viable to operate the shop, they closed it.

As regards establishing fair price shops at the Panchayat level, as mentioned in the text of the reply, it will be the endeavour of the Government to see that a population of 2000 is covered by one fair price shop, and irrespective of that, each Panchayat headquarter will have a fair price shop. The State Governments have been asked to ensure that.

श्री मलिक एम० एम० ए० खान : अध्यक्ष महोदय, रबी की फसल हमारी एक इम्पोर्टेड फसल है लेकिन डिजल और मिट्टी के तेल की कमी की वजह से अब तो बहुत सी जमीन बोने से भी बाकी रह गई और अब सिंचाई के लिए डिजल अवैलेबल नहीं है, उधर सूखे की स्थिति वैस ही चल रही है, ऐसी हालत में मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहूंगा, क्यों कि प्रिवेटिव डिस्टेंशन एक्ट को कुछ स्टेट गवर्नमेंट्स ने लागू करने से इन्कार कर दिया है, कुछ उसको लागू करने में दिलचस्पी नहीं रखती और यह देखते हुए कि ओपन मार्केट में डिजल और कैरोसिन अवैलेबल नहीं है लेकिन ब्लैक मार्केट में चार रुपये और पांच रुपये के हिसाब से अवैलेबल है, क्या सरकार सोच रही है कि डिजल और मिट्टी का तेल जो ब्लैक मार्केट में मिल रहा है वह रुके और किसानों को वह सही कीमत पर मिल सके ?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: So far as the supply of diesel and kerosene is concerned, this question was discussed in detail by my colleague in the Petroleum Ministry and he has highlighted how the distribution system would be streamlined.

So far as the application of the Ordinance to restrict the activities of blackmarketeers and hoarders is concerned, the hon. Member is aware of the price of legislation before this House itself and as and when it will

get the approval of the House and the other House, we will see how it could be enforced.

SHRI N. G. RANGA: Has any administrative machinery been set up by the Central Government in order to see how the State Governments carry on the procurement of the essential commodities and organise their proper distribution. If there is no such machinery set up till now, will the Government consider the advisability of setting up a suitable machinery so that the officers concerned go round to ensure proper procurement as also satisfactory distribution through public institutions and semi-public institutions?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Certain agencies have been identified for the procurement, for instance Food Corporation for foodgrains, State Trading Corporation for edible oils etc. So far as the distribution is concerned, as mentioned in the earlier part of my reply, much depends to what extent we are able to build up the infrastructure and build up the distribution agencies at the various levels.

SHRI N. G. RANGA: My question is: Is there any such machinery to go round the States to ensure proper implementation of the scheme? That has not been answered.

SHRI C. P. N. SINGH: I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether, during the Janata Party rule, the hon. Member who has asked this question had given specific orders that licences given to certain shops which are known in the villages as Sasti Dar Ki Dukan be terminated and new shops opened. This was done just to harass certain people who had shops and who were Congress-supporters. Secondly, in Deoria district of Uttar Pradesh, kerosene and diesel are not available at all. Will the hon. Minister assure us, who are the representatives of our respective constituencies—even though the State Government there is a Janata-

controlled one—and the people in Deoria that he will look into the matter of cancellation of shops, and of availability of kerosene, diesel and even things like washing soda?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: So far as the cancellation of shops are concerned, I do not rule out the possibility, because a lot of things have taken place during the last 30 months, and it will take time for us to find out what has taken place. I will look into the matter and see whether a certain thing was done merely for political considerations. As far as the distribution is concerned, as I have already said arrangements are made to ensure distribution; but I am emphasizing that much depends on the streamlining of the distribution system. I am sorry to say that we are not getting adequate cooperation in this matter.

SHRI C. P. N. SINGH: Will the hon. Minister assure the House that the cases of shops that were cancelled during the Janata regime on the instructions of the then Minister Shri George Fernandes will be looked into?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: I have already replied to it.

श्री चन्द्रपाल शैलानी : मंत्री महोदय ने अपने उत्तर में बताया है कि एसेंशल कामोडिटी का वितरण सस्ते गल्ले की दुकानों के द्वारा किया जायगा, और वे दुकानें उस सभी स्थानों में खोली जायेंगी, जहां की आबादी दो हजार या उससे अधिक है। पहली बात तो यह है कि अभी हर स्थान पर सस्ते गल्ले की दुकान की व्यवस्था नहीं की गई है, और जहां है भी, वहां ये वस्तुयें ब्लैक में बेची जाती हैं। गरीब किसान डीजल, कैरोसीन, कलम, पेंसिल और कापियां के लिए तड़पते रहते हैं, मगर उनको ये वस्तुयें उपलब्ध नहीं हो पाती हैं। मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि इसकी रोक थाम के लिए मंत्री महोदय क्या कारगर और प्रभावशाली कदम उठाने जा रहे हैं और कब तक।

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: I have already replied to the question. I have never claimed that every village is covered by fair price shops.

There are 6 lakh villages, and only 2,32,000 price shops.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: It is most unfortunate that Mr. George Fernandes has put this question. This progressive measure of public distribution system was initiated when Shrimati Indira Gandhi was the Prime Minister. For the last 2-1/2 years, when there was a Janata Government—and after its break-up during the regime of the caretaker Government—they initiated a dialogue with black-marketeers, hoarders and smugglers, and created situation... (Interruptions) to sabotage the entire public distribution system. Even today, most of the Janata Governments in States are not cooperating with the progressive ideas and measures initiated by our Government. Will this national-minded Government take steps to meet this situation? Will the Minister assure us that the public distribution system for all essential commodities will be completely streamlined and that it will see that the State Governments also behave properly and cooperate with the Central Government? What measures are you going to take to ease the situation?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: So far as hon. Member's observations in regard to the soft attitude taken by the previous Government are concerned, so far as blackmarketeers and hoarders are concerned, I do agree that if they were tackled properly and dealt with firmly perhaps the price situation would have been better if not altogether satisfactory. But, unfortunately, even the government which brought the Ordinance the other day, we found that they were working out something when we are trying to give effect to it. This is the state of reality. But so far as hoarders and blackmarketeers are concerned. I can assure the hon. Member that we will take care of them and we will see that when the Bill is passed and gets the approval of both Houses, it will be put into operation. So far as the distribution system is concerned, I have already

replied to the question of the hon. Member.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Next question. One more question is coming of this nature, at that time, you can ask your question.

स्वर्ण की नीलामी

*84. श्रीमती कृष्णा साही : क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि जनता पार्टी के शासन के दौरान 13 मी० टन सोना नीलाम किया गया था ;

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि वह 13 मी० टन स्वर्ण के ल 86 करोड़ रुपये में नीलाम किया गया; और

(ग) यदि उपरोक्त भागों का उत्तर स्वीकारात्मक हो तो उक्त 13 मी० टन स्वर्ण की नीलामी के क्या कारण थे ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Pursuant to the decision of the Government announced by the Finance Minister in his Budget Speech on 28-2-1978 a total quantity of 12.556 tonnes of gold was sold by the Reserve Bank of India in 14 auctions held between May-October 1978 on behalf of the Government. The total value of sale proceeds was Rs. 86.5 crores.

While announcing the decision to sell gold the then Finance Minister stated the following in his Budget Speech of 1978.

"...Despite the utmost vigilance of the Customs authorities and con-

siderable seizures and confiscations of smuggled gold, it is an unfortunate and distressing fact that gold smuggling has to some degree continued. The substantial difference between Indian gold prices and International gold prices has served as a temptation to smugglers. Gold smuggling is not only illegal but has helped to sustain black money operations and foreign exchange racketeering. It is, therefore, necessary for us to think of economic measures in addition to preventive measures to tackle this evil of gold smuggling. We have given very careful thought to the question and have decided to commence the sale of gold from the stocks held by Government....'

Sale of gold by auction was thus introduced by the then Government on an experimental basis designed to supplement other anti-smuggling measures. It was also intended incidentally to mitigate the expansionary impact of the budgetary deficit.

Consequent to a sudden steep rise in the International price of gold towards the end of September, 1978, sharper increase in the internal price of gold due to speculative forces, the Government suspended the gold auctions on 26-10-1978.

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: There is another Q. No. 95 of Prof. Madhu Dandavate. If you allow, we can take up both the questions together.

MR. SPEAKER: If the Professor has no objection to it.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: I have no objection. But my question is different from my wife's question. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: So, both the questions—84 and 95—are being taken up together. You can put two supplementaries. Prof. Madhu Dandavate can also put two supplementaries.

Decline in Gold Reserve

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*95. SHRIMATI PRAMILA
DANDAVATE:

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the gold reserves as on January, 1979;

(b) whether there was any decline in the gold reserves due to public sale of gold by Reserve Bank;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, what were the gold reserves as on July, 1979?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): (a) The value of gold held as reserves by the Reserve Bank of India in January 1979 was Rs. 219.5 crores at the Reserve Bank's statutory holding price of Rs. 84.39 per 10 grammes.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) the value of gold held as reserves by the Reserve Bank of India in July 1979 was the same as in January, 1979.

श्रीमती कृष्णा साही : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरा प्रश्न बिल्कुल स्पष्ट है। मैं आपके द्वारा मंत्री जी से जानना चाहती हूँ कि जनता पार्टी के शासन में सोने की नीलामी हुई थी या नहीं लेकिन इसके बारे में कोई उत्तर नहीं मिला है।

मेरा दूसरा प्रश्न था कि यदि सोने की नीलामी हुई थी तो वह कौन सी विशेष परिस्थितियाँ थीं जिनके कारण सोने की नीलामी गई ?

इसके साथ ही मैं यह भी जानना चाहूँगी कि सोने को खरीदने वाले कौन लोग थे ?

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: Sir, apparently, the hon. Member has not seen the statement which is placed on the Table of the House.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI: I have not received it.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What do you want to say? She wants to know whether gold was auctioned at all, and under what circumstances.

(Interruptions)

श्रीमति कृष्णा साही : मैंने पूछा था कि सोने की नीलामी हुई या नहीं और अगर हुई तो कौन से स्पेशल सर्कमस्टेंसेज में हुई ?

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : माननीय सदस्य ने स्टेटमेंट नहीं देखा है। (व्यवधान) इस तरह से हम डरने वाले नहीं हैं (व्यवधान)

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: The answer to that question is included in the statement which is placed on the Table of the House. The hon. Member is a new Member and Shri Vajpayee should not be very hard on a new Member. The answer is clear. There were 14 auctions held during this period and Rs. 86 crores worth of gold was sold in those auctions. These are the two things. So far as the reasons are concerned, the then Finance Minister stated in his budget speech that with a view to reduce and control smuggling he was going to introduce the scheme of gold sales.

AN HON. MEMBER: Who was the Finance Minister?

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: Shri H. M. Patel was the then Finance Minister. I was then sitting on the other side and I told him that he would be called the prodigal son of India for auctioning gold in this country. The gold auction was found to be wrong and that government itself withdrew it. That is the position. If further questions are asked. I will give all the answers.

श्रीमती कृष्णा साही : मैं वित्त मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहती हूँ कि गोल्ड की जो नीलामी हुई, उस में दाम का निर्धारण किस आधार पर किया गया ?

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: A Committee was constituted by the then Government with the Reserve Bank, the then Gold Controller, and officers of the Ministry. They went into the question of the appropriate price and they determined the price at which gold auction should be conducted. Prices were fixed by that Committee.

श्रीमती प्रमिला मधु दण्डवते : मेरा सवाल यह है कि नीलामी में जो कन्फिस्केटेड गोल्ड नीलाम किया गया क्या उस की वजह से मार्केट में गोल्ड की प्राइस बढ़ी है या इन्टरनेशनल मार्केट में जो गोल्ड की प्राइस बढ़ी है, उस की वजह से यहां भी गोल्ड की प्राइस बढ़ी है—इस का कारण क्या था ?

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: I have got the prices for each one of those days. The gold price fixed for the auction on 16 May 1978 was Rs. 635 and the market price at that time was Rs. 700. The gold auction price fixed for 30 May 1978 was again Rs. 635.78 but the gold price in the market was Rs. 666. With every sale of gold the price went on increasing. I am unable to say whether it is the cause or result but the concomitant shows that there has been an increase in price after every auction.

श्रीमती प्रमिला मधु दण्डवते : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरा सवाल यह है कि कन्फिस्केटेड गोल्ड को नीलाम करने की वजह से गोल्ड का प्राइस ओपन-मार्केट में बढ़ गया या इन्टरनेशनल-फैक्टर की वजह से बढ़ गया या हिन्दुस्तान में कन्फिस्केटेड गोल्ड की नीलामी की वजह से इन्टरनेशनल प्राइस बढ़ गई ? इस के बारे में बतलाइये, इस के लिये जिम्मेदार कौन है और इस के कारण क्या हैं ?

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: The hon. Member is asking my opinions as an expert. I can only give the facts that the auctions were held on a particular date at a particular price. The market price went up after that. It may be an argument on one side that it went up because of international price. It can equally be the argument on the other side that it went up because of the various auctions held. Therefore, I am not com-

petent to give any answer. I wish to say that prices went up after every auction.

श्रीमती प्रमिला मधु दण्डवते : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरे प्रश्न का पूरा उत्तर नहीं आया (व्यवधान) मुझे अभी दूसरा प्रश्न करना है। मेरा दूसरा सवाल यह है कि ऐसी बात कही गई थी कि कन्फिस्केटेड गोल्ड को बेचने की वजह से गोल्ड की कीमत इतनी ज्यादा बढ़ गई थी कि महिलाओं के मंगल-सूत्र के लिए भी सोना नहीं रहा। . . . (व्यवधान) ऐसी बात कही गई थी। तो मेरा सवाल यह है कि क्या आज की सरकार सोने की इतनी ज्यादा कीमत होने के कारण शादियों में हमारी बहनों के लिए मंगल-सूत्र के लिए सोना देने की व्यवस्था करने वाली है ?

SHRI C. P. N. SINGH: It is a wrong statement. She always says it is confiscated gold. It is not confiscated gold.

(Interruptions)

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: The hon. Member seems to imply that because confiscated gold was sold, it was justified. Whether it is confiscated gold or any other gold, it is the gold which belongs to the Government of India. The criticism from the public was that the gold which belongs to the Government of India was squandered away. Therefore, the fact that it is a confiscated gold, does not make the auctions reasonable or proper.

श्री मलिक एम० एम० ए० खान० : इस पर पूरा डिस्क्शन होना चाहिए प्रश्न के उत्तर से काम नहीं चलेगा।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आप बैठिये। बीच क्यों बोल रहे हैं।

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: The second point which the hon. lady member is very rightly interested in asking is whether gold will be provided for 'Mangal Sutra', I cannot answer this question. It has so many implications.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: I would like to know from the hon. Minister, is it a fact that persistent campaign was carried on that the gold that was secured from the people in the 1962 war, 1965 war and 1971 war was squandered away by the Janata Government and as a

result of that, the price of stocks of gold went down and also price of gold went up. In this context I would like to know whether it is a fact that the Reserve Bank Bulltin has categorically announced that in the year 1978-79 the total gold stocks had gone up and increase in the gold stocks were of the order of Rs. 81,70,00,000. If so, will the hon. Minister contradict the wrong propaganda that was going on all these months.

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: There is a lot of confusion in the terminology used by my very well-informed friend, Shri Dandavate. There is gold which is kept as reserve by the Reserve Bank of India. This is separate. There is gold stock with the Government consisting of gold which is confiscated and gold which is produced in the country. There is also gold which we have collected by way of gold stock. What the Reserve Bank mentioned was the gold kept under the Reserve Bank of India Act and that is different from the gold stock. It is true that the gold stock of India consisting of all these three items has been squandered away, but at the same time, it is not possible for anybody to squander away the reserves because it is a statutory reserve which we must keep under the Reserve Bank of India Act.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: In the written reply to my question No. 95 you have accepted that there is no decline at all.

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: We have to make this distinction. One is the reserve held under the Reserve Bank of India Act and the other is the gold stock consisting of various other things. What has been squandered away is the gold stock, not the reserve. The reserve cannot be squandered away.

ये, क्या उनमें उस समय की सरकार के किसी वरिष्ठ मंत्री का कोई रिश्तेदार भी था यदि हां तो वह कौन से मंत्री थे जिनके उस आदमी की रिश्तेदारी थी।

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: There have been several complaints that several interested persons or persons in whom some people were interested have purchased the gold. If the hon. member wants specific information, he must put a specific question, so that I can collect that information. At the moment, I have only the figures about the total number of bids and the total number of persons who have bid at the auctions. About individual figures, you must ask a separate question and I will give a separate reply.

PROF. K. K. TEWARY: Is it a fact that Mr. Kanti Desai, son of the former Prime Minister, Shri Morarji Desai, figured prominently sometimes visibly and sometimes invisibly and got the entire gold auctioned cornered through his henchmen? Will the Government institute an enquiry to find out what happened actually, whether Shri Morarji Desai's son was involved and the entire gold stock that was auctioned went to his coffers and that gold was smuggled out of the country?

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: Government cannot take any action unless there is a specific complaint.
(Interruptions)

SHRI SANJAY GANDHI: Will the hon. Minister clarify that the gold stock and gold received as donation and the gold that is confiscated are not kept separately? They are all together and when somebody says that only the gold that has been confiscated has been auctioned he is merely beating about the bush and playing with words. Actually it is the gold stock including the gold which was donated that was being sold. May I, therefore, ask, was the public allowed to take part in the auction or did the Janata Party pick and choose their own

श्री राम प्यार पत्तिका: क्या माननीय वित्त मंत्री यह बताने का कष्ट करेंगे कि उस समय जब गोल्ड की नीलामी हुई और जो नीलामी सोना लेने वाले लोग

henchmen to take part in the auctions and in these auctions, the henchmen of the Janata Party bought gold at well below the market rate?

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: Sir, the hon. Member has only reiterated what I stated earlier about the different categories of the reserves and it is true that while gold reserve under the Reserve Bank of India Act is kept in a separate account, the other things are all mixed and kept as a common account.

About the second point that there were some persons who got bids at these auctions, at the moment I have no answer to give because I have no information.

(Interruptions)

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: Sir, I rise on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: No point of order.
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: There will be no point of order during the Question Hour.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: Sir, I am on a point of order.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Lakkappa, will you sit when I am on my legs? (Interruptions). There is no question of a point of order during the Question Hour.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: I want a clarification. The hon. Minister himself has stated that they have squandered the gold stocks....

MR. SPEAKER: I would not allow you. Whatever I have not allowed should not be put on record.

(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: It is up to him to answer this question.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Gentlemen, is this the way to conduct this House? If the Minister is on his legs he has to answer; you can put more Supplementarys to amplify those questions. If you speak altogether, what will he say and what will you understand?

(Interruptions)

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: Sir, I rise would like to make one submission.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It is very improper you sit and talk about it.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: I am standing.

MR. SPEAKER: You can put one more Supplementary if you like. Please take your seat. Hon. Members will take their seats.

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: I have not completed my answer.

MR. SPEAKER: If you like, more questions can be put. It is not the end.

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: I was going to say for the third part of the question. I have already answered that the auction prices were lower than the market prices and I gave the figures. That I have given already.

(Interruptions)

PROF. K. K. TEWARY: I put a categorical question and my question has not been replied.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: That is up to the Minister whether he replies or not. I cannot go into it now.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has conceded that various stocks of gold have been squandered away by the previous Government and he has admitted that in reply to one Supplementary put by my new friend, Mr. Sanjay Gandhi, Mr. Sanjay Gandhi has put it more specifically that the stocks of gold have been squandered away through auction with the connivance of their henchmen and the then Finance Ministry. Whatever he said is about Mr. Morarji Desai and his son—I do not want to mention his name. The hon. Minister has conceded the squandering away of the gold during the last 1-1/2 years or 2 years with the connivance of the Finance Ministry. If so, I would like to know whether the hon. Minister will categorically say and hold an inquiry as to in what manner, to what extent and how the henchmen have squandered the gold which was deposited and belonging to this country. He must give a specific reply. He must concede the enquiry.

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: Eighteen thousand people submitted tenders, and in the tender forms they do not describe their political affiliations. Therefore, it is not possible for Government to say anything.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: We want the names.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: You have said it was squandered away. How was it squandered, in what way?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आप उ नको सुनिये । जो उनको पता है वह बतायेंगे । उनका जवाब सुनिये पहले ।

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: Unless specific complaints are placed before Government... (Interruptions)

अध्यक्ष महोदय : यो आप दबाव दे कर तो नहीं करवा सकते है । यह कोई बात नहीं है ।

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: Unless specific complaints are made, it will not be possible to do anything.

SHRI ABDUL SAMAD: There are doubts lurking in the minds of the citizens of the country that the most precious metal, valued metal, belonging to the entire nation has been looted by a group of people during the regime of the Janata Government. It was the main issue, the main plank, during our election campaign also, and the people have given us a mandate to enquire into the matter. In this background I request the Government to institute a commission to go into all the details to find out the rate at which the gold was auctioned, the people who formed a consortium to buy the gold, to loot the property of the entire country for their own benefit. I want a categorical answer, and I request the Finance Minister to institute a powerful commission to go into all these doubts lurking in the minds of the people.

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: This is a suggestion for action.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: In reply to a supplementary the Minister has said that if complaints are made, he will look into them. In view of the fact that on the floor of the House complaints have been made that the ex-Prime Minister, Morarjibhai, his son Kanti Desai, and his relations like his father-in-law Kirloskar, are involved in this, that the gold either collected or auctioned by the Government has been squandered, in view of the fact that complaints have been made that a set of people was involved in the purchase and that they belong to a particular party—Mr. Madhu Dandavate has also agreed to an enquiry—would Government agree to an enquiry into the selling of gold? It is a clear question. He should reply.

(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should be recorded without my permission.

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: This again is a suggestion for action and the Government will consider it.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: This is wrong. This is not a suggestion for action. He cannot get away like this. He must reply as to whether the Government will order an inquiry into the matter. There are serious complaints. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It is for the Minister to reply. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is not the way. You cannot force him. (Interruptions)

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: Why can't you ask the Minister to refer the matter to Public Accounts Committee or a Parliamentary Committee?

(Interruptions)

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: I have not completed my answer. I said that a suggestion has been made that there should be a Commission of Inquiry.. (Interruptions) These things cannot be decided at the spur of the moment. I said that the Government will consider it. What more can be done? (Interruptions).

श्री प्रताप मानु शर्मा : मैं मंत्री महोदय से यह पूछना चाहता हूँ कि सोने की नीलामी में जो अनियमितताएँ और घपले हुए हैं, जो पिछले एक, डेढ़ साल से पूरे हिन्दुस्तान में एक बर्निंग इश्यू बना हुआ है, उनके सम्बन्धमें भारत सरकार क्या कदम उठाने जा रहा है। मंत्री महोदय कृपया स्पष्टीकरण जवाब दें।

डा० राजेन्द्र कुमारी बाजपेयी : सरकार को इस बारे में एकवारियरी बिठाने में दिक्कत क्या है।

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: It will be better if the Prime Minister replies to this question. A specific complaint has been made that Shri Morarji Desai, Shri Kanti Desai and their relations are involved in this.

A number of complaints have been made. Will the Prime Minister say whether there will be an inquiry into the matter?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI-MATI INDIRA GANDHI): I have not heard what all, the hon. members have said. In these one or two minutes I had been here, I had noticed their concern. We can only say that we take note of the strong feelings of the hon. members in the matter and we will look into the matter.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Bonus to Railwaymen

*57. SHRI C. R. MAHATA:

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to pay bonus to railwaymen; and

(b) if so, when?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI KAMLAPATI TRIPATHI): (a) Yes, Sir. It has been decided to grant productivity linked bonus to railway employees in lieu of their demand for bonus under the Payment of Bonus Act 1965.

(b) Under the scheme of productivity linked bonus, payment for 1979-80 will be due to be made by 31st Oct. 80.

However, an ad-hoc payment equal to 15 days' Wages as an earnest of accepting the scheme by the Organised Labour is to be made during the current financial year.

National Highway No. 31

*58. SHRI R. P. YADAV: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the condition of National Highway No. 31 in Bihar is very bad.

(b) whether Government are contemplating to repair it promptly; and

(c) if so, by what date it will be completed?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). The road is in a traffic worthy condition. The repairs as and when required are being attended to.

Electrification of Vijayawada-Madras Line

*59. SHRI RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the railway line from Vijayawada to Madras is being electrified; and

(b) if so, the present stage of work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Madras-Gummidipundi section has already been brought under electric traction. The overall percentage of electrification works on the balance section between Gummidipundi-Vijayawada as on 31-10-1979 is as under:—

Section	Percentage
1. Gummidipundi-Gudur	67%
2. Gudur-Vijayawada	74%

Electrification of Gummidipundi Vijayawada section is expected to be completed during 1980-81.

Grant of Special Increment to Central Government employees undergoing Sterilisation

*59-A. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN.
SHRI CHHITUBHAI
GAMAT:

Will the Minister of HEALTH be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently decided that Central Govern-

ment employees within the reproductive age group who undergo sterilisation after having two or three surviving children may be granted a special increment in the form of personal pay within the same post or on promotion to higher post;

(b) whether it is also a fact that in case the wife of a Government servant goes for sterilisation, the same rule regarding the special increment will be applicable to the husband who is a Government servant; and

(c) if so, the details regarding the Government's policy in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND):

(a) to (c). Yes, Sir. A copy of the orders issued by the Ministry of Finance in this regard is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-238/80]. In order to promote the small family norm among Central Government employees, Government of India have also recently passed orders (copy enclosed) reducing the rate of interest on the House Building Advance by $\frac{1}{2}$ % in the case of Government servants who are in the reproductive age group and undergo sterilisation after having two or three living children, subject to the fulfilment of certain conditions.

अनुसूचित जातियों तथा अनुसूचित जनजातियों के राजदूतों की संख्या

*60. श्री राम बिलास पासवान : क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) विदेशों में भारतीय राजदूतों की संख्या कितनी है ; और

(ख) उनमें से अनुसूचित जातियों तथा अनुसूचित जनजातियों से सम्बन्धित राजदूतों की संख्या कितनी है ?

विदेश मंत्री (श्री पी० बी० नरसिंह राव) :

(क) इस समय विदेश की राजधानियों में सरकार के 87 मिशन प्रमुख हैं। इनमें से उनहतर राजदूत हैं, सत्रह हाई कमिश्नर तथा एक कमिश्नर हैं।

(ख) इनमें से तीन अनुसूचित जाति के हैं और 4 अनुसूचित जनजाति के; अनुसूचित जाति और अनुसूचित जनजाति के एक-एक और अधिकारी मिशन प्रमुख के रूप में कार्यभार ग्रहण करने वाले हैं।

Increase in Railway Accidents during Previous Government Regime

*61. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to lay a statement showing:

(a) whether there has been any increase in the number of railway accidents during the previous Government's regime;

(b) if so, the details regarding the accidents which took place, year-wise and zone-wise as well as the number of accidents at railway crossings; and

(c) the safety measures adopted by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) The number of train accidents in the categories of collisions, derailments, level crossing accidents and fires in trains, which took place on the Indian Gov-

ernment Railways during the last fifteen years is given below:—

Year	Total number of Train accidents	Incidence per million kilometres
1964-65	1,293	3.0
1965-66	1,201	2.7
1966-67	1,097	2.4
1967-68	1,111	2.4
1968-69	908	2.0
1969-70	963	2.0
1970-71	840	1.8
1971-72	864	1.8
1972-73	813	1.7
1973-74	782	1.8
1974-75	925	2.2
1975-76	964	2.0
1976-77	780	1.5
1977-78	866	1.7
1978-79	931	1.8

During the first 9 months of the current year i.e. April to December, 1979 there have been 694 train accidents against 730 during the corresponding period of the last year.

The above figures indicate that there have been some fluctuations in the number and incidence of train accidents although a general declining trend is discernible.

(b) Zone-wise position of train accidents, which occurred during the last 2 years and the first nine months of the current year, is given below:—

Railway	Year	No. of train accidents in the categories of collisions, derailments, level crossing accidents and fires in trains	Level crossing accidents
1	2	3	4
Central	1977-78	106	7
	1978-79	121	9
	1979-80	79	6
Eastern	1977-78	53	2
	1978-79	62	1
	1979-80	39	1

1	2	3	4
Northern	1977-79	106	24
	1978-79	116	13
	1979-80	101	29
North Eastern	1977-78	81	13
	1978-79	74	15
	1979-80	47	7
Northeast Frontier	1977-78	78	3
	1978-79	84	6
	1979-80	59	8
Southern	1977-78	89	15
	1978-79	87	11
	1979-80	63	7
South Central	1977-78	76	6
	1978-79	94	4
	1979-80	72	5
South Eastern	1977-78	132	8
	1978-79	150	9
	1979-80	111	7
Western	1977-78	145	15
	1978-79	143	18
	1979-80	123	19
Total	1977-78	866	93
	1978-79	931	86
	1979-80	694	89

Figures for the year 1979-80 are from April to December.

(c) Since failure of railway staff is the largest single factor responsible for accidents, Safety Organisations on the Railways have been engaged in a relentless campaign to create greater safety consciousness amongst the staff connected with running of trains and to ensure that staff do not violate rules or indulge in short-cut methods that may lead to accidents. Examination of trains and spot checks in carriage and wagon depots have been intensified and greater care is being paid to the proper maintenance of track. In order to reduce dependence on the human element, sophisticated aids like ultra-sonic flaw detectors for wheels, axles and rails, axle counters, track circuiting etc. are being introduced progressively.

As most of the accidents at level crossings are caused by rash and negligent acts of road users, railways have

been conducting educative campaigns amongst the road users by distributing leaflets, pamphlets, exhibiting slides in cinema halls etc. Surprise checks are also conducted in coordination with State Police authorities to ensure rigid compliance with Motor Vehicle Rules by road users. In addition, potentially hazardous unmanned level crossings are being manned at the cost of the railways.

Bonus to the Workers

*62. SHRI CHITTA BASU:

SHRI SUBHASH CHANDRA
BOSE ALLURI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to have fresh look into the question of bonus to the workers;

(b) if so, whether any steps have since been initiated in this direction; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION AND LABOUR (SHRI J. B. PATNAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Various suggestions have been received for further amendment of the Payment of Bonus Act. These are under examination. Government will take a decision in the matter after consulting representatives of workers and others concerned.

Britain's New Immigration Rules

*63 SHRI K. MALLANNA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has drawn the attention of the British Home Secretary, Mr. Whitelaw, on Britain's new rules for immigrants, to anomalies arising from the Home Secretary's disregard, in making changes of Indian customs and conventions in relation to arranged marriages, to the attitude towards ageing parents and to dependent children; and

(b) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The British Government published a White Paper in November 1979 on proposed changes in British Immigration rules. The Acting High Commissioner of India in United Kingdom had a discussion with the British Home Secretary Mr. Whitelaw on the proposed changes and left a note with him making some suggestions to alleviate the hardships for the people of Indian origin in Britain. It is hoped that the British Government, which is understood to be considering further action on the White Paper proposals, will take into account our views.

Expansion of Diego Garcia

*64. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN:

SHRI M. V. CHANDRA-SHEKHRA MURTHY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that USA have decided to expand Diego Garcia Military base in the Indian Ocean;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to our reports, the U.S. Defence Department has announced that funds would be sought in the 1981 Budget, starting October 1980, for further development of the harbour, the aircraft parking space and runways, and fuel storage facilities in Diego Garcia.

(c) In accordance with our established policy, we continue to oppose foreign military presence, including bases in any country. Our Permanent Representative in a recent statement in the UN General Assembly expressed our 'grave concern' at the recent developments in the Asian region including the Indian Ocean. This view has also been stressed at high level meetings with foreign governments.

Deteriorating Labour Situation in the Country

*65. SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state;

(a) what are the reasons for deteriorating labour situation in the country during the last 2-1/2 years and what are the reasons for the failure of the previous Government to take remedial action;

(b) whether it is a fact that the number of man-days lost during this period is a record in this country; and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken by the present Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION AND LABOUR (SHRI J. B. PATNAIK): (a) to (c). The industrial relations situation was symptomatic of the fluid state of affiliations and loyalties and the constant efforts of rival unions to win workers from one to the other. According to available information the number of man-days lost due to strikes and lock-outs during the two and a half years between July 1977 and the end of December 1979, was 77.43 million (Provisional).

Government propose to take a fresh look at the whole question of industrial relations. There will be consultations with representatives of employers, workers and State Governments in this regard.

Shifting of Construction Accounts Office from Trivandrum to Madras

***66. SHRI P. K. KODIYAN:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal under consideration to shift the Construction Accounts Office and Executive Engineer Office from Trivandrum Railway Division to Madras; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) No, Sir. As far as Accounts Office is concerned, all staff employed in the Construction Accounts Closing Cell at Trivandrum have been absorbed in the newly set up Trivandrum Divisional Accounts Office. Casual labour staff have been transferred under the Executive Engineer, Trivandrum. The

posts, against which the staff transferred to Trivandrum Division had been working, have been surrendered after their transfer. Therefore, there is no Construction Accounts Office as such at Trivandrum.

The Executive Engineering Office at Trivandrum Central will continue depending on the volume of work.

(b) Does not arise

Construction of New Railway Lines

***67. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to lay a statement showing:

(a) the details of the new Railway lines in which the construction work was inaugurated during the last three years (zone-wise):

(b) the latest progress in the construction of these Railway lines along with the amount spent in each case; and

(c) the details of such Railway lines among these for which the cost of land was offered by the respective State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI KAMALAPATI TRIPATHI): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

[Placed in library. See No. LT-239/80].

बिदेशों के साथ संधियाँ

***68. श्री कृष्ण दत्त :** क्या बिदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि गत 2½ वर्षों के दौरान भारत ने किन-किन देशों के साथ संधि की है और तत्संबंधी उद्देश्य क्या थे ?

बिदेश मंत्री (श्री पी० बी० नरसिंह राव) : पिछले 2½ वर्षों के दौरान यानी पहली जुलाई, 1977 से 31 दिसम्बर, 1979 तक, हमारे रिकार्ड के अनुसार भारत द्वारा किये गये करारों के बारे में सूचना इस प्रकार है :

भारत ने कुल मिला कर 144 करार किये, यथा 1977 में 38, 1978 में 40 तथा 1979

में 66 इनमें से 35 बहुपक्षीय करार थे । ये करार 31 देशों के साथ किये गये ।

जहां तक उद्देश्यों का सम्बन्ध है, ये करार विदेशी सहायता तथा ऋण, व्यापार, पारगमन, समुद्री सीमा, परमाणु ऊर्जा, हैवी वाटर, बाह्य अन्तरिक्ष उपग्रह, मानवाधिकार, सांस्कृतिक मामले, कौंसली मामले, दोहरे काराधान से बचना, प्रत्यागण तथा कुछ अन्य बातों से सम्बन्धित थे ।

पिछले 2½ वर्षों के दौरान सम्पन्न करारों तथा उनके उद्देश्यों के सम्बन्ध में एक सूची सभा के पटल पर रख दी गई है [ग्रन्थालय में रखी गई । देखिये संख्या एल टी—240/80]

Strike in Grindlay Bank

*69. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Grindlays Bank employees all over India have been on strike since 5th November, 1979;

(b) if so, the demands of the strikers thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to settle the dispute thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION AND LABOUR (SHRI J. B. PATNAIK):

(a) The employees of the Grindlays Bank all over India went on strike with effect from 5th November, 1979. The Employees of the Delhi and Srinagar branches of the bank have resumed work from the forenoon of the 28th January 1980;

(b) Following are the main demands of the workmen:—

(i) Payment of bonus for the accounting year commencing in 1976 to 1982 at rates higher than those admissible under Payment of Bonus Act, 1965;

(ii) Payment of additional allowance @ Rs. 2000 per annum per worker as against existing rate of Rs. 1100 per annum per worker;

(iii) Enhancement of lunch allowance from Rs. 50 per worker per

month to Rs. 120 per month per worker.

(iv) Enhancement of canteen subsidy.

(v) Enhancement of housing loan.

(c) The dispute was taken up in conciliation without success. With a view to arriving at an amicable settlement, the parties were advised on 18th December, 1979 to continue further discussions. They have since reported that their Bilateral discussions have also ended in failure. Further persuasive measures are underway for having a negotiated settlement in the matter.

परमाणु शस्त्रों के बारे में भारत-पाक सन्धि

*70. श्री छीतुबाई गामित : क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि भारत ने भारत और पाकिस्तान के बीच परमाणु शस्त्रों का निर्माण न करने सम्बन्धी सन्धि के बारे में कथित अमरीकी प्रस्तावों पर अपने विचार व्यक्त किए हैं; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो विशेष रूप से इन वर्तमान परिस्थितियों को देखते हुए जब कि अमरीका ने पाकिस्तान को शस्त्रों की सप्लाई खुले तौर पर आरम्भ कर दी है, सरकार की उस पर क्या प्रतिक्रिया है ?

विदेश मंत्री (श्री पी० वी० नरसिंह राव) :

(क) संयुक्त राज्य अमरीका द्वारा ऐसी किसी सन्धि के प्रस्ताव की जानकारी सरकार को नहीं है ।

(ख) प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।

Recognition to Kampuchea

*71. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering any proposal to recognise the Kampuchea Government headed by Heng Samarin;

(b) if so, when; and

(c) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO) (a) to (c). The matter is under consideration of Government.

पिछड़े क्षेत्रों में रेलवे लाइनें

*72. श्री आर० एल० पी० बर्मा : क्या रेल मंत्री निम्नलिखित जानकारी दर्शाने वाला एक विवरण पटल पर रखने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) सम्पूर्ण देश में, उन पिछड़े हुए क्षेत्रों की संख्या कितनी है जहां रेल परिवहन सुविधाओं के लिए रेल की बड़ी लाइनें बिछाये जाने हेतु सर्वेक्षण किया गया है ?

(ख) तत्संबंधी व्यौरा क्या है और उस परियोजना आयोग तथा राष्ट्रीय परिवहन समिति की क्या प्रतिक्रिया रही है; और

(ग) निमित्त की जाने वाली वे रेल लाइनें कौन-कौन सी हैं जिनके लिए सर्वेक्षण के प्रतिवेदनो के आधार पर घन राशि की व्यवस्था वर्ष 1980-81 में सर्वोच्च प्राथमिकता के आधार पर किए जाने का प्रस्ताव है ?

रेल मंत्री (श्री कमलापति त्रिपाठी) : (क) एक विवरण सभा पटल पर रख दिया गया है। [ग्रन्थालय में रखा गया। देखिये संख्या एल० टी०—241/80]

(ख) और (ग). नयी रेल लाइनों के निर्माण, जिनमें अलाभप्रद लाइनें तथा पिछड़े क्षेत्रों में विकासात्मक लाइनें शामिल हैं, और उन पर वित्तीय साधन जुटाने से संबंधित एक युक्तिपूर्ण

नीति के बारे में राष्ट्रीय यातायात नीति समिति द्वारा अभी विचार किया जा रहा है जिसे योजना आयोग द्वारा अप्रैल, 1978 में गठित किया गया था। समिति की रिपोर्ट की प्रतीक्षा की जा रही है।

Performance to the Field of Family Planning during 1977-78 and 1978-79

*73. SHRI D. L. BAITHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that performance in the field of family planning during the years 1977-78 and 1978-79 has been much lower than the previous two years;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to lay on the Table the corresponding figures with the impact on population projection in future; and

(c) the present Government's measures to correct the distortions of last two years?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The annual performance figures for various methods of family planning from 1975-76 to 1978-79 are given below:—

Methods	Performance		Performance	
	1975-76	1976-77	1977-78	1978-79**
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
(1) Sterilisation	2,668,754	8,261,173	948,769	1,483,080
(2) I.U.D. Insertions	606,638	580,700	325,680	551,808
(3) Other Methods	3,527,606	3,692,291	3,252,570	3,602,663
TOTAL Acceptors	6,802,998	12,534,164	4,527,019	5,637,551

**Figures are provisional.

The Expert Committee on population projections appointed by the Planning under the chairmanship of Registrar General has estimated that the population by March 1981 would be 672 million. In making this projection, the Committee has assumed a crude birth rate of 36.6 per thousand in 1971-76 and 32.9 per thousand in 1976-81. In view of these assumptions and as the next population census is due in March 1981, the Expert Committee does not propose to revise the population projection at this point of time.

(c) The present Govt. accords high priority to the Family Planning programme and will take proper steps to promote this programme on a voluntary basis through an intensification of motivation and education efforts and adequate provision of services.

Zonal Office in Bihar

*74. SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether railways have no Zonal Office in Bihar; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to set up a Zonal Office there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes.

(b) No.

दिल्ली और बम्बई के बीच नई रेलगाड़ी का चलाया जाना

*75. श्री एन० के० शेजवलकर : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या रेल प्रशासन ने दिल्ली और बम्बई के बीच आगरा, ग्वालियर और भोपाल होते हुए एक नई रेलगाड़ी चलाने का आश्वासन अनेक बार दिया है ; और

(ख) यह तीसरी रेलगाड़ी कब तक चलाई जायेगी ?

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सी० के० जाफर शरीफ) : (क) जी नहीं।

(ख) मार्गवर्ती खंडों पर लाइन क्षमता का अभाव होने और बम्बई तथा दिल्ली क्षेत्रों में अपर्याप्त टर्मिनल सुविधाओं के कारण आगरा, ग्वालियर, भोपाल के रास्ते दिल्ली और बम्बई के बीच एक और गाड़ी चलाने का अभी कोई प्रस्ताव नहीं है।

Conversion of Rupsa-Bangriposi Narrow Gauge Line

*76. SHRI A. C. DAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state whether Government have any proposal of converting the existing narrow gauge railway line between Rupsa and Bangriposi via Baripurda under South Easter Railway in Orissa to broad gauge which is a long standing demand of the local people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): A reconnaissance engineering-cum-traffic survey for conversion of Rupsa-Bangriposi narrow gauge line into BG and its extension upto Chakulia/Gurumahisani or some other suitable point is nearing completion. A decision about the conversion of this narrow gauge line into BG will be taken, after the survey report is received, taking into consideration the financial viability of the project as well as the overall resources position.

Maintaining of G.P. Fund Accounts of Government Employees

*77. SHRI A. C. DAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that even after repeated instructions from the Government, the Accountants General of respective Departments are not maintaining G.P. Fund Accounts of Government employees properly;

(b) if so, what steps Government are likely to take in the matter;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the missing credits/discrepancies in the G.P. Fund accounts of certain Gov-

ernment employees are not being adjusted even on collateral evidence; and

(d) if so, how far it will be possible for the Pay and Accounts Officers to reconcile the faulty accounts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAGANNATH PAHADIA): (a) After the departmentalisation of accounts which has been implemented in phases from 1-4-1976, there has been a significant improvement in the state of Provident Fund accounts which were transferred to the departmentalised accounts offices in incomplete and unsatisfactory state. This has been possible as a result of vigorous efforts made by the Controllers of Accounts. Presumably reference to Accountants General in the Question is intended to mean Controllers of Accounts in various Ministries/Departments of the Government. The accounts are now almost current and annual statements of accounts for the year 1978-79 have been issued to the subscribers in nearly all the cases.

(b) Since the payment and accounting functions are integrated after departmentalisation, there is no difficulty in proper maintenance of Provident Fund accounts.

(c) Where satisfactory collateral evidence was produced, there has been no difficulty in adjustment of missing credits. In certain cases, however, enquiries have to be made from the Drawing & Disbursing Officers before adjustment. In order to facilitate expeditious adjustment of missing credits, the Pay & Accounts Officers in the Ministries/Departments have been delegated extensive powers to adjust them on the basis of collateral evidence; the Controllers of Accounts have also been delegated powers to make adjustment on the basis of affidavits, wherever collateral evidence is not forthcoming. As a result, a substantial number of missing credits already stand adjusted.

(d) Reconciliation of accounts is a continuing process and the Pay and

Accounts Officers would be able to complete all the accounts on availability of satisfactory collateral evidence.

Export of Jaggery

*78. SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether jaggery is being exported to other countries; and

(b) if so, to which countries?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Jaggery is being exported mainly to the Gulf Countries, USA, Canada, Malaysia, Singapore, Nepal, Somalia and U.K.

Setting up of National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development

*79. SHRI K. MALLANNA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of Government to set up a National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development;

(b) whether any Reserve Bank Committee was also set up to review arrangements for institutional credit for agricultural and rural development; and

(c) if so, the details regarding the recommendations by this committee in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. On March 30, 1979 the Reserve Bank of India set up a Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri B. Sivaraman to undertake a review of the institutional arrangements for rural credit to bring about the necessary improvements. The Committee submitted an

interim report on 28th November, 1979 on the subject of national level arrangements for institutional credit for agriculture and rural development. Broadly accepting its recommendation, Government have agreed, in principle, to set up a National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development.

New Entrants in SAIL and their Wages

*80. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the SAIL authorities have issued a circular providing for less wages to new entrants than that fixed as per recent bipartite agreement;

(b) details thereof;

(c) whether all the Central Trade Unions in the Steel Bipartite Committee have opposed the circular and demanded its immediate withdrawal; and

(d) if the answer to (c) is in the affirmative the steps taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). Presumably the reference is to the decision taken by SAIL that all fresh entrants in unskilled categories in the lowest grade who do not have any experience of working in the Steel Plants will undergo training/on-the-job learning for a period of one year during which they will be paid a stipend of Rs. 375/- per month; they will be placed in the regular scale of pay of the post as fixed in the recent wage agreement at the end of one year on satisfactory completion of training/on-the-job learning.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. Such representations have been received in SAIL and are proposed to be considered at the meeting of the National Joint Committee for Steel Industry to be held shortly.

राजस्थान में पर्यटन विकास

*82. श्री मूल चन्द डागा : क्या पर्यटन और नागर विमानन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार ने राजस्थान में पर्यटन के विकास के लिये कोई योजना बनाई है और यदि हां, तो क्या उसकी एक प्रति सभा पटल पर रखी जायेगी ;

(ख) क्या राजस्थान में पर्यटन के विकास के लिए काफी गुंजाइश है और यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी व्यौरा क्या है ; और

(ग) क्या सरकार का चालू वर्ष के दौरान अथवा अगले वर्ष राज्य में पर्यटन के विकास के लिए ठोस और प्रभावशाली कदम उठाने का विचार है और यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी विवरण क्या है ?

पर्यटन और नागर विमानन तथा श्रम मंत्री (श्री जे० बी० पटनायक) : (क) से (ग) . राजस्थान और इसके साथ-साथ अन्य राज्यों तथा संघ शासित प्रदेशों में पर्यटन को विकसित करने की बहुत अधिक गुंजाइश है क्योंकि देश पर्यटक आकर्षणों से भरपूर है। नई सरकार पर्यटन के बारे में अपनी योजनाएं और नीति तैयार कर रही है।

राष्ट्रीयकृत बैंक द्वारा कम आय वाले लोगों को दिया गया ऋण

*85. श्री राम विलास पासवान: क्या वित्त मंत्री राष्ट्रीयकृत बैंकों द्वारा 100 रुपये अथवा इससे कम मासिक आय वाले लोगों को दिये गए ऋण के बारे में 4 मई, 1979 के अतारंकित प्रश्न संख्या 9797 के उत्तर के सम्बन्ध में यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) जून, 1978 के बाद की अवधि के लिये 10,000/- रुपये और इससे कम की ऋण सीमा के आंकड़े क्या हैं ;

(ख) क्या वर्तमान सरकार ने राष्ट्रीयकृत बैंकों द्वारा 100 रुपये अथवा इससे कम मासिक आय वाले लोगों को ऋण देने के बारे में कोई नीति बनाई है ; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी मुख्य बातें क्या हैं ?

वित्त तथा उद्योग मंत्री (श्री आर० वेंकटरावन) : (क) माननीय सदस्य द्वारा जून, 1978 के बाद की जो सूचना मांगी गई है वह अभी समेकित की जा रही है। सबसे ताजा आंकड़े दिसम्बर,

1977 के अन्तिम शुक्रवार तक के हैं और उनसे मालूम होता है कि 10,000 रुपये या इससे कम की ऋण-सीमा वाले खातों की कुल संख्या 1,14,27,656 थी और कुल स्वीकृत ऋण सीमाओं और बकाया रकमों की राशियां क्रमशः 1945.3 करोड़ रुपये और 1687.8 करोड़ रुपये थी।

(ख) और (ग). "विभेदी व्याज दर" की योजना के अधीन 4 प्रतिशत प्रतिवर्ष की रियायती व्याज दर पर ऋण उपलब्ध किया जाता है। यह ऋण ऐसे पात्र ऋणकर्ताओं को दिया जाता है जिनकी आय ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में 2000 रुपये प्रतिवर्ष से और अर्द्ध शहरी तथा शहरी क्षेत्रों में 3000 रुपये प्रति वर्ष से अधिक नहीं है। बीस सूत्री कार्यक्रम के अधीन ऐसी नई योजनाओं की व्यवस्था है जिनके अधीन भूमिहीन मजदूरों, ग्रामीण कारीगरों तथा दो हैक्टेयर या इससे कम जमीन वाले छोट और सीमान्तिक किसानों जैसे कम आय वाले समूहों को संस्थागत ऋण उपलब्ध कराया जा सके।

Rise in Price of Essential Articles

*86. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE:

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to lay a statement showing:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the spiral of prices of all essential articles in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the past two years, month-wise and commodity-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to reduce the prices thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-242/80].

Rate of Inflation

*87. SHRI D. L. BAITHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the rate of inflation touched all-time high during the years 1977-78 and 1978-79;

(b) if so, what are the details, year-wise; and

(c) what steps do the present Government propose to take to bring back the economy in order?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): (a) and (b). No, Sir. The requisite details are given in the attached Statement.

(c) As already stated in the President's Address the Government proposes to tackle the price situation by:

- (i) increasing supplies;
- (ii) controlling and regulating distribution;
- (iii) taking stringent action against hoarders and black-marketeers; and
- (iv) other measures to be spelt out in the budget.

Statement

WHOLESALE AND CONSUMER PRICE INDICES, 1977-78—1979-80 (averages)

	Wholesale price index 1970-71— 100	Consumer price index 1960—100
1977-78	185.8	324
1978-79	185.8	331
1979-80		
April	195.3	337
May	197.9	339
June	201.9	345
July	211.3	353
August	218.1	360
September	220.9	363
October	220.1	365
November	219.7	368
December	224.1	N.A.

Increase in prices of iron

***88. SHRI R. L. P. VERMA:** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of iron have increased more than double during the last year with the result that the common man has been badly affected; and

(b) if so, the measures proposed to be taken by Government to bring down the prices of iron in public interest?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). No, Sir. Pig iron prices were raised by only Rs. 100 per tonne (from Rs. 861 to Rs. 961 per tonne) in April 1979. Most consumers get their supplies directly from the producers, or through Small Industries Corporations or Associations at producers' prices. Open market prices, however, vary from place to place and time to time, depending on the local demand-and-supply position. As a matter of deliberate policy from November 1979 pig iron production from main steel plants has been stepped up to a level adequate to meet the demand, so that there is at present no marked shortage except in certain pockets due to movement problem. Export of pig iron has also been stopped from April, 1979 so as to increase domestic availability. In addition, end-use restrictions have been re-imposed in order to prevent its misutilisation. As a result of all these measures, even open market prices in most centres have started showing a declining trend.

German aid for Industrials Growth

88-A. SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Federal Republic of Germany had expressed willingness

to extend help to India for expansion of industrial sectors; and

(b) if so, the extent of help and the fields to be benefited therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): (a) and (b). During the Indo-FRG inter-governmental negotiations in October, 1979, there was mutual agreement that future development co-operation would lay emphasis on programmes and projects in the fields of rural development (including agriculture and water supply) energy, elimination of bottlenecks in the economy, etc. In 1979-80, the FRG pledged assistance in the areas of Fertilisers manufacture, Mining, Power; Power generation equipment and rural credit, totalling Deutsche Mark 240 million under the projects tranche of FRG aid for the year. Besides, commitments were made in the amounts of DM 35 million for capital goods imports, DM 15 million for ICICI and IFCI and DM 70 million for import of commodities, spare parts and small value machines and equipment.

Hijacking of an Indian Airlines Plane in December, 1978

***88-B. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:** Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) if he recalls that an Indian Airlines plane was hijacked by two persons in December, 1978 after it took off from Lucknow airport and the hijackers when arrested had made certain demands about withdrawal of cases etc.;

(b) what are the findings of the investigating agency of the Central or State Government;

(c) how much loss was caused to the exchequer by reason of the said offence; and

(d) at what stage does the investigation and/or trial, if any, rest at present?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION AND LABOUR (SHRI J. B. PATNAIK): (a) Information in this regard is being obtained from the Uttar Pradesh State Government.

(b) The Crime Branch of the Uttar Pradesh CID which is the agency investigating the case have completed investigations and the accused were charge-sheeted under sections 392, 391, 341, 427 and 364 of the Indian Penal Code.

(c) Consequent on this hijacking Indian Airlines had to operate extra flight on the route Delhi-Varanasi-Delhi. The additional expenditure involved in this regard was approximately Rs. 59,000.00.

(d) The case is pending in the court for trial.

Rise in prices of Essential commodities

*90. SHRI K. LAKKAPPA:

SHRI M. V. CHANDRA-SHEKHARA MURTHY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) is it a fact that after the presentation of the last Budget the prices of essential commodities throughout the country have gone up by leaps and bounds, which has created a dangerous economic situation for the country;

(b) is it a fact that the then Minister of Finance had claimed that the prices will not increase by more than 0.5 per cent whereas actually the prices went up many times;

(c) what were the reasons for the same and did the previous Government take any steps or made any attempts to curb the price rise; and

(d) if not, what steps the present Government propose to take to remedy the situation and ameliorate the conditions of the people?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The prices of essential commodities have gone up sharply from the end of February 1979. Since no separate index for essential commodities is available, the increases in the prices of a few important essential commodities are given in the attached statement.

(b) The then Minister for Finance and Deputy Prime Minister had stated that the *direct* impact of the tax proposals on the wholesale price index would not exceed 1 per cent.

(c) The main factors responsible for the price rise are: widespread drought, upward revision in administered prices of certain commodities, international factors such as an increase in prices of oil and oil products, shortfall in the supply of essential inputs like coal and power, stagnancy in industrial production and speculative forces reinforced by the liquidity in the system.

The measures taken by Government to check inflation consisted of economy in public expenditure, credit control, strengthening of public distribution, imports of several key commodities and measures to check hoarding and profiteering.

(d) As already stated in the President's Address the Government proposes to tackle the price situation by:

(i) increasing supplies;

(ii) controlling and regulating distribution;

(iii) taking stringent action against hoarders and black-marketeers; and

(iv) other measures to be spelt out in the budget.

Statement

Index Numbers of Wholesale prices of some essential commodities
(1970-71=100)

Commodity	Index		Percentage change
	24-2-1979	29-12-1979	
1. Rice	157.6	190.2	+ 20.7
2. Wheat	161.8	173.0	+ 6.9
3. Ground nut oil	138.0	197.1	+ 42.8
4. Mustard Oil	161.9	214.6	+ 32.6
5. Potatoes	73.9	116.6	+ 57.8
6. Onions	179.0	776.0	+333.5
7. Sugar	134.4	194.6	+ 44.8
8. Gur	132.6	274.3	+106.9
9. Cotton Cloth (Mills)	185.7	197.9	+ 6.6
10. Kerosene	233.5	272.8	+ 16.8
11. Matches	102.6	129.0	+ 25.7
12. Salt	198.8	260.9	+ 31.2

Instalment of Dearness Allowance to Central Government Employees

*91. SHRI AMAR ROY
PRADHAN:

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the 12 monthly average of the cost of living index in each of the months January to December, 1979;

(b) whether any further instalment of dearness Allowance has become due to be paid to the Central Government employees in terms of the 3rd Pay Commission Report, if so, when; and

(c) the reasons for delay in payment thereof?

Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (General) (1960=100) during the months of January to November 1979 is as follows:

Month	12 Monthly Index Average
January	329.75
February	330.50
March	331.42
April	332.67
May	334.00
June	335.50
July	337.42
August	339.83
September	342.08
October	344.17
November	346.50

The index figure for December 1979 will become available only some time in February, 1980.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): (a) The 12-monthly average of the All-India Average

(b) Consequent on the 12-monthly average of the Consumer Price Index reaching 344 points at the end of October, 1979; the question of payment of a further instalment of dearness allowance to the Central Government employees with effect from 1-11-79 is already under the consideration of Government.

(c) As the payment of the instalment involved spending of a significant order the previous Government had left the question to be decided by the new Government. The present Government has, on its assumption of office, taken up the question for consideration.

Implementation of Agreements in Public Sector

*92. SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state how many agreements in the Public Sector were delayed implementation during 1977-78 and 1978-79 due to interference by the Bureau of Public Enterprise and the period of delay in each case?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): Presumably the Hon'ble Member is referring to the wage agreements in the Public Enterprises. The managements of Public Enterprises negotiate such agreements bilaterally with their workers. In accordance with the decision of the Government taken in October, 1971, the agreements are required to be approved by Government, i.e. the administrative Ministry and the Bureau of Public Enterprises in the Ministry of Finance. When wage agreements are concluded in accordance with the policy parameters laid down by Government, the implementation thereof has not been delayed in any case. However, Public Enterprises themselves, in some cases, took time to conclude agreements in accordance with the policy of the Government

in this regard. In a few cases where the agreements departed from those parameters, requiring approval of the Cabinet, the Public Enterprises re-negotiated the agreements, which took some time. No agreement was delayed by the Bureau of Public Enterprises.

Alleged Interference of B.P.E. in Public Sector Undertakings

*93. SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the management in the Public Sector Undertakings have protested against the interference of Bureau of Public Enterprises on the ground that the B.P.E. is standing in the way of developing cordial relations with labour; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Shortage of Sugar and Kerosene Oil

*94. SHRI R. P. YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are in know of the fact that sugar and kerosene oil are not available easily to the consumers in the country-side and if at all they are available, they are available in black-market; and

(b) what effective steps are taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL MINES AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHJEE): (a) and (b). As regards sugar, the dual price mechanism was re-introduced from December 17, 1979. Arrangements for distribution of sugar through fair price shops

at uniformly fixed retail price throughout the country are being made by FCI in some States and by the State Governments in others. There have been some initial problems regarding lifting of allotted sugar from factories and its transportation by rail and road. It is expected that the position regarding distribution of sugar through fair price shops would improve soon.

Possible steps are being taken by the Government to improve the availability of kerosene oil and remove the constraints that are now standing in the way of its proper distribution. A statement in this connection was made in Lok Sabha on January 25th, 1980 by the Union Minister of Works, Housing and Petroleum and Chemicals.

राज्यों द्वारा पर्यटन कार्यक्रम का क्रियान्वयन

*96. श्री कृष्ण दत्त : क्या पर्यटन और नागर विमानन मंत्री निम्नलिखित जानकारी दर्शाने वाला एक विवरण पटल पर रखने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) भारत सरकार द्वारा किन-किन राज्यों को पर्यटन के विकास के लिए धनराशि दी गई है और गत तीन वर्षों के दौरान प्रत्येक राज्य को कितनी धनराशि दी गई है ; और

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि जिन राज्यों को सहायता दी गई थी उन्होंने कार्यक्रमों को क्रियान्वित नहीं किया है और यदि हां, तो इन कार्यक्रमों का क्रियान्वयन कब तक पूरा हो जायेगा ?

पर्यटन और नागर विमानन तथा श्रम मंत्री (श्री जे० बी० पटनायक) : (क) पर्यटन योजना में केन्द्रीय सरकार द्वारा प्रायोजित ऐसी स्कीम नहीं हैं, जिनके अधीन पर्यटक सुविधाओं का विकास करने के लिए राज्य सरकारों को धन-राशि उपलब्ध करायी जाए। योजनाओं का निष्पादन केन्द्रीय सेक्टर में या राज्य सेक्टर में किया जाता है।

(ख) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

आई० सी० 459 का या 460 सेवा का रद्द किया जाना

*97. श्री एन० के० शेजवलकर : क्या पर्यटन और नागर विमानन मंत्री निम्नलिखित जानकारी दर्शाने वाला विवरण पटल पर रखने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) गत चार महीनों में आई० सी० 459 या 460 विमान सेवा को कितने बार रद्द किया

गया और विमान कितनी बार ग्वालियर नहीं उतरा ; और

(ख) गत आठ महीनों में उपरोक्त विमान सेवा कितनी बार आधे घंटे से अधिक लेट रही और इसके क्या कारण हैं ?

पर्यटन और नागर विमानन तथा श्रम मंत्री (श्री जे० बी० पटनायक) : (क) और (ख) पिछले चार महीनों के दौरान आई० सी० 459 या 460 को कितनी बार रद्द किया गया अथवा ग्वालियर को लांघ कर उसका परिचालन किया गया तथा इसमें पिछले आठ महीनों के दौरान कितनी बार आधे घंटे से अधिक की देरी हुई और उनके क्या कारण थे, इन की दर्शाने वाला एक विवरण सभा पटल पर रखा है :

विवरण

(क) 1 सितम्बर, 1979 से 31 दिसम्बर 1979 तक की अवधि के दौरान, आई० सी० 459 तथा आई० सी० 460 के रद्द किये जाने/ऊपर से होकर उड़ान कर जाने की घटनाएं निम्न प्रकार थीं :—

उड़ान संख्या	कितनी बार रद्द की गयी	कितनी बार ग्वालियर के ऊपर से की
आई० सी०-459	6	4
आई० सी०-460	8	21

(ख) 1 मई 1979 से 31 दिसम्बर, 1979 तक की अवधि के दौरान, आई० सी० 459 तथा आई० सी० 460 में आधे घंटे से अधिक की देरियां निम्न प्रकार थीं :—

उड़ान संख्या	कितनी बार आधे घंटे से अधिक देरी हुई।
आई० सी०-459	43
आई० सी०-460	क्योंकि वही विमान वापसी में उड़ान संख्या आई० सी० 460 का परिचालन करता है, अतः उड़ान संख्या आई० सी०-459 में हुई प्राथमिक देरियों के परिणामस्वरूप उड़ान संख्या आई० सी०-460 में भी देरियां हो जाती हैं।

उपरोक्त देरियां विमान संधारण, मौसम, परिणामी देरियों आदि के कारण हुई।

Overdraft drawn by State Governments from Reserve Bank of India

*98. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to lay a statement showing:

(a) whether the State Governments have resorted to heavy overdrafts from the Reserve Bank of India in the current year;

(b) Overdrafts drawn by the State Governments during the current year (State-wise);

(c) the basic reasons for such heavy overdrafts;

(d) whether Government propose to take effective steps to solve this persisting problem; and

(e) if so, initiatives taken by Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): (a), (c), (d) and (e). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(b) It is not in public interest to disclose the actual overdrafts drawn by State Governments.

Statement

According to the information received from the Reserve Bank of India, the position of the overdrafts by the State Governments during the current financial year has been as shown below:—

Month	State	No. of occasions the State was in overdraft	Maximum No. of working days for which the State was in overdraft at one time.
April, 1979	Nagaland	1	3
	West Bengal	1	6
	Tamil Nadu	2	1
	Manipur	1	3
May, 1979	Manipur	1	3
	Haryana	2	3
	Rajasthan	1	2
June, 1979	Rajasthan	2	2
	Haryana	2	5
July, 1979	West Bengal	*	*
August, 1979	West Bengal	*	*
	Maharashtra	1	10
September, 1979	West Bengal	*	*
	Maharashtra	2	10
October, 1979	West Bengal	*	*
	Maharashtra	1	18
November, 1979	West Bengal	*	*
	Maharashtra	1	11
	Rajasthan	1	7
December, 1979	West Bengal	*	*
	Maharashtra	1	3
	Rajasthan	2	11
January, 1980	West Bengal	*	*
	Rajasthan	1	14

*Overdrafts in respect of West Bengal continued for 142 days from 2.7.1979 to 23.12.1979. The State was not in overdraft on 24th December, 1979. However, the overdraft re-emerged on 26.12.1979 and is continuing.

During the current financial year so far, only 3 States, viz. Maharashtra, Rajasthan and West Bengal, have been in overdraft for more than 7 days. The overdraft in the case of Maharashtra and Rajasthan has been cleared and only West Bengal continues to be in overdraft. Its overdraft on the 25th January, 1980 amounted to Rs. 13.00 crores.

2. The Government of West Bengal was assisted by the Central Government by releasing in advance the instalments of share in Central taxes and Central assistance for State Plan and a ways and means advance and its overdraft was cleared on 24th December, 1979. However, the overdraft re-emerged on the 26th December, 1979 and has been continuing since then. In the case of West Bengal, the main reason for the prolonged overdraft is stated to be the imbalance in its finances on account of the grant of dearness allowance by the State Government to its employees and non-recovery of State Government's dues from the agriculturists on account of drought.

3. A scheme for regulation of States' overdrafts was drawn up in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India, and the Planning Commission and was enforced with effect from the 1st October, 1978. This scheme does not permit any State Government to be continuously in overdraft for more than 7 working days. Since the enforcement of the scheme, most of the State Governments have been able to manage their finances within the parameters of this scheme.

4. A meeting was held with the Government of West Bengal at official level on 25th January, 1980 to discuss the ways and means of liquidating the overdraft. The State Government was urged to re-order priorities, improve the collection of Govt. dues and contain the expenditure within the available resources so as to eliminate recourse to overdraft on the Reserve Bank of India.

Railway carriage repair Workshops

133. SHRI PENCHALAI AH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to set up Railway Carriage Repair Workshops during this year;

(b) if so, how many; and

(c) the present position regarding proposal to set up one at Tirupati in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF):

(a) to (c). A Scheme for setting up a New Carriage Repair Workshop to meet the requirements of Eastern Region is being set up at Mancheswar (Bhubaneswar) on the South-Eastern Railway. The Project Report & the Estimates for setting up the workshop was approved in May/June, 1978 and the construction work is in progress.

A Scheme for setting up another New Carriage Repair Workshop at Tirupati on the South-Central Railway to meet the requirement of Southern Region has also been approved and included in the Railway's Works Programme for 1979-80. The Project Report & Estimates for setting up this workshop are presently under preparation by the South-Central Railway.

राजस्थान में बाड़मेर और जैसलमेर स्थानों के लिए गाड़ियों की रात्रि सेवाएँ

134. श्री विधी चन्द्र जैन : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बनाने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) राजस्थान राज्य के बाड़मेर और जैसलमेर स्थानों के लिये गाड़ियों की रात्रि सेवाएँ कब से बंद की गई हैं और उनके न चलाये जाने के क्या कारण हैं ?

(ख) क्या इस रुकने अधिक पिछड़े हुए तथा देश के सीमा क्षेत्र के लोगों को इसके कारण असुविधा उठानी पड़ रही है ; और

(ग) सरकार द्वारा वहां के लोगों की सुविधा के लिये रात्री की गाड़ियों का चलाया जाना कौन सी निश्चित तिथि से पुनः प्रारम्भ कर दिया जाएगा ?

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सी० के० जाफर शरीफ): (क) से (ग). जोधपुर और बाड़मेर के बीच 97/98 एक्सप्रेस तथा जोधपुर और जैसलमेर के बीच 3 जे पी जे/4 जे पी जे सवारी गाड़ियां इंजन कोयले की कमी के कारण 29-10-1979 से रद्द की गयी हैं। कोयले की स्थिति में अविद्यमान सुधार दृष्टिकोण से होते ही इन गाड़ियों को फिर से चलाने के बारे में विचार किया जायेगा।

Konkan Railway Project

135. SHRI V. N. GADGIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that the Konkan Railway Project has been cleared by the Planning Commission; and

(b) if so, the total estimated cost of the Project according to the Planning Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b). Only the construction of the first phase of the West Coast Konkan Railway viz. the section from Apta to Roha over a length of 62 Kms. has been cleared by the Planning Commission and this project has been included in the Budget for 1978-79 at an estimated cost of Rs. 11.19 crores and the work is in progress. The total length of the Konkan Railway from Apta to Mangalore is approximately 890 Kms. and is likely to cost about Rs. 239 crores, at 1976 price level.

Koraput—Parvatipuram Railway Line

136. SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the survey of Koraput-Parvatipuram and Koraput-Rayagada Railway lines has been completed and submitted to his Ministry;

(b) if so, the steps taken by his Ministry on the report;

(c) whether his Ministry is likely to include the said railway lines for construction in current financial year; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) to (d). Preliminary Engineering-cum-Traffic Surveys for a BG rail link from Koraput to Parvatipuram/Salur and from Koraput to Rayagada are in progress. These surveys are being conducted by M/s. Rail India Technical & Economic Services. The survey report is awaited. A decision will be taken on the project after the engineering and traffic surveys are completed and the pros and cons of the alternatives are fully studied keeping in view the financial viability of the project as well as availability of resources, subject to clearance by the Planning Commission.

Loss in Industrial Product Due to Industrial Unrest

137. SHRI K. MALLANNA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether an unprecedented industrial unrest caused by the strikes and lockouts in the last year resulted in substantial loss in production; and

(b) if so, the details regarding the total time-lost due to strikes and lockouts during the above period and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION AND LABOUR (SHRI J. B. PATNAIK): (a) & (b). Complete statistics of mandays lost and value of production lost due to strikes and lockouts during the year 1979 are not yet available. A statement showing the available provisional information regarding mandays lost and value of production lost during the last three years is attached.

The main reasons for these strikes and lockouts were 'wages and allowances'.

Statement

Number of mandays lost and the value of production lost due to strikes and lockouts during 1977, 1978 and 1979 (P).

Year	Total number of Strikes & Lockouts	Number of man- days lost (In millions)	Value of produc- tion lost in crores of Rs.
1977	3,117	25.32	284.48 (2,227)
1978	3,187	28.34	285.32 (2,265)
1979 (P)	2,336	32.27	152.69 (1,298)

(P): Provisional and incomplete

N. B. : Figures in brackets indicate the number of disputes to which the information pertains.

Wages to Tribal Labour in Orissa

138. SHRI A. C. DAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the railway contractors of Jakhapura-Banspani under South Eastern Railway in Orissa are paying very low wages to the tribal labour of that area; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to pay the proper wages to the poor tribal labour?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

Accidents and Breakdowns on Central Railway Suburban Service

139. DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government are aware that a large number of accidents and breakdowns are taking place on the Central Railway Suburban Services; and

(b) if so, the Government's proposals to improve the efficiency of the Central Railway Suburban Services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) During 1979, there were 5 train accidents involving Suburban trains on Central Railway against 12 during 1978. During 1979, on an average 819 suburban trains were run per day against 823.5 during 1978. This marginal reduction was due to breakdowns and adverse features such as heavy rains and flooding of track in June to August, 1979, snapping of overhead conductors owing to unusual thunder-storms and lightning in August, 1979 and accidental fire in the Wadi Bunder power sub-station in November, 1979.

(b) For improving efficiency, steps are being taken to improve the inputs and intensify attention to Rolling stock, track etc. Suitable training is being imparted to Motormen besides individual counselling. Safety Inspections as well as ambush checks have been intensified.

Tanker Berth at Cochin Port

140. SHRI K. A. RAJAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Chairman of Shipping Corpo-

ration of India has stressed the need for a tanker berth in Cochin Port to take in larger tankers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) Yes.

(b) The Integrated Project for port development which is already under active consideration of Government envisages the construction of a deep-drafted oil tanker berth at Cochin Port.

Payment of Bonus

141. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government intend to extend the scope of settlement entered into between the Railway Ministry and the railwaymen unions on payment of bonus to employees in other establishments and departments of the Government of India;

(b) if so, when; and

(c) if not, why not?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM & CIVIL AVIATION AND LABOUR (SHRI J. B. PATNAIK): (a) to (c). This question, alongwith other related requests and suggestions, is being examined by Government.

लखनऊ गोरखपुर-छपरा मीटरगेज लाइन का बंदी जाना

142. श्री रामायण राय : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या तत्कालीन प्रधान मंत्री श्रीमती इन्दिरा गांधी द्वारा लखनऊ गोरखपुर-छपरा मीटरगेज रेलवे लाइन को बड़ी लाइन में बदलने की योजना का उद्घाटन किया गया था ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसके कब तक पूरा हो जाने की संभावना है ;

(ग) क्या सरकार का विचार छितौनी में गंडक नदी पर पुल के निर्माण कार्य को पुनः आरम्भ करने का है ;

(घ) क्या देवरिया में भटनी रेलवे स्टेशन को बड़ी लाइन द्वारा वाराणसी से जोड़ने का प्रस्ताव है ; और

(ङ) क्या देवरिया नगर में काशीनगर को जाने वाली सड़क पर ऊपर पुल को शीघ्र पूरा करने के लिये कार्यवाही करने का प्रस्ताव है ?

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सी० के० जाफर शरीफ) (क). और (ख) जी हां। लखनऊ से बाराबंकी तक बड़े आमान की लाइन पहले ही मौजूद है। पूर्वोत्तर रेलवे के बाराबंकी गोरखपुर-छपरा-समस्तीपुर मीटर लाइन खंड (582.27 कि० मी०) के आमान-परिवर्तन का काम 1971-72 में अनुमोदित एक निर्माण-कार्य है और यह काम पहले से ही चालू है। समस्तीपुर और सोनपुर के बीच 111 कि० मी० लम्बे खंड के आमान-परिवर्तन का काम पहले ही पूरा हो चुका है और इस खंड को बड़ी लाइन के यातायात के लिये खोल दिया गया है। शेष खंड पर निर्माण-कार्य शुरू है और आशा है कि यह परियोजना 1981 के मध्य तक पूरी हो जायेगी।

(ग) गंडक नदी पर पुल के निर्माण सहित छितौनी-बगहा रेल लाइन के पुनः स्थापन का काम एक अनुमोदित निर्माण कार्य है। चूंकि पुल के मूलतः प्रस्तावित स्थल पर गंडक नदी ने अपना मार्ग बदलकर पश्चिमी तट से पूर्वी तट की ओर कर लिया है, इसलिये पुल और नदी-नियंत्रण संबंधी कार्यों के स्थल को नये सिरे से छानबीन करना अनिवार्य हो गया है। केन्द्रीय जल और बिजली अनुसन्धान स्टेशन, पुणे तथा सिचाई अनुसन्धान संस्थान, रुड़की में अब नये माडल अध्ययन किये जा रहे हैं। दिसम्बर, 1980 में किसी समय माडल अध्ययनों के परिणाम उपलब्ध हो जाने के पश्चात् ही इस पुल के निर्माण संबंधी ब्यौरे और स्थान-निर्धारण के बारे में कोई निर्णय करना संभव होगा।

(घ) वाराणसी-भटनी आमान-परिवर्तन का काम एक अनुमोदित काम है। प्रथम चरण के रूप में, इस खंड पर पुर्तौपार पुल का निर्माण कार्य शुरू करने का प्रस्ताव है। आगामी कुछ वर्षों के भीतर, बाराबंकी समस्तीपुर और बरौनी-कटिहार परियोजनाओं का काम पूरा हो जाने के बाद, इस आमान-परिवर्तन परियोजना के काम की गति बढ़ायी जा सकती है।

(ङ) देवरिया सिटी में कुशीनगर को जाने वाले प्रस्तावित ऊपरी सड़क पुल के सम्बन्ध में, इस ऊपरी सड़क पुल के स्थान के बारे में अन्तिम रूप से फैसला अभी राज्य सरकार द्वारा किया जाना है।

Long Distance Trains

143. SHRIMATI PRAMILA DAN-DAVATE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have decided to stop the long-distance trains at every station; and

(b) if so, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF):

(a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

Lockout in Kesoram Cotton Mills Ltd., Calcutta

144. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the management of Kesoram Cotton Mills, Ltd., Calcutta, a Birla concern, has declared a lock-out throwing about ten thousand workers out of employment;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what steps if any, are being taken by Government to settle the disputes amicably to the satisfaction of the workers and get the lockout lifted?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION AND LABOUR (SHRI J. B. PATNAIK): (a) to (c). In so far as industrial relations in the Kesoram Cotton Mills Ltd., Calcutta are concerned, the matter falls in the State Sphere and comes within the jurisdiction of the Government of West Bengal which is the appropriate Government in this respect, under the provisions of Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.

Campaign against Calcutta Port

145. SHRI SUBHASH CHANDRA BOSE ALLURI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news item appearing in Hindustan Times of the 17th January, 1980 that the Chairman of the Calcutta Port Trust accused the Shipping Corporation of India of waging a vilification campaign against Calcutta Port; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) and (b). Yes. Enquiries were made from the Chairman, Calcutta Port Trust in regard to this matter. He has said that his remarks at one of the periodic press conference had not appeared in the newspapers in correct perspective. The Chairman has explained that his emphasis at the press conference was to highlight the fact that low productivity and various work stoppages tended to frighten away the ships and the shippers and therefore, it was necessary for all concerned in Calcutta Port to try their level best to improve productivity.

With a view to improve Calcutta Port's working and to enable it to handle increased quantity of cargo according to its capacity, the Government had shared with the Chairman that the S.C.I. had slowed down temporarily their services to Calcutta in view of situation there and had requested the Chairman to improve the conditions so that the port should be utilised to its full capacity. Besides, the S.C.I. were advised from time to time to continue to provide sailings to Calcutta.

Talks held with British Foreign Secretary

146. SHRI SUBHASH CHANDRA BOSE ALLURI:

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that British Foreign Secretary visited India in the 2nd Week of January, 1980 and had discussion on various issues;

(b) if so, whether issue of Afghanistan and Soviet threat to Pakistan was also discussed; and

(c) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir, Lord Carrington, the British Foreign Secretary, visited India from 16 to 18 January, 1980 and had discussions with us on a number of issues including Afghanistan and the induction of arms into Pakistan. While there was agreement that the danger to peace and stability in this region had increased, there were differences in perception between the two sides. No agreed solutions were proposed.

Trains Suspended due to shortage of Coal, Diesel and Electricity

147. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of trains which were suspended for shortage of coal, diesel or electricity during the past three years 1977 to 1979, alongwith the dates on which they were suspended;

(b) whether some of them have since been restored;

(c) if so, the names of such as have been restored alongwith the dates on which they were resorted;

(d) the likely date by which the remaining trains would be restored; and

(e) the steps taken to ensure that such suspension can be avoided in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) to (d). The number of trains which stood cancelled on account of shortage of loco coal was 183 pairs on 31st July, 1978, By April 1979 the position improved to some extent enabling the Railways to restore some of the trains and the number of cancelled trains stood at 116.5 pairs. This rose to 255 pairs by the end of September, 1979 due to deterioration in the supply of loco coal. However, with improvement in the availability of loco coal the figure has now come down to 120 pairs as on 27-1-1980.

The information about details of such trains cancelled/restored from time to time over the last three years is not readily available being voluminous in character.

(e) All possible efforts are being made to improve the coal supply position in consultation with the coal producing authorities and the Department of Coal.

Chinese Arms Aid to Pakistan

148. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have lodged any protest against the reported move of China to give arms to Pakistan;

(b) if so, the date on which the Chinese move first came to the notice of Government; and

(c) the date on which the protest was lodged, the nature of the protest and the response, if any from China?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) to (c). Ever since the midsixties the Chinese have been assisting Pakistan in the military and economic fields and Government of India's opposition to the supply of arms to Pakistan is well known to the Chinese. Seeing Press reports that in the light of recent developments, Chinese Government was contemplating increased military assistance to Pakistan, the Chinese Charge d'Affaires was requested on 2-1-80 to convey to his Government our concern and conviction that such actions would only heighten tension in the region while contributing to a slowing down of the process of normalisation of relations between India and Pakistan. The response of the Chinese Government is that their assistance to Pakistan was not directed against India and they hope that India-Pakistan and India-China relations would improve.

New Railway Station near Guler at Lumsu

149. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to open a new Railway Station on the Kangra Valley Railway in the Northern Railway, near Guler at Lumsu;

(b) if so, the likely date by which the station would be opened; and

(c) the estimated cost of the construction of the Railway station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) No.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Overbridge at Level Crossing in Rayagada

150. SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry had got any proposal in the past to construct an overbridge at Railway level crossing in Rayagada town, South Eastern Railway;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government of Orissa and his Ministry in this regard; and

(c) whether there is any proposal with his Ministry to include the said bridge in the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF):

(a) and (b). Construction of road over/under-bridges has to be jointly financed and executed by the Railway and the State Government (Road Authority). Though a proposal for the construction of a road over-bridge in replacement of existing level crossing near Rayagada town, was considered in the past by the Railway, the same could not be included in the Works Programme, as the State Government could not provide for matching funds in their budget. Hence, the work could not be taken up.

(c) No.

Vacant Railway Land in Rayagada

151. SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railway land lying vacant in Rayagada town (S.E. Railway) have been kept reserved for the use of Railways;

(b) how many acres of land given on lease to the public and Government of Orissa, so far;

(c) the names of the lease owners and the amount of lease and the period thereof; and

(d) whether Railway will reserve some lands for sale to the Government of Orissa for the construction of houses for the poor and for the use of different purposes by the Government of Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF):

(a) Yes.

(b) and (c). About twentytwo acres have been licensed to various parties viz. Orissa State Electricity Board, Sewa Samaj, Thirty Railway Employees and some private shopkeepers, for periods varying from two years in case of land used for shops and Grow More Food to thirty years in the case of Orissa State Electricity Board. Amount of licence fee realised is Rs. 2,000 per annum.

(d) Railway is willing to relinquish 35 acres of land to the State Government provided the latter are agreeable to pay market value therefor, as per rules.

Vansadhara Bridge in Orissa

152. SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry received suggestion from the Government of Orissa to divert the money sanctioned for a bridge on river Vansadhara in Koraput district of Orissa by his Ministry under "Inter-State and Economic Importance" scheme for some other purposes in the year 1977;

(b) if so, the steps taken by his Ministry not to divert the funds earmarked for the Vansadhara bridge; and

(c) the funds provided by his Ministry on that bridge so far?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A Central loan assistance of Rs. 108 lakhs has been agreed to, for this bridge which is essentially a State project. No payment against this loan assistance of Rs. 108 lakhs has however been made so far. This can be done only after the sanction of the detailed estimate for the bridge by the Central Government which the Orissa Government expect to send only after completing survey, investigation and design work which is in hand with them.

Bridges Sanctioned for Orissa under Inter-State and Economic Importance

153. SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the bridges sanctioned by his Ministry under "Inter-State and Economic Importance" for the State of Orissa in Fifth Five Year Plan and Annual Plans of Five Year Plan; year of sanction and the amount bridge-wise; and

(b) what are the reasons for delay on the part of State Government to complete the reports for final approval of his Ministry for construction of the bridges particularly of Vansadhara bridge of Koraput district?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) and (b). The following bridges on State roads have been approved for loan assistance in Orissa under the Central Aid Programme of State Roads of Inter-State or Economic Importance during the Vth Plan in 1977:

Name of bridge	Loan approved (Rs. Lakhs)
(1) Baitarani bridge on Anandpur-Bhadrak road.	90.00
(2) Vansadhara bridge on State Highway No. 4	108.00

Estimate for (1) has already been sanctioned by the State Government under the powers delegated to them to sanction estimates upto Rs. 1 crore. Detailed estimate for (2) above has to

be sent by the State Government to the Government of India for their sanction and the State Government expect to finalise a detailed estimate for sanction soon after the completion of the survey and investigations and designs which are in hand with the State Authorities.

Child Labour

154. SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to bring legislation to check exploitation of child labour and safeguard their rights; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION AND LABOUR (SHRI J. B. PATNAIK):

(a) and (b). There are already several laws to check exploitation of child labour, e.g., the Children (Pledging of Labour) Act, 1933; Employment of Children Act, 1938; Factories Act, 1948; Minimum Wages Act, 1948; Mines Act, 1952; Plantations Labour Act, 1951; Motor Transport Workers Act, 1961; Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966; Apprentices Act, 1961; Minimum Wages (Central) Rules, 1950; State Shops and Commercial Establishment Acts etc. The question whether the existing legislation was adequate to protect children from exploitation, was examined recently by a Committee. The report of the Com-

mittee was submitted to Government in December, 1979. The recommendations of the Committee are under consideration.

Ad-Hoc Employees of Shipping Corporation of India

155. SHRI R. K. MHALGI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Shipping Corporation of India Ltd., has on its pay-roll about hundreds of employees in class III and IV category, on ad-hoc salary basis;

(b) how many of these employees are serving with the said corporation for more than one year;

(c) what is the sum paid as "salary" per month to such ad-hoc employees and what is the minimum amount they would have received had they been given their salary as per scales prevalent in the Shipping Corporation of India, Bombay; and

(d) what are the reasons for keeping these employees on ad-hoc basis for such long time and the action taken to treat them permanent?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) SCI has on its pay-roll only 126 employees appointed on ad-hoc salary in class III and IV category.

(b) 123.

(c) The information is indicated below:—

Category	Ad-hoc emoluments paid	Minimum amount these employees would have received had they been given their salary as per scales prevailing in SCI (based on Dearness Allowance rates applicable at present)
(1)	(2)	(3)
	Rs.	Rs.
(1) Graduate Assistants, Graduate Stenographers/Junior Technical-Assist nts.	600	1049.60
(2) Transport Supervisors.	900	1049.60
(3) X-ray Laboratory Technicians	750	1079.30
(4) Telex Operators	600	1079.30
(5) Matriculate Stenographers, Typists, Punch Operators & Comptists.	500	893
(6) Peons/Hamals	300	787

(d) Pending finalisation of wage agreement between the Management of SCI and the Employees' Unions, these persons have been appointed on ad-hoc basis. Their regularisation will depend on the outcome of wage agreement.

New Railway Lines in Backward Areas

156. SHRI R. P. YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the policy of giving new lines to the Backward Areas still holds good; and

(b) if so, what is the position regarding 8 Km long line between Dauram Madhepura (North Eastern Railway) and Singheshwar Asthan in Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) A rational policy for construction of new railway lines including unremunerative lines and developmental lines in back-ward areas and the mode of financing them is now under consideration of the National Transport Policy Committee appointed by the Planning Commission in April 1978. The Committee's report is awaited.

(b) A survey carried out in 1974-75 for a rail link (10 Kms. long) between Dauram-Madhepura and Singheshwar Asthan in Bihar on the North Eastern Railway indicated that the proposed link would cost about Rs. 78 lakhs and the return on this link would be only 2.8 per cent which is unremunerative. The question of taking up this line for construction would be reviewed in the light of the recommendations of the National Transport Policy Committee who are yet to submit their report for the acceptance of the Government, also keeping in view the overall financial resources of the country.

Development of Small Ports in Andhra Pradesh

158. SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to develop small ports in Andhra Pradesh with Central assistance; and

(a) whether there is any proposal to be developed?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) The responsibility for the development of minor ports vests with the State Governments. For the Plan period 1978-83, the National Development Council has decided that development of Minor Ports would form part of the State Plans.

(b) Does not arise.

हड़ताल और तालाबंदियों के कारण जन-दिवसों की तथा वित्तीय हानि

159. श्री छोटुभाई गामित: क्या श्रम मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) हड़तालों और तालाबंदियों के कारण गत तीन वर्षों के दौरान (वर्षवार) सरकार को कितने जन-दिवसों की और कितनी वित्तीय हानि हुई; और

(ख) इस दिशा में क्या उपचारात्मक कार्यवाही की गई है?

पर्यटन और नागर विमानन तथा श्रम मंत्री (श्री जे. बी. पटनायक): (क) पिछले तीन वर्ष 1977, 1978 और 1979 के दौरान हड़तालों और तालाबंदियों के कारण नष्ट हुए श्रम दिनों की संख्या और उत्पादन में हुई हानि का विवरण संलग्न है।

(ख) सरकार ने औद्योगिक संबंध स्थिति पर निरन्तर निगरानी रखी। केन्द्र तथा राज्यों दोनों में औद्योगिक संबंध तंत्र वर्तमान सांविधिक उपबन्धों और व्यावस्थितिक प्रबन्धों के अधीन आवश्यकता-नुसार औपचारिक मध्यस्थता, सुलह कार्यवाही, न्यायनिर्णय या पंच-फैलल द्वारा काम-बंदियों को न्यूनतम करने के लिये प्रयत्न करती रही।

विवरण

1977, 1978 और 1979 (अ) के दौरान हड़तालों और तालाबंदियों के कारण नष्ट हुए श्रम

दिन की संख्या और उत्पादन में हुई हानि के संबंध में सूचना ।

वर्ष हड़तालें और नष्ट हुए श्रम उत्पादन में
तालाबंदियों दिनों की सं- हुई हानि
की कुल संख्या ख्या (दस (करोड़
लाख में) रुपयों में)

1977	3,117	25.32	284.48 (2,227)
1978	3,187	28.34	285.32 (2,265)
1979 (अ)	2,336	32.27	152.69 (1,298)

(अ) अन्तिम और अपूर्ण ।

नोट : कोष्ठों में दिये गये आंकड़े ऐसे विवादों की संख्या बताते हैं जिनसे सूचना संबंधित है ।

Railway Wagon placement

160. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that availability of Railway wagons for the transportation of coal and other goods has considerably declined;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to improve the Railway Wagon placement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b). There has been only marginal decrease in wagon loading for reasons such as hold up of wagons for unloading, civil agitations, movement of traffic for longer distances etc. which are beyond Railways' control. Movement has also been affected adversely in some sectors due to agitations by railway staff. Loading of coal and other goods in December, 1979 has been about 1250 wagons more per day over the period April to November, 1979.

(c) Co-ordination is being maintained with different agencies to improve wagon turn round. Movement of

wagons is chased on day-to-day basis by the railway as well as from Board's office.

Calcutta Port

161. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Shipping Corporation of India has advised the users not to import and export goods through Calcutta Ports;

(b) if so, the full facts therefor; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to improve the cargo handling at Calcutta Ports?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) and (b). In view of the congestion and labour unrest at Calcutta Port, the Shipping Corporation of India had slowed down temporarily their services to Calcutta. Against this background, the Government had advised Chairman, Calcutta Port Trust, to improve the working of the port. The objective was that increased quantity of cargo (for which Calcutta Port had the capacity) should be handled by the port and the cargo was not diverted from Calcutta to other ports. Besides, the S.C.I. were advised from time to time to continue to provide sailings to Calcutta.

(c) Several steps including revision of incentive schemes for cargo handling labour, permitting the shipping companies to bring their own equipment wherever necessary, approval to procurement of mobile equipments and wharf cranes, setting up of a Committee of senior officers to look into the labour problems experienced at Calcutta Port etc. have been taken to improve the cargo handling operations at Calcutta Port.

Central Law on Agricultural Labour

162. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to enact a Central law on the Agricultural labour of the country;

(b) if so, whether any specific steps have since been taken in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION AND LABOUR (SHRI J. B. PATNAIK):

(a) Such an Act is under consideration.

(b) and (c). In September, 1978, the Government set up a Central Standing Committee on unorganised labour which has constituted a Sub-Committee specifically to go into the

details of this proposed legislation. The Sub-Committee has held three meetings and it is expected that the Draft Bill will be finalised in the next meeting. The Draft Bill will then be considered by the Central Standing Committee which will submit its recommendations to Government.

Bonded Labour in the Country

163. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of bonded labour in the country at present;

(b) the number of bonded labour so far freed; and

(c) the progress of rehabilitation of those who have been freed so far?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION AND LABOUR (SHRI J. B. PATNAIK):

(a) to (c). A statement is attached.

As reported by State Governments upto 25-1-1980

S. No.	States	No. of bonded labourers		
		Identified	Freed	Rehabilitated
1	2	3	4	5
1	Andhra Pradesh	10,518	10,452	10,224
2	Bihar	4,081	4,081	1,040
3	Karnataka	64,042	64,042	40,338*
4	Kerala	700	700	248
5	Madhya Pradesh	1,612	1,531	154
6	Orissa	3,25	325	321
7	Rajasthan	6,000	6,000	4,956
8	Tamil Nadu	27,828	27,828	27,311@
9	Uttar Pradesh	4,141	4,141	2,826**
TOTAL		1,19,247	1,19,100	87,418

*Karnataka has reported that 30,557 persons have been provided with employment in Public Work Department, Forest and other Departments and 9,403 have been given financial assistance through Banks.

@These include 24,945 persons freed and rehabilitated by the State Government in Kalrayan Hills (South Arcot District).

**The figures have been revised by the State Government on the basis of the results of an intensive survey undertaken by it in the Districts having the incidence of bonded labour.

N.B.:—The number of bonded labourers yet to be rehabilitated is 31,682, of this 5,550 bonded labourers are expected to be covered by the Centrally sponsored Scheme during 1979-80.

Opening of New C.G.H.S. Dispensaries

164. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH be pleased to state:

(a) the names of cities, State-wise, where the C.G.H.S. Dispensaries are in operation;

(b) whether it is proposed to extend this scheme to other cities; and

(c) if so, the names of the cities, State-wise, where new C.G.H.S. dispensaries are proposed to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR): (a) State-wise, the C.G.H.S. Dispensaries are in operation in the following cities:—

State/Union Territory

Cities

(i) Union Territory of Delhi	Delhi
(ii) Uttar Pradesh	Meerut, Kanpur, Allahabad and Lucknow.
(iii) Rajasthan	Jaipur.
(iv) Bihar	Patana.
(v) West Bengal	Calcutta.
(vi) Gujaratar	Ahmedabad.
(vii) Maharashtra	Bombay, Nagpur and Pune.
(viii) Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad.
(ix) Tamil Nadu	Madras.
(x) Karnataka	Bangalore.

(b) There is no proposal for the extension of the scheme for the present.

(c) Does not arise.

भूतपूर्व विदेश मंत्री का अन्य देशों का दौरा

165. श्री कृष्ण बल्ल : क्या विदेश मंत्री निम्न-लिखित जानकारी दर्शाने वाला एक विवरण पटल पर रखने की कृपा करेंगे कि भूतपूर्व विदेश मंत्री ने पिछले 30 महीनों में भारत का प्रतिनिधित्व करने के लिए किन-किन देशों का दौरा किया और इस पर कितना व्यय हुआ ?

विदेश मंत्री (श्री पी० वी० नरसिंह राव) : भूतपूर्व विदेश मंत्री ने पिछले 30 महीनों में भारत का प्रतिनिधित्व करने के लिये जिन देशों का दौरा किया उनके नाम और इस पर होने वाले व्यय के बारे में एक विवरण नीचे दिया जा रहा है :

(क) जिन देशों की यात्रा की : अफगा निस्तान, अल्जीरिया, आस्ट्रेलिया, आस्ट्रिया, बंगल देश, बेल्जियम, भूटान, बर्मा, चीन, क्यूबा, चेको-स्लाविया, हांगकांग, ईरान, इराक, इटली, जापान, कीनिया, कीरिया गणराज्य, कुवैत, मारीशस, श्री-लंका, सीरिया, तन्जानिया, संयुक्त अरब अमीरात, यूनाइटेड किंगडम, संयुक्त राज्य अमरीका, संयुक्त सोवियत समाजवादी गणराज्य संघ, यूगोस्लाविया, जाम्बिया।

(ख) व्यय : 7,85,728.00 रुपये।

Over-bridges in Morena and Dabra in M.P.

166. SHRI N. K. SHEJWALKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether over bridge (instead of level crossings) are urgently needed in Morena (Madhya Pradesh) and Dabra (District Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh) in Central Railway; and

(b) if so, the time by which they would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b). The urgency and priority for the construction of road over/under-bridges in replacement of existing busy Railway level crossings is to be decided by the State Government (Road Authority), who have to sponsor the proposals therefor, together with an undertaking to bear their share of cost as per rules. A proposal for the construction of road over-bridge at Morena, in replacement of level crossing No. 450, has been received from the State Government

and this is proposed to be included in the budget for 1980-81. No proposal for the construction of road over-bridge at Dabra has so far been received from them.

As detailed drawings, designs and estimates for the proposed road over-bridge at Morena are yet to be finalised by the State Government, it is premature at this stage to say when the construction of the road over-bridge would be completed.

Indo-Bangladesh and Boundary Agreement

167. SHRI K. MALLANNA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that during the visit of the Bangladesh Delegation in 1979 regarding the Land Boundary Agreement of 1974 between India and Bangladesh, the Bangladesh delegation during its discussions with an Indian delegation in New Delhi raised a number of issues;

(b) if so, the details regarding the talks in this regard; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) & (c). The discussions covered general questions of procedures required to be completed prior to the implementation of the Indo-Bangladesh Land Boundary Agreement of 1974, and also certain interim arrangements until implementation is completed. The discussions will be resumed in Dacca shortly. It is anticipated that the two sides will be able to reach agreement provided there is goodwill and understanding.

Jakhapura-Banspani Railway Line

168. SHRI A. C. DAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are going to take up a time-bound programme

to complete the 'JAKHAPURA-BANSPANI' new Railway line under the South Eastern Railway in Orissa; and

(b) if so, by what date the work will be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b). Jakhapura-Banspani rail link is an approved work and the first phase of the work from Daitari to Jakhapura is in progress and is expected to be completed by December, 1980. The remaining portion of the work from Daitari to Banspani would be taken up after the completion of the first phase depending upon the availability of funds.

Bonus to Employees of Hindustan Samachar

169. SHRI K. A. RAJAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Hindustan Samachar, New Delhi has not paid bonus to its employees even though they have drawn the amount towards bonus;

(b) if so, the total amount drawn; and

(c) the steps taken or being taken to see that bonus is paid immediately to its employees?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION AND LABOUR (SHRI J. B. PATNAIK): (a): The Hindustan Samachar have intimated that they have paid the bonus to their employees for the accounting year ending 30th June, 1978. They propose to pay the bonus for the accounting year ending on 30th June, 1979 within the prescribed time-limit as specified in the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965.

(b) and (c). Does not arise in view of the reply to (a) above.

Contract Labour

170. SHRI K. A. RAJAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a study conducted by the Labour Bureau of the Government of India revealing the existence of contract labour in all forms in iron ore mines although the Centre has abolished the system; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps proposed to be taken, if any?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM & CIVIL AVIATION AND LABOUR (SHRI J. B. PATNAIK): (a) & (b). The Labour Bureau in its study of Iron Ore Mines in 1956-57 had indicated the existence of Contract Labour in such mines. After the passing of the Contract Labour Regulation and Abolition Act, 1970, Government by a notification of 15th December, 1979, have abolished employment of Contract Labour in all Iron Ore Mines in the country for the following Operations—Float Ore Operations, Over-burden removal, Drilling and blasting with effect from 10th May, 1980.

कुशीनगर-पदरौना रेलवे लाइन

171. श्री रामायण राय: क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या वर्ष 1976-77 में जब तत्कालीन रेल मंत्री कुशीनगर गये थे उन्होंने वहां की जनता को आश्वासन दिया था कि कुशीनगर देवरिया से पदरौना तक रेल लाइन बिछाई जायेगी;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस सम्बन्ध में अब तक कितनी प्रगति हुई है और

(ग) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार का विचार इस कार्य को शीघ्र आरम्भ करने का है?

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सी. के. जाफर शरीफ): (क) से (ग) रेल मंत्रालय को इस बात की जानकारी नहीं है कि तत्कालीन रेल मंत्री ने इस प्रकार का कोई आश्वासन दिया था। वैसे, नयी रेल लाइनों के निर्माण के लिये छन-राशि की कठिनाई को देखते हुए फिलहाल इस रेल लाइन के निर्माण के सम्बन्ध में विचार किया

जाना सम्भव नहीं है। 56 कि. मी. लम्बी प्रस्तावित रेल लाइन पर लगभग 8 करोड़ रुपये खर्च आने का अनुमान है।

Disruption of Bombay Suburban Rail Services

172. SHRI R. K. MHALGI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) how many times date-wise the Central Railway, Bombay Suburban Railway Service was disrupted during period of last three months;

(b) the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures taken to avert the same occurrence in future to avoid the great hardships of lacs of Bombay Commuters.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) During October to December, 1979 there were disruptions on 7 occasions on the Central Railway Suburban Service on the following days:

7-11-79, 10-11-79, 14-11-79, 29-11-79, 8-12-79, 12-12-79 and 16-12-79.

(b) The disruptions were mainly because of accidents, and equipment failures.

(c) For improving efficiency steps are being taken to intensify attention to rolling stock and equipment by additional inputs and improved training facilities for staff.

Industrial Relations Bill

173. SHRI R. K. MHALGI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government intend to bring forth in Parliament a fresh "Industrial Relations Bill" so as to protect the legitimate rights of labour and to encourage industrial production; and

(b) if so, when and whether Government will take into consideration

the various reactions of different sections of society on the provisions of old "Industrial Relations Bill" which has lapsed with the dissolution of sixth Lok Sabha?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM & CIVIL AVIATION AND LABOUR (SHRI J. B. PATNAIK): (a) and (b). The Government has an open mind and proposes to have a fresh look at the whole question of industrial relations. There will be consultations with representatives of employers and workers in this regard.

Names of Essential Commodities Exported

174. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the essential commodities in whose case export is allowed;

(b) the percentage of the commodity produced which are allowed to be exported; and

(c) whether Government propose to consider the ban of export on such essential commodities whose prices are very high so as to bring down their prices to a reasonable level?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES & STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Essential food items of mass consumption being exported include:

1. Basmati rice.
2. Rice other than basmati through State Government Agencies.
3. Sugar within a ceiling prescribed annually.
4. Fresh fruits.
5. Fresh vegetables on a small scale through State Government Agencies subject to the condition that the State Governments concerned undertake production of vegetables exclusively for exports.
6. HPS groundnut within a limited ceiling.
7. Meat in limited quantum.
8. Potatoes.

(b) The estimated production of these commodities, actual exports and exports in terms of percentage of production during 1978-79 are given in the Statement.

(c) The export policy of these items is under constant review in order to ensure their adequate availability at reasonable prices in the domestic market.

Statement

ESTIMATED PRODUCTION AND EXPORT OF ESSENTIAL ITEMS OF MASS CONSUMPTION IN 1978-79

S. No.	Item	Estimated production in 1978-79	Export in 1978-79	Percentage
		(000 Tonnes):	(000 tonnes)	
1.	Basmati Rice	53800	67.09	0.15%
2.	Rice other than Basmati		11.85	
3.	Fresh Fruits	20000	7.09	0.03%
4.	Fresh Vegetables	12000	2.42	0.02%
5.	Meat	830*	18.80	2.26%

1	2	3	4	5
6. Potatoes		9269	18.00	0.19%
7. Sugar		5858	737.00	12.50%
8. HPS Groundnuts		6387	10.30	0.16%

*Figure relates to 1976.

Steep Rise in Prices of Essential Commodities.

175. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) what were the reasons for steep rise in the prices of essential commodities throughout the country during the last one year; and

(b) its impact on the country's economy?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES & STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The sharp increase in prices of some essential commodities during the past one year could be attributed to continuation of inflationary situation, seasonal factors, shortfall in kharif production, increase in procurement/support prices of some kharif crops, increase in input costs and other factors.

(b) The price rise has affected various sectors of the economy. It has particularly affected adversely the common people.

Payment of Income-tax by Rashtriya Swayam Sewak Sangh

176. SHRI V. N. GADGIL: will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Rashtriya Swayam Sewak Sangh has not paid income tax for several years;

(b) whether it was granted exemption from payment of taxes; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons for the same

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAGANNATH PAHADIA):

(a) The Rashtriya Swayam Sewak Sangh has been assessed to income-tax upto the assessment year 1976-77. The Income-tax assessed is, however, outstanding as the assessments have been challenged in appeals which are pending before the various appellate authorities.

(b) @ (c). The Rashtriya Swayam Sewak Sangh is taxed under the Status of 'Body of Individuals'. Its income from Gurudakshina received from members has been held to be not taxable on the principle of mutuality. Its other income from house property, interest on bank deposits, Misc. receipts etc. is being taxed.

Quota Reserved for Scheduled Castes in I.T.D.C. Hotels

177. SHRI DHARAM DASS SHASTRI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the quota reserved for Scheduled Castes in grades 1, 2 and 3 posts in the India Tourism Development Corporation hotels has not been completed;

(b) when the reserved quota is likely to be completed; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION AND LABOUR (SHRI J. B. PATNAIK):

(a) In spite of its best efforts the Corporation has not been able to achieve the prescribed quota for SC in grade 1 (i.e. Group A) in the ITDC hotels due to non-availability of qualified and experienced personnel in the specialised field of hoteliering and catering. There are no Grade 2 posts in the ITDC hotels at present whereas in Grade 3 (i.e. Group C) there are no shortfalls in the prescribed quota.

(b) and (c). In order to fulfil the prescribed quota in Grade 1 (i.e. Group A posts) in hotels as early as possible, the Corporation has made special efforts in the shape of special exclusive advertisements for SC/ST candidates, relaxation in standard of qualifications, age and experience, nomination of officer in the Selection Committee from standard SC/ST organisation, notification to employment exchange for sponsoring SC candidates and requests to SC and ST associations besides the Chairman Parliamentary Committee for the welfare of SC/ST.

जट पट्टियों के निर्यात के लिए जसोल ग्राम सहकारी समिति (राजस्थान) को प्रोत्साहन दिया जाना

178. श्री विरधी चन्द जैन : क्या वाणिज्य और नागरिक पूति मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि राजस्थान के बाड़मेर जिले के जसोल ग्राम सहकारी समिति को गांव के गृह उद्योग में बनने वाली जट पट्टी विदेशों में निर्यात करने के लिये प्रोत्साहित न करके उद्योगपतियों को प्रोत्साहित किया जा रहा है और उन्हें सभी निर्यात सुविधाएं दी जा रही हैं और यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं, और

(ख) क्या सरकार का विचार जसोल ग्राम की सहकारी समिति को ही वे सभी सुविधाएं देने का है और यदि हां, तो वे सुविधाएं उन्हें कब तक दी जाएंगी ?

वाणिज्य तथा नागरिक पूति और इस्पात तथा खान मंत्री (श्री प्रणब मुखर्जी) : (क) तथा (ख). इस समय पटसन कालीनों के निर्यात पर

नकद मुद्रावजा सहायता उपलब्ध नहीं है। चालू आयात नीति में भी पटसन कालीनों के निर्यात के बदले प्रतिपूर्ति लाइसेंस की व्यवस्था नहीं है

Shortage of Essential Commodities in Gujarat

179. SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is acute shortage of essential commodities in Gujarat and that the commodities that are available are being sold at prohibitive rates; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to take some steps in this regard and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES & STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No specific report about acute shortage of essential commodities in Gujarat has been received from the State Government by Department of Civil Supplies. However, some localised shortages cannot be ruled out.

(b) In consultation with State Governments the concerned Ministries in the Central Government are taking appropriate steps to remove shortages of essential commodities as and when reported.

Delhi Aayakar Sanyukt Karamchari Sangh, New Delhi

180. SHRI K. A. RAJAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Commissioner of Income-Tax, Delhi-1 had issued letter No. ITO (H.Q.)/P.A./73/17117 dated 7th September, 1973 to Delhi Aayakar Sanyukt Karamchari Sangh, New Delhi;

(b) whether it is a fact that recognition granted to Unions/Associa-

tions for JCM purposes means recognition for all purposes;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Commissioner of Income-tax Delhi-I has not been granting interviews to the representatives of the Sangh nor replying to its letters; and

(d) if so, the reasons and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAGANNATH PAHADIA):
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Recognition granted to an Association for JCM purposes entitles that Association to participate in the meetings of the JCM as and when held as well as to seek interviews and to correspond with the administrative authorities.

(c) As the office-bearers of various Associations in Delhi are posted in Delhi itself, it is not the convention to have meetings/interviews through exchange of letters. It is very seldom that requests for meeting are made in writing. Whenever the representatives of the Associations seek interview with the Commissioner, it is invariably granted. The representative of the Delhi Aayakar Sanyukt Karamchari Sangh has been meeting the officers, including the Commissioner, at the headquarters off and on. Office-bearers of different Associations are informed about the interviews personally by an officer at the headquarters.

(d) Does not arise.

Supplementary Import Licences for L-Base

181. SHRI R. L. P. VERMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Haryana Drugs Controller had enquired from the Drugs Controller (India)

about the issue of Supplementary import licences for L-Base recently;

(b) if so, whether Government have examined and permitted the issue of the licences; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKERJEE: (a) Yes, Sir. The State Drugs Controller and Director, Health Services, Haryana made a reference to the Drugs Controller (India), New Delhi in December 1979, with a copy to the Department of Chemicals and Fertilizers, New Delhi seeking clarification with regard to the import of L-Base.

(b) and (c). The item "L—Base" appears in the list of Restricted items in Appendix 5 of import policy, 1979-80, and this position was intimated to the State Drugs Controller and Director, Health Services, Haryana by the Department of Chemicals and Fertilizers, New Delhi. According to the import policy in force, applications for the grant of Supplementary import licences to Actual Users for import of raw materials, components and consumables including the items appearing in Appendix 5 of the import policy, can be considered by the licensing authority on the recommendations of the sponsoring authority concerned.

Trade Deficit

182. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to State:

(a) whether it is a fact that trade deficit has been on an increase compared to that of last year, for the last few months of the current year;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) the corrective steps proposed to be taken to narrow the gap?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) (a) and (b). The deficit of foreign trade rose from Rs. 621.03 crores in 1977-78 to Rs. 1064.37 crores (as per revision to date) in 1978-79 and on provisional basis the deficit further went upto Rs. 1181.03 crores in the first 8 months of the current financial year ending November, 1979. The increased deficit is due mainly to phenomenal rise in the aggregate value of imports accompanied by inadequate growth in exports.

(c) The Government is seriously concerned over this mounting trade deficit. It is only through increasing the momentum of our exports that this trade deficit can be minimised. Export promotion would, therefore, be our national objective. For this purpose, the Government *inter alia* proposes to undertake the following steps:—

(1) to identify and remove the various constraints on production such as shortage of power, basic raw materials and fuller utilisation of industrial capacity.

(2) to lay stress on production of items having export potential so that larger export surpluses are available;

(3) to take fuller advantage of managerial talent and advanced technology available in the country;

(4) to encourage export of value added items particularly finished and semi-finished goods;

(5) to solve problems of shipping and port congestion;

(6) to coordinate and strengthen marketing intelligence abroad.

Air facilities for Gorakhpur

183. SHRI C. P. N. SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to build a separate I.A.C. building at Gorakhpur Airport;

(b) is there definite allocation of seats for passengers from Gorakhpur; if so, how many;

(c) are there any plans to link Lumbini Kushinagar with Gorakhpur by air; and

(d) whether a daily Air Service to Gorakhpur is proposed to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION AND LABOUR (SHRI J. B. PATNAIK):

(a) As an interim measure, Civil Aviation Department proposes to build a semi-permanent structure to provide facilities for passengers travelling by Indian Airlines.

(b) Yes, Sir. 14 seats are allocated from Gorakhpur to Delhi, 22 from Gorakhpur to Calcutta and 8 from Gorakhpur to Kanpur.

(c) Not at present.

(d) Not at present.

Price Rise

184. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU:

SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) rate of price rise, (year-wise), from 1972-73 to 1979-80;

(b) what steps, if any, are proposed to be taken to hold price line; and

(c) factors responsible for price rise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAGANNATH PAHADIA): (a) The requisite information based on the annual average Index Number of Wholesale Prices (1970-71—100) is furnished in the attached statement.

(b) For the years prior to 1979-80 the factors responsible for the price changes and the remedial steps taken by the Government have been discussed in the Economic Survey presented every year to Parliament on the eve of each Budget. As for the current year, the socio-economic measures proposed to be adopted in the furtherance of broad objectives including price stabilization, as mentioned in the President's Address to Parliament on January 23, 1980, will be spelt out in the coming Budget and subsequently. A beginning has already been made by introducing a Bill in the current Session of Parliament to validate the ordinance on the Prevention of Black Marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities.

(c) The principal factors responsible for the price rise are: widespread drought, upward revision in administered prices of certain commodities, international factors like increases in the prices of oil and oil products, shortfall in the supply of essential inputs like coal and power, stagnancy in industrial production and speculative forces reinforced by the liquidity in the system.

Year	Rate of price change
1972-73	+10.0
1973-74	+20.2
1974-75	+25.2
1975-76	(—) 1.1
1976-77	+2.1
1977-78	+5.2
1978-79	No change
1979-80*	1+14.3
(April-December)	

Income Tax Rebate to Individuals Practising as Professionals

185. SHRI MOTIBHAI R. CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether individuals practising as professionals are not allowed any rebate on account of Income-tax for the periodicals and newspapers purchased by them for the efficient conduct of their business, whereas those returning income in the style of & 'Co' or 'Associates' etc. are given this relief.

(b) if so, the reasons for this disparity;

(c) whether he proposes to issue instructions to the Income-tax authorities to grant relief to such individuals returning their income as 'professionals'; and

(d) if not, the reasons for not granting this relief?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAGANNATH PAHADIA): (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) and (d). The matter will be examined in the light of information received in connection with (a) and (b) above.

Direct Air Service between Delhi and Bhubaneswar

186. SHRI CHINTAMAN PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the direct Indian Airlines Service from Delhi to Orissa State capital Bhubaneswar will start soon; and

(b) if so, by what date?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION AND LABOUR (SHRI J. B. PATNAIK): (a) and (b). F-27, IC-271/272 service on

*Variation in 1979-80 is over the

corresponding period last year.

the Calcutta/Bhubneshwar/ Varanasi/ Delhi route is being introduced by Indian Airlines effective 1st February, 1980. It would operate thrice weekly.

Abolition of Sales Tax

187. DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a final decision on the abolition of Sales Tax in the country;

(b) whether Government are thinking of imposing additional excise duties or any other levy in lieu of Sales Tax to compensate the loss in the State Revenue; and

(c) what is the total revenue by way of Sales Tax in each of the States during 1977-78 and 1978-79?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): (a) and (b). Levy of tax on sales or purchases of goods taking place within a State is a State subject of taxation under the Constitution. Efforts were made by the previous Government to persuade the State Governments to agree to the abolition of Sales-tax and its replacement by appropriate Excise Duties in a suitable manner; but the State Governments showed reluctance towards such a course of action. The question of extending the scheme of replacement of Sales-tax by additional Excise Duties on some essential commodities like cement, medicine, vanaspati and petroleum products as recommended by the Indirects Taxation Enquiry Committee was last considered at the meeting of the Chief Ministers of States held on 19th and 20th May, 1979. This proposal was also objected to by a large majority of States. The present Government will explore, with the cooperation of the State Governments, the possibility of reforming existing Sales-tax structure in the interests of consumers and traders.

(c) The total revenue from Sales-tax which includes Central Sales-tax, General Sales-tax, tax on motor spirit and purchase tax on sugarcane during these years is as under:—

(In Lakhs of Rupees)

Name of State	1977-78 (R.E.)	1978-79 (B.E.)
Andhra Pradesh	1,55,63	1,65,29
Assam	29,50	31,82
Bihar	1,24,81	1,34,82
Gujarat	2,09,85	2,24,29
Haryana	73,12	83,46
Himachal Pradesh	6,90	6,3
Jammu & Kashmir	7,50	7,98
Karnataka	1,48,50	1,62,00
Kerala	1,12,18	1,25,00
Madhya Pradesh	1,42,15	1,56,61
Maharashtra	4,74,03	51,800
Manipur	1,41	1,55
Meghalaya	1,32	1,49
Nagaland	98	1,09
Orissa	61,00	58,16
Punjab	98,33	1,09,22
Rajasthan	1,00,00	1,11,38
Sikkim	32	36
Tamil Nadu	2,47,16	2,61,03
Tripura	80	90
Uttar Pradesh	2,33,01	2,45,01
West Bengal	2,16,99	2,42,61
TOTAL STATES	24,45,49	26,48,46
Delhi	96,01	1,06,00
Other Union Territories	15,34	15,96
TOTAL Union Territories	1,11,35	1,21,96
TOTAL ALL INDIA	25,56,84	27,70,42

Seizure of Silver by Bombay Customs

188. SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the biggest ever single seizure of contraband silver valued at about Rs. 12 crores was effected by the Bombay Customs in separate raids on 3rd January, 1980;

(b) if so, the details of the raids;

(c) the persons held responsible; and

(d) the action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAGANNATH PAHADIA):

(a) to (d). According to reports received by Government, silver weighing 1,288.500 Kgs. valued at about Rs. 52,82,800 was seized, on 3-1-80, by the Customs authorities at Bombay, from the vessel 'Maldiva Carrier'. Ten persons were arrested, in this case, under the Customs Act, 1962, for their involvement in smuggling of silver out of the country.

Further investigations are in progress.

गुजरात के सूरत जिले वालोड में बैंक आफ बड़ोदा की शाखा खोलना

189. श्री छीतू भाई नामित : क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या गुजरात के सूरत जिले में वालोड में बैंक आफ बड़ोदा की एक शाखा खोलने का प्रस्ताव विचाराधीन है।

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्सम्बन्धी व्यौरा क्या है ; और

(ग) बैंक आफ बड़ोदा की शाखा कब तक खोल दी जायेगी और इस बारे में सरकार द्वारा की जा रही कार्यवाही का व्यौरा क्या है ?

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री जगन्नाथ पहाडिया)

(क) से (ग) . भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक ने सूचित किया है कि उसने गुजरात के सूरत जिले में वालोड एक शाखा खोलने के लिये बैंक आफ बड़ोदा की अनुमति प्रदान की है। प्रस्तावित शाखा चालू वर्ष के दौरान खुल जाने की आशा है।

[राजस्थान में हवाई पट्टियों का निर्माण]

190. श्री भीखा भाई : क्या पर्यटन और नागर विमानन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या राजस्थान सरकार ने यह अनुरोध किया है कि राजस्थान में विभिन्न स्थानों में हवाई पट्टियों का निर्माण किया जाना चाहिए ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उन स्थानों के नाम क्या हैं ; और

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो हवाई पट्टियों के निर्माण की मंजूरी देने के लिए क्या प्रक्रिया अपनाई जाती है ?

पर्यटन और नागर विमानन तथा श्रम मंत्री (श्री जे. बी. पटनायक) : (क) से (ग) . जी, हां। राजस्थान सरकार ने अलवर, चित्तौर, गढ़, जैसलमेर, सवाई माधोपुर, अजमेर, जोधपुर, आबू रोड तथा फालना में हवाई पट्टियों का निर्माण करने का अनुरोध किया था।

Excise formalities regarding material Imported for manufacture of Export Goods

191. SHRI SUBHASH CHANDRA BOSE ALLURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have waived all excise formalities in the case of material imported for the manufacture of goods which are meant for export; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAGANNATH PAHADIA):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A manufacturer using imported material in the manufacture of excisable goods which are exported, has been exempted from observing all central excise formalities vide notification No. 299/79-CE dated 8th December, 1979. This exemption is subject to the following conditions:

(i) The manufacturer follows the warehousing procedure prescribed under the Customs Act, 1962;

(ii) He exports the entire production including the intermediary products, by-products, refuse and wastes that may arise during the process of manufacture. However, the finished goods, intermediary products, by-products, refuse and wastes, which are unfit for human consumption or marketing, may be destroyed under the permission and supervision of an officer of Customs;

(iii) Drawback or rebate of excise duty paid on the raw materials or components used in the manufacture of the export-goods is not available to the manufacturer;

(iv) A declaration and an undertaking in the form prescribed in the notification are furnished;

(v) The exemption is not available if the finished goods are not entitled to rebate of full excise duty, or export under bond.

Hunger strike by unemployed Commercial Pilots

192. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reported hunger strike by the unemployed Commercial Pilots to press for some of their long-standing demands; and

(b) if so, the details and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI J. B. PATNAIK): (a) and (b). Yes Sir. The main demand of Unemployed Commercial Pilots is for their immediate absorption as pilots on the basis of seniority as per the date of issue of Commercial pilot's licences irrespective of age-limit laid down by the Indian Airlines for selection of pilots. The Government is not in a position to accept this demand as it tantamounts to the removal of upper age-limit for recruitment of pilots which is not in the interest of safety of Air operations

Issue of Supplementary Licences for Import of drug Intermediates

193. SHRI R. L. P. VERMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sponsoring authority, the Drugs Controller Haryana, has made his recommendations for grant of supplementary import licences for import of drugs intermediates to all the small scale drug units which have assessed capacity to manufacture import substitute drugs;

(b) if not, the reasons in detail for the delay on the party of Drugs Controller, Haryana; and

(c) whether Government propose to issue supplementary licences to the Units who have already assessed capacity pending receipt of the recommendations of the Drugs Controller, Haryana to mitigate the difficulties of the small scale industrial units?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). Some recommendations have been received by the concerned licensing authority for grant of supplementary licences for import of drugs, including drug intermediates, the last date for which is not still over. It is, however, not readily known whether all such units have applied for grant of supplementary licences through the Drugs Controller, Haryana and whether he has recommended all the cases.

(c) No, Sir.

Supply of indigenous material at international prices for export production.

194. **SHRI SUBHASH CHANDRA BOSE ALLURI:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Federation of Indian Export Organisation has submitted a memorandum and sought restoration of the scheme for supply of indigenous material at international prices for export production; and

(b) if so, the likely dates by which Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter is under consideration of the Government in connection with the formulation of Import Policy for the year 1980-81.

Construction of Aerodrome at Simla

195. **PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR:** Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to construct an aerodrome for Simla in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the likely dates by which the construction would be completed including the cost of construction;

(c) the names of capitals of the States/Union Territories which have still not been linked by air services; and

(d) the likely date by which all these capitals would be linked with the Union capital by air?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION AND LABOUR (SHRI J. B. PATNAIK): (a) and (b). No, Sir. There is no proposal to construct an aerodrome at Simla in the current Five Year Plan (1978-83)

(c) The names of Capitals of States/Union Territories which have not been linked by air services is given in the attached list.

(d) The air linking of the Capitals of States/Union Territories is covered in the Gidwani Committee Report on Third Level operations. The Report is under consideration of the Government.

List of States Capitals and Union Territories Capitals not linked by Air Services

<i>State/Union Territory</i>	<i>Capital</i>
1. Himachal Pradesh	Simla
2. Sikkim	Gangtok
3. Mizoram	Aizwal
4. Meghalaya	Shillong
5. Arunachal Pradesh	Itanagar
6. Nagaland	Kohima
7. Pondicherry	Pondicherry
8. Lakshadweep	Kavaratti
9. Dadar, Nagar Haveli	Silvassa

अनुसूचित जातियों के बेरोजगार पायलट

196. श्री धर्मदास शास्त्री : क्या पर्यटन और नागर विमानन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि एयर इंडिया और इंडियन एयरलाइन्स में ग्रेड एक, दो और तीन के पदों में अब तक आरक्षित कोटे के अनुसार अनुसूचित जातियों के उम्मीदवारों की भर्ती नहीं की गई है ;

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि अनेक हरिजन/अनुसूचित जाति के पायलट, जिनके प्रशिक्षण पर सरकार ने भारी व्यय किया है, अभी भी बेरोजगार हैं ; और

(ग) इन मामलों में सरकार द्वारा क्या कार्यवाही की जा रही है ?

पर्यटन और नागर विमानन तथा अम मंत्री (श्री जे. बी. पटनायक) : (क) जी, नहीं। एयर इंडिया तथा इंडियन एयरलाइन्स दोनों ही ने ग्रेड I, II तथा III में, इन वर्गों की रिक्तियों के आरक्षण संबंधित सरकारी आदेशों के अनुसार अनुसूचित जातियों/अनुसूचित जनजातियों के उम्मीदवारों की, जहां तक उपयुक्त एवं योग्य व्यक्ति उपलब्ध हो सके हैं, भर्ती की है।

(ख) और (ग) अनुसूचित जातियों/अनुसूचित जनजातियों के कुछ ऐसे बेरोजगार विमानचालक हैं जिन्हें इंडियन एयरलाइन्स द्वारा चयन के समय एक मौका दिया गया था परन्तु वे उपयुक्त नहीं पाये गये, वस्तुतः नियमित भर्ती के अलावा, इंडियन एयरलाइन्स ने 1977 में अनुसूचित जातियों/अनुसूचित जनजातियों के उम्मीदवारों के लिये एक अलग से भी चयन किया था और जो उम्मीदवार उपयुक्त पाये गये, उन्हें शिक्षण पर ले लिया गया था। इंडियन एयरलाइन्स तथा सरकार का यह सतत प्रयत्न रहता है कि इस बात को सुनिश्चित किया जाये कि अनुसूचित जातियों/अनुसूचित जनजातियों के लिये आरक्षित रिक्तियों को इन वर्गों के ही उपयुक्त उम्मीदवारों द्वारा भरा जाये।

दिल्ली में सस्ते होटल तथा पर्यटक दुकानें

197. श्री धर्मदास शास्त्री : क्या पर्यटन तथा नागर विमानन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि क्या पर्यटन विभाग द्वारा बड़े होटलों के बजाय दिल्ली में तथा देश के अन्य स्थानों पर छोटे तथा सस्ते होटल तथा पर्यटक दुकानें खोलने की कोई योजना बनाई जा रही है ?

पर्यटन तथा नागर विमानन तथा अम मंत्री (श्री जे. बी. पटनायक) जी, हां। अधिक लागत वाले, महंगे होटलों के बजाय, जिनके लिये अधिक परिव्यय की आवश्यकता होती है,

पर्यटन योजना में उपलब्ध सीमित संसाधनों के अन्तर्गत कम लागत वाले, सस्ते होटल उपलब्ध कराये जाने के संबंध में लिये गये निर्णय के अनुसरण में और साथ ही स्वदेशी पर्यटकों और अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय मितव्ययी पर्यटकों की स्वच्छ, आरामदेह और सस्ते आवास की जरूरत को पूरा करने के लिये नई दिल्ली में एक 1250 बेंड वाले जनता होटल (अशोक यात्री निवास) का निर्माण किया जा रहा है। पंचवर्षीय योजना 1978-83 के अन्तर्गत बम्बई, कलकत्ता और मद्रास के महानगरों में इसी प्रकार की यूनितों का निर्माण करने का कार्यक्रम है। अन्य महत्वपूर्ण केन्द्रों पर, जिनका निर्धारण एक सर्वेक्षण कराने के उपरान्त किया जायेगा, अपेक्षाकृत छोटे-छोटे यूनितों की स्थापना की जायेगी, वशर्त निधियां उपलब्ध हों। राज्य सरकारों और गैर-सरकारी उद्यमियों को कम कीमत वाले होटलों की स्थापना करने के लिये प्रोत्साहन प्रदान किया जायेगा। इस उद्देश्य के लिये उनके अनुरोध पर उन्हें डिजाइन भी उपलब्ध कराये जायेंगे।

दिल्ली में सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली

198. श्री धर्मदास शास्त्री : क्या वाणिज्य तथा नागरिक पूर्ति मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या दिल्ली प्रशासन को दिल्ली में सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली लागू करने में पूरी सफलता नहीं मिल पाई ;

(ख) क्या प्रशासन द्वारा बार-बार घोषनायें किये जाने के बावजूद उचित दर की दुकानों के माध्यम से साबुन का वितरण बिल्कुल नहीं हुआ और कपड़े तथा कापियों का वितरण भी नगण्य ही रहा है ; और

(ग) दिल्ली में सार्वजनिक प्रणाली में व्यापक सुधार करने के लिये सरकार द्वारा क्या कार्यवाही की जा रही है ?

वाणिज्य तथा नागरिक पूर्ति और इस्पात तथा खान मंत्री (श्री प्रबुध मुखर्जी) (क) से (ग) : दिल्ली प्रशासन ने सूचित किया है कि दिल्ली संघ शासित क्षेत्र में इस समय कुल 2,160 उचित दर की दुकानें हैं। उचित दर की दुकानों के माध्यम से लगभग 11 लाख चादय कार्डधारकों को गेहूं, चावल, बीबी, छाछ, धार० बी० डी० ताड़ का तेल, रेपसीड तेल और कापियों जैसी कुछ चुनी आवश्यक वस्तुओं का वितरण किया जा रहा है। उचित दर की दुकानों के अलावा, 1148 खुदरा डिपुओं के माध्यम से मिट्टी के तेल और 1638 डिपुओं के जरिये कोयले का वितरण किया जा रहा है। 800 इ० प्रतिमास से कम मासिक आय वाले चादय कार्डधारकों को 244 सहकारी समितियों के माध्यम से कंट्रोल् के कपड़े का वितरण किया जा रहा है। बद्दकि, कापियों और कंट्रोल्

के कपड़े का वितरण कार्य कुल मिलाकर संतोषजनक रहा है, तथापि टाटा आयाल मिल्स कंपनी में लम्बी हड़ताल के कारण नहाने के साबुन के वितरण पर असर पड़ा है। यह कंपनी दिल्ली में उचित दर की दुकानों के माध्यम से वितरण के लिये 'त्रेसिल' ब्रांड नहाने के साबुन की सप्लाई कर रही थी। दिल्ली के केन्द्र शासित क्षेत्र और देश के अन्य राज्यों तथा संघ शासित क्षेत्रों में सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली की समय-समय पर पुनरीक्षा की जा रही है और चुनी आवश्यक वस्तुओं की सप्लाई तथा वितरण के प्रबंधों को कारगर बनाने के लिये समय-समय पर कदम उठाये गये हैं।

Working of Life Insurance Corporation

199. SHRI R. K. MHALGI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made by the Committee appointed by the Government of India to review the working of Life Insurance Corporation; and

(b) when the Committee is likely to submit its report to Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAGANNATH PAHADIA): (a) and (b). The continuance of Committee itself is under the consideration of Government.

समाज के पिछड़े और कमजोर वर्गों को आवश्यक वस्तुओं की सप्लाई

200. श्री मूल चन्द डागा : क्या वाणिज्य तथा नागरिक पूति मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार ने कोई ऐसी योजना बनाई है अथवा पहले ही कोई ऐसी योजना है जिसके अंतर्गत समाज के पिछड़े और कमजोर वर्गों को उचित मूल्यों पर चीनी, मिट्टी का तेल, खाद्य पदार्थ आसानी से उपलब्ध हों ; और

(ख) यदि नहीं, तो क्या सरकार ऐसी कोई योजना बनायगी और यदि हां, तो कब तक और इसे कार्यान्वित करने में कितना समय लगेगा ?

वाणिज्य तथा नागरिक पूति और इस्पात तथा खान मंत्री (श्री प्रणब मुखर्जी) (क) तथा (ख). अनाज, चीनी, मिट्टी का तेल आदि जैसी कुछ चुनी वस्तुओं का नियत मूल्यों पर वितरण करने की योजना पहले से ही लागू है, जो समाज के पिछड़े व कमजोर वर्गों, सहित समाज के सभी वर्गों की आवश्यकताओं को पूरा करती है।

वर्ष 1977, 1978 और 1979 के दौरान विदेशी पर्यटकों से हुई आय

201. श्री मूल चन्द डागा : क्या पर्यटन और नागर विमानन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) वर्ष 1977, 1978 और 1979 के दौरान क्रमशः कितने पर्यटक भारत में आये और उसके परिणामस्वरूप सरकार को कितनी आय हुई थी ; और

(ख) गत तीन वर्षों के दौरान पर्यटकों ने कौन सी प्रमुख कठिनाईयों की ओर पर्यटन विभाग का ध्यान दिलाया और उनको दूर करने के लिये सरकार ने क्या कदम उठाये हैं ?

पर्यटन और नागर विमानन तथा श्रम मंत्री (श्री जे० बी० पटनायक) : (क) भारत में 1977, 1978 और 1979 के दौरान अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय पर्यटक आगमनों की संख्या क्रमशः 6,40,422, 7,47,995 और 7,64,781 थी।

इसी अवधि के दौरान देश द्वारा क्रमशः 283 करोड़ रुपये, 330 करोड़ रुपये और 338 करोड़ रुपये की विदेशी मुद्रा अर्जित करने का अनुमान है।

(ख) जो प्रमुख कठिनाइयाँ पर्यटन विभाग के ध्यान में लाई गई हैं, वे ये हैं (i) अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डों पर भीड़-भाड़ जिसके कारण पर्यटकों की तत्काल निकासी में विलम्ब होता है; (ii) इण्डियन एयरलाइन्स द्वारा स्वदेशी सेक्टरों पर बुकिंग की समय पर पूर्ण करने में असमर्थता और अपनी उड़ान सारणियों (फ्लाइट शेड्यूल) में बार-बार परिवर्तन करना, जिसके कारण यात्रा कार्यक्रमों में गड़बड़ी होती है; (iii) अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय स्तर के स्वीकृत मानकों के होटल आवास की कमी; और (iv) स्थानीय दृश्यावलोकन है और एक मुश्त दौरों के लिये आरामदेह तथा शोधगामी स्थल परिवहन की कमी, जिसमें कारें/कोचे शामिल हैं।

इन कठिनाइयों को दूर करने के लिये सरकार द्वारा जो उपाय किये जा रहे हैं, वे ये हैं— (i). बम्बई हवाई अड्डे पर एक नई टर्मिनल बिल्डिंग का निर्माण कार्य पहले ही शुरू कर दिया गया है और दिल्ली हवाई अड्डे के मामले में इसी प्रकार का एक प्रस्ताव सक्रिय रूप से सरकार

के विचाराधीन है; (ii) इण्डियन एयरलाइंस वर्ष 1980 के मध्य तक दो एयर बसों तथा चार बोइंग 737 एयरक्राफ्ट की और 1981 में 4 और बोइंग 737 एयरक्राफ्ट की वृद्धि करके अपनी फ्लीट में बढ़ोतरी करेगी; (iii) पर्यटन विभाग ने होटल आवास की वर्तमान क्षमता में वृद्धि करने के लिये नई होटल परियोजनाओं को प्रोत्साहित किया है। सरकारी सेक्टर ने देश में पर्यटक महत्व के चुने हुए स्थानों पर परियोजनाओं का कार्यक्रम तयार किया है। वित्तीय राहतों, संगठनात्मक ऋणों के तौर पर वित्तीय सहायता, अनिवार्य आवश्यकताओं आदि के लिये प्राथमिकता देने के रूप में विभिन्न प्रोत्साहन देकर निजी सेक्टर को और अधिक होटल स्थापित करने के लिये भी प्रोत्साहित किया जाता है; और (iv) विभाग की परिवहन ऋण योजना के अधीन आसान ऋण शर्तों पर वित्तीय सहायता उपलब्ध करायी जाती है ताकि अनुमोदित पर्यटक कार प्रचालक पर्यटकों की मांग को पूरा करने के लिये कारों/कोचे खरीद सके। पर्यटक वाहनों की अपनी फ्लीट में वृद्धि करने के लिये अनुमोदित पर्यटक कार प्रचालकों तथा यात्रा अभिकर्ताओं के लिये आयातित सेकेण्ड हैंड कारों की व्यवस्था करने की भी विभाग की योजना है।

राजस्थान में आवश्यक वस्तुओं की वितरण प्रणाली

203. श्री बिरधी चन्द जैन : क्या वाणिज्य तथा नागरिक पूर्ति मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) राजस्थान राज्य में आवश्यक वस्तुओं की वितरण प्रणाली संबंधी व्यौरा क्या है;

(ख) केन्द्र सरकार ने इस प्रणाली में कोई परिवर्तन और सुधार करने का विचार किया;

(ग) क्या केन्द्र सरकार ने वितरण प्रणाली में परिवर्तन तथा सुधार करने के प्रयोजन से राज्य सरकार को कोई निदेश भेजा है, यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी व्यौरा क्या है; और

(घ) राज्य सरकार ने केन्द्र सरकार के निदेशों तथा सलाह को कहां तक स्वीकार किया है?

वाणिज्य तथा नागरिक पूर्ति और इस्पात तथा खान मंत्री (श्री प्रणब मुखर्जी) : (क) से (घ). सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है और सभा पटल पर रख दी जायेगी।

जैसलमेर का पर्यटन स्थल के रूप में विकास

204. श्री बिरधी चन्द जैन : क्या पर्यटन और नागर विमानन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) पर्यटन दृष्टिकोण से जैसलमेर जिले के मुख्यालय जैसलमेर शहर का विकास करने के

लिये पर्यटन विभाग द्वारा अब तक कितनी राशि खर्च की गई है और इस बारे में अब तक हुई प्रगति का व्यौरा क्या है;

(ख) जैसलमेर की यात्रा करने के लिये बड़ी सख्या में विदेशी और भारतीय पर्यटकों को आकर्षित करने हेतु पर्यटन विभाग द्वारा इस वर्ष दी जा रही विशेष सुविधायें क्या हैं;

(ग) इस बारे में आगामी पांच वर्षों की योजनाओं का व्यौरा क्या है; और

(घ) क्या विभाग ने जैसलमेर तक विभाग सेवाओं का विस्तार करने के लिये कोई कार्यवाही की है और यदि हां, तो उसकी प्रगति क्या है?

पर्यटन और नागर विमानन तथा श्रम मंत्री (श्री जे० बी० पटनायक) : (क) पर्यटन विभाग ने 6,10,200 रुपए की लागत पर जैसलमेर में एक पर्यटक बंगले का निर्माण किया है। बाद में, इसके विस्तार पर 1,14,000 रुपए की अतिरिक्त राशि खर्च की गई। 48 बड़ वाले इस पर्यटक बंगले की प्रबंध-व्यवस्था राजस्थान पर्यटन विकास निगम द्वारा की जा रही है।

(ख) और (ग) इस केन्द्र की यात्रा करने के लिए बड़ी सख्या में पर्यटकों को आकर्षण करने हेतु इस वर्ष पर्यटन विभाग द्वारा जैसलमेर में कोई खास सुविधाएं प्रदान नहीं की जा रही हैं। तथापि, भारत पर्यटन विकास निगम का अपनी पंचवर्षीय योजना 1978—83 के अन्तर्गत जैसलमेर में एक यात्री-गृह के निर्माण का प्रस्ताव है।

(घ) इंडियन एयरलाइन्स की, जैसलमेर तक विमान-सेवाओं का विस्तार करने की, फिलहाल, कोई योजनाएं नहीं हैं।

लघु उद्योगों को उसके उत्पादों का निर्यात करने के लिए दी गई सुविधायें

205. श्री मूल चन्द डागा : क्या वाणिज्य तथा नागरिक पूर्ति मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) लघु उद्योगों को उसके उत्पादों के निर्यात के लिये क्या सुविधायें दी गई हैं;

(ख) क्या सरकार का विचार निर्यात को बढ़ावा देने के लिये वर्तमान सुविधाओं में कोई परिवर्तन करने का है; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो तत्सम्बन्धी व्यौरा क्या है?

वाणिज्य तथा नागरिक पूर्ति और इस्पात तथा खान मंत्री (श्री प्रणब मुखर्जी) : (क) (i) लघु स्तरीय एककों के मामले में निर्यात सदन प्रमाण पत्र दिए जाने के लिए विहित नियमों

का न्यूनतम वार्षिक औसत एफ० ओ० बी० मूल्य चुनिन्दा और गैर चुनिन्दा उत्पादों के लिए क्रमशः 25 लाख और 2 करोड़ रु० है जबकि बड़े स्तरीय एककों के लिए ये सीमाएं एक करोड़ रु० और 5 करोड़ रु० हैं। यह सुविधा लघु स्तरीय एककों के साथी संघ को भी उपलब्ध है।

(ii) निर्यात सदन प्रमाण पत्र देने के लिए व्यापारी निर्यातक अथवा बड़े पैमाने के विनिर्माता की पात्रता निर्धारित करने के सम्बन्ध में लघु स्तरीय उद्योगों द्वारा निर्मित उत्पादों के निर्यातों का मूल्य ऐसे निर्यातों के एफ० ओ० बी० मूल्य का दुगुना समझा जाता है।

(iii) निर्यात सदन को दिए जाने वाले अतिरिक्त लाइसेंस का मूल्य लघु स्तरीय तथा कुटीर उद्योगों द्वारा निर्मित उत्पादों के निर्यातों के एफ० ओ० बी० मूल्य का हिसाब 33 1/3 प्रतिशत की दर से लगाया जाता है जबकि बड़े पैमाने के उत्पादों के मामले में इसका हिसाब केवल 5 प्रतिशत की दर से लगाया जाता है।

(ii) निर्यात संवर्धन के लिए सहायता अनुदान संहिता के अन्तर्गत लघु उद्योग क्षेत्र के निर्यात सदन और साथ ही लघु उद्योग एककों के साथी संघ को उनके विपरीत दलों के विनिर्मित धन का 60 प्रतिशत दिया जाता है। जबकि अन्य निर्यात सदन को 25 प्रतिशत दिया जाता है।

(ख) तथा (ग). 1980-81 के लिए आयात नीति बनाने के सम्बन्ध में पंजीकृत निर्यातकों के लिए आयात नीति की समीक्षा की जा रही है।

दिल्ली तथा जोधपुर के बीच बरास्ता जयपुर, विमान सेवा पुनः आरम्भ करना

206. श्री विरघी चन्द जैन : क्या पर्यटन और नागर विमानन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) दिल्ली तथा जोधपुर के बीच, बरास्ता जयपुर, विमान सेवा कब से नहीं चल रहा है और इसके क्या कारण हैं ; और

(ख) इसके कब तक पुनः आरम्भ हो जाने का आशा है ?

पर्यटन और नागर विमानन तथा श्रम मंत्री (श्री जे० बी० पटनायक) : : (क) और (ख) बम्बई/अहमदाबाद/उदयपुर/जोधपुर/दिल्ली का परिचालन करने वाली दैनिक एच० एस०-748 सेवा को 6 जलाई, 1979 से निलम्बित कर दिया गया था क्योंकि एक एच० एस०-748 विमान मंगलौर में एक दुर्घटना में बुरी तरह क्षतिग्रस्त हो गया था। 4 अगस्त, 1979 को बम्बई के निकट हुई एक दुर्घटना में एक और एच० एस०-748 विमान के नष्ट हो जाने से इंडियन एयरलाइन्स की क्षमता की कमी और भी गंभीर हो गयी। इंडियन एयरलाइन्स के विमान-

बड़े में वर्ष 1980 के दौरान 4 बी-737 विमान और जुड़ जाने पर आशा है इंडियन एयरलाइन्स जोधपुर की विमान सेवा को सितम्बर, 1980 तक पुनः चालू कर देगी।

Opening of Hotels in Foreign Countries by Oberoi Groups

207. SHRI PIUS TIRKEY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oberoi Groups of Hotels have been permitted to open hotels in a number of foreign countries; if so, full particulars thereof;

(b) the terms and conditions under which this Group has been permitted to set up hotels abroad; and

(c) the total annual foreign exchange they have earned for the country during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION AND LABOUR (SHRI J. B. PATNAIK): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha.

Export of Steel Tubes

208. SHRI PIUS TIRKEY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is exporting Steel Tubes abroad; if so, full particulars;

(b) the companies which are manufacturing and exporting these items;

(c) whether irregularities have been discovered on the part of these companies with regard to foreign exchange earnings from the exports; and

(d) if so, full details and action taken against defaulting companies?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir. Export of steel tubes from this country

during the last three years are as follows:

Year	Exports (Value in Rs. crores)
1976-77 . . .	56.32
1977-78 . . .	43.03
1978-79 . . .	42.00
April—Oct., 79 . . .	16.61 Provisional

(b) The names of major manufacturing and exporting companies are as follows:

1. Gujarat Steel Tubes Ltd., Ahmedabad.
2. Zenith Steel Pipes and Industries Ltd., Bombay.
3. Shri Ambica Tubes Ltd., Ahmedabad.
4. Khandelwal Tubes, Bombay.
5. Jain Tubes Co. Ltd., New Delhi.
6. Indian Tubes Co. Ltd., Calcutta.
7. Kalinga Tubes Ltd., Calcutta.
8. Bharat Steel Tubes, New Delhi.
9. Jindal Pipes Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi.

(c) and (d). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Demand for Bonus for Central Government Employees

209. SHRI K. A. RAJAN:

SHRI C. R. MAHATA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a memorandum from the Central Government employees some time in December, last demanding bonus; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's decision thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAGANNATH PAHADIA): (a) and (b). In absence of the precise indication of the senders and the date of the memorandum referred to in the question, it is not possible to identify the same. However, it may be stated that the Government are examining the demands for the grant of production/productivity linked bonus in the cases of the employees of the production units of the Department of Defence Production, Posts and Telegraphs and some other departments.

Ministers' Visit Abroad

210. SHRI KRISHAN DUTT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the names of Ministers who visited foreign countries during the last two and a half years and the purpose of their visits and the expenditure incurred on each Minister on this account?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAGANNATH PAHADIA): The information for the period from 1st August, 1977 to 31st January, 1980 is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as it is available.

Export of Agricultural Products

211. SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the export of agricultural products is being given encouragement by Government to balance the deficit in balance of payments; and

(b) if so, the commodities for which encouragement is being given?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). Export of certain selected items of agricultural products is being encouraged by grant of Cash Compensatory Support and Import Replenishment. Details of the

Commodities, the rates of Cash Compensatory Support and particulars of Import Replenishment are given in Statements 1 and 2 laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See via Tirupati?]

Air Service from New Delhi to Madras via Tirupati

212. SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are proposing to have two air service from New Delhi to Hyderabad; and

(b) whether there is any representation with the Government to have an air service from New Delhi to Madras via Tirupati?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION AND LABOUR (SHRI J. B. PATNAIK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) In the absence of complete particulars of the representation, it has not been possible to trace the same. However, there is no such proposal under consideration of the Government at present.

Foreign Trade Deficit

214. SHRI K. MALLANNA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's foreign trade deficit is widening rapidly;

(b) if so, the details regarding the foreign reserve during last three years; and

(c) the details regarding increase in deficit if any (year-wise) during last three years?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Foreign Exchange Reserves (excluding Gold & SDR's)	Rs. Crores
1976-77	2,863.0
1977-78	4,499.8
1978-79	5,219.8
* November, 1979 (Provisional)	5,362.0

(c) Deficit of Foreign Trade	Rs. Crores
1976-77	+ 68.46
1977-78	— 621.03
1978-79*	— 1064.37
April-Nov., 1979 (Provisional)	— 1,81.03

*As per data revised in November, 1979 Press Note.

Air Conditioning of Building of State Bank of India, New Delhi

215. SHRI PIUS TIRKEY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) when the building of the State Bank of India, Parliament Street, New Delhi was last air-conditioned;

(b) whether it is a fact that a proposal to re-aircondition the said building at a cost of Rs. 60 lakhs has been undertaken;

(c) whether it is also a fact that a team of new consultants has been appointed for the purpose ignoring the local consultants; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAGANNATH PAHADIA): (a) The newly constructed Multi-storeyed blocks of the State Bank of India at

Parliament Street, New Delhi, were last airconditioned at the time of their construction in the year 1968-69.

(b) A project at an estimated value of Rs. 53 lakhs is in hand, which besides augmentation of air-conditioning Plant and ducting, also includes replacement of existing electric installations and false ceiling and provision of automatic fire dampers and monitoring system as per fire safety codes/standard with a view to making the building fire-proof.

(c) and (d). The techno-economic consultancy of the job was entrusted to a highly qualified consultant who specialises in air-conditioning of multi-storeyed buildings, and whose services for the State Bank's Central Office at Bombay were found very satisfactory.

Entrusting of Works of State Bank of India to a Firm of Architects

216. SHRI PIUS TIRKEY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that works of State Bank of India, New Delhi to the tune of crores of rupees have been entrusted to a firm of Architects who have been specially asked to start operation in Delhi; and

(b) if so, the basis on which works have been allotted to that firm?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAGANNATH PAHADIA): (a) and (b). Several works of the State Bank of India, New Delhi Circle, at an estimated value of Rs. 4.21 crores have been entrusted to various firms, who are on the panel of approved Architects of the Bank. All these firms are Delhi based except one, and even this firm, though having its head office at Madras, has been having a Branch Office under an able partner at Delhi since 1972. This firm has been entrusted with the work on account of its vast experience and satisfactory service to the Bank in the past.

डूंगरपुर और बांसवाड़ा जिलों में पर्यटन केन्द्र

217. श्री भीखा चाई : क्या पर्यटन और नागर विमानन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या राजस्थान के डूंगरपुर और बांसवाड़ा जिलों में पर्यटन केन्द्र खोलने का कोई प्रस्ताव राज्य सरकार से मिला है; यदि हाँ, तो इस पर क्या कार्यवाही की गई है और यदि कोई कार्यवाही नहीं की गई तो इसके क्या कारण हैं;

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि इन जिलों में गलियाकोट, दरगाह, त्रिपुर, सुन्दरी तलवाड़ा, देव सोमनाथ भावजी मंदिर, बनाई श्वास, अरथना के अवशेष आदि जैसे पर्यटन रुचि के बहुत से महत्वपूर्ण स्थान हैं?

(ग) क्या मंत्रालय ने पर्यटन महत्व के स्थानों की सम्भाव्यता का पता लगाने के लिए किसी पार्टी या अधिकारी को प्रतिनियुक्त किया है; और

(घ) यदि हाँ, तो क्या जानकारी सभा पटल पर रखी जाएगी?

पर्यटन और नागर विमानन तथा श्रम मंत्री (श्री जे० बी० पटनायक) : (क) जी, नहीं।

(ख) ये केन्द्र स्थानीय महत्व के तीर्थ केन्द्र हैं।

(ग) जी, नहीं। चूंकि ये स्थान स्थानीय महत्व के थे, अतः यह मामला राज्य सरकार के क्षेत्र के अन्तर्गत आता है।

(घ) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

विदेशी ऋण

218. श्री मूल चन्द डागा : क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि अब तक भारत सरकार पर अन्य देशों का कितना ऋण है उद ऋणों पर प्रतिवर्ष कितना व्याज दिया जाता है तथा देशवार कितना ऋण लिया गया है?

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री जगन्नाथ पहाड़िया) : 30 नवम्बर, 1979 को भारत सरकार का विदेशी ऋण उसी तारीख को प्रचलित विनिमय की दरों के आधार पर 11,821.04 करोड़ रुपये का था। 1979-80 में इस विदेशी ऋण पर देय व्याज की राशि अनुमानतः 253.53 करोड़ रुपये है। इस विदेशी ऋण का देशवार व्यौरा सभा पटल पर रखे गए विवरण में दिया गया है।

30-11-1979 को बकाया विदेशी ऋण का देशवार विवरण

देशवार

देश/संख्या	बकाया ऋण 30-11-79 को विदेशी मुद्रा की दैनिक विनिमय दरों के आधार पर (करोड़ रुपए)
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I. द्विपार्षिक

1. आस्ट्रिया	31.48
2. बेलजियम	71.09
3. कनाडा	359.48
4. डेनमार्क	25.93
5. जर्मन संघीय गणराज्य	1467.50
6. फ्रांस	347.13
7. इटली	25.19
8. जापान	796.65
9. नीदरलैंड	425.33
10. स्विटजरलैंड	25.01
11. यूनाइटेड किंगडम	880.00
12. संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका	2561.63
13. संयुक्त अरब अमरात	56.21
14. कुवैत निधि	45.53
15. अबूधाबी	12.31
16. सऊदी अरब	24.67
17. इराक	129.12
18. ईरान	762.40
19. चेकोस्लोवाकिया	32.71
20. हंगरी	11.19
21. पोलैंड	8.30
22. यूगोस्लाविया	0.01
23. सोवियत समाजवादी जनतंत्र संघ	183.78
जोड़	8282.66

II. बहुपार्षिक

1. अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय पुनर्निर्माण तथा विकास बैंक	302.83
2. अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय विकास संघ	3206.80
3. तेल तथा पेट्रोलियम निर्यातक देश निधि	28.75
जोड़	3538.38
कुल जोड़	11821.04

Fall in External Trade

219. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES:
Will the Minister of COMMERCE
AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to
state:

(a) whether there has been a fall in
our external trade during the last three
years;

(b) what are the details of imports
and exports during the years 1975-76,
1976-77, 1977-78 and 1978-79.

(c) whether the trade figures are
showing a further decline during the
year 1979-80; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE
AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND STEEL
AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MU-
KHERJEE): (a) The rate of growth in
export has declined and that in import
has increased in the period from 1977-
78 to November, 1979, as compared to
the earlier year 1976-77.

(b) to (d). The figures of India's
overall exports and imports from 1975-
76 to 1978-79 and for the latest avail-
able first 8 months of the current finan-
cial year ending November, 1979, are
as below:—

(Rs. crores)

Year/Period	Exports	Imports
1975-76	4042.81	5265.20
1976-77	5142.25	5073.79
1977-78	5404.26	6025.29
1978-79*	5724.63	6789.00

April-November 1979-80 — Provisional	3816.89	4997.92
April-November 1978-79 — Provisional	3391.77	4121.02
— Revised	3616.74	4277.66

*As pfr data revised in November, 1979 Press Note.

Growth in Foreign Exchange Reserves

220. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES:

SHRI D. L. BAITHA:

SHRIMATI PRAMILA
DANDAVATE:

SHRI MADHU DANDAVATE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the foreign exchange reserve of the country as on December 31, 1979; and

(b) what is the extent of growth in our foreign exchange reserves during the years 1975, 1976, 1977 and 1978 and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAGANNATH PAHADIA): (a) India's foreign exchange reserves (excluding Gold and Special Drawing Rights) were Rs. 5395.02 crores as on 31st December, 1979.

(b) The foreign exchange reserves (excluding Gold and Special Drawing Rights) which stood at Rs. 587.40 crores at the end of December, 1974 recorded increase of Rs. 166.86 crores in the calendar year 1975. These reserves recorded further increases of Rs. 1544.24 crores, Rs. 1699.79 crores and Rs. 892.06 crores during the calendar years 1976, 1977 and 1978 respectively.

The phenomenal growth in the foreign exchange reserves was due mainly to the considerable buoyancy witnessed in India's exports, particularly during 1974 to 1977, and the striking growth in the net inflow of invi-

sibles including remittances from abroad.

मूल्य वृद्धि

221. श्रीमती कृष्णा साही : क्या वित्त मंत्री जयह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि फरवरी, 1977 की तुलना में दिसम्बर, 1979 में मूल्य-सूचकांक में 70 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि दर्ज की गई;

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि मार्च, 1979 से अक्टूबर 1979 तक की अवधि के दौरान मूल्य-सूचकांक 190 से बढ़कर 221 हो गया; और

(ग) यदि प्रश्न के उपरोक्त भागों का उत्तर स्वीकारात्मक है तो मूल्य-वृद्धि को रोकने के लिए सरकार का क्या उपाय करने का विचार है?

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री जगन्नाथ पहाड़िया) : (क) जी, नहीं। थोक कीमतों का सूचक अंक (1970-71—100) जो फरवरी 1977 में 182.7 था बढ़ कर दिसम्बर 1979 में 224.1 हो गया अर्थात् उसमें 22.7 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि हुई।

(ख) मार्च 1979 में सूचक अंक 189.1 तथा अक्टूबर 1979 में 221.9 रहा।

(ग) जैसाकि संसद में 23 जनवरी, 1980 को राष्ट्रपति के अभिभाषण में कहा गया है, सरकार के व्यापक उद्देश्यों को प्राप्त करने के लिए, जिनमें कीमतों में स्थिरता लाने का उद्देश्य भी शामिल है, जो भी सामाजिक एवं आर्थिक उपाय अपनाए जाएंगे उनको आगामी बजट में तथा उसके पश्चात् बताया जाएगा। चोर बाजारी की रोक-थाम तथा अनिवार्य वस्तुओं की पूर्ति बनाए रखने से संबंधित अध्यादेश को विधिमन्यता प्रदान करने के लिए संसद के वर्तमान सत्र में एक विधेयक पेश करके इस दिशा में समारम्भ किया जा चुका है।

वित्तीय संस्थाओं द्वारा बड़े उद्योग गृहों/कम्पनियों को दिए गए ऋण

222. श्री राम बिलास पासवान : क्या वित्त मंत्री आल इण्डिया टर्म लेंडिंग इंस्टीट्यूशन द्वारा बड़े उद्योग गृहों तथा कम्पनियों को दिये गये ऋण के बारे में 20 अप्रैल, 1979 के अतारांकित प्रश्न संख्या 7863 के उत्तर के सम्बन्ध में बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) गत पांच वर्षों के दौरान (वर्षवार) किन-किन उद्योग गृहों और बड़ी कम्पनियों ने

विभिन्न आल इण्डिया टर्म लडिंग इन्स्टीट्यूशनों से कितने-कितने ऋण (10 लाख रुपये और अधिक) लिए हैं और उनका ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ख) नई सरकार की इस संबंध में क्या नीति है?

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री जगन्नाथ पाहड़िया): (क) संभवतः माननीय सदस्य एकाधिकार और अवरोधक व्यापारिक व्यवहार (एम०आर०टी०पी०) अधिनियम, 1969 के अंतर्गत पंजीकृत बड़े औद्योगिक घरानों का जिक्र कर रहे हैं। माननीय सदस्य द्वारा मांगी गई सूचना तत्काल उपलब्ध नहीं है। परन्तु, 30 जून, 1979 की स्थिति के अनुसार एकाधिकार और अवरोधक व्यापारिक व्यवहार अधिनियम के अंतर्गत पंजीकृत कम्पनियों के नाम जो अखिल भारतीय सावधिक ऋण प्रदान करने वाली संस्थाओं से 10 लाख रुपये और इससे अधिक के सावधिक ऋणों का लाभ उठा रही हैं, विवरण में दिये गये हैं, जो सभा पटल पर रख दिये गये हैं। [ग्रन्थालय में रखा गया। देखिये संख्या एल०टी०-244/80]

(ख) अखिल भारतीय ऋण प्रदान करने वाली संस्थाओं द्वारा दिये गये ऋणों के सम्पूर्ण भारत में समान-वितरण के उद्देश्य से, इन संस्थाओं को मार्गदर्शी सिद्धान्त जारी कर दिये गये हैं जिनमें ये निर्देश दिये गये हैं कि अन्य बातों के साथ-साथ बड़े घरानों द्वारा प्रवर्तित नई और विस्तार परियोजनाओं के बारे में ऋण-समता-अनुपात, अधिक निवेश की आवश्यकता वाले सघन पूंजीगत उद्योगों (कैपिटल इंटेंसिव इंडस्ट्रीज़) को छोड़कर अन्य उद्यमियों द्वारा प्रवर्तित परियोजनाओं के मुकाबले कम होना चाहिए। साथ ही इन संस्थाओं से यह भी कहा गया है कि वे बड़े घरानों द्वारा प्रवर्तित नई अथवा विस्तार परियोजनाओं के वित्तीय मानदण्डों के निर्धारण में प्रवर्तकों के अंशदान के स्तर को अधिक से अधिक बढ़ायें। ये निर्देश बराबर लागू हैं।

Sput in Price of Gold

223. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE:

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER;

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what was the reason for the sudden spurt in the price of gold since September, 1979 in the country;

(b) what was the increase in the price of gold since then; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to bring down the price of gold?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAGANNATH PAHADIA): (a) Reasons for sudden spurt in gold prices since September 1979 are both internal as well as international. Internationally the recent political developments in Iran and Afghanistan have led to uncertainties in world economy, foreign exchange markets and a weakening of the dollar. In the domestic market the main reason appears to be the reduction in supplies as a result of the international price being higher than the domestic price.

(b) The price of gold on January 24, 1980 in Bombay market was Rs. 1350 per 10 grammes as against Rs. 1172 per 10 grammes on September 29, 1979 or an increase of Rs. 178 per 10 grammes in its price.

(c) As gold is not an item of common consumption, the rise in its price should not be viewed with undue concern.

Steps taken by Government to reduce Inflation

224. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the rate of inflation by the end of December, 1977; and

(b) steps taken by Government to reduce it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAGANNATH PAHADIA): (a) The rate of inflation between December 1976 and December 1977, measured by the movements in the Wholesale Price Index (1970-71 is equal to 100), was 4.7 per cent.

(b) The anti-inflationary measures taken by Government are discussed in the Economic Survey for 1977-78 presented to Parliament on the eve of the Budget for 1978-79.

Income-tax Arrears against Business/Industrial Houses, Companies and Individuals

225. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to lay a statement showing:

(a) the names of the Business/Industrial Houses, Companies and Individuals against whom arrears of income tax of over (i) 5 lakhs, (ii) 4 lakhs, (iii) 3 lakhs, (iv) 2 lakhs, (v) 1 lakh are pending for over (a) 5 years, (b) 4 years, (c) 3 years, (d) 2 years and (e) 1 year;

(b) the names of such among them as have filed appeals in the High Courts State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to effect the recovery?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAGANNATH PAHADIA): (a) and (b). Information in the manner sought in Part (a) of the Question is not available in respect of assesseees from whom demands of various amounts are due. According to the presently available information, out of the total income-tax demand outstanding in the country as on 31st March, 1979, the percentage of demands which have been outstanding for more than 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 years respectively was as under:

Demands outstanding as on 31-3-1979 Percentage for over

1 year	.	.	.	.	17.6%
2 years	.	.	.	.	10.65%
3 years	.	.	.	.	7.3%
4 years	.	.	.	.	5.55%
5 years	.	.	.	.	3.83%

The income-tax demand that has been stayed/kept in abeyance by orders of courts as on 31-3-1979 amounted to 17 per cent of the demand then outstanding. Statewise break-up of such demands is not readily available.

According to the presently available information as on 31-3-1979, there were 8359 assesseees against each of whom gross income-tax demand exceeding Rs. 1 lakh in each case was outstanding, the aggregate of such demands being Rs. 435.78 crores. The time and labour involved in analysing the arrears in all these 8359 cases in the manner sought in the Question may not be commensurate with the results that may be achieved.

(c) A statement giving the steps taken for realising the outstanding arrears was laid on the Table of the House in reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 5599 answered on 30th March, 1979. The Department has been attaching great importance to the matter of realisation/reduction of tax arrears particularly in cases with larger arrears. Depending on the facts and circumstances of each case, steps in accordance with law are being taken from time to time to recover/reduce the arrears.

Opening of branches of nationalised and non-nationalised banks

226. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria for opening the branches of the (i) nationalised banks, (ii) non-nationalised banks in the rural areas of the country;

(b) the names of the places (State-wise) where the nationalised and non-nationalised banks opened their branches during the calendar year 1979 (State-wise); and

(c) the names of places (District-wise) for each State/Union Territory, where the opening of branches of various banks has been sanctioned for

each one of the nationalised and non-nationalised banks for the year 1980 and onwards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAGANNATH PAHADIA):

(a) According to the present classification of centres adopted by the Reserve Bank of India for the purpose of branch expansion, a centre having population upto 10,000 is classified as a 'Rural' centre. Excepting in cases where they are headquarters of Community Development Blocks or have larger than average growth potential, licences for rural centres are issued only if they are unbanked.

In accordance with the current branch Licensing policy of the Reserve Bank, commercial banks are required to devote their branch expansion efforts during the three years 1979-81 primarily to the opening of branches at unbanked rural and semi-urban centres in districts where the population coverage of rural and semi-urban branches is poorer than 1 branch for every 20,000 people. The branch expansion programmes in accordance with this policy are being drawn up by the Reserve Bank in consultation with the State Governments. The primary responsibility for branch opening is to be shouldered by the lead banks and the regional rural banks.

(b) and (c). Information to the extent available is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

राजस्थान सरकार की वित्तीय आवश्यकतायें

227. श्री भीखा झाई : क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) राजस्थान की वित्तीय आवश्यकताओं को ध्यान में रखते हुए पिछले वित्त आयोग ने राज्य के लिए कितनी राशि की सिफारिश की थी; और

(ख) सिफारिश की गई इस राशि में से अब तक कितनी राशि दी गई है?

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री जगन्नाथ पहाड़िया) : (क) और (ख) : सातवें वित्त आयोग ने वर्ष 1979-84 की 5 वर्षों की अवधि के दौरान राजस्थान के आयोजना-भिन्न राजस्व लेखों में 663.24 करोड़ रुपये की कमी का अनुमान लगाया। इस घाटे की सातवें वित्त आयोग द्वारा की गई सिफारिश के अनुसार उनके केन्द्रीय करों और शुल्कों के हिस्से के रूप में 883.52 करोड़ रुपये के प्रत्याशित अंतरण करने पर अधिशेष में बदलने की संभावना थी। बजट अनुमानों के आधार पर चालू वर्ष में केन्द्रीय करों और शुल्कों के हिस्से के रूप में राज्य को लगभग 159 करोड़ रुपये के अंतरण किए जाने की संभावना है।

करों और शुल्कों के हिस्से के अलावा, आयोग ने राज्य को 1979-84 तक 5 वर्षों में प्रशासन के कुछ क्षेत्रों में जैसे पुलिस, जेल, न्यायालय, जिला, राजस्व जनजाति और राजकोष प्रशासन के स्तर को बढ़ाने के लिए 19.29 करोड़ रुपये की राशि के अनुदान की सिफारिश की है। अनुदान राज्य सरकार द्वारा तैयार की गई और केन्द्र में प्रशासनिक मंत्रालय द्वारा अनुमोदित योजनाओं के आधार पर देय है। अब तक अनुमोदित योजना के लिए चालू वर्ष में 1.81 करोड़ रुपये की राशि की मंजूरी की गई है।

इनके अलावा, आयोग ने 1974-80 तक पांच वर्षों में राज्य द्वारा केन्द्रीय ऋणों की वापसी अदायगी में 137.98 करोड़ रुपये की राशि की राहत की भी सिफारिश की है।

Amenities at Delhi Airport

228. SHRIMATI PRAMILA DANDAVATE: Will the Minister of TOURISM & CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received complaints from air travellers about inefficient handling of baggage and other passenger amenities at the Delhi Airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to provide adequate and efficient services and facilities to air passengers?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION AND LABOUR (SHRI J. B. PATNAIK): (a) and (b). Complaints have been received from the passengers regard-

ing delay in the delivery of the baggage and inadequacy of other amenities such as air-conditioning, water and self-service trollies etc. and congestion at the airport.

(c) It is always the endeavour of the Government to improve passenger amenities and services and high priority is given to it. Facilities provided at Delhi airport include self-service trollies, left luggage facility, large number of fibre glass chairs, water coolers at convenient places, CCTV System, regular coach service between city and airport, and insurance counter etc.

The facilities, however, sometimes become inadequate due to congestion in the terminal building. Construction of a new terminal complex, to relieve congestion, is under consideration of the Government.

तस्करी के माल का पकड़ा जाना

229. श्री कृष्ण दत्त : क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे : कि

(क) गत 2½ वर्षों में कितने पर्यटक भारत से विदेश गये और उनमें से ऐसे व्यक्तियों की संख्या और नाम क्या हैं जिनके पास से तस्करी का माल पकड़ा गया और (व्यक्ति वार) कितने मूल्य की वस्तुएं पकड़ी गईं; और

(ख) तस्करी का, राज्यवार व्यौरा क्या है कितने व्यक्तियों के विरुद्ध कानूनी कार्यवाही की गई और ऐसे तस्करी के (राज्य वार) नाम क्या हैं जिनके विरुद्ध मामले वापस ले लिये गये?

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री जगन्नाथ पहाड़िया) : (क) और (ख). सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है और सदन पटल पर रख दी जायेगी।

Development of Gwalior as a Tourist Centre

230. SHRI N. K. SHEJWALKAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for not developing Gwalior as a tourist centre when

it is surrounded by many places of historic importance and artistic beauty;

(b) the reasons for not giving it due publicity through advertisements in newspapers and otherwise; and

(c) the reasons for not providing sufficient railway and airconditioned bus services to this place?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION AND LABOUR (SHRI J. B. PATNAIK): (a) Gwalior is already included in the list of centres to be developed in the Central Sector. The India Tourism Development Corporation has acquired a 3-acre plot of land at Gwalior for constructing a Travellers Lodge. This scheme has been included in the Corporation's Five Year Plan 1978—83.

(b) As regards giving publicity to Gwalior, it is featured in the Madhya Pradesh Directory, Tourist Map of India and the Regional folder that the Department of Tourism has brought out and which are being widely distributed abroad.

(c) Gwalior is already well connected by rail. This question of operating air-conditioned bus service to Gwalior will be considered when there is a sufficient demand for such a service.

Shrinkage in Public Distribution System

231. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been of late shrinkage of public distribution system;

(b) if so, the extent of shrinkage and specific reasons for that;

(c) whether Government propose to expand the public distribution system with wider coverage both in terms of items of commodities and population; and

(d) Whether Government propose to fix up prices of essential commodities all over the country and arrange for the distribution of the same through public distribution system?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The functioning of the Public Distribution System is under periodical review in consultation with the State Governments, the Central Ministries, and other public agencies concerned. Efforts are being made to enlarge the scope of the public distribution system in terms of area, population and commodities covered.

(d) In respect of a few selected essential commodities distributed through the Public Distribution System, the central issue price at which these are supplied to the State Governments/their nominees/agencies, are fixed.

Suspension of Scheme for Sale of Gold Through Auction by RBI

232. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal under consideration to suspend the scheme for sale of gold through auction by the Reserve Bank of India; and

(b) if so, the details and reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): (a) and (b). Pursuant to the announcement made by

the Finance Minister in his Budget Speech on 28-2-1978 a total quantity of 12.9 tonnes of gold was sold by the Reserve Bank of India in 14 auctions held between May—October, 1978 on behalf of the Government. The total value of sale proceeds was Rs. 86.5 crores.

Consequent to a sudden steep rise in the international price of gold towards the end of September, 1978, sharper increase in the internal price of gold due to speculative forces, the then Government suspended the gold auction on 26-10-1978. Sale of Gold through auction has thus already been suspended.

Value and Export of Onions

233. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU:
Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) quantity and value of export of onions (year-wise) during the last two years; and

(b) quantity and value of export of onions during the months of October, November and December in 1978 and 1979?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The quantity and value of onions exported were as follows:

Year	Quantity (tonnes)	Value (Rs. lakhs)
1978-79	1,00,488	5
1979-80 (upto Dec.)	70,206	43.80

(b) The quantity and value of onions were as follows:—

Months	Qty. : Tonnes		Value Rs. Lakhs	
	1978		1979	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
October	4212	65.82	2821	48.21
November	3446	62.68	2138	55.50
December	11058	133.76	558	11.98

Shortage of Sugar and Kerosene in Orissa

fair price shops has been fixed at Rs. 2.85 a Kg. all over the country.

234. SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the acute shortage of kerosene and sugar in Orissa and kerosene selling at Rs. 4 to 5 per litre causing great hardship to poor people;

(b) if so, what quantity has been supplied to Orissa in November and December, 1979 and for January, 1980; and

(c) what urgent steps Government propose to take to make kerosene and sugar available at reduced prices to consumers?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The State Government has reported shortage of sugar and kerosene in Orissa.

(b) and (c). As regards levy sugar for distribution through fair price shops, Orissa State's quota was 3,953 tonnes for December, 1979 (17-12-79 to 31-12-79) and 10,723 tonnes for January, 1980. According to Department of Food, about 3,200 tonnes of sugar had been despatched from Maharashtra factories upto 20-1-1980. The movement of the remaining quantity is in progress. Under the dual price policy re-introduced with effect from December 17, 1979, the retail price of sugar supplied through

As regards kerosene, the allocation and sales for Orissa are given as under:—

Month	(in metric tonnes)	
	Allocation	Sales
November, 79	6,585	5,620
December, 79	5,371	5,324
January, 80	5,667	2,696 (1-15 Jan, 1980) (Provisional)

There have been further steep increases in the prices of imported crude oil and finished products since October, 1979. In view of the steep increases in the prices of imported crude and products it is not possible to reduce the prices of refined petroleum products including kerosene at the stage.

Note submitted by FICI on "Minimum Programme of Economic Action"

235. DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) has submitted to Government a note on "minimum programme of economic action";

(b) if so, what are the salient points for policy decision by the new Government; and

(c) decisions, if any, taken on each of the above points?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN
THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE
(SHRI JAGANNATH PAHADIA):
(a) Yes. Sir.

(b) The Minimum Programme of Action, by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, contains an analysis of the current economic situation and certain policy suggestions. The salient points made in the study are listed in the statement attached.

(c) Government is seized of the gravity of the economic situation which it has inherited from the previous Government and is determined to tackle it on a priority basis. The proposed measures and the direction of policy in this regard will be presented to this House in due course.

Statement

Note submitted by FICCI on "Minimum programme of Economic Action"

1. The economic is in a bad shape.
2. There is a need for restoring normal production conditions by better operation of infrastructure enterprises, better utilization of capacity and improved labour discipline.
3. Labour policy needs to be precisely formulated and firmly implemented.
4. Promotion of employment should be achieved by expanded food-for-work programme, rapid expansion in irrigation facilities etc.
5. Prices of mass consumption goods should be stabilised by evolving a dual pricing system and ensuring that prices of essential inputs like coal, electricity etc. are not sharply increased.
6. Controls and regulations of industry and trade should be minimised.
7. Monopolistic role of public enterprises should be reduced and greater role for private enterprises allowed for around efficiency, in industries

including coal, power generation, road transport, steel, etc. and trade both external and domestic.

8. The efficiency of public enterprises should be improved by better management, public vigilance and sub-contacting to private sector.

9. There should be no industrial licensing for investment over Rs. 10 crores even for large houses, except in strategic industry and those in small scale sector; every unit irrespective of size should be allowed automatic expansion upto 30 per cent every 5 years; the concept of "concentration of economic power" should be deleted from the MRTP Act.

10. Incentives should be provided for private investment, including reduction in excise and customs duties, accelerated depreciation, etc. some part of depreciation should be linked to a machinery price index; convertibility clause should be abandoned; banks credit should be liberalised.

11. The rate of corporation tax should be brought down to 50 per cent for all companies, and of personal income tax to 60 per cent, inclusive of compulsory deposit; wealth tax should be abolished.

12. An intensive export drive is needed and export policy should not be formulated on a switch-off switch-on basis.

13. Port development and mechanised handling of goods are imperatives for supporting any worthwhile foreign trade programme.

गुजरात सरकार को खाद्य तेल की सप्लाई

236. श्री छोटूभाई शक्ति : क्या वाणिज्य तथा नागरिक पूर्ति मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) जन, 1979 से दिसम्बर, 1979 की अवधि के दौरान गुजरात सरकार द्वारा मांग की गई खाद्य तेल की मात्रा कितनी है और केन्द्रीय सरकार द्वारा वस्तुतः सप्लाई की गई खाद्य तेल की मात्रा कितनी है;

(ख) गुजरात सरकार को खाद्य तेल की अपेक्षित मात्रा सप्लाई न करने के क्या कारण हैं; और

(ग) गुजरात सरकार की खाद्य तेल की सप्लाई के लिए केन्द्रीय सरकार द्वारा किये गये अथवा किये जाने वाले ठोस उपायों का व्यौरा क्या है?

वाणिज्य तथा नागरिक पूर्ति और इस्पात तथा खान मंत्री (श्री प्रणव मुखर्जी) : (क) तथा (ख). शुरू में जून, 1979 में गुजरात सरकार ने सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली के तहत उपभोक्ताओं में वितरण हेतु 1000 मीटरी टन आयातित तेलों की मांग का अनुमान लगाया । । तथापि, बाद में उन्होंने जुलाई से अक्टूबर, 1979 की अवधि के लिए इस मांग को बढ़ाकर 15,000 मीटरी टन प्रति मास कर दिया । चूंकि राज्य सरकार ने केन्द्र सरकार द्वारा समय-समय पर किये गये आबंटनों के बराबर तेल की मात्रा नहीं उठाई, अतः मंत्रीय तथा अधिकारी दोनों ही स्तरों पर गुजरात सरकार के प्रतिनिधियों के साथ बैठकें की गईं । इन बैठकों के दौरान, गुजरात सरकार से अनुरोध किया गया कि वे तेल की मात्रा उठाने के कार्य में तेजी लाएं और उन्हें यह आश्वासन दिया गया कि राज्य सरकार को आयातित तेलों की आपूर्ति नियमित रूप से की जाती रहेगी, ताकि वे सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली की मांग को पूरा कर सकें ।

गुजरात सरकार के साथ हुए इन विचार-विमर्शों को ध्यान में रखते हुए राज्य सरकार को जुलाई और सितम्बर, 1979 के बीच 22,000 मीटरी टन पामोलियम और 3300 मीटरी टन आर०बी०डी० पाम आयल का आबंटन किया गया था । इसके अतिरिक्त, राष्ट्रीय डेरी विकास बोर्ड द्वारा अमरीका से उपहार-स्वरूप आयातित दो बार परिष्कृत (डबल रिफाईंड) 17,000 मीटरी टन सोयाबीन का तेल भी गुजरात सरकार के लिए रखा गया ।

गुजरात सरकार ने अक्टूबर, 1979 के अंत तक पामोलियम की 17,135 मीटरी टन मात्रा उठाई । नवम्बर-दिसम्बर, 1979 के लिए राज्य सरकार ने कोई अनुमान नहीं लगाये थे । तथापि, राज्य सरकार को बकाया आबंटित मात्रा का उपयोग करने की अनुमति दी गई थी और उन्होंने नवम्बर, 1979 में 1560 मीटरी टन और दिसम्बर, 1979 में 3600 मीटरी टन मात्रा उठाई । जहां तक आर०बी०डी० पाम आयल का संबंध है, 3300 मीटरी टन के आबंटन की तुलना में राज्य सरकार ने केवल 1300 मीटरी टन मात्रा उठाई और शेष मात्रा के आबंटन को, उनके ही विशेष अनुरोध पर 19-9-79 को रद्द कर दिया गया । जहां तक दो बार परिष्कृत (डबल रिफाईंड) सोयाबीन के तेल का संबंध है, राज्य सरकार ने जुलाई से सितम्बर, 1979

तक की अवधि के दौरान केवल 3293 मीटरी टन मात्रा उठाई और मिली सूचनानुसार उसके बाद इस तेल की कोई मात्रा नहीं उठाई है ।

(ग) जैसा कि राज्य सरकार को पहले ही आश्वस्त किया जा चुका है, केन्द्र सरकार द्वारा उनकी आयातित तेल की संपूर्ण मांग को पूरा किया जाता रहेगा । इस प्रयोजन के लिए राज्य व्यापार निगम के साथ पर्याप्त मात्रा में खाद्य तेलों का आयात करने के लिए पहले ही प्रबंध किये जा चुके हैं ।

12.00 hrs.

RE: QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE

MR. SPEAKER: As I had mentioned in the House on 30 January, 1980, I had referred the notices of question of privilege regarding reported arrest of Shri N. K. Singh, DIG, CBI, to the Minister of Law, Justice and Company Affairs. A further notice received in the evening on that day from Shri Ram Jethmalani on the same subject was also referred to the Minister of Home Affairs and the Minister of Law.

I am in touch with the Ministers concerned and they have informed me that they are obtaining the requisite information from the Government of Haryana and except to furnish it during the course of the day. Thereafter, I will go urgently into the admissibility of the notices and hope to give the ruling tomorrow.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): After that, I have given another privilege motion against Haryana Chief Minister, Mr. Bhajan Lal.... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: That is under my consideration.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: He has passed derogatory remarks against Parliament in the press conference.... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please listen. I am making an announcement regarding the same. I am also referring the notice of Prof. Madhu Dandavate to the Home Minister for a factual statement. I may mention that Shri Bhajan Lal, Chief Minister of Haryana, is a member of the Assembly of Haryana, not of this House. We shall consider it.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Because of your remark, whether one is a member of the State legislature or not, that is not a matter... (Interruptions) I have not referred to what he has said in the Assembly. What I have referred to is what Mr. Bhajan Lal has said about Parliament in the press conference... (Interruptions). Therefore, State legislature should not be brought into the picture.

MR. SPEAKER: I am taking note of the privilege motion. It is under consideration.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (New Delhi): You have said that you have written to the Home Minister...

MR. SPEAKER: I have only said that I am getting more information. I am trying to get whatever I want to go into it.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: In that case, Mr. N. K. Singh should also be contacted. Mr. Singh is directly involved. Whether he was arrested or not, it should be ascertained from him. (Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAMMED ISMAIL: **

MR. SPEAKER: He has got no permission to speak. Nothing should go on record. Shri Mani Ram Bagri.

श्री मनी राम बागड़ी (हिसाप) : अध्यक्ष महोदय मैं सिर्फ आप से एक जानकारी चाहूंगा... (इंटरप्शंस)

अध्यक्ष महोदय : यह आप क्या कर रहे हैं ? आप क्यों नहीं बैठते हैं ?

श्री मनी राम बागड़ी : अध्यक्ष महोदय, यह बहस की बात नहीं है। मैं आप से एक प्वाइंट ऑफ इन्फार्मेशन के लिए बड़ा हुआ हूँ। हरयाना कोई दिल्ली से दूर नहीं है। टेलीफोन पर हर दो मिनट में बात हो सकती है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : नहीं, मैं जवानी बात नहीं करूंगा। मैं जवानी बात में विश्वास नहीं करूंगा।

श्री मनी राम बागड़ी : आप हमारी बात सुन लें। आप एज्यूकेटेड आदमी हैं, बहुत दिमाग वाले हैं, हम जरा कम दिमाग के आदमी हैं। यह बात टेलीफोन द्वारा हो सकती है। बिना मतलब विलम्ब नहीं होना चाहिए। इस से शक और बढ़ता है। इस सरकार की नेग्लिजेंस ज्यादा जाहिर होती है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : नहीं, यह कल हो जायगा ॥

Papers to be laid.

12.05 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

REVIEW ON AND ANNUAL REPORT OF NATIONAL THERMAL POWER CORPORATION LTD., NEW DELHI FOR 1978-79 AND STATEMENT CORRECTING REPLY TO U.S.Q. No. 8172 DT. 23-4-79

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND DEPARTMENT OF COAL (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI): I beg to lay on the Table:

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(i) Review by the Government on the working of the National Thermal Power Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1978-79.

(ii) Annual Report of the National Thermal Power Corpora-

tion Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1978-79 along with the Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Audited General thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-165/80].

(2) A statement (Hindi and English versions) (i) correcting the reply in Hindi given on the 23rd April, 1979 to unstarred Question No. 8172 by Shri Bharat Singh Chauhan regarding Agreement between Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh for irrigation facilities to Madhya Pradesh through Lalitpur canal and (ii) giving reasons for delay in correcting the reply. [Placed in Library. See No. 166/80].

REVIEWS ON AND ANNUAL REPORTS OF BHARAT GOLD MINES LTD. FOR 1978-79, HINDUSTAN COPPER LTD. CALCUTTA FOR 1978-79, KUDREMUKH IRON ORE COMPANY LTD. FOR 1978-79, BHARAT ALUMINIUM COMPANY LTD., NEW DELHI FOR 1978-79 ETC. ETC.

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): I beg to lay on the Table:

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(a) (i) Review by the Government on the working of Bharat Gold Mines Limited, for the year 1978-79.

(ii) Annual Report of Bharat Gold Mines Limited, for the year 1978-79 along with the Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-167/80].

(b) (i) Review by the Government on the working of the Hin-

dustan Copper Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1978-79.

(ii) Annual Report of Hindustan Copper Limited Calcutta, for the year 1978-79 along with the Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-168/80].

(c) (i) Review by the Government on the working of the Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited, for the year 1978-79.

(ii) Annual Report of Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited, for the year 1978-79 along with the Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-169/80].

(d) (i) Review by Government on the working of Bharat Aluminium Company Limited, New Delhi for the year 1978-79.

(ii) Annual Report of Bharat Aluminium Company Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1978-79 along with the Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-170/80].

(e) (i) Review by the Government on the working of the Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited, for the year 1978-79.

(ii) Annual Report of Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited, for the year 1978-79 along with the Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-171/80].

(2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Packaging, Bombay for the year 1978-79 along with the Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) on the working of the Institute.

Placed in Library. See No. LT-172/80].

(3) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of Indian Standards Institution, New Delhi, for the year 1978-79 along with the Audited Accounts.

Placed in Library. See No. LT-173/80].

(4) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 28 of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957:—

(i) The Mineral Concession (Amendment) Rules, 1979, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 734 in Gazette of India dated the 26th May, 1979.

(ii) The Mineral Concession (Second Amendment) Rules, 1979, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 804 in Gazette of India dated the 9th June, 1979.

(iii) The Mineral Concession (Third Amendment) Rules, 1979, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 835 in Gazette of India dated the 16th June, 1979.

Placed in Library. See No. LT-174/80].

(5) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955:—

(i) The Aluminium (Control) (Second Amendment) Order, 1979, published in Notification No. S.O. 565(E) in Gazette of India dated the 4th October, 1979.

(ii) S.O. 502(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd September, 1979.

(iii) S.O. 3715 published in Gazette of India dated the 10th November, 1979 containing corrigendum to Notification No. S.O. 502(E) dated the 3rd September, 1979.

(iv) S.O. 866(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th December, 1979 declaring that clause 19 of the Iron and Steel (Control) Order, 1966 shall apply to all categories of scrap acquired by any person on or after the date of publication of the notification. *Placed in Library. See No. LT-175/80].*

(6) A copy each of (i) Annual Report and (ii) Audited Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Export Inspection Council and Agencies for the year 1977-78, under sub-rule (3) of Rule 16 of the Export (Quality Control and Inspection) Rules, 1964.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-176/80].

(7) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) on the working of the Export Inspection Council and Agencies for the year 1977-78.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-176/80].

NOTIFICATIONS UNDER MINES ACT, 1952 AND PAYMENT OF BONUS ACT, 1965, ANNUAL ACCOUNTS OF EMPLOYEES' PROVIDENT FUND ORGANISATION FOR 1975-76 AND A STATEMENT FOR DELAY AND A REPORT ON ACCIDENT AT BARAGOLAI COLLIERY ON 22-1-1979

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION AND LABOUR (SHRI J. B. PATNAIK): I beg to lay on the Table:—

(1) A copy of the Coal Mines Rescue (Amendment) Rules, 1979 (Hindi and English versions) pub-

lished in Notification No. G.S.R. 1061 in Gazette of India dated the 11th August, 1979, under sub-section (7) of section 59 of the Mines Act, 1952.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-177/80].

(2) A copy of the Payment of Bonus (Amendment) Rules, 1979 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 1147 in Gazette of India dated the 8th September, 1979, under sub-section (3) of section 38 of the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-178/80].

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation for the year 1975-76 together with Audit Report thereon.

(ii) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the above document. Placed in Library. See No. LT-179/80].

(4) A copy of the Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Court of Inquiry into the accident at Bara-golai Colliery on the 22nd January, 1979.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-180/80].

NOTIFICATIONS UNDER PASSPORTS ACT, 1967

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-TARY AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICA-TIONS (SHRI BHISHMA NARAIN SINGH): Sir, on behalf of Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 24 of the Passports Act, 1967:—

(i) The Passports (ninth Amend-ment) Rules 1979, published in Noti-fication No. G.S.R.(E) in Gazette of India dated the 5th July, 1979.

(ii) The Passports (Tenth Amend-ment) Rules, 1979, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 489(E) in Gazette of India dated the 16th August, 1979.

(iii) The Passports (Eleventh Amendment) Rules, 1979 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 528(E) in Gazette of India dated the 3rd September, 1979. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-181/80].

REVIEWS ON AND ANNUAL REPORTS OF FERTILIZER (PLANNING AND DEVELOP-MENT) INDIA LTD., SINDRI FOR 1978-79, NATIONAL FERTILIZERS LTD., NEW DELHI FOR 1978-79, FERTILIZER CORPORATION OF INDIA LTD., NEW DELHI FOR 1978-79
ETC. ETC.

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): I beg to lay on the Table:—

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(a) (i) Review by the Govern-ment on the working of the Fertilizer (Planning and Development) India Limited, Sindri, for the year 1978-79.

(ii) Annual Report of the Ferti-lizer (Planning and Development) India Limited, Sindri for the year 1978-79 along with the Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-182/80].

(b) (i) Review by the Govern-ment on the working of the National Fertilizers Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1978-79.

(ii) Annual Report of the National Fertilizers Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1978-79 along with the Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-183/80].

(c) (i) Review by the Government on the working of the Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1978-79.

(ii) Annual Report of the Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi for the year 1978-79 along with the Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT-184/80*].

(d) (i) Review by the Government on the working of the Hindustan Organic Chemicals Limited, Rasayani, for the year 1978-79.

(ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Organic Chemicals Limited, Rasayani for the year 1978-79 along with the Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT-185/80*].

(e) (i) Review by the Government on the working of the Indo-Burma Petroleum Company Limited, Calcutta and its 3 subsidiaries, for the year 1978-79.

(ii) Annual Report of the Indo-Burma Petroleum Company Limited, Calcutta and its 3 subsidiaries, for the year 1978-79 along with the Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT-196/80*].

(f) (i) Review by the Government on the working of the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited, Bombay for the year 1978-79.

(ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited, Bombay, for the year 1978-79 along with the Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT-187/80*].

(g) (i) Review by the Government on the working of the Madras Fertilizers Limited, Madras for the year 1978-79.

(ii) Annual Report of the Madras Fertilizers Limited, Madras, for the year 1978-79 along with the Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon. [*Placed in Library. See No. 188/80*].

(h) (i) Review by the Government on the working of the Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited, Bombay, for the year 1978-79.

(ii) Annual Report of the Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited, Bombay, for the year 1978-79 along with the Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT-189/80*].

(i) (i) Review by the Government on the working of the Fertilizers and Chemicals, Travancore, Limited, for the year 1978-79.

(ii) Annual Report of the Fertilizers and Chemicals, Travancore, Limited, for the year 1978-79, along with the Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT-190/80*].

(j) (i) Review by the Government on the working of the Pyrites, Phosphates and Chemicals Limited, for the year 1978-79.

(ii) Annual Report of the Pyrites, Phosphates and Chemicals Limited, for the year 1978-79 along with the Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT-191/80*].

(k) (i) Review by the Government on the working of the Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1978-79.

(ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1978-79 along with the Audited Accounts and

the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-192/80].

(1) (i) Review by the Government on the working of the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, Bombay, for the year 1978-79.

(ii) Annual Report of the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, Bombay, for the year 1978-79 along with the Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-193/80].

(m) (i) Review by the Government on the working of the Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Bombay, for the year 1978-79.

(ii) Annual Report of the Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Bombay, for the year 1978-79 along with the Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-194/80].

(n) (i) Review by the Government on the working of the Hindustan Prefab Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1978-79.

(ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Prefab Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1978-79 along with the Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-195/80].

(2) A statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Report of Bongai-gaon Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited, for the year 1978-79 within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of the Accounting year. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-196/80].

(3) A statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Report of the Central Institute of Plastics Engineering and Tools, Madras for the year

1978-79 within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of the Accounting Year. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-197/80].

(4) A statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Report of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission for the year 1978-79 within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of the Accounting Year. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-198/80].

(5) A statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Report of the Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Limited, for the year 1978-79 within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of the Accounting Year. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-199/80].

(6) A statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Report of Smith Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited, for the year 1978-79 within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of the Accounting Year. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-200/80].

(7) A statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Report of Smith Stanistreet Pharmaceuticals Limited, for the period 1st October, 1977 to 31st March, 1979 within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of the Accounting year. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-201/80].

(8) A copy of the Smith, Stanistreet and Company Limited (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Removal of Difficulties Order, 1979 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 809(E) in Gazette of India dated the 15th December, 1979, issued under section 32 of the Smith, Stanistreet and Company, Ltd. (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1977. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-202/80].

(9) A copy of the Agreement (Hindi and English versions) under Section 42 of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 between the Government of India and Hydrocarbons India Limited. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-203/80].

(10) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Board for the Prevention and Control of Water Pollution together with Audited Report thereon for the year 1978-79. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-204/80].

NOTIFICATION UNDER MERCHANT SHIPPING ACT, 1958 AND A STATEMENT FOR DELAY

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH): On behalf of Shri A. P. Sharma I beg to lay on the Table:—

(1) A copy of the Merchant Shipping (Fees for Load Line, Surveys) Rules, 1979 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 1163 in Gazette of India dated the 15th September, 1979, under sub-section (3) of section 458 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958.

(2) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the notification mentioned at (1) above. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-205/80].

A STATEMENT FOR DELAY IN SUBMITTING THE REPORT OF FOOD CORPORATION OF INDIA FOR 1978-79, NOTIFICATION UNDER CENTRAL WAREHOUSING CORPORATION ACT, 1962, REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON LAND REFORMS ETC. ETC.

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND DEPARTMENT OF COAL (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI): On behalf of Shri Birendra Singh Rao I beg to lay on the Table:—

(1) A statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons

for not laying the Annual Report of the Food Corporation of India, for the year 1978-79 within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of the Accounting Year. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-206/80].

(2) A copy of the Central Warehousing Corporation (Amendment) Rules, 1980 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 58 in Gazette of India dated the 19th January, 1980 together with a corrigendum thereto, under sub-section (3) of section 41 of the Central Warehousing Corporations Act, 1962. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-207/80].

(3) (i) A copy of the Report** (Hindi version) of the Committee on Land Reforms-Constitutional Protection of Land Reforms Laws and machinery for Quick disposal of land reform cases.

(ii) A statement (Hindi version) showing reasons for delay in laying the Hindi version of the Report. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-208/80].

(4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of Rajasthan State Dairy Development Corporation Limited, Jaipur, for the year 1977-78 along with the Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon, under section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956.

(ii) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the report mentioned at (i) above. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-209/80].

(5) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955:—

(i) The Wheat Roller Flour Mills (Licensing and Control)

**English version of the Report was laid on the Table on the 26th February, 1979.

Amendment Order, 1979, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 874 in Gazette of India dated the 23rd June, 1979.

(ii) The Delhi Roller Mills Wheat Products (Ex-Mill and Retail) Price Control Order, 1979, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 538 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 15th September, 1979.

(iii) The Delhi Roller Mills Wheat Products (Ex-Mill and Retail) Price Control (Amendment) Order, 1979, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 614 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 9th November, 1979.

(iv) The Wheat Roller Flour Mills (Licensing and Control) (Second Amendment) Order, 1979, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 1473 in Gazette of India dated the 8th December, 1979. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-210/80].

(6) A copy of the Copra Cess Rules, 1979 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 266 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 25th April, 1979, under sub-section (3) of section 19 of the Copra Cess Act, 1979. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-211/80].

(7) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Development Council for the Sugar Industry for the year 1978-79, under sub-section (4) of section 7 of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-212/80].

NOTIFICATION UNDER INDIAN EXPLOSIVES ACT, 1884 REVIEW AND RESOLUTION ON REPORT ON WORKING OF RESERVE BANK OF INDIA SCHEME, NOTIFICATION UNDER ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES ACT, 1955 ETC. ETC.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): I beg to lay on the Table:—

(1) A copy of the Explosives (Amendment) Rules, 1979 (Hindi

and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 603 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 31st October, 1979, under Section 5 of the Indian Explosives Act, 1884. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-213/80].

(2) A copy of the Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Study Group to Review the working of the Reserve Bank of India Scheme for Handloom Finance. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-214/80].

(3) Resolution No. 6(9)/78/Coop. dated the 20th February, 1979 (Hindi and English versions) containing the decision on the Report. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-214/80].

(4) A copy of the Paper (Regulation of Production) Amendment Order, 1979 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 583 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 16th October, 1979 under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-215/80].

(5) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619 (A) of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(a) (i) A statement regarding Review on the working of Tungabhadra Steel Products Limited, Tungabhadra, for the year 1978-79.

(ii) Annual Report of Tungabhadra Steel Products Limited, Tungabhadra for the year 1978-79 along with the Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-216/80].

(b) (i) A statement regarding Review on the working of Triveni Structural Limited, Naini-Allahabad, for the year 1978-79.

(ii) Annual Report of Triveni Structural Limited, Naini-Allahabad, for the year 1978-79 along with the Audited Accounts and the

comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-217/80].

(c) (i) Review by the Government on the working of Heavy Engineering Corporation Limited Ranchi, for the year 1978-79.

(ii) Annual Report of the Heavy Engineering Corporation Limited, Ranchi, for the year 1978-79 along with the Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-218/80].

REPORT OF COMMISSIONER FOR SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES FOR 1977-78

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH): On behalf of Shri Yogendra Makwana I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for the year 1977-78 Parts I and II under article 338(2) of the Constitution. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-219/80]

ANNUAL REPORTS OF INDUSTRIAL FINANCE CORPORATION OF INDIA FOR THE YEAR ENDED, ON 30TH JUNE, 1979, INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK OF INDIA FOR THE YEAR ENDED ON 30TH JUNE, 1979, COPY OF THE RESERVE BANK OF INDIA (NOTE ISSUE) REGULATIONS 1935 ETC.

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH: On behalf of Shri Jagannath Pahadia I beg to lay on the Table:

(1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Industrial Finance Corporation of India for the year ended the 30th June, 1979 along with the statement showing the Assets and Liabilities and Profit and Loss Account of the Corporation, under sub-section (3) of section 35 of the Industrial

Finance Corporation Act, 1948. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-220/80].

(2) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Industrial Development Bank of India together with the Audited Accounts of the General Fund and the Development Assistance Fund for the year ended the 30th June, 1979, under sub-section (5) of section 18 and sub-section (5) of section 23 of the Industrial Development Bank of India Act, 1964. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-221/80].

(3) A copy of the Reserve Bank of India (Note Issue) Regulations, 1935 (Hindi and English versions) as amended upto the 16th August, 1979 under sub-section (4) of section 53 of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-222/80].

(4) A copy each of the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) under article 151(1) of the Constitution:—

(i) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 1978 Union Government (Commercial) Part-V Resume of the Company Auditors Reports and comments on Accounts of Government Companies. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-223/80].

(ii) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 1978—Union Government (Commercial) Part VI—Miscellaneous topics of interest. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-224/80].

(iii) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 1979—Union Government (Commercial) Part I—Introduction. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-225/80].

(iv) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 1979—Union Government

(Commercial) Part II—The Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited (Gorakhpur Unit). [Placed in Library. See No. LT-226/80].

(5) A copy of Notification No. G.S.R. 12(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd January, 1980 together with an explanatory memorandum exempting delegates to the General Conference of U.N. Industrial Development Organisation held in New Delhi from payment of Foreign Travel Tax, issued under section 36 of the Finance Act, 1979. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-227/80].

(6) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 296 of the Income Tax Act, 1961:—

(i) The Income-tax Fifth Amendment), Rules, 1979, published in Notification No. S.O. 607(E) in Gazette of India dated the 29th October, 1979.

(ii) The Income-tax (Seventh Amendment) Rules, 1979 published in Notification No. S.O. 609(E) in Gazette of India dated the 29th October, 1979.

(iii) The Income-tax (Eighth Amendment) Rules, 1979, published in Notification No. S.O. 641(E) in Gazette of India dated the 29th November, 1979. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-228/80].

(7) A copy of the Wealth-tax (Second Amendment) Rules, 1979 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 610(E) in Gazette of India dated the 29th October, 1979, under sub-section (4) of section 46 of the Wealth-tax Act, 1957. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-229/80].

(8) A copy of the Gift-tax (Amendment) Rules, 1979 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 611(E) in Gazette of India dated the 29th October, 1979, under sub-section (4) of section 46 of the Gift-tax Act,

1958. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-230/80].

(9) A copy of the Companies (Profits) Surtax (Amendment) Rules, 1979 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 613(E) in Gazette of India dated the 29th October, 1979, under sub-section (3) of section 25 of the Companies (Profits) Surtax Act, 1964. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-232/80].

(10) A copy of the interest-tax (Amendment) Rules, 1979 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 614(E) in Gazette of India dated the 29th October, 1979, under sub-section (4) of section 27 of the Interest-tax Act, 1974. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-232/80].

(11) A copy each of Notification No. G.S.R. 21(E) and 22(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th January, 1980 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding withdrawal of exemption from import duties in respect of gift consignments for the cyclone effected people of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh and for the flood effected people in various states, under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-233/80].

REPORT OF NATIONAL POLICE COMMISSION AND ASSESSMENT REPORT RE: DEVELOPMENT OF HINDI AND ITS PROGRESSIVE USE.

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH:
I beg to lay on the Table:

(1) A copy of the First Report of the National Police Commission (Hindi and English versions). [Placed in Library. See No. LT-234/80].

(2) A copy of the Annual Assessment Report (Hindi and English versions) for accelerating the spread and development of Hindi and its progressive use for various official purposes of the Union, for the year 1976-77. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-235/80].

12.06 hrs

FINANCIAL : COMMITTEES—A REVIEW

SECRETARY: I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the Hindi and English versions of the following:—

(1) Financial Committees, 1978-79—A Review.

(2) Financial Committees, 1979-80—A Review.

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12.06 hrs

PETITION RE: HARDSHIPS OF BOMBAY RAILWAY SUBURBAN COMMUTERS

SHRI R. K. MHALGI (Thane): I beg to present a petition signed by Shri R. G. Kapse and others regarding hardships of Bombay Railway Suburban commuters.

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12.07 hrs

ELECTION OF DEPUTY SPEAKER

MR. SPEAKER: Now, we have the motions for the election of the Deputy Speaker.

श्री मनी राम बागड़ी : (हिसार) अध्यक्ष महोदय, इस चुनाव का जो तरीका है उसमें अभी तक विरोध पक्ष से डिप्टी स्पीकर हुआ करता है। यहां पर सदन के माननीय नेता बैठे हैं वे इस परम्परा को न तोड़ें तो बहुत अच्छा होगा। (व्यवधान)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri K. P. Singh Deo.

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO (Dhenkanal): Sir, I beg to move:

"That Shri G. Lakshmanan, a member of this House, be chosen as the Deputy Speaker of this House."

SHRI S. MURUGIAN (Tirupattur): Sir, I second the motion.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri George Fernandes.

श्री जार्ज फर्नान्डीस (मुजफ्फपुर) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आपकी इजाजत से पहल कुछ कहना चाहूंगा... (व्यवधान)

MR. SPEAKER: Why are you trying to come up? Is it your job? Please, Mr. Pande!

SHRI CHANDRAJEET YADAV (Azamgarh): Sir, under Rule 8, clause (3), the mover can make a statement if he wants to make one. Therefore, he may be permitted. (Interruptions).

Why are you jumping? Let the Speaker decide: I am not talking to you. (Interruptions).

I don't know how they function! They don't let even the Speaker function.

MR. SPEAKER: He can only move the motion.

SHRI CHANDRAJEET YADAV: I am referring to Rule 8, clause (3).

MR. SPEAKER: It says: "...and shall confine himself to a mere statement to that effect". "To that effect" means moving it.

श्री जार्ज फर्नान्डीस : मैंने कहा कि आपकी इजाजत हो तो...

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. George, why are trying to force my hand? You can only move the motion.

श्री जार्ज फर्नान्डीस : सारे नियमों के कर्ताध्वता आप हैं।

MR. SPEAKER: No, it is for the House. Within the Rules, I am bound to work. It is only to be moved. It can only be moved.

श्री जार्ज फर्नांडीज : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं प्रस्ताव करता हूँ,

“कि श्री धनिक लाल मण्डल को, जो इस सभा के सदस्य हैं, इस सभा का उपाध्यक्ष चुना जाये।”

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Why are you coming up? Is it your job or my job? I have to control it.

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE (Howrah): I second the motion.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Basirhat): Sir, I beg to move:

“That Shri Dhanik Lal Mandal, a Member of this House, be chosen as the Deputy Speaker of this House.”

DR. B. N. SINGH (Hazaribagh): Sir, I second the motion.

SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN (Satara): Sir, I beg to move:

“That Shri Dhanik Lal Mandal, a Member of this House, be chosen as the Deputy Speaker of this House.”

श्री चन्द्र देव प्रसाद वर्मा (भारत): मैं इस प्रस्ताव का समर्थन करता हूँ
(Interruptions)

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Sir, I am seeking your guidance. If any of the proposers of these motions wishes to withdraw his motion and state why he is withdrawing it, will you not permit?

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, we shall permit, I think....

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: This is under Rule 8(3).

MR. SPEAKER: But the point is this. If any hon. Member decides to

withdraw his motion, he can just do that.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: But he must be allowed to explain.

MR. SPEAKER: The Rule does not allow that.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: I am seeking your guidance.

MR. SPEAKER: My guidance is, as laid down in the rules. I am to be guided by the rules framed by this House.

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: I am reading sub-section (3) of Rule 3. It reads:

“A member in whose name a motion stands on the list of business may, when called, move the motion or withdraw the motion, and shall confine himself to a mere statement....”

MR. SPEAKER: ‘Mere statement to that effect’. (Interruptions)

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: A statement should be allowed to be made.

MR. SPEAKER: Here these words say, “...to a mere statement to that effect.” And what is that? The motion is being withdrawn. (Interruptions) You just go into that. It says, “...a mere statement to that effect.” To that effect. That is, the motion is being withdrawn. If any Member is willing to withdraw, please do....

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: He will make a statement why he is withdrawing.

MR. SPEAKER: No. Mere statement to that effect, that his motion is being withdrawn.

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: What is the meaning of ‘statement’?

MR. SPEAKER: It means, the motion is being withdrawn. (Interruptions)

tions) If the rules say like that, then I cannot decide otherwise.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE:
Sir, on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: Which rule you are referring to?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE:
To the same Rule. You allow a 'mere statement'. What that 'mere statement' is, that, of course, has to be left to the Members.

MR. SPEAKER: No. '....to that effect'.

AN HON. MEMBER: There is a difference between 'proposal' and 'statement'. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please give me one minute.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: By this time the statement would have been over.

MR. SPEAKER: No, no. It should be according to the rules. I have gone through this also, it is not possible. It should be only a mere statement that he is withdrawing.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I draw your attention to Rule 389 on residuary powers. Rule 8(3) is not a bar. It only lays down what you have been already pleased to indicate. Under rule 389 when there is no specific provision....

MR. SPEAKER: This is very specific.

I will now put the motion to the House. The question is:

"That Shri G. Lakshmanan, a member of this House, be chosen as the Deputy Speaker of this House."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri G. Lakshmanan is chosen as the Deputy Speaker of this august House.

The hon. Prime Minister.

12.15 hrs.

FELICITATIONS TO THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI-MATI INDIRA GANDHI): May I take this opportunity of congratulating Shri G. Lakshmanan on his election as Deputy Speaker.

Shri G. Lakshmanan has wide experience of public life and also he has been a member of the other House and this should stand him in good stead in safeguarding the rights and privileges of all sides of the House, of individual members as well as in upholding the dignity and decorum of this august House. I extend a warm welcome to him and I give him our good wishes and assure him of our co-operation.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Muzaffarpur): I would like to extend my congratulations on behalf of the Lok Dal to the newly elected Deputy Speaker.

I would have been very happy if this election would not have been necessitated. We submitted the motion in order to draw the attention of the House to a convention that had been observed in the past where a member belonging to the Opposition was invariably made the Deputy Speaker.(Interruptions) In the last two Lok Sabhas the Opposition was consulted before the Deputy Speaker was elected or before the nomination for Deputy Speakership was made. We had hoped that that tradition would be continued and it is only when we found that that tradition had not been continued, we were constrained to make our own nomination.

[Shri George Fernandes]

I would like to extend my congratulations once again to the Deputy Speaker and I am sure that he will, in the discharge of his duties, do all that is necessary to uphold the rules and the dignity of this House.

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE (Howrah): I congratulate the Deputy Speaker. When I proposed the name of Shri Dhanik Lal Mandal, it was not to show any personal disrespect to him. It is a question of principle that the Deputy Speaker should also be elected unopposed and unanimously. That was the convention and personally I raised this question on the 20th of January when our Prime Minister met the Leaders of the various Opposition Parties. We expressed our feelings because from the paper report we saw that one D.M.K. Member was going to be made Deputy-Speaker.

Sir, this is a breach of convention. We are very unhappy over this. Still, I hope that once elected, he should act as a man above the party and act most impartially to uphold the tradition of this august House.

Sir, I congratulate him for his election.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I congratulate the Deputy-Speaker on his election. He has rich experience of belonging to the House of Elders. I am sure, when he comes here to preside over the deliberations of this House, he will bring to the Chair, the maturity of the elders and he will also take care of the youngsters in this House so that there will be a combination of youngsters and elders.

Sir, so long as he was not elected, he belonged only to one party. But, now, we can legitimately have a claim on him that when he occupies the Chair, he will be belonging to the entire House and he can rest assured that when he sits in the Chair, we will offer our cooperation not as if he

belongs to one section but as if he belongs to the entire House and we will expect the same reciprocation.

It is true that some motion was already moved just to express that the Opposition must get the representation. And to keep up that convention, the motion was actually put forward. As a healthy convention of this House, as far as possible, unanimity should be arrived at in the election to such a high office. So, the motions were withdrawn, and I am happy (*Interruptions*) that it was a mere statement. Only the spirit of it was merely stated. Without going into the technicality of the problem, I dare say that, indeed, the Deputy-Speaker belongs to the entire House; particularly in such a House where there is a lot of impalance, it is the Opposition that will need protection more than probably the Members of the Ruling Party and I hope that that protection will be available to us in abundance.

SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN (Satara): Sir, may I take this opportunity to congratulate the newly elected Deputy-Speaker?

I think his election must be a good relief for you also because you had taken upon to preside the whole time for the last few days. I find from my experience in terms of the time, that it is the Deputy-Speaker who spends more time in the House than Speaker. Today we will have to look to him more for his mercy. (*Interruptions*) He is an elder; he belonged to the Elder's House. That is how I can put it.

I can assure him the cooperation of myself and my group in conducting the work of this House very objectively. He will take interest of the House as a whole protecting the privileges and rights of the individual members. Particularly, when the Opposition is a small one. I hope he will take more care of the Opposition than the ruling party Members perhaps.

SHRI C. T. DHANDAPANI (Pol-lachi): Sir, on behalf of the D.M.K. Party in Parliament, I offer my felicitations to the elected Deputy-Speaker, **Shri Lakshmanan**. I also thank Mrs. Gandhi and her party for the support they have extended to the candidature of our party. I also thank the Leader on this side who was responsible for the creation of enthusiasm in this election.

Sir, it has been said that it is the Opposition Party member that should be the Deputy-Speaker. We have seen many occasions. Even in 1969, an Independent Member, Mr. G. G. Swell was elected to the post of Deputy-Speakership. There was a dissent and some political parties boycotted and abstained from the House; they were the Swatantra Party, Jan Sangh and the Syndicate Party. Now I can call them as Jan Sangh. Now, I can call them Janata and Lok Dal. In 1971, the Marxists, it seems had some difference of opinion when **Shri G. G. Swell** was offered as candidate....

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: We supported.

SHRI C. T. DHANDAPANI: Afterwards, not in the beginning.

Some difference of opinion in the selection of a candidate for a particular post is inevitable in a democratic set up.

Sir, you have been a champion for the causes of agriculturists and peasants and our newly elected Deputy-Speaker is an illustrious leader of working class. He has been associated with many trade unions. He worked as a real trade unionist and was associated with All India Postal Employees Union for more than fifteen years. He tirelessly worked for the just cause of the working class. He was also the Chairman of the Central Government employees Joint Action Committee in Madras when they were on warpath for their right demands. For the cause of workers, he underwent untold sufferings and he proved himself

to be an honest public man. Before I conclude, I want to request the Deputy-Speaker, through you, Sir; to uphold the traditions of our movement. The father of our movement was Periar who taught us that every human being should be respected irrespective of his caste, creed and colour; everybody's views should be heard and everything should be judged on its own merits. After him, our glorious and real democratic leader, Anna, pronounced that our object should be to do our duty, have dignity and discipline in public life. Then, there was a call from our President, Dr. Kalaingar Karunanidhi and the victorious leader, **Shrimati Indira Gandhi** to do our best to have self-reliance and for the welfare of the public. I hope, we will be able to fulfil that.

Sir, I once again congratulate and felicitate **Shri G. Lakshmanan** on his election as Deputy-Speaker of this House.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Basirhat): Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of our group, I would like to extend our felicitations to **Shri G. Lakshmanan** on his election to the high post of Deputy-Speaker. I welcome him more especially as a fellow trade unionist and I feel some confidence that perhaps we will be able to appreciate each other on the same wavelength. It is good that we have a Speaker, who is a farmer, and a Deputy-Speaker, who is representative of the working class. We can expect that sympathy will be shown to the cause of the Central Government employees who **Shri Lakshmanan** has represented in their various movements outside and we can expect freedom and justice, tempered with mercy, as far as the opposition is concerned.

We had proposed the name of **Shri Dhanik Lal Mandal** because we wanted to draw the attention of the House to a very simple point. It is not a question of there being a precedent that always somebody from the

[Shri Indrajit Gupta]

Opposition has been agreed upon or selected as Deputy-Speaker, as we know in the past there were numerous occasions when members of the ruling party occupied both these seats of Speaker and Deputy-Speaker, but there were also occasions when that was not so, when the Deputy-Speaker happened to have been a member of the Opposition. That is not the point. The simple point at issue was whether the healthy precedent of the ruling party and the Leader of this House taking the opposition into confidence and having consultations with them prior to the election would be followed or not. I regret very much to find that that precedent has been given the go-bye this time. I do not know, why? There was plenty of opportunity to consult the Opposition. I hope, it is not because having obtained this massive majority, the Prime Minister feels that there is no necessity for such consultation. I hope, not, because she called a meeting of the Opposition leaders to discuss various other matters, national and international. Perhaps it had slipped from her mind that there was a precedent that in the matter of election of Deputy-Speaker, she should take the Opposition into confidence, and have consultations with them. It does not necessarily mean that they will agree. They may agree, or may not agree. But prior consultation is a healthy precedent, according to our parliamentary norms and traditions; and because that was departed from, we wanted to register our mild protest by submitting the name of another Member, which we had already decided to withdraw; but we wanted to record our protest. I hope Mr. Lakshmanan will not take this as any kind of reflection on him. We have nothing whatever against him. And, on behalf of our group, I can assure him of our fullest cooperation in running this House according to the best traditions.

SHRI ABDUL SAMAD (Vellore):
On behalf of the Muslim League

Group in Parliament, I wholeheartedly congratulate my esteemed friend Mr. Lakshmanan for his elevation to dignified office of Deputy-Speaker. What I naturally expected, when his name was proposed by our illustrious Prime Minister, was that Mr. George Fernandes will support the motion, because Mr. Fernandes himself has confessed on so many platforms that he owes his very existence to the timely help rendered by Kalaingar Karunanidhi. But when Kalaingar Karunanidhi's nominee is proposed for Deputy Speakership, I was taken aback when Mr. Fernandes proposed another name. I can understand Mr. Samar Mukherjee or the other respected leader Mr. Indrajit Gupta or Mr. Chavan proposing some other name. What I naturally expected was that our esteemed leader Mr. Fernandes will support Mr. Lakshmanan. Anyhow, now the House has, with a majority of votes, elected Mr. Lakshmanan.

We cannot find any other name, except Mr. Lakshmanan for this Deputy Speakership, because where Balaraman, i.e. Raman is there, Lakshmanan must be there to assist him. He will be able to assist Mr. Balram most faithfully and loyally.

MR. SPEAKER: It is like *Vanvaas*.

SHRI ABDUL SAMAD: I congratulate Mr. Lakshmanan; and I thank the Prime Minister and the ruling party for having accepted, and proposed his name.

Some doubts are lurking in the minds of the leaders, whether DMK is a ruling party or an Opposition party. I want to say that it will be decided in due course; but in the near future, it is going to be the ruling party in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI GHULAM RASOOL KOCHACK (Anantnag): I extend, on behalf of myself and my colleagues in the All Jammu & Kashmir National Conference our congratulations to

Mr. Lakshmanan on his elevation as Deputy Speaker. I hope he comes up to the expectations of this House, and that this House becomes a forum of unity and purpose, for serving which all of us have been elected to this House. The country wants unity of purpose and solidarity; and it is necessary that we should forget our petty differences—Certain matters have to be forgotten and we should take an objective view of the problems that are facing our country at this juncture. We should bring harmony and unity in the country and solve the problems that are facing our country at large.

SHRI FRANK ANTHONY (Nominated—Anglo-Indians): Mr. Speaker, Sir: I wish to join in offering my congratulations and good wishes to the Deputy Speaker. May I say, without wanting to give any offence, that I was largely responsible for having inducted Prof. Swell as the Deputy Speaker I was the *de facto* leader of the Independent group then. While several groups in the Opposition were not very happy, at least they did respect what had become a convention. They did not put up anything from the Opposition. To-day, unfortunately that convention has been broken and I do not expect the Deputy-Speaker to keep this in mind. But what has been done is, whether intended or not, almost a reflection on the DMK that it was not a Member of the Opposition and whatever Members may have felt that they would have been consulted, I don't think... (*Interruptions*) I am sorry...

AN HON. MEMBER: It was only because there was no consultation.

SHRI FRANK ANTHONY: That is only a very partial excuse. (*Interruptions*) I am sorry, it is only an excuse. It is not an answer, because in the final analysis, as far as I am aware, even when an Independent was, I say, put up, I was rather responsible for that. No Opposition group ever opposed it and that convention should have been subscribed to. But I am certain that you, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, will not bear this in

mind and that you will hold the scale evenly as the custodian of all the sections of the House.

श्री सुरज मल्ल (अम्बाला) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं श्री लक्ष्मणन को मुबारकबाद देता हूँ। मैं श्री लक्ष्मणन की तरह डाक-तार विभाग में काम करता था, 1960 में श्री लक्ष्मणन् और मैं दोनों ही नौकरी से निकाले गये थे, मैं समझता हूँ कि श्री लक्ष्मणन् की पोलिटिकल बुनियाद वही से शुरू हुई है। मैं उम्मीद करूँगा कि श्री लक्ष्मणन् वर्किंग क्लास को ध्यान रखेंगे।

आखिर में मैं एक छोटी बात कहकर बैठता हूँ कि राम और लक्ष्मण की जोड़ी आ गई है, इतिहास से हनुमान बाहर हैं। भगवान की कृपा से कम-से-कम हाउस में तो रामराज्य का एटमास्फियर रहेगा।

SHRI N. G. RANGA (Guntur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to congratulate Mr. Lakshmanan as one of the stoutest champions of the underprivileged people of the whole of India, and more especially of South India. He belongs to the DMK which was founded by Shri E. V. Ramaswamy Naicker and led to Government by the late Annadurai who was one of my happiest colleagues in public life. Friends have referred to the fact that he has been a labour leader. He is also a leader of the Harijans, *guriyans*, backward classes and of the under privileged people in the South who were working through the self-respect movement for social dignity as well as political authority and equality with all other classes. I am glad to find him as a colleague in the Rajya Sabha and I have known how he had acted in an impartial manner as one of the Members of the Panel of Chairman. Therefore, I am confident that he would look after the interests not only of the labour, of the Opposition but also of the under-privileged people. So, I congratulate him once again on his election as Deputy-Speaker of the House.

MR. SPEAKER: I am very happy to associate myself with the Leader of the House, leaders of parties and groups and other Members in extending felicitations to Shri Lakshmanan on his election as Deputy Speaker of the House. Although Shri Lakshmanan

is new to this House and to this Chair—he is no stranger to the parliamentary life and high traditions of our Parliament. He was a prominent and active Member of the other House from 1974–79 and made notable contribution. The success of any incumbent of the Chair depends not only upon his full understanding of the Rules of Procedure but also on his instinctive comprehension of the sense of the House. We are all here to see that the House, as a form of people's representatives serves the objectives underlying it and that the standing and respect for parliamentary institutions is enhanced by the manner in which we function and conduct ourselves. In our House, the Deputy Speaker shares a substantial burden of the Speaker. I am glad that the House has elected a seasoned and experienced colleague as Deputy Speaker. I look forward to our closely working together in the House.

SHRI G. LAKSHMANAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am deeply beholden to the Honourable Members of the august House for electing me to this high office of prestige and responsibility.

Madam Prime Minister and other hon. Members have said some very kind words about me. I am most grateful to them. And, you Sir, by joining them in felicitating me on this occasion have emboldened me and instilled in me the necessary courage for accepting the rather onerous responsibilities of this office. Having had some idea of your endearing personality and friendliness, I know I can always look up to you for guidance in the conduct of my duties. While as a public man, I have belonged to a political party and have my personal views on political problems, I am fully conscious of the fact that as a Presiding Officer, now I must be guided by the norms of objectivity and impartiality and an absolutely non-partisan spirit. Also, I know I must always try to ensure the necessary relationship between the proceedings of the House and the mood and the aspirations of our people outside.

At this stage, I shall make no tall claims or promises. But I do promise that as Deputy-Speaker I shall endeavour to be a good deputy to you, Sir, and to speak always on behalf of the House. Hereafter I belong to the whole House. I assure all sections of this House that I shall not fail them and shall always do my best to uphold the high traditions of this House and to justify the faith and confidence reposed in me.

MR. SPEAKER: Sir, once again I thank you and all the hon. Members.

12.42 hrs.

PANEL OF CHAIRMEN

MR. SPEAKER: I have to inform the House that under Rule 9 of the Rules of Procedure I have nominated the following Members as Members of the Panel of Chairmen:

1. Shri Gulsher Ahmed.
2. Shri Somnath Chatterjee.
3. Shri Hari Nath Mishra.
4. Shri Shivraj V. Patil.
5. Shri K. Rajamallu.
6. Shri Chandrajit Yadav.

12.43 hrs.

STATEMENT RE. COMMISSION ON PUBLIC EXPENDITURE

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): Sir, by a Resolution dated 29th May, 1979, Government had constituted a Commission on Public Expenditure under the Chairmanship of Shri S. N. Mishra (then Member of the Lok Sabha) to identify areas in which economy could be effected. The Commission has since been engaged on the task assigned to it.

The need for effecting economy in Government expenditure cannot be

over-emphasised. Unless unproductive expenditure is kept under strict control, the resources for sustaining a viable development programme cannot be found. Even in regard to developmental expenditure we have to take action to ensure that the outlays on different programmes are laid out in such a manner as to maximise the rate of growth of the economy and promote the socio-economic objectives of Government. But the pursuit of economy in the broadest sense of the term should be accepted as a normal, legitimate task of the different Ministries and agencies of the Government of India. In fact, realistic suggestions for effecting economy in expenditure can emerge largely from within. The contribution which an outside organisation like the Commission on Public Expenditure can make can have only marginal impact. Government have therefore decided that the Expenditure Commission should be wound up with effect from 31st January 1980 and the Ministries asked to put forward on a continuing basis suggestions for effecting economy in expenditure keeping in view the objectives as outlined in the terms of reference of the Expenditure Commission. The work of Ministries in this regard will be monitored by the Ministry of Finance as part of its normal functions. Meanwhile, attempts will also be made to make use of the data collected by the Commission and any other suggestions that may have emerged in the course of the deliberations of the Commission.

Government wish to thank the Chairman and Members of the Commission on Public Expenditure for the kind services in this behalf.

12.45 hrs.

MATTER UNDER RULE 377

- (i) REPORTED RELAY HUNGER STRIKE BY UNEMPLOYED COMMERCIAL PILOTS TO PRESS THEIR DEMAND.

DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT (Rajgarh): Unemployed commercial pilots of India have been on Relay Hunger Strike near Airlines House, New Delhi since 1st November, 1979 in support of their demand for jobs as pilots in the Airlines, National Airlines have been denying them jobs in spite of the fact that they are the most eligible candidates for the same. So many commercial pilots remain unemployed because Indian Airlines virtually stopped recruitment of Pilots for the last ten years. Before going on hunger strike Commercial Pilots had taken up their case with Government. To-day it is the 95th day of their Hunger Strike. Will the Government wake up do justice to unemployed Commercial Pilots who have been suffering for the last many years? Their demand is that they should be given employment in Airlines as per the Seniority based on date of issue of Commercial Pilot's licence to them in order to make the selection free from corrupt practices. It is now high time that Government take immediate action to provide gainful employment to unemployed Commercial Pilots. According to the statements issued by the high officials of the Airlines, requirement of Pilots in Airlines is not less than 350 pilots in the next two years. Will the Government issue the orders to Airlines to take these unemployed Commercial Pilots to fill these vacancies.

- (ii) REPORTED REFERENCE TO KASHMIR BY THE PRESIDENT OF PAKISTAN IN ISLAMIC CONFERENCE OF FOREIGN MINISTERS

श्री राम बिलास पासवान (हाजीपुर): अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं नियम 377 के अधीन निम्नलिखित विषय की ओर सरकार का ध्यान आकृष्ट करना चाहता हूँ:

“पाकिस्तान के राष्ट्रपति जनरल जिया-उल-हक द्वारा इस्लामिक विदेश मंत्रियों की कॉन्फ्रेंस में विश्व की समस्याओं में फिलिस्तीनी समस्या और अफगानिस्तान में सोवियत हस्तक्षेप के अलावा काश्मीर का भी उल्लेख किया गया है जो एक चिन्ताजनक स्थिति है। अमरीका और पाकिस्तान सरकार द्वारा बार बार यह आश्वासन दिलाया जाता रहा है कि पाकिस्तान को दिये जाने वाले हथियारों को भारत के विरुद्ध प्रयोग

[श्री राम बिलास पासवान]

नहीं किया जायगा किन्तु इस बात का क्या विश्वास है कि जब जनरल हुक काश्मीर को विषय की एक समस्या मानते हैं तो वह उसे हल करने के लिए भारत के विरुद्ध हथियारों का प्रयोग नहीं करेंगे।

मैं भारत सरकार से जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस विषय में क्या किया जा रहा है और क्या विदेश मंत्री ने पाकिस्तान से इस सम्बन्ध में स्पष्टीकरण मांगा है।

(iii) SPREADING OF JAUNDICE IN PATNA and Aramgarh

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री (पटना) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं नियम 377 के अधीन निम्नलिखित विषय की ओर सरकार का ध्यान आकृष्ट करना चाहता हूँ :

बिहार की राजधानी पटना और उत्तर प्रदेश के आजमगढ़ जनपद में पीलिया रोग का प्रकोप—

बिहार की राजधानी पटना के सब से बड़े आबासीय उप-नगर कंकड़बाग में रहने वाला हर पांचवां व्यक्ति पीलिया रोग का शिकार है। उस क्षेत्र की आबादी हजारों की है। अतः स्थिति की भयंकरता का अनुमान आसानी के साथ लगाया जा सकता है।

पत्रकारों के एक दल द्वारा किये गये सर्वेक्षण के अनुसार नमूने के तौर पर जिन 39 परिवारों से उन्होंने पूछताछ की उन में 30 परिवारों में पीलिया के रोगी पाये गये। एक परिवार में चार चार व्यक्ति तक पीलिया से ग्रस्त देख गये। लोगों में भयंकर आतंक है।

उत्तर प्रदेश के आजमगढ़ जनपद में भी पीलिया रोग का भयंकर प्रकोप है। दस हजार से अधिक लोग इस घातक बीमारी से ग्रस्त हैं। खबर है कि पांच सौ से अधिक रोगियों की मृत्यु हो चुकी है।

(iv) SILENT VALLEY PROJECT SCHEME IN KERALA.

SHRI K. A. RAJAN (Trichur): I beg to mention the following matter of public importance under Rule 377:

One of the most important Hydro Electric Project Scheme in Kerala, called 'The Silent Valley Project Scheme' is at a standstill because of the stay ordered by the Governor of Kerala on the eve of Kerala Election.

The earlier Government of Kerala had already invested nearly two crores

of rupees and already under a statute all protective measures were taken to see that any ecological imbalance should not occur.

Sir, my only submission is that this deadlock over the project must be put an end to in the best interest of the Kerala State and the project may be given clearance.

(v) PURCHASE OF ONIONS BY NAFED IN MAHARASHTRA.

SHRI RAM KRISHNA MORE (Khed): I beg to mention the following matter of public importance under Rule 377:

The policy following by NAFED in Maharashtra regarding purchase of onions from agriculturists has resulted in great injustice to agriculturists and consumers. While the agriculturists do not get remunerative price, the consumer has to pay about Rs. 3 per kg. for onions. The benefit of this policy goes only to the middle men who are exploiting both the agriculturists and the consumers. It is, herefore, necessary to give proper directions to NAFED to amend its policy in such a way that it will benefit both agriculturists and the consumer.

(vi) NEED TO INCREASE QUOTA OF DIESEL, KEROSENE OIL AND COAL FOR UTTAR PRADESH.

श्री हरिकेश बहादुर (गोरखपुर): अध्यक्ष महोदय मैं आप की अनुमति से नियम 377 के अधीन निम्नलिखित विषय की ओर सरकार का ध्यान आकृष्ट करना चाहता हूँ :

हमारे देश में डीजल, मिट्टी के तेल और कोयले का अभाव पिछले कई कहीनों से चल रहा है जिस के कारण उत्तर प्रदेश में लोगों के दैनिक जीवन पर गहरा प्रभाव पड़ा है। इन दिनों उत्तर प्रदेश में लोगों की इन कठिनाइयों के बढ़ने की आशंका है।

अतः मैं केन्द्रीय सरकार से यह अनुरोध करना चाहता हूँ कि उत्तर प्रदेश की डीजल, मिट्टी का तेल और कोयले का जो कोटा इस समय दिया जा रहा है उस में वृद्धि की जाय तथा राज्य सरकार द्वारा संचालित वितरण व्यवस्था जो पूर्णतः दोषपूर्ण है, को सुधारने के लिए उचित प्रयास किये जायें।

12.52 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

APPROPRIATION BILL, 1980

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND
INDUSTRY (SHRI R. VENKATA-
RAMAN): I beg to move*:

"That the Bill to authorise pay-
ment and appropriation of certain
further sums from and out of the
Consolidated Fund of India for the
services of the financial year 1979-80,
be taken into consideration."

The supplementary demands have
already been adopted by the House
and this is only a formal motion.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The ques-
tion is:

"That the Bill to authorise pay-
ment and appropriation of certain
further sums from and out of the
Consolidated Fund of India for the
services of the financial year 1979-80,
be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: We shall
take up clause by clause considera-
tion. There are no amendments to
clauses 2 and 3.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 and 3 stand part
of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.
The Schedule, clause 1, the Enacting
Formula and the Title were added to
Bill.

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: I
thank the House for the great con-
sideration it has shown to me

I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The ques-
tion is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

12.54 hrs.

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR
GRANTS (RAILWAYS),
1979-80—contd.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House
will now resume further discussion
on the Supplementary Demands for
Grants in respect of the Budget
(Railways) for 1979-80.

Shri Murugaiyan may continue his
speech.

**SHRI S. MURUGAIYAN (Tirup-
pattur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. In
continuation of my speech on the Sup-
plementary Demands for Grants of the
Railways which I started day before
yesterday, I would like to make a few
suggestions. For the past two decades
the needs of Southern Railways
have not been looked into by the
Railway Ministry. In many junctions
of the Southern Railways, the passen-
ger amenities are woefully lacking.
The railway workers are undergoing
untold hardships. I hope that our
elder statesman and talented adminis-
trator, Pandit Kamalpathi Tripathi,
our Railway Minister will look into
the problems of Southern Railways
and take steps to solve them during
this year.

As I was telling day before yester-
day, since Tuticorin has become a
major port, the hinterland should be
served by broadgauge track. The
metregauge track between Tuticorin
and Tiruchirapalli should be converted
into a broadgauge track. In Tuticorin
monthly 14 lakh tonnes of salt is being
produced. Because of high quality

*Moved with the recommendation of the President.

**The original speech was delivered in Tamil.

[Shri S. Murugaiyan]

this salt is in great demand throughout the country. In the absence of broadgauge track, lorries are to transport salt to different points throughout the country. This they have to do because of the delay in transshipment points from metregauge to broadgauge. More wagons are also to be allotted on this side for carrying the other industrial goods. The hon. Minister of Railways should bestow his personal attention on these issues.

In my constituency, Tiruppattur, Jalarpet is a big junction. There has been no improvement to this junction for the past 20 years. The railway workers are having the same amenities like drinking water provided to them twenty years ago. The amenities have not been increased in the same proportion of increase in the staff strength at this place. On the west-side the township has grown very fast. Even in emergencies like delivery cases, the people have to traverse $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles and then cross to the other side of the railway line. The survey and other preliminaries for a railway over-bridge have been completed, but the work has not yet started. The hon. Railway Minister should order the start of the work on the over bridge here and complete it by the end of this financial year.

In my constituency more than 300 leather factories are there. The leather products from here are exported and annually several crores of foreign exchange accrue to the public exchequer through these exports. Yet adequate number of wagons are not available for bringing in the raw skin to this area. More wagons should be made available to Vaniambadi, Ambur, Velur etc. so that adequate quantities of raw skin can be brought in.

In my constituency, Tiruvannamalai, otherwise called Arunachalam—is a very big pilgrim centre. Ramana Maharshi lived there. To Ramanashram not only thousands of inland pilgrims come but also many foreign visitors come to Tiruvannamalai. In

spite of this, the station here has only thatched roof. Pucca roof should be constructed in this station. Thousands of foreign and inland pilgrims to this area will at least have shelter over their heads in the Tiruvannamalai Railway Station. The people of this area are very poor. They were taking drinking water from the station. Now the station authorities are preventing them to have drinking water. Drinking water should be provided to them outside the railway station for these poor people.

There is only one Express train between Katpadi and Villupuram. The passengers from North are finding it difficult to move fast towards South, because they have to go by passenger trains. More express trains should be started in this section. Similarly, the Central Station at Madras is facing all sorts of problems. The Zoo is nearby the junction and the animals are dying because of the smoke being emitted by the trains. Now the State Government has decided to shift the zoo to some other place. After this is done, the Central Station at Madras should be expanded and all passenger amenities should be provided.

In some stations in Southern Railways on the ground that the traffic offering is low the station masters have been removed and the work has been entrusted to agencies. These agencies are not working effectively at the time of arrival of trains. We have experienced this problem in my place Kalasapakkam. The agency should be removed and the station master should be appointed. In the level-crossings the gate-keepers close them and go to their villages. This is a great hindrance to smooth flow of traffic. The gate-keepers should be asked to remain permanently near the level-crossings. In my constituency, because of predominance of leather industries, wagons should be supplied in adequate numbers. Day before yesterday there was a railway accident in my constituency. Frequent accidents occur because of metregauge. Broadgauge conversion should be undertaken on a large scale

on the Southern Railways and then only such accidents will not recur.

With these words, I conclude my speech expressing my gratitude to you for giving me this opportunity.

13.00 hrs.

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री (पटना) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, सब से पहले तो मैं पं० कमलापति त्रिपाठी जी को धन्यवाद देना चाहता हूँ ।

रेल मंत्री (श्री कमलापति त्रिपाठी) : मान्यवर, मेरा प्वाइंट ऑफ़ ऑर्डर है । ये एक बार इस पर बोल चुके हैं ।

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : रेलवे पर नहीं बोला हूँ । सी०पी०एम० वाले बोल चुके हैं, आप उन्हीं की वजह से कह रहे हैं कि मैं बोल चुका हूँ ।

श्री कमलापति त्रिपाठी : शास्त्री जी, परसों बोल चुके हैं ।

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : मैं नहीं बोला हूँ, आप बेरीफाई कर लीजिए । जनरल बजट पर मैं बोनस की बात बोल रहा था, उसी समय मैं ने रेलवे का जिक्र किया था, शायद उसी से आप ने समझ लिया है कि मैं रेलवे पर बोल चुका हूँ ।

श्री कमलापति त्रिपाठी : अच्छा, अच्छा, बोलिए ।

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, सब से पहले मैं पं० कमलापति त्रिपाठी को पुनः रेल मंत्री के आसन पर होने के लिए धन्यवाद देता हूँ । सब से पहले मैं बोनस का ही सवाल उठाता हूँ । बोनस तमाम कर्मचारियों को मिलना चाहिए, यह उन का अधिकार है क्योंकि हम उन के बोनस को डेफेंड वेतन मानते हैं । सरकार के खजाने में उन की एक महीने की तन्ख्वाह जमा है, जो उन को मिलनी चाहिए लेकिन अभी जो व्यवस्था की गई है, यह व्यवस्था ठीक नहीं है । इसमें उत्पादकता पर ज्यादा जोर दिया गया है और दूसरे कर्मचारियों को जो बोनस मिलता है, उन के साथ कोई शर्त नहीं है, न उत्पादकता की शर्त है और न कोई शर्त है । मैं चाहता हूँ कि इस शर्त को हटा दिया जाए और दूसरे कर्मचारियों की तरह बिना किसी शर्त के रेल कर्मचारियों को भी कम से कम 8.33 प्रतिशत बोनस दिया जाए ।

अभी जो व्यवस्था है वह उत्पादकता को भी साथ जोड़ती है । उस व्यवस्था के तहत, अगर 1977-78 के घरातल पर उत्पादकता रहेगी

तो रेल कर्मचारियों को 25 दिनों का बोनस मिलेगा । अगर उस घरातल पर उत्पादकता नहीं रहती है तो रेल कर्मचारियों को एक पैसा भी बोनस का नहीं मिलेगा, या वे उसके हकदार नहीं होंगे ।

अब मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि उत्पादकता केवल रेल मजदूरों पर ही निर्भर नहीं करती है । उद्योग में उत्पादकता की स्थिति क्या है, कृषि में उत्पादकता की स्थिति क्या है, बिजली और ट्रांसपोर्ट में उत्पादकता की स्थिति क्या है, इन सब से भी रेलवे के मजदूरों का सम्बन्ध होता है । रेलवे की उत्पादकता का इन तमाम चीजों से भी सम्बन्ध है । अगर कहीं भी गड़बड़ी हो जाती है तो दूसरी जगह उत्पादकता निश्चय ही कम होगी । इसका अर्थ होगा कि दूसरी जगह की गड़बड़ी के कारण रेल मजदूरों की उत्पादकता कम होने पर उनको बोनस नहीं मिलेगा । इसलिए मैं चाहता हूँ कि इस उत्पादकता की शर्त को हटा दिया जाए और रेल मजदूर जो अब तक जश्नारू संघर्ष करते रहे हैं, दुर्द्धर्ष संघर्ष करते रहे हैं, उनकी भी दूसरों की तरह बोनस दिया जाए । अन्यथा वे आगे इस शर्त को हटवाने के लिए संघर्ष करेंगे और 8.33 प्रतिशत बोनस पाने की चेष्टा करेंगे । इसलिए मेरी मांग है कि तमाम रेल मजदूरों को बिना शर्त के इसी मजदूरों की भांति 8.33 प्रतिशत बोनस एक वर्ष में दिया जाए ।

मेरी दूसरी बात भी बोनस से ही सम्बन्धित है । तमाम रेल कर्मचारियों को तो आपने बोनस देने का निश्चय किया लेकिन ऐसा लगता है कि आर०पी०एफ० वालों को आप ने छोड़ दिया है पता नहीं क्यों ? माननीय मंत्री जी उत्तर देते समय यह बताने की कृपा करें कि आर०पी०एफ० वालों के साथ ऐसी भदभाव की नीति क्यों अपनाई गयी है ? आर०पी०एफ० के कर्मचारी भी रेल कर्मचारी हैं और हम सभी लोग उनको ऐसा मानते हैं ।

तीसरी बात मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि पटना में गंगा नदी पर रेल का पुल बनाया जाए । यह सवाल मैंने, जब मैं पांचवीं लोक सभा का सदस्य था तब भी उठाया था और विभिन्न रूपों में उठाया था । उस समय तमाम दलों के 42 संसद् सदस्यों ने तत्कालीन रेल मंत्री को चिट्ठी लिख कर उनसे यह अनुरोध किया था कि उत्तर बिहार और दक्षिण बिहार की प्रगति के लिए गंगा पर रेल का पुल बनाना अत्यन्त आवश्यक है । उस समय जब हम ने यह सवाल उठाया था तो उस समय के रेल मंत्री श्री ललितनारायण मिश्र ने यह आश्वासन दिया था और आश्वासन के अनुसार इसके लिए वहां का सब भी हुज्रा था और इस बारे में जांच-पड़ताल भी हुई थी । इस काम के लिए जो एक्सपर्ट कमेटी बनी थी उसने कहा था कि वहां पुल बनाने के लिए सदाकत आश्रम के निकट सब से उपयुक्त स्थान है और वही रेल पुल बनाना चाहिए । उसके बाद

[श्री रामावतार शास्त्री]

आप भी मंत्री हुए, फिर प्रोफेसर दण्डवते भी रेल मंत्री हुए। मैंने, पिछली लोक सभा के दौरान, जब मैं लोक सभा का सदस्य नहीं था, तब भी दण्डवते जी को चिट्ठियाँ लिखी। दण्डवते जी ने भी यही जवाब दिया कि जांच पड़ताल चल रही है। 1975 से लेकर अब तक पांच साल हो गए हैं और अभी तक यह सवाल कहां खटाई में पड़ा हुआ है, वर्तमान रेल मंत्री महोदय इस पुल को बनाने की दिशा में कौन-सी कार्यवाही करना चाहते हैं, वे सारी स्थिति सरकार की तरफ से इस सदन के सामने और बिहार की जनता के संमुख भी रखने की कृपा करें ताकि हम सभी को मालूम हो कि इस पुल का मामला खटाई में नहीं पड़ा है बल्कि सरकार इसको बनाने के लिए कृतसंकल्प है।

चौथा सवाल उपाध्यक्ष महोदय मेरा यह है कि पटना से गया के बीच की रेलवे लाइन को दोहरा करने के बारे में सरकार क्या करने जा रही है? हम बराबर यह मांग कर रहे हैं कि पटना और गया रेलवे लाइन को दोहरा कर दिया जाए। एक लाइन होने से बहुत कठिनाई होती है। गाड़ियां स्टेशन पर खड़ी रहती हैं। बिहार के माननीय सदस्य जो यहां मौजूद हैं, वे इसको जानते हैं। इसलिए इस लाइन को दोहरा किया जाना चाहिए।

राजगीर बहुत ही महत्वपूर्ण स्थान है और गया भी। इस बास्ते राजगीर और गया को जोड़ने के लिए कोई नई लाइन की व्यवस्था होनी चाहिए।

बिहटा रेलवे स्टेशन से लेकर अनुग्रह नारायण रोड एक एक नई रेलवे लाइन बनाई जानी चाहिए ताकि बिहटा, बिक्रम, पाली, अरवल आदि जो अविकसित इलाके हैं उनका विकास हो सके और आने जाने में आसानी हो सके। इस रेलवे के निर्माण की दिशा में भी कार्यवाही की जानी चाहिए।

उत्तर बिहार के लिए जितनी भी बातों का वादा स्वर्गीय ललित नारायण मिश्र ने किया था जब वह रेल मंत्री थे, वे तमाम वादे भी पूरे होने चाहिए।

बरौनी से लेकर न्यू बोगाईगांव तक बड़ी लाइन बिछाई जाए, ठीक उसी तरह से जिस प्रकार समस्तीपुर से सोनपुर और आगे तक बड़ी लाइन बनी है। इसको आपने क्यों निगलैकट करके रखा है। यह बहुत आवश्यक है इस इलाके के विकास के लिए इसकी ओर भी आप का तत्काल ध्यान जाना चाहिए।

रेलवे कैंटीन में बेअरर लोग काम करते हैं। माननीय दण्डवते जी ने मेरे एक पत्र में उत्तर के कहा था कि इन तमाम लोगों को स्थायी करने का सरकार ने फसला कर लिया है। अभी तक भी बहुत सी कैंटीनों और डिपटामेंटल भोजनालयों में इन कर्मचारियों को स्थाई नहीं बनाया गया है। मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि इसका क्या कारण है और कब तक इनकी सरकार स्थाई बनाने का विचार रखती है।

आरा सासाराम लाइट रेलवे चलती थी। सरकार ने उसको खत्म कर दिया, उसको बन्द करवा दिया और जो लगभग साढ़े चार सौ स्थाई कर्मचारी थे उनको भारतीय रेलों में पुनः नौकरी पर ले लिया, उनको एबजाईब कर लिया लेकिन मैं आपका ध्यान उन 108 कर्मचारियों की ओर दिलाना चाहता हूं जो टैम्पोरेरी थे लेकिन लगातार कई बरसों से काम कर रहे थे। उनको अभी तक भी नौकरी में नहीं लिया गया है। मैं चाहता हूं कि इनके प्रति भी आपको सहानुभूति दिखानी चाहिए और इनको भी आपको नौकरी पर ले लेना चाहिए।

फतुहा-इस्लामपुर लाइन अभी भी मार्टिन कम्पनी के मातहत चल रही है। लेकिन वह चलती नहीं है। वह बहुत महत्वपूर्ण इलाका है। इसकी वजह से इस इलाके के विकास में बड़ी बाधा पड़ रही है। जिस तरह से आप ने आरा-सासाराम लाइन को अपने कब्जे में कर लिया है उसी तरह से फतुहा-इस्लामपुर लाइन को भी अपने कब्जे में ले लेना चाहिए और यहां के कर्मचारियों को भी भारतीय रेलों की सेवा में शामिल कर लेना चाहिए और उस लाइन को आप के द्वारा चलाया जाना चाहिए।

1974 में बहुत से कर्मचारियों को दंडित किया गया था। जब कांग्रेस की हकूमत खत्म हुई और जनता पार्टी आई तो उसने बहुत से लोगों को वापिस ले लिया लेकिन कुछ कर्मचारी अभी भी नौकरी में लिए नहीं गए हैं। अभी भी कुछ कर्मचारी रह गए हैं 1974 की हड़ताल वाले दिन को वापिस नौकरी में नहीं लिया गया है। मैं चाहता हूं कि उनकी संख्या बताई जाए और उनको भी वापिस नौकरी में ले लिया जाए। किस रूप में वे दंडित हैं, नौकरी से निकाले हुए हैं, मुश्किल हैं या क्या हैं और उनके बारे में सरकार का विचार क्या है, यह भी बताया जाना चाहिए।

इन सब बातों की तरफ आपका ध्यान जाना चाहिए ताकि रेल मजदूर और आम जनता यह समझ सके कि उनकी तरफ सरकार का ध्यान है और जो उम्मीदें वे सरकार से रखते हैं वे पूरी होंगी।

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, at the outset, I would like to thank you for granting me the privilege and opportunity of conveying to this august gathering the feelings, sentiments and problems of a region whose voice until now has been a mere whisper because of its remoteness and backwardness. These people have delegated their authority to me with great expectations, hopes and desires and I pray to Almighty that He grant me the wisdom and to you and members of this House. I appeal to give me the guidance so that I can discharge my duty faithfully and conscientiously. As this is my maiden speech in this august House,

may I crave the indulgence of the members of the august House to refer to certain matters which do not concern Railway directly but link up with the common man who travels by rail.

The Cachar district of Assam is conspicuous by the fact that it is the only district where elections could be held in Assam.

The circumstances and the atmosphere under which people of Cachar exercised their right to franchise were exacting and extenuating. They have, however, demonstrated a tremendous amount of courage and their faith in the democratic process by casting their votes without fear or favour. My success is not my own. It is an unequivocal mandate to the policies, views and leadership of our respected leader and the Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi.

The electorate in my constituency i.e. Silchar is a mixture of religious and linguistic minorities comprising Bengali Hindus, Bengali Muslims, tea garden labourers (Hindi speaking), Manipurians, Burmese, Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes, Nepalis. The election in Cachar assumes greater importance in the context of the present movement in Assam against the so-called foreigners. The people of Cachar have echoed the views of Mrs. Indira Gandhi expressed in the election campaign in various parts of the country in unequivocal terms, that Indian citizens living in Assam for generations cannot be deprived of their legitimate and inherent right to vote on the alleged plea of being foreigners. People who have shared the trials and tribulations, the joys and sorrows of the country and state for decades cannot, under any circumstances, be called foreigners and for that matter, be disfranchised. There has been an outcry in the various parts of Assam, over holding of elections in Cachar, and the Oath taking day was marked as a Black Day. Whether this is justified or not time alone can tell and to time alone I leave it.

It is rather unfortunate that a regional movement which initially began with rationality has been allowed to drift into a problem of national magnitude, solely due to the inept handling and the inability of the powers that were to appreciate the importance and gravity of the situation. I am sure that there are no two opinions about the fact that foreigners, if there be any, should be deported forthwith, but identification and isolation of the foreigners should be done under the due process of law and there is no justification whatsoever of making linguistic religious minorities the victims of circumstances. What is more alarming and disturbing is the fact that a democratic movement is now drifting into the hands of extremists, which bears all indications of leading to a demand for secession. The brighter side of the picture, however, is that our Prime Minister is taking a keen and personal interest in the matter and I have no doubt that under the able guidance and stewardship of our leader a justifiable and universally acceptable and lasting solution would be found to the vexing problems. The law and order situation will not only be brought under control but brought back to normalcy, and peace and tranquillity will once again prevail over the region.

In the meantime, however, I would be failing in my duty if I did not make a particular reference to the impact and repercussions as felt in my district, i.e. Cachar. Sir, you are no doubt aware that Cachar is a land-locked region and the major communication from and to Cachar is by rail. Owing to the unsettled conditions in other parts of Assam there is a complete blockade against movement of foodgrains, essential commodities, H.S.D., petrol, diesel and coal by rail. The people of Cachar are now harbouring the feeling that this is like an economic sanction against them a premium or penalty they are required to pay for having participated in the election. The stock of

[Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev]

essential commodities, like food-grains, kerosene, coal, diesel and petrol is at an abnormally low level. Even after drastic curtailment of the normal requirements I am told the stocks are not likely to last beyond three to four days. The common man is going through a very difficult time and the tense situation is being further aggravated. The tea garden labourers who are dependent upon their employers for their weekly subsidised dry ration requirements are becoming restless day by day as movement of even the available stock is not possible due to non-arrival of diesel tankers by rail. I am sure, the Members of this House realise the magnitude and seriousness of the situation prevailing in Cachar and which need not be over-emphasized. Keeping this in view, it is my urgent appeal that immediate steps be taken for movement and replenishment of all stocks by rail, so that chaotic situation may be avoided as we all know that hunger knows no bounds.

Silchar has been under curfew immediately after the election when attempts were made by certain parochial interests, to incite communal disharmony. I must not only thank but also congratulate the people of Cachar for having shown their maturity and boldness in halting such attempts and containing the situation. At the same time, may I be so bold as to request that the matter be investigated and, if necessary, a judicial inquiry be held to bring to book the culprits responsible for such a course of action.

I agree with the views of the several hon. Members that the Assam problem is a national problem, but the Members have failed to stress one point, that the movement is steadily going into the hands of anti-national elements. Unless the Centre acts immediately, the time will not be far off when the Prime Minister will have to make the same type of army operation in Assam as she had to do

to save Mizoram from secession from India and to liberate Bangladesh from the clutches of West Pakistan Government and save the suffering linguistic minorities of Assam.

The present claim of Mr. Golap Borbora of Janata to form yet another '*khichari sarkar*' in Assam must not be allowed as the political parties proposed to be in the coalition Ministry have already proved their failure and they are basically responsible for creating this situation in Assam. If Mr. Borbora is allowed to form a Ministry, the President of India will sign the death-warrant of the linguistic and religious minorities of Assam.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, let us hope that the whole eastern India will receive special attention from the newly-elected Government at the Centre for its economic and industrial development for which railway communications must play a vital role. The Centre must take immediate steps to solve the long-standing demands of Assam in various spheres, mainly the Brahmaputra protection scheme, Borack Dam scheme, Jogi Road and Cachar Paper Mill to achieve the extension of broad-gauge line upto Tinsukia, and the construction of second road-cum-rail bridge over Brahmaputra and Barak. The continuous neglect of the Centre towards the eastern Indian States and Union Territories regarding development of railway communication is giving ample scope to foreign agencies to create chaos through missionaries and politically frustrated people and exploit the depressed people of eastern India, thereby gradually leading them to a secessionist movement which is a great danger for the integrity of our Mother India. This must be stopped now; otherwise, I am afraid, the situation will go beyond control.

While I fully support the Supplementary Demands for Grants asked for by the hon. Railway Minister, I would like to remind the hon. Minister that merely granting of funds

will not make the Railways efficient. Railway is a common man's communication facility, but now it has become the most hazardous one. Accident and crime in Railways have become a daily hazard. Even recently we have read in paper that, in between Howrah and Burdwan, two women were raped inside the running railway compartment by those who were supposed to protect them. It is a disgrace for the railway administration. Stern and strict measures must be taken to ensure the safety of the passengers.

As regards railway communication, Cachar is very much neglected. Silchar and Karim Ganj railway stations which give the communication facility to Mizoram, Tripura and Manipur are the most-neglected ones. Steps must be taken to provide more passenger trains and to provide more amenities to the passengers of this area. The hill section line from Lumding to Badarpur was constructed by the Britishers in the initial stage of Indian Railways. It needs complete reconstruction. Work for broad-gauge should immediately start from Gauhati to Jaggigora.

I am grateful to our hon. Railway Minister who has made the happy announcement this morning that all passenger and goods trains suspended for want of coal will start running again in the course of next one month.

I congratulate our respected Prime Minister for her good gesture shown towards Mr. Laldenga by withdrawing the cases lodged against him in the Delhi Court. These gestures prove her boldness and courage and readiness to solve the problem of the eastern India. Any problem should be viewed with the policy of carrot and cane and not only with cane.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, with these words, I support the Supplementary Demands for Grants asked for by the hon. Railway Minister.

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY (Nizamabad): Sir, I think the happiest man today is Prof. Madhu Dandavate who wanted to give bonus to the railway workers but, unfortunately, he could not give. Now it is Pujya Sri Kamalapati Tripathiji who will give it. Sir, fortunately, bonus is linked with productivity. Unless and until there are profits we cannot go on distributing anything to the workers....

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): 1977-78 productivity is the base.

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY: It is an acknowledged fact that during the time of Prof. Madhu Dandavate the railways made a steady progress and there was satisfaction. Still bonus was not given. Now, bonus is given to the workers and I find there is great satisfaction prevailing amongst the railway employees. Now they have taken a vow to run the railways very efficiently and make profits. Only profits make the country prosperous.

The nation has made an investment of Rs. 4000 crores in the railways over the last 130 years and at least we should get a return of Rs. 400 crores to the exchequer. But, as a matter of fact, the railways are not giving even Rs. 150 crores per year. Babuji is sitting there. He also made a herculean effort to make money from the railways but it could not contribute more than Rs. 150 crores to the general revenues. The first charge on the railways should be a return of Rs. 400 crores from its profits to the general revenues. After that bonus comes for the workers.

There are so many other sectors in our society. In education we cannot measure profit and loss in rupees and paise. In health and medical services we cannot measure it in rupees and paise. There are so many departments of the Government of India where we cannot measure it and that is why every government

[Shri M. Ram Gopal Reddy]

employee wants some bonus. The other day there was a demand that it should be treated as a deferred wage. Sir, already our government is paying more money to employees and a day may come if demands go on like this when the entire budget of the Government of India will be spent on salaries alone and nothing will be left for other welfare activities of the State. That we should take care.

Prof. Dandavate, when he was Railway Minister, was kind enough to sanction an over-bridge in Nizamabad town, but the State Government's sanction has not come. That is why it is held up. I would plead with Panditji that when he has fulfilled one thing—Dandavateji has half done it—the other half should be done by Panditji. Nizamabad city is a commercial area. All the factories are on one side of the city and the population live on the other side. In between the railway line runs. For 4 to 5 hours daily the gate remains closed with the result that there is a big queue of vehicles on both sides of the gate. That is why we have put forth the demand that an over-bridge must be constructed and completed within the shortest possible time. It has already been sanctioned. Only the State Government's approval has to come. I think Pandit Kamlapatiji himself will ask the State Government to give immediately their portion of the money. If that is not coming. I am afraid the people of Nizamabad will be very much dissatisfied with the working of the railways. The Railways have given their money. Only the State government has to give its amount. Nizamabad city is contributing a lot of revenue to the government exchequer. Every day over 100 wagons are loaded in Nizamabad alone with rice, sugar, maize and other food articles. They go upto Kerala. There was some shortage of wagons but now it has improved. Now I request the Minister to see that foodgrains and

other commodities are loaded promptly and sent to other places to avoid any scarcity.

I am sure Panditji will do all this and he will earn a good name. He is enjoying the greatest confidence not only of the railways but also of all sections of the population. Today we are fortunate that he is heading such an important Ministry in this government.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Hon. Members now we must complete this within half-an-hour. That is our programme. There are only two speakers. Of course, more speakers have given their names. If they all take more time, then the Minister may not be able to intervene. Therefore, I would request that such of those parties who have not spoken—the Janata and the Muslim League—will take three minutes each for their members and then the Minister will intervene.

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): Three minutes are not sufficient for us. At least five minutes must be given to us.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: When I say three minutes, you will definitely take five minutes or you may even take seven minutes.

SHRI K. T. KOSALRAM (Tiruchandru): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, I have some points to make. I request that three minutes only may be given to me.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: This is only the Supplementary Demands for Grants for Railways. You may have your time on the General debate.

Mr. R. L. P. Verma.

श्री श्रीरं एल० पी० वर्मा (कोडरमा) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं सब से पहले रेल मंत्री जी को धन्यवाद दंगा क्यों कि वह रेल के बारे में बहुत अनुभवी हैं। रेल भारत में सब से प्रमुख यातायात का साधन उपलब्ध

करने वाला विभाग है जिसमें 16 लाख से अधिक कर्मचारी काम करते हैं और देश में ठोस और भारी माल का यातायात भी इससे होता है। इस विभाग में कुछ सुस्ती और कमजोरियाँ हैं तथा कुछ दुर्गुण भी हैं जिनको दूर करने की दिशा में मैं समझता हूँ मंत्री महोदय जल्दी ही ठोस कदम उठावेंगे।

मैं मंत्रीजी का ध्यान अपने क्षेत्र की तरफ दिलाना चाहता हूँ। नेशनल डेवलपमेंट कौंसिल कमेटी में स्टेट मिनिस्टर्स के एक सजेसशन के अनुसार प्लानिंग कमीशन ने 1968 में दो कमेटीज सेट अप की थीं बकिंग ग्रुप के रूप में और उनसे यह कहा था कि वह देश के अन्दर क्षेत्रीय असमानता को दूर करने के लिए स्टडी करें कि कौन सी गाइडलाइन्स होंगी जिसके आधार पर बैकवर्ड एरिया डिक्लेयर किया जा सकता है। उस दृष्टिकोण से दोनों कमेटियों ने रिपोर्ट दी थी और उनकी रिपोर्ट को प्लानिंग कमीशन ने एक्सेप्ट भी कर लिया था। उस में पांच छः गाइडलाइन्स थीं। समय की कमी के कारण मैं सब पर विचार नहीं प्रकट करना चाहता। लेकिन उन सब बिन्दुओं पर विचार करने के बाद यह स्पष्ट हो जाता है कि बिहार का क्षेत्र हर दृष्टिकोण से ठीक बैठता है बैकवर्ड के रूप में। हालांकि बिहार खनिज पदार्थों से और अन्य प्राकृतिक साधनों से भरपूर है और सारे देश की आवश्यकताएँ पूरी करने में सक्षम है लेकिन इस पर भी आज वह देश में बीसवें नम्बर पर है। खास कर दक्षिण बिहार जिसे छोटा नागपुर के नाम से जाना जाता है वहाँ कोयला, लोहा, ताँबा, अभ्रक, बोक्साइट आदि नाना प्रकार के खनिज पदार्थ मिलते हैं, लेकिन वहाँ की 80 प्रतिशत जनसंख्या गरीबी की रेखा से नीचे है क्योंकि वहाँ का कोयला, लोहा, ताँबा, अभ्रक आदि वहाँ से सारे देश में चला जाता है और लोकल जनसंख्या को उपेक्षा के दृष्टिकोण से आज तक देखा जाता रहा है। सब ने उसका एक्सप्लायटेशन और शोषण करने का ही तरीका अपनाया। आज रेलवे की दृष्टि से देखा जाए तो सबसे कम रेलवे लाइन वहाँ है। रेलवे लाइन और सड़कों की लम्बाई के दृष्टिकोण से देखा जाए या प्रति व्यक्ति बिजली की खपत की दृष्टि से देखा जाये हर पहलू से विचार करने पर यही लगता है कि यह क्षेत्र दूसरे राज्यों के शोषण का केन्द्र बना है। उत्तर बिहार का भी यह एक शोषण का केन्द्र आसानी से बना हुआ है। 1977 में यह मांग की गई और पिछले 32 वर्षों से लगातार जनता की यह मांग रही है कि गिरिडीह कोडरमा हजारीबाग होते हुए रांची तक 220 किलोमीटर लम्बी रेलवे लाइन बिछाई जाए। इससे चार जिले संथाल परगना, हजारीबाग कोडरमा और रांची लिंक हो जायेंगे। इस 220 किलोमीटर की लम्बाई से करीब 40 लाख जनसंख्या को लाभ पहुँचेगा जिसमें हरिजन आदिवासी और पिछड़ी जाति के लोग अधिक हैं या इस तरह के लोग हैं जो जंगलों में रहते हैं। इस रेलवे लाइन का सर्वेक्षण हो चुका है। पाँच, दस, पंद्रह वर्षों से प्लानिंग हो रही है, आखिर कब तक इसका सर्वेक्षण होता रहेगा। इसलिए प्रायर्टी देकर इस क्षेत्र का विकास होना चाहिए। जब तक वहाँ पर रेलवे लाइन नहीं होगी तब तक उस क्षेत्र का औद्योगिक विकास नहीं हो

सकता है। बड़ी बड़ी मशीनें वहाँ पर पहुँच नहीं सकती हैं। इसीलिए यह क्षेत्र विकास के क्षेत्र में आज तक इतना पिछड़ा हुआ है। हजारीबाग उत्तरी छोटा नागपुर परिमण्डल की रीढ़ है। आज वहाँ पर एम० ए० तक कालेज की पढ़ाई हो सकती है लेकिन विद्यार्थी एम० ए० होने के बाद भी रेल नहीं देख सकते हैं। इसलिए इस क्षेत्र में यह बहुत आवश्यक है।

मैं मंत्री जी का ध्यान एक बात की ओर और दिलाना चाहता हूँ कि धनवाद से गया के बीच में कोई भी पैसेंजर गाड़ी दिन में नहीं चलती है। इसलिए कोडरमा सब डिवीजनल कोर्ट के लिए दो दिन आकर बैठना पड़ता है। इसलिए एक पैसेंजर गाड़ी वहाँ पर दिन में चलाई जानी चाहिए। कहा जाता है कि यह कोयला ढोने के लिए मार्ग है लेकिन बहुत सी ट्रेन्स वहाँ से पास होती हैं परन्तु कोडरमा में रुकती कोई नहीं है। हजारीबाग कमिश्नरी हैडक्वार्टर से आफिशल्स को भी बाधा पहुँचती है और उस क्षेत्र से तीन-चार एम० पी० हैं, उनको भी कठिनाई होती है। इसलिए डीलक्स को वहाँ पर दो मिनट के लिए रोकना बहुत जरूरी है। इससे बड़ी सुविधा होगी। साथ ही एक पैसेंजर गाड़ी दिन में चलान की बड़ी आवश्यकता है। यदि यह मांग पूरी हो जाती है तो आप वहाँ की आम जनता की बधाई के पात्र होंगे। मैं आशा करता हूँ मंत्री जी इसके जवाब में कुछ जरूर कहेंगे।

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I have moved several cut motions; two of my cut motions relate to the position in Kerala. I must specifically and emphatically urge upon the Government to take up urgent work for the improvement of railway facilities and passenger amenities in Kerala, specifically from Shoranpur to Mangalore. The whole area is very much deficient in railway facilities, not to speak of passenger amenities. I hope that due consideration will be given to this. There is need for more express trains, too.

Here, I must specially draw the attention of the Government for the need for a rail link connecting Kuttipuram, Ponnani, Guruvayoor, Kunnamkulam and Trichur. This is the pressing need of the people not only in the coastal belt in Malabar area, but also of the Guruvayoor pilgrims over there. Sometime back, the proposal for a rail link between Kuttipuram and Guruvayoor was

[Shri G. M. Banatwalla]

shelved as it was described economically not feasible. But I must most respectfully submit that if the same scheme is altered to provide a link connecting Kuttipuram, Ponnani, Guruvayoor, Kunnamkulam and Trichur, then the scheme will become economically feasible. It will also alter the economy of this very backward area, specially the Malapuram district and will meet the need of the Guruvayoor pilgrims also. I hope, the project will be taken up as early as possible.

My all other cut motions relate to the question of bonus and linking it to productivity instead of treating bonus as deferred wage. It is most unfortunate that the payment of bonus to railway employees is being linked to productivity instead of its being treated as a deferred wage. I must very respectfully submit that it is a serious discrimination to which the railway employees are being subjected to. When others are being given, even on an adhoc basis, bonus considered as a deferred wage, there is no reason why this principle should not be applicable in the case of the railway employees also. Moreover, I must say that linking of bonus to productivity in the case of railway employees is a great disservice to the entire working class, for the simple reason that this encourages the private employers everywhere to wage an all-round attack on the workers to deny them a minimum of 8.3 per cent bonus.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I must point out that the concept of bonus linked with productivity, especially in the case of Railways, is a very phoney concept, to say the least about it. That is why even Dr. V.K.R.V. Rao had to remark that it was an extremely difficult concept for the purpose of judging productivity. In other words, this kind of an exercise is difficult to be performed specially in the entire area of Railways.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You know the national trade unions in the Railways have already welcomed it.

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA: I will come to it, but for all that you must give me more time. In the matter of productivity-linked bonus, we must realize that in the case of Railways, there are various factors affecting productivity, viz natural calamities, power cuts and availability or non-availability of coal and wagons. The remuneration depends also on the changes in fares and freight rates. Everything will also depend upon the genral level of agricultural production, as also industrial production. These are the several factors; and there is no reason why the Railway workers should be penalized for all these factors.

This kind of bonus, which has been extended to the Railway employees, has been done with poor grace. It is so because it is the year 1977-78 which has been taken as the base year. We know, and we are told that if the productivity of labour is maintained at the 1977-78 level, the workers will get 25 days' bonus. We know very well that during the last decade, it was 1977-78 which had the best performance and it is this year which gave the best performance, with a surplus of Rs. 127 crores, which has been selected as the base year. I, therefore, submit that it was in poor grace that the previous Lok Dal Government extended bonus on this principle of productivity to the Railway employees. I emphatically urge upon the Railway Minister to make a categorical statement that these Railway employees will not be discriminated against, and that in their case also, the question of bonus will be treated as a deferred wage.

I do understand the agreements that may have been reached outside but in view of the facts that I am trying to place before this House within the short time you have been kind enough to give me, I hope that

there will be fresh thinking on the whole subject. So, I urge upon the Government to come out with a categorical assurance on this particular aspect.

I have every intention to press my cut motions given on this particular subject, with a view to urging upon the Government the need for a change of policy, so that justice is meted out to the Railway employees.

Sir, you need not get restless. Before you ring the bell, I will conclude with the hope that a categorical assurance will be given to the Railway employees.

I hope that the position about Kerala and specially from Shoranaur to Mangalore regarding railway deficiency and of the passenger amenities will also be considered. I may also say a word about Maharashtra, that is, between Manamad and Parbhani, there is a question of changing the metre-gauge into broadgauge. This has been hanging fire for a long time. The government knows very well that Marathwada is a backward area. Therefore, I urge upon the government to take up this project and complete it as early as possible, namely changing the metre-gauge line into broadgauge line between Manamad and Parbhani. That is a very long outstanding demand of the people. I hope that in view of the absolute practical necessity, it will be taken up with due speed by the new government. With these words, I conclude.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: There are five hon. Members who have to speak. If they assure that they would take only three minutes each, then I will allow every Member to speak. I will be very strict.

श्री कमल मिश्र मधुकर (मोतीहारी) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, सब से पहले मैं आप का धन्यवाद देता हूँ कि इस आसन पर आते ही आपने मुझे बोलने का

मौका दिया है। मैं आप के माध्यम से पंडित जी को भी धन्यवाद दूंगा और उन के प्रति सम्मान प्रकट करता हूँ कि वे फिर से रेल मंत्री के आसन पर आ गए हैं और हम उन से यह आशा करेंगे कि जो पिछड़े हुए इलाके हैं उन की तरफ वे विशेष ध्यान देंगे।

इस समय मैं मांग नं० 1 और मांग नं० 16 पर बोलना चाहता हूँ। मांग संख्या 1 में कुछ माइक्रो-वेव संचार व्यवस्था की बातें की गई हैं और उस के लिए सर्वेक्षण की बात भी है। इस मामले को मैंने पहले भी उठाया था जब वे रेल मंत्री थे। और बार-बार मैं ने वह सवाल भी उठाया है कि मुजफ्फरपुर से मोतीहारी होते हुए रक्सौल जाने के लिए एक बड़ी लाइन हो। जब इस विषय में भूतपूर्व रेलवे मंत्री श्री करेशी साहब से प्राइवेट वार्ता हुई थी, तो उस में उन्होंने भी यह कहा था कि यह बहुत जरूरी है क्योंकि यह बोर्डर के इलाके पर पड़ता है। यह बहुत आवश्यक सवाल है और इस की चर्चा कितनी ही बार मैं लोक सभा में और लोक सभा के बाहर भी कर चुका हूँ और आज पुनः अपनी इस मांग को दोहराता हूँ।

मझे इस बात में खशी होती यदि इन मांगों में इस बात की भी चर्चा होती—कई बार मैं ने इस सवाल को पंडित जी के सामने भी उठाया था—कि एक ब्रान्च लाइन हाजीपुर से खोली जाए। एक गण्डक एरिया डेवलपमेंट एजेंसी बनी हुई है और मैं गण्डक कमान्ड एरिया की बात कर रहा हूँ। एक ब्रान्च लाइन हाजीपुर से लाल गंज, वैशाली, साहब गंज, केसरिया, आराराज, पहाड़पुर और सीधी होती हुई सुगली को मिलाएँ। यह बहुत आवश्यक मांग है क्योंकि गण्डक का जो विकास हो रहा है, उस एरिया के विकास के लिए यह ब्रान्च लाइन बहुत जरूरी है लेकिन आज तक यह नहीं बनाई गई है। गण्डक के कमान्ड एरिया का विकास तभी संभव होगा जब यह ब्रान्च लाइन खोल दी जाए। मैं फिर इस को दोहरा रहा हूँ और पंडित जी से प्रार्थना है कि वे इस मामले पर ध्यान दें।

इसी तरह से पटना के लिए जो पुल की मांग शास्त्री जी ने की है, मैं उस का समर्थन कर रहा हूँ। मैं यह भी कहना चाहता हूँ कि उत्तर प्रदेश को बिहार से जाड़ने के लिए बगहा में एक पुल का शिलान्यास पंडित जी ने किया था। मैं चाहूंगा कि उस पुल के निर्माण के काम में तेजी लानी चाहिए।

अन्तिम बात मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि समस्तीपुर से यह खबर आई है, जो अखबार में भी छपी है कि समस्तीपुर के निकट जशीडी में 19 उप-मिथिला एक्सप्रेस में 1 जगह डकैती पड़ी है और उस में 60 पैसंजर्स को लूटा गया है, जो पंडों के रूप में एग्जी-टायर कम्पार्टमेंट में घुस आए थे। इसी तरीके से अगर रेलवे में काम चलता रहा, तो यात्रियों की जान व साल की र. नहीं हो पाएगी। पंडित जी रेलवे

[श्री कमल मिश्र मधुकर]

में सुविधाएं बढ़ाना चाहते हैं, तो मैं यह चाहूंगा कि वे कम से कम इस तरफ भी ध्यान दें, जिससे यात्रियों की जान व माल की रक्षा हो सके।

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI (Bhubaneswar): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, I rise to support the supplementary demands for grants of the railways and while supporting the same, I want to make a few observations. When the hon. Minister was in charge of Railways earlier, he helped Orissa in many ways. In Manchesar a workshop was started but no progress has been made; the work there has been slow. Adequate provision should be made so that the workshop could start in right earnest.

In Jatni, headquarters of the Khurda road division, with the help of the railway employees a college had been started. It has been recognised by the state government. When hon. Shri Tripathiji was the Railway Minister he was kind enough to look into this matter. Some grants should be made available to this college because most of the children studying in this college are the children of railway employees. There was darkness during the last two and half years and we have not been able to see any light. The Railway Minister and the Railway Board should sanction some amounts to this college.

In the Southeastern Railway, there should be another division in Rourkela or Jharsuguda. That demand is still pending. It was previously under consideration. I hope it will be accepted. The work on Jakhpura-Barspani railway link project has halted. Enough funds should be made available so that the link work could be carried out and finished. For long years there was also a demand for a rail link between coastal Orissa and Western Orissa from Khurda Road to Belangir via Begunia, Bolgarh, Nayagarh, Daspalla and Phulbani. I request the

hon. Minister to include this link in the Survey work in 1980-81. It will take many years to survey this and carry out this work. It should be taken up soon.

I also request the hon. Minister to have some new passenger halts for the convenience of passengers. I am grateful to the hon. Minister and the Railway Board that about seven to eight passenger halts were opened during the time and only one passenger halt was left out. I have already written letters about this, namely, the Mukteswar Passenger Halt between Bhusandpur and Kalapadaghat stations. That work should be completed. I am also thankful to the hon. Minister of Railways for sanctioning bonus to the Railway Employees.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I have not suggested anything; I suggested that the trade unions have already taken a decision welcoming it.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: I am also saying that the trade unions have agreed on this. I hope further improvements will be made in the formula when the question of bonus comes up next year.

I hope that the trains which had been reduced because of coal shortage would be restored. In Orissa many trains had been reduced. The hon. Minister has promised that they would be restored and I thank him for that. That Utkal Express runs on only three days in a week; there is so much demand for direct link from Delhi to Orissa and it should run on all the days of the week. With these words, I support the supplementary demands.

SHRI K. T. KOSALRAM (Tiruchendur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, in supporting this motion, I wanted to suggest to the hon. Minister, when my beloved Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was the Prime Minister, he (Shri Kamalapati Tripathi) was the Shipp-

ing Minister. He started the work on the major port of Tuticorin. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru then said that he was giving this port to the people of Tamil Nadu in the presence of Shri Kamlapati Tripathi. Shri T. T. Krishnamachari was then the Finance Minister. Even without the approval of the Cabinet, Shri T. T. Krishnamachari sanctioned Rs. 7 crores.

Our previous Prime Minister Shri Morarji Desai stopped the work on the port on the ground of cabinet having not approved it. He wanted to make it a fishing port on the recommendation of the Planning Commission.

Now the major Port has been completed. It was completed on Mrs. Gandhi's intervention when she was our revered Prime Minister.

After independence, nothing has been done for the Southern Railways so far as Tirunelveli, Tiruchirapali, Madras is concerned. There is no broad gauge. There are two, three important factories. There is a huge cement factory in Talaiuthu. There is Madras cement factory at Virudunagar. Joint sector SPIC is there. There are a number of industries in Tuticorin. Annually 17 lakh tonnes of Salt are produced here and marketed all over India. There is a big Thermal Station in Tuticorin. I do not understand without broad gauge how could these factories be helped? Tuticorin port is a major port.

We, 40 Members, represented to Prof. Madhu Dandavate. He promised that he would do something. In 1967, survey had been completed. In spite of that he said that he was ordering re-survey within six months. During the last Budget Session he said that he had provided some money and also he had ordered for re-survey. Now re-survey has been completed. Shri R. Venkataraman and some other Members have spoken to revered Minister Shri Kamlapati Tripathi. We re-

quested him that the work in so far as this line is concerned should be taken up this year.

From Madras to Tirunelveli I wanted one day a berth. Only one train is running. I was told that my number on the waiting list was 103. Just imagine how could an ordinary man go to Tirunelveli? Tuticorin is a major port. Tirunelveli is District Headquarter. I had been requesting Prof. Madhu Dandavate. Even the Railway Board Members said that that would be done. I hope Panditji will see to it that he makes two trains run instead of one train at present.

I hope my revered friend Panditji will announce that work on Tiruchirapalli Tuticorin-Tirunelveli. Broad Gauge line will be taken up and funds will be provided this year.

I hope he will reply to this while answering.

14.00 hrs.

SHRI T. R. SHAMANNA (Bangalore South): Sir, I am sorry I have to oppose the supplementary demands in respect of the railway budget. The very fact that road transport, in spite of the heavy capital cost and heavy working cost, is effectively competing with the railways shows that the railways are not working efficiently. I regret to say that the punctuality of the trains is miserable. Very few trains arrive on time. The Catering arrangements are bad. Pilferage is continuing. The beggar nuisance is there. Cleanliness on the railways is far from satisfactory. The present Railway Minister is a senior and experienced person. He has got good influence over the Government. I am sure he will take steps to see that the railway administration is toned up and all pilferages are plugged. When Shri Hanumanthaiya was Railways Minister, he brought

[Shri T. R. Shamanna]

some sence into the timings of the railways. Mr. Madhu Dandavate did his very best to increase the revenue. I am quite sure that during the tenure of our senior Minister, the Railway Administration will be brought to order.

There are two important problems relating to Karnataka so far as railways are concerned. When Mr. Dandavate was Railway Minister, he promised to complete the broad-gauge line from Bangalore to Mysore soon. But somehow the work is delayed considerably. I request that all steps may be taken to see that this broadgauge line is completed very early. At the same time, it will be helpful if the line between Bangalore and Guntakkal also is converted into broadgauge at an early date.

Railways are an important part of our national economy and therefore, it is very necessary that all attention must be given to see that the railways work to the advantage of the public. Since the regular budget will be presented soon. I do not wish to take more time. I only pray that the new Minister will take all possible steps to see that the travelling public will get maximum facilities and the economy of our country will be set right as satisfactorily as possible.

श्री विरधी चन्द जैन (बाड़मेर) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, रेलवे के विषय में जो अनुरूपक अनुदान की मांगें प्रस्तुत की गई हैं उनका समर्थन करते हुए मैं अपने विचार-सदन के समक्ष रखना चाहता हूँ। जोधपुर डिवीजन में विशेषतौर से जिसमें बाड़मेर और जैसलमेर जिले आते हैं, मैं बराबर देख रहा हूँ कि पिछले 30 वर्षों से उसकी उपेक्षा हो रही है। कोई भी नई रेलवे लाइन वहां नहीं पड़ी है। सिर्फ जोधपुर से जैसलमेर रेलवे लाइन के अलावा और कोई भी रेलवे लाइन वहां पर स्थापित नहीं की गई है।

मैं एक सुझाव देना चाहता हूँ जो डिफेंस की दृष्टि से भी महत्वपूर्ण है और इस बैकवर्ड एरिया के प्रोग्रस के हिसाब से भी उचित है। और वह सुझाव यह है कि गंगानगर से बीकानेर से जैसलमेर, जैसलमेर से बाड़मेर, बाड़मेर से धारिमना,

और धारिमना से गांधीधाम यानी गंगानगर से गांधीधाम सीधी रेलवे लाइन हो जायगी जो डिफेंस की दृष्टि से भी और इस पिछड़े हुए क्षेत्र, जिसमें बाड़मेर और जैसलमेर आते हैं, के विकास की दृष्टि से भी उपयुक्त होगी और मीन्स आफ कम्युनिकेशन्स बढ़ने से इन जिलों का भी विकास हो सकेगा।

दूसरी जो समस्या मैं कहना चाहता हूँ वह यह है कि बाड़मेर-जोधपुर रेलवे और जैसलमेर से जोधपुर लाइन पर जो रात्रि सेवायें चलती हैं अक्सर देखा गया है कि कोयले की कमी होने के कारण यह रात्रि सेवायें सबसे पहले बन्द होती हैं। बाड़मेर से ले कर जोधपुर की रात्रि सेवा पिछले 6 महीने से बन्द है और इसी तरह से जोधपुर से जैसलमेर की रात्रि सेवा 4 महीने से बन्द है। पर अगर अब कोयले की कमी हो तो उसका असर हमारे यहां पिछड़े हुए क्षेत्र में पड़ता है। हमारे यहां रात्रि को कोई बस भी नहीं जाती, बस से भी हम व्यवस्था नहीं कर सकते और दूसरी भी कोई व्यवस्था नहीं है। आज मैं एम० पी० हूँ, अगर मैं भी बाड़मेर जाना चाहता हूँ, तो मैं रात्रि को रवाना होकर 12 बजे जोधपुर पहुंचूंगा और मुझे जोधपुर ठहरना होगा, क्योंकि वहां से रात्रि सेवा नहीं है, और अगले दिन 9 बजे रवाना होकर फिर पहुंचूंगा। इस तरह दो दिन लग जायेंगे। मेरा कहना यह है कि जो पिछड़े हुए क्षेत्र हैं, उनकी इस प्रकार उपेक्षा नहीं होनी चाहिये। आज अगर कोयले की कमी है तो जहां ज्यादा ट्रेनें चलती हैं, उन पर इसका प्रभाव होना चाहिये। जहां एक ही ट्रेन हो, और बस भी वहां न चलती हो तो इस तरह से कोयले की कमी के कारण 6, 6 महीने तक वहां रेल यात्रा न हो, तो इससे पैसेन्जर्स को बड़ी भारी तकलीफ होती है और जनता को बहुत परेशानी होती है। मैं बार-बार इसकी मांग कर रहा हूँ, टेलीग्राम भी दे रहा हूँ कि इस समस्या का निदान करो।

श्री कमलापति त्रिपाठी : क्या चाहते हो ?

श्री विरधी चन्द जैन : हम चाहते हैं कि आज से ही आदेश दे दिये जायें कि यह रात्रि सेवा आज से ही शुरू कर दी जाये। यह बाड़मेर से जोधपुर की सेवा 6 महीने से बन्द है। मैंने रेलवे बोर्ड के चेयरमैन से भी रिक्वैस्ट की थी।

श्री कमलापति त्रिपाठी : पहले यह श्री ?

श्री विरधी चन्द जैन : पहले यह थी, अब 6 महीने से बन्द है। अब इसके बारे में आपको अवश्य ही कदम उठाना चाहिये।

एक बात कहकर मैं समाप्त करना चाहता हूँ कि जोधपुर से लेकर जयपुर तक भी हम आते हैं तो रेलवे के लिये साढ़े 10 घंटे हममें लगते हैं। रात को 10-15 पर जोधपुर से रवाना

होती है और जयपुर सवेरे 8-45 पर पहुंचती है। इस बारे में नार्दन रेलवे और वैस्टर्न रेलवे में को-ऑपरेशन न होने के कारण यह फुल्ल रातो सवेरे 6 बजे पहुंच जाती है लेकिन उसके बाद पैसेंजर ट्रेन की तरह ट्रीट होती है और पौने नौ बजे जयपुर पहुंचती है। जब कि बस सेवा से 6, 7 घंटे ही लगते हैं। तो इस बात की कोशिश करनी चाहिये कि जोधपुर से जयपुर 6, 7 घंटे में ही पहुंच जाया जाये। उत्तरी रेलवे की ओर से अधिकारियों की तरफ से सुझाव दिया गया है, लेकिन उस सुझाव पर कार्यान्वयन नहीं किया जा रहा है। मेरा निवेदन है कि उस सुझाव पर कार्यान्वयन किया जाना चाहिये।

अपने इन दो सुझावों के साथ मैं आशा करता हूं कि मंत्री महोदय ध्यान देंगे और यात्रियों की उस रात्रि सेवा बाड़मेर से जोधपुर और जोधपुर से जयपुर व जैसलमेर से जोधपुर और जोधपुर से जैसलमेर दोनों ही रात्रि सेवाओं के लिये आज ही आदेश देंगे कि ये आज से ही शुरू कर दी जायें और कल से इन पर कार्यान्वयन होना चाहिये जिससे हमारी जो जनता बहुत परेशान है, उसको इसका लाभ मिल सके। (इति)

श्री ठाकुर शिव कुमार सिंह (खंडवा) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं सिर्फ इतना ही कहना चाहता हूं कि भुसाबल से इटारसी जो ट्रेन चलती थी, वह भी बन्द पड़ी है पिछले 6 महीने से। मेरा अनुरोध है कि उसे भी शीघ्र चालू कराने की कृपा करें। दूसरे बैंगन्स की बहुत शाटज रहती है, बुरहानपुर से जो दिल्ली के लिये केला आता है, उसके लिये बैंगन्स नहीं मिलते हैं और उसका भाड़ा भी अधिक है। मेरा अनुरोध है कि अतिरिक्त बैंगन्स इसके लिये दिलाने की कृपा करें।

रेल मंत्री (श्री कमलापति त्रिपाठी) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं उन माननीय सदस्यों का बड़ा कृतज्ञ हूं, जिन्होंने सप्लीमेंटरी बजट पर अपने विचार व्यक्त किये हैं। अधिकतर या सभी ने प्रायः सप्लीमेंटरी बजट के लिये अपना अनुमोदन दिया और बधाइयां भी दीं कि सरकार ने यह कदम उठाया।

सप्लीमेंटरी बजट जब पेश होता है, तो जहां तक हो, उसमें जो आइटम्स रहते हैं, उनपर विचार व्यक्त होने चाहिये। आप देखेंगे कि इसमें 2, 3 आइटम्स हैं, लेकिन इस अवसर का लाभ उठाकर माननीय सदस्यों ने अपने-अपने क्षेत्र की बहुत सी बातें उठाई और जरूरी बातें उठाई हैं। उनके सम्बन्ध में अभी तत्काल फैसला भी चाहा है, जैसा कि हमारे माननीय सदस्य ने कहा कि यहीं बैठे-बैठे फैसला कर दो कि रात्रि सेवा शुरू कर दी जाये।

तो प्रश्न जितने उठाये गये हैं वह सब आवश्यक प्रश्न हैं और हमारे यहां नोट किये गये हैं। मैं माननीय सदस्यों से कहूंगा कि उनकी बड़ी कृपा होगी, अगर इस विषय में वह लिखकर भी हमारे पास भेज दें।

श्री बिरधी चन्द जैन : मैंने लिख कर दिया है।

श्री कमलापति त्रिपाठी : आप ने दे दिया है, लेकिन और लोगों ने नहीं दिया है। वे लिख कर हमारे पास भेज दें। एक डेढ़ महीने के बाद जब बजट आयेगा, तो यदि कोई फैसला हो गया होगा या कोई कदम उठाया गया होगा, तो मैं बता सकूंगा। इन बातों का ध्यान रखा जायेगा। अगर इस वक्त कुछ नहीं हो सकता होगा, तो मैं कुछ न कुछ आश्वासन देने में समर्थ हो सकूंगा। हमारे पास ऐसे बहुत से नोटिस आ गये हैं। उनके जवाब भी आ गये हैं। बहुतों के नहीं भी आये हैं।

शास्त्री जी ने पटना के ब्रिज की बात उठाई है। वह तो ठीक है। जहां तक मुझे याद आता है, जब मैं शिपिंग और ट्रांसपोर्ट मिनिस्टर था, तब इस बात का प्रश्न उठा था कि पटना में गंगाजी पर रोड ब्रिज बनाया जाये।

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : रोड ब्रिज तो बन रहा है। मैंने रेल ब्रिज की बात कही है।

श्री कमलापति त्रिपाठी : पटना में रोड ब्रिज की बात हुई थी। वह बन रहा है।

एक माननीय सदस्य : रेल ब्रिज के बारे में जो जांच हो रही है, उसमें जल्दी की जाये।

श्री कमलापति त्रिपाठी : इन बातों को लिख कर भेज दें। इसमें थोड़ा कष्ट तो होगा। श्री रामगोपाल रेड्डी चले गये हैं, उन्होंने कुछ सुझाव दिया है। श्री चिन्तामणि पाणिग्रही ने भी सुझाव दिया है। वे हमारे पास नोटिड हैं। अगर माननीय सदस्य लिख कर भेज देंगे, तो हमें सुविधा हो जायेगी।

श्री कोसल राम ने तिरुनेलवेली तिरुचुरापल्ली ट्यूटिकोरिन बी जी लाइन की मांग की है। जब मैं शिपिंग मिनिस्टर था, तो ट्यूटिकोरिन का पोर्ट बना। वह काम छः सात साल से चल रहा है। अगर वह ये सब बातें लिख कर दे देंगे, तो

we shall think it over and ask the departments look into the details, and perhaps may come to some conclusion and advise you about it.

SHRI K. T. KOSALRAM: I have already written to you.

श्री कमलापति त्रिपाठी : इससे हमें काम करने में, और विभाग से काम कराने में, आसानी हो जायेगी।

इसमें चार आइटम्स रखे गये हैं। सब से बड़ा आइटम् बोनस का है। बोनस के बारे में बहुत से कट मोशनज हैं, जिनमें कहा गया है कि बोनस

[श्री कमलापति त्रिपाठी]

को डेफर्ड वेज क्यों नहीं माना गया है। बात सही है। यह बहुत पुराना सवाल है। रेलवे के हमारे कर्मचारी, साथी और भाई बराबर यह मांग करते रहे हैं। कि हमें बोनस मिलना चाहिए, और वैसे ही मिलना चाहिए, जैसे कि और जगह मिलता है, अर्थात् डेफर्ड वेज के रूप में—वे 12 महीने काम करें और उन्हें तेरह महीने का वेतन मिल जाये। बराबर उस पर विचार होता रहा है। किन्तु सरकार के लिए दूसरे तर्क थे : कि रेलवे का काम डिपार्टमेंटली, सरकारी विभाग के रूप में, चलता है, उसमें बोनस का सवाल पैदा नहीं होता है।

बहुत बहस-मुबाहसे के बाद यह तय हुआ कि उनको किसी तरह का बोनस दिया जाये। मैं तो रेलवे में काम करने वाले अपने साथियों की प्रशंसा करता हूँ और उनका बड़ा कृतज्ञ हूँ—चाहे वे ए आई आर एफ से सम्बन्धित हों और चाहें एन एफ आई आर से—कि उन्होंने प्रोडक्टिविटी लिंकड बोनस की स्कीम को स्वीकार किया। यह उनकी देशभक्ति का परिचायक है। वे जानते हैं कि रेलवे बुनियाद है देश की सारी आर्थिक व्यवस्था की और आर्थिक जीवन की। इस लिए उन्होंने प्रयास किया है कि रेलवे का काम अच्छी तरह से चलता रहे और उसका काम तेजी के साथ बढ़े। साथ साथ उनकी तरफ से मांग हुई कि उनको बोनस भी दिया जाये। उन्होंने प्रोडक्टिविटी-लिंकड बोनस को स्वीकार कर लिया और उनके साथ इस बारे में एग्रीमेंट हो गया। वह एग्रीमेंट हमारे पास है। हम उनके बड़े कृतज्ञ हैं, उनको बहुत बहुत धन्यवाद देते हैं और उन को बधाई भी देते हैं। कि जो कदम उन्होंने उठाया वह मैं समझता हूँ देश हित में बड़ा सहायक होगा और रेलों की भी वृद्धि और उन्नति करने में सहायक होगा। प्रोडक्टिविटी लिंकड बोनस के माने यह हो जाएंगे कि जैसे जैसे प्रोडक्टिविटी बढ़ेगी वैसे वैसे उन का कुछ बोनस भी बढ़ सकता है। यह भी तय हो गया कि बेस मान लिया 1977-78 को। दण्डवते जी ने कहा कि 77-78 को बेस मान लिया वह ठीक है। वह 77 में हमारे रेल मंत्री हो कर आ गए थे, उस बस को मान लिया यह तो ठीक है लेकिन उन को यह मालूम होगा कि 76-77 में लोडिंग आप का 1 मिलियन टन ज्यादा हुआ है। 1977-78 में 211 मिलियन टन था। वह लीड घट गई। 1976-77 में, यह हमारे पास आंकड़े हैं, जिस में 212 मिलियन टन है। लोड ज्यादा हुआ है और 1977-78 में 211 मिलियन टन हुआ। बेस माना हम ने 211 को। वह क्यों माना क्यों कि उन की लीड ज्यादा रही है। उस की वजह से आमदनी अधिक हुई। तो उस को हम ने बेस मान लिया और उसी को बेस मान कर चलेंगे। अब 25 दिन का बोनस इस पर उन को मिल जायगा अगर इतना ही रहा 211 मिलियन टन का। उस में जितने पैसेंजर हैं पैसेंजर का लोड भी जोड़ लिया जाता है। कोई तरीका है जिस की

वजह से यह मान लिया जाता है कि एक पैसेंजर 71 के जी होता है, उस हिसाब से कितना माइलेज चला, यह सब जोड़ जाड़ कर हिसाब लगा कर करीब 1 लाख 60 हजार मिलियन टन उन्होंने निकाला और उस पर यह फैसला हुआ कि हम इस पर बोनस देंगे अगर इतना ही लोडिंग होता है। इस को बेस मान कर चलेंगे। अगर इस से कम हुआ तो बोनस की रकम जरूर कम होती जायगी अगर दस परसेंट कम हो गई तो बिल्कुल नहीं मिलेगा। और अगर इस से बढ़ा, 3250 एक संख्या रखी है कि इतना बढ़े तो एक एक दिन का बोनस उन को और बढ़ता जायगा।

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : इसका तर्क क्या है कि केवल 25 ही दिन का देंगे ? अगर उत्पादकता 77-78 की सीमा तक पहुंच जाय तो 25 ही दिन क्यों ? 30 दिन क्यों नहीं ?

श्री कमलापति त्रिपाठी : आप क्यों लड़ाई कर रहे हैं ? जिन को लेना है उन्होंने मंजूर कर लिया है। (व्यवधान) आप देखिए, यह तो उन की बड़ी कृपा है और वह धन्यवाद के पात्र हैं, बधाई के पात्र हैं, उन की देशभक्ति का यह प्रतीक है। उस की मैं प्रशंसा करता हूँ, सराहना करता हूँ, फिर आप क्यों परेशान होते हैं ?

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : मैं इसलिए परेशान हूँ कि मैं उन के बीच काम करता हूँ। उनमें बड़ा असंतोष है। मैं सिर्फ तर्क जानना चाहता हूँ कि 25 दिन का ही बोनस क्यों ?

श्री कमलापति त्रिपाठी : आप काशी विद्यापीठ के शास्त्री रहे हैं, इतना तो आप को समझ जाना चाहिए कि बेकार चीजों में परेशान नहीं होना चाहिए।

मेरा मतलब यह है कि इस को हमारे रेलवे मैन ने मंजूर कर लिया है। मैं कह रहा हूँ कि यह बड़ी प्रशंसा की बात है, सराहना की बात है और सरकार ने भी इस को मंजूर कर लिया है। हम इस कमिटमेंट को चलाने वाले हैं। हम ने इस को मंजूर कर लिया है। इस की मंजूरी का सब से बड़ा सबूत यह है कि सप्लीमेंट्री डिमांड्स में हम ने 37 करोड़ रुपये जो मांगे हैं वह 15 दिन की तनख्वाह इन को बोनस के रूप में देने के लिए मांगे हैं। उन्होंने यह कहा था कि 79-80 का तो हमें मिलेगा, इधर का हम को क्या मिला ? तो ऐज ए जेस्चर आफ गुड विल सरकार ने इस को मंजूर कर लिया कि 15 दिन का वेतन इन को ऐज बोनस हम दे देंगे अपने इसी बजट में से। क्योंकि यह रकम पहले से जो बजट पास हो चुका है उस में नहीं थी, इसलिए सप्लीमेंट्री बजट पास करना जरूरी था। इस में यह 32 करोड़ प्रोपेन लाइन का है और 5 करोड़ जो प्रोडक्शन के सेंटर हैं उन के लिए है। सब मिला कर 37 करोड़

होता है । यह 15 दिन का वेतन है । यह ऐज ए जेस्चर आफ गुडविल हम उन्हें प्रदान कर रहे हैं । मैं उनकी सराहना करता हूँ और उन्हें बढ़ाई भी देता हूँ ।... (व्यवधान)...

शास्त्री जी ने एक बात कही कि आर०पी०एफ० को क्यों नहीं जोड़ा ?

मैं समझता हूँ यह बहुत जायज है और इस सम्बन्ध में विचार किया जा रहा है । इस सम्बन्ध में मैं बात करूँगा । लोड वगैरह जो चलता है और जो किलोमीटर जाते हैं उसमें उनका हाथ रहता है आर० पी० एफ० का सुरक्षा के सम्बन्ध में, इसलिए उसके विषय में विचार करना चाहिए और हम विचार करेंगे ।

यह सप्लीमेन्टरी बजट जो आपके सामने आया है, बोनस के सम्बन्ध में और कुछ सर्वे हैं, मैं समझता हूँ इस पर बहुत ज्यादा बोलने की आवश्यकता नहीं है । जितने प्वाइन्ट्स उठाए गए हैं वह नोटर्ड हैं उनको हम देखेंगे और उन पर कार्यवाही करने की कोशिश करेंगे ।

जहाँ तक माडर्नाइजेशन और एक्सपेंशन का सम्बन्ध है, हमारे एलेक्शन मेनिफेस्टो में यह लिखा है कि दोनों काम होने चाहिए और हमारा इरादा उसको इम्प्लीमेंट करने का है । चारों तरफ से इसकी मांग है । कहीं कंवर्जन की मांग है और कहीं एक्सपेंशन की मांग है । जहाँ जहाँ मीटरगेज है वहाँ से कंवर्जन की मांग हो रही है लेकिन कुल 25,500 किलोमीटर मीटरगेज है और अभी उसको कन्वर्ट करना पासिबल नहीं है । इस काम पर अंधाधुंध पैसा खर्च होता है । जैसे धीरे धीरे हो रहा है, हम इसको करते जा रहे हैं । (व्यवधान) नैरोगेज को तो अस्वीकार ही करना है, हमेशा के लिए उसको छोड़ ही देना है । जो एक्सपेंशन है वह ऐसे ही होगा कि नयी जगहों में जायें, बैकवर्ड एरियाज में जायें जहाँ रेलवे लाइन नहीं है, । दूसरे यह है कि कंवर्जन किया जाए । यह कहा जाता है कि जब तक कंवर्जन नहीं होगा तब तक इण्डस्ट्रीज डेवलप नहीं कर सकती हैं । छोटी लाइन से काम नहीं चलता है । इसलिए कन्वर्ट करने की कोशिश करेंगे । हर साल कुछ न कुछ करेंगे । बजट के समय इसका खाका आपके सामने आयेगा । (एक्सपेंशन के लिए भी जो कुछ सम्भव हो सकेगा हम करने की कोशिश करेंगे । धन की कमी है, इसमें कोई सन्देह नहीं है । फिर भी जो कुछ सम्भव हो सकेगा वह किया जायेगा ।

अब मेरी प्रार्थना है कि हमारी सप्लीमेन्टरी डिमाण्ड्स जो हैं उनको सदन मंजूर करे ताकि हमारे भाई जो हमारे साथ काम करते हैं, जिनके काम की वजह से चक्का चलता है और एकौनामी दुस्त रहती है उन्हें 15 दिन का वेतन देकर अपनी सद्भावना को हम प्रकट कर सकें और

यह विश्वास दिला सकें कि बोनस की स्कीम एग्रीमेंट के आधार पर जो तय की गई है उसके लिए सरकार कमिटेड है और उसको हम पूरा करेंगे । अगले साल अक्टूबर के महीने तक हम पूरा बोनस देने में समर्थ हो सकेंगे ।

मैं सभी सदस्यों को धन्यवाद देता हूँ, उन्होंने बहुत से सुझाव दिए हैं जिनसे लाभ होगा और उनको कार्यान्वित करने की हम कोशिश करेंगे ।

श्री ठाकुर शिव कुमार सिंह (खण्डवा) : खण्डवा लाइन के बारे में मंत्री जी ने कुछ नहीं कहा ।

श्री कटलापति त्रिपाठ : आप लिखकर भेज दीजिए, हम देख लेंगे । कोयले की कमी से कुछ गाड़ियां रुकी हैं । (व्यवधान)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: About any further information, the Minister has already said that you can put it in writing.

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA: Does the hon. Minister want us to put in writing all the suggestions we have given to the House? That is not proper. We have already given suggestions. Let his Department examine them and give a reply.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You will get a reply. If you want you can add to what you have already spoken here. That is what he says. You are entitled to a reply.

SHRI KAMALAPATI TRIPATHI: It will only help me and the Department also.

श्री जी० एम० बनावल्ला : आप तो एक डिपार्टमेंट देखते हैं, हमको सब ही डिपार्टमेंट देखने पड़ते हैं ।

श्री कमलापति त्रिपाठी : आप न लिखकर भेजें, बाकी जो कुछ कार्यवाही है वह हम करने की कोशिश करेंगे । आप मत तकलीफ उठावें लेकिन जो तकलीफ उठाने वाले हैं उनको आप क्यों रोकते हैं ।

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: For want of time I shall put all the cut motions to vote together, with your permission.

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA: There are number of cut motions. My cut motions Nos. 6 and 18 may be put along with other cut motions but Nos. 7 to 17, which are on one specific issue of linking bonus to productivity instead of treating it as deferred wage, may be separately put to the vote of the House.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You are insisting?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: He wants his cut motions to be defeated separately.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I think you are not insisting?

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA: My cut motions about productivity and deferred wage—I have given the numbers, i.e. 7 to 17—are on one point and may be put separately.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I now put cut motions Nos. 7 to 17 as

List of Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) 1979-80 voted by the Lok Sabha

moved by Shri Banatwalla to the vote of the House.

Cut motions Nos. 7 to 17 were put and negatived.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I shall put all the other cut motions to the vote of the House together.

Cut motions Nos. 6, 18, 20, 23 and 24 were put and negatived.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

“That the respective supplementary sums not exceeding the amounts shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President out of the Consolidated fund of India to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1980 in respect of the following demands intested in the second column thereof:—

Demand Nos. 2 to 12 and 16.

The Motion was adopted.

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Demand for Grant
1	2	3
		Rs.
2	Miscellaneous Expenditure (General)	1,00,000
3	General Superintendence and Services	3,54,34,000
4	Repairs and Maintenance of Permanent Way and Works	5,70,27,000
5	Repairs and Maintenance of Motive Power	2,50,98,000
6	Repairs and Maintenance of Carriages and Wagons	2,77,96,000
7	Repairs and Maintenance of Plant and Equipment	2,28,96,000
8	Operating Expenses—Rolling Stock and Equipment	5,03,06,000
9	Operating Expenses—Traffic	7,65,72,000
10	Operating Expenses—Fuel	12,23,000
11	Staff Welfare and Amenities	1,70,32,000
12	Miscellaneous Working Expenses	66,16,000
16	Assets—Acquisition, Construction and Replacement	5,01,02,000

14.27 hrs.

APPROPRIATION (RAILWAYS)
BILL, 1980*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: We now come to the next item. The Railway Minister may move the Appropriation Bill.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI KAMLAPATI TRIPATHI): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 1979-80 for the purposes of Railways.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 1979-84 for the purposes of Railways."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI KAMLAPATI TRIPATHI: I introduce** the Bill.

14.29 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE.
PREVENTION OF BLACK-MARKET-
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PLIES OF ESSENTIAL COMMODI-
TIES AND PREVENTION OF
BLACKMARKETING AND MAIN-
TENANCE OF SUPPLIES OF ES-
SENTIAL COMMODITIES BILL.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी (नई दिल्ली):
उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं निम्नलिखित संकल्प पेश
करता हूँ:—

"यह सभा राष्ट्रपति द्वारा 5 अक्टूबर, 1979
को प्रख्यापित चोरबाजारी निवारण और
आवश्यक वस्तु प्रदाय अध्यादेश, 1979
(1979 का अध्यादेश संख्या 10) का
निरनुमोदन करती है।"

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, यह अध्यादेश 5 अक्टूबर
को जारी किया गया था। उस समय यहाँ काम-
चलाऊ सरकार थी। हम आशा करते थे कि वर्तमा
सरकार एक नया शुभारम्भ करेगी, लेकिन—

"प्रथम आसे मक्षिका पातः।"

सत्ता सम्भालते ही निवारक नजरबन्दी जैसे काले
कानून को आते देर नहीं लगी। पिछले तीन
महीनों से यह अध्यादेश प्रभावी था। क्या इन
तीन महीनों में इस अध्यादेश के द्वारा मूल्यों की
वृद्धि पर नियन्त्रण पाया जा सका? क्या मुनाफ़ा-
खोरी रुकी और चोर-बाजारी पर अंकुश लगा?
क्या जमाखोरी समाप्त हो गई? मैं जानता हूँ—
वाणिज्य मंत्री यह कहेंगे कि राज्य सरकारों
ने इस कानून पर अमल करने से इन्कार किया,
लेकिन यह पूरा तथ्य नहीं है...

श्री बिरधी चन्द जैन (बाड़मेर): यह बिलकुल
सही तथ्य है। मैं राजस्थान सरकार के बारे में
कह रहा हूँ—उन्होंने इसका पालन नहीं किया।

श्री हरीश रावत (अलमोड़ा): आन्ध्र प्रदेश
की सरकार इस पर ईमानदारी से अमल कर रही
है।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी: मैं दिल्ली की
बात कहता हूँ। दिल्ली केंद्र शासित प्रदेश है।
दिल्ली में इस कानून पर अमल करने की जिम्मेदारी
दिल्ली प्रशासन की नहीं थी, जो जनता पार्टी
के हाथ में है। केंद्र सरकार की जिम्मेदारी थी,
क्योंकि इसका सम्बन्ध कानून और व्यवस्था से
है।

दिल्ली में इस अध्यादेश के अन्तर्गत 8 लोगों-
को गिरफ्तार किया गया। कुछ व्यक्तियों पर चोर
बाजारी का आरोप था, कुछ व्यक्तियों को खाद्य-
तेलों की चोर-बाजारी के आरोप में पकड़ा गया था
और कुछ पर सट्टा करने के आरोप थे। लेकिन,
उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, आरोप इतने शिथिल थे, इतने
लचर थे कि एक व्यक्ति को छोड़ कर बाकी
के सब व्यक्तियों के आरोप एडमिनिस्ट्रेटर ने,
जो दिल्ली में लेफ्टीनेन्ट गवर्नर है, वापस ले लिये।
वह केंद्र सरकार द्वारा नियुक्त है...

श्री मनोरजन भक्त (अण्डमान तथा निकोबार
आइलैंड्स): उसे जनता पार्टी ने नियुक्त किया
था।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी: जनता पार्टी
द्वारा नियुक्त अगर सभी अफसर गलत थे तो फिर
इस कानून का अमल में लाने के लिये आपको
हजारों अफसरों को निकालना पड़ेगा और मुझे
लगता है कि इसकी शुरुआत कर दी गई है...
(व्यवधान)...

[श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी]

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, चीफ इलैक्शन कमिशनर भी इस ने नियुक्त किया था ? क्या उन्हें भी निकालने का इरादा है ?

जो एक मामला दिल्ली में बचा था, मैं चाहूंगा कि मंत्री महोदय इस तथ्य को देखें, वह मामला जब सलाहकार मंडल के सामने गया, जिसमें हाईकोर्ट के एक जज थे, तो उन्होंने भी यही कहा कि इसमें नज़रबन्दी नहीं होनी चाहिये। ऐसा तो नहीं है कि दिल्ली में इस अध्यादेश पर अमल नहीं किया गया, मगर उससे जित बुराइयों का हम सामना करना चाहते हैं—इसमें दो रायें नहीं हो सकती कि मुनाफ़ाखोरी, जमाखोरी, चोरबाजारी—ये समाज विरोधी कृत्य हैं, जघन्य अपराध हैं, इनके खिलाफ कठोर कार्यवाही आवश्यक है, मगर कठोर कार्यवाही करने का तरीका क्या हो—इस के बारे में हमारे और आप के बीच में मतभेद है ... (व्यवधान) ...

मैं एक दूसरा उदाहरण देना चाहता हूँ—उत्तर प्रदेश में भी इस कानून पर अमल किया गया था, क्योंकि उत्तर प्रदेश में लोक दल की सरकार थी और केन्द्र में भी उस समय लोक दल सत्तारूढ़ था ... (व्यवधान) ... अगर मुझे पर्याप्त समय दें, तो मैं हर एक का जवाब दे दूंगा लेकिन आपकी घंटी बजने लगेगी और मेरी बोलती बन्द हो जाएगी। ये लोग सदन में नये आए हैं। मैं उनके उत्साह को समझ सकता हूँ मगर उत्साह के साथ थोड़ा सा संयम से काम लें, तो अच्छा होगा। आपको भी मौका मिलेगा और आप बोलियेगा।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय में जानना चाहूंगा कि आन्ध्र में इस अध्यादेश पर अमल किया गया या नहीं ? अगर किया गया, तो मूल्यों को स्थिर करने में उससे कितनी मदद मिली : उसके क्या आंकड़े हैं, सदन उनको जानना चाहेगा। मंत्री महोदय उन्हें एकत्रित करें। मुझे भी हैदराबाद में और आन्ध्र के अनेक भागों में चुनावों के दौरान जाने का मौका मिला है। मैं यह बताना चाहूंगा कि मूल्य वृद्धि में दिल्ली और आन्ध्र प्रदेश में कोई अन्तर नहीं है। उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, शान्ति के काल में बिना मुकदमा चलाए किसी को नज़रबन्द रखना, यह उसकी व्यक्तिगत स्वाधीनता के खिलाफ है और इस का समर्थन नहीं किया जा सकता। बैंकाक में इन्टरनेशनल कमीशन आफ जस्टिस की एक बैठक हुई थी और भारत भी उस में भागीदार था। उस बैठक में यह राय प्रकट की गई थी और मैं उसे उद्धृत करना चाहता हूँ।

“Save during a period of public emergency threatening the life of the nation, no person of sound mind shall be deprived of his liberty except upon a charge of a specific offence and preventive detention without trial shall be contrary to the rule of law.”

श्री हरीश रावत: उस सम्मेलन में श्री राम जेठमलानी या उनके जैसे विचारों वाले व्यक्तियों ने भारत का प्रतिनिधित्व किया होगा ?

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : आपको पता नहीं है, उस समय आप के ही प्रतिनिधि थे।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि कानून का राज्य हम बनाए रखना चाहते हैं और कानून के राज्य के चौखटे के भीतर ही किसी की व्यक्तिगत स्वाधीनता पर अंकुश लगना चाहिए। केवल डेमोक्रेटिक आइडियल की बात ही काफी नहीं है, प्रोसेस भी डेमोक्रेटिक होना चाहिए। अभी श्रीमती मैन्का गांधी के केस में सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने एक ऐतिहासिक निर्णय दिया है कि प्रोसीजर आफ ला के हिसाब से ही आज़ादी छीनी जाए, मगर वह प्रोसीजर भी फेयर होना चाहिए। इस विधेयक के उद्देश्यों में कहा गया है कि एशेंसियल कामोडिटीज एक्ट, 1955 को ला कमीशन की 47 वीं रिपोर्ट के अनुसार कठोर बनाया गया है। अब किसी व्यक्ति को 7 साल तक की सज़ा हो सकती है। लेकिन अब अनुभव किया जा रहा है कि यह सज़ा पर्याप्त नहीं है और कानून और कड़ा होना चाहिए। यदि ऐसा है तो एशेंसियल कामोडिटीज एक्ट में संशोधन किया जा सकता है, क्रिमिनल प्रोसीजर कोड में अगर रद्दोबदल जरूरी है, तो उसका सहारा लिया जा सकता है। हम उसमें आप की मदद करेंगे क्योंकि चोरबाजारी मुनाफ़ाखोरी और कालाबाजारी रोकने का उद्देश्य एक पार्टी का ही उद्देश्य नहीं हो सकता, यह हमारा राष्ट्रीय उद्देश्य है, मगर उस उद्देश्य को प्राप्त करने के लिए कौन से कदम उठाए जा रहे हैं, इस पर भी ध्यान देना जरूरी है।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं एक बात और इस सम्बन्ध में कहना चाहता हूँ। मैं इसी सदन का पहले भी सदस्य था, बहुत से सदस्य नये आए हैं, मैं उनका स्वागत करता हूँ, मगर हमको याद है कि जब मीसा का कानून बना था, तो क्या आश्वासन दिये गये थे। हमने बिना बहस के सरकार को असीमित अधिकार दे दिये थे। राष्ट्रीय संकट की घड़ी थी। उस संकट की घड़ी में सदन या देश में विभाजन नहीं हो सकता था। सरकार का स्पष्ट आश्वासन था कि मीसा का उपयोग राजनीतिक विरोधियों के खिलाफ नहीं किया जाएगा। मगर एमरजेंसी आयी, हम लोग पकड़े गये और उसी मीसा में पकड़े गये।

श्री सी० पी० एन० सिंह (पदरौना) : स्पेशल कोर्ट क्रियेट करके आपने रूल आफ ला को तोड़ा है।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : हमने कोई राष्ट्र विरोधी काम नहीं किया था। किसी प्रधान मंत्री से त्यागपत्र मांगना देश विरोधी कृत्य नहीं था। अगर हमने अपराध किया था तो हमें अदालतों में जाने का अधिकार होना चाहिए था। यह अधिकार भी हमसे छीन लिया गया था। इसलिए

हम ऐस आश्वासन पर भरोसा नहीं कर सकते।
पिछले तीन महीनों का अनुभव हमारे सामने है।

एक बात और भी है। जब वर्तमान सरकार
गठित हुई तो इस सरकार ने एलान किया था कि
वह बदले की भावना से काम नहीं करेगी, सहयोग
की इच्छा प्रकट की गयी थी। मगर पिछले 15
दिन में जो कुछ हुआ है वह इस बात का सबूत
है (व्यवधान) अगर किसी नये सबूत की आवश्यकता
है कि वर्तमान सरकार बदले की भावना को छोड़ने
को तैयार नहीं है...

श्री सी० पी० एन० सिंह: कोई उदाहरण दीजिए

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : सी० पी० आई०
आफिशियल श्री एन० के० सिंह का उदाहरण है।
(व्यवधान) वे मुझे उदाहरण देने को कह
रहे हैं।

श्री सी० पी० एन० सिंह : श्री एन० के० सिंह,
पर पिछले ढाई वर्ष से केस चल रहा था।

श्री गिरधारी लाल व्यास : मान्यवर, अटल
बिहारी वाजपेयी जी के दिल से बात उभर कर
आ रही है।

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: There is
a privilege motion before the Spea-
ker.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:
They wanted me to cite an example.
I gave. Let them not interrupt. I will
not embarrass them.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO (Mor-
mugao): Please embarrass us. What
about the Mini MISA?

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय,
इस अध्यादेश में, जो कानून का रूप ले रहा है,
जाल बड़ी बड़ी दूर-दूर तक फैलाया गया है। केवल
चोरबाजारी, मुनाफाखोरी करने वाले ही इसकी
गिरफ्त में नहीं आयेंगे, बल्कि ट्रेड यूनियन अधिकारों
परा भी इस से प्रहार होगा। अगर मजदूर नेता,
मजदूरों की उचित मांगें मनवाने के लिए शांति-
पूर्वक संघर्ष करेंगे तो उन पर आरोप लगाया जाएगा
कि किसी आवश्यक वस्तु के उत्पादन में, उसकी
आपूर्ति में, उसके वितरण में वे बाधा पड़ा कर
रहे हैं और वे अपने आप को जेल में पायेंगे।

श्री हरिश राजत : जनता पार्टी के शासन
में सबसे ज्यादा उन्हें जेल में डाला गया। अब आप
इस बारे में क्या कह रहे हैं ?

श्री सी० पी० एन० सिंह : इकोनॉमिक रिब्यू
में कहा गया है कि 1979 में इंडस्ट्रियल अनरेस्ट
मैक्सिमम हुआ है।

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE. If
there is going to be a free debate in
this House, is a Leader of his stature
going to be obstructed like this every
minute? Let us know that.

SHRI C. P. N. SINGH: Mr. Chair-
man, Sir, this is an accusation made
against us (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Order,
Order.

SHRI C. P. N. SINGH: Prof. Dan-
davate is making an accusation against
us and so I seek your protection. This
is conjecture. Under what rule he can
make accusations?

SHRI BAPUSAHEB PARULEKAR
(Ratnagiri): Under what rule does he
say this?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Order,
please. The hon. Member wants some
clarifications from you.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:
I am prepared to give any clarifica-
tion he wants from me.

SHRI C. P. N. SINGH: Mr. Deputy-
Speaker, Sir, he said that the workers
would be prosecuted by this Govern-
ment. If you see the Economic Re-
view, from 1978 to 1979, there was a
maximum Industrial unrest in this
country and production fell to the de-
triment of this country during the
Janata rule.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:
What clarification does he want?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: That is
all right. You may carry on.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय,
जब विधेयक सदन में पेश किया जा रहा था तो
वाणिज्य मंत्री ने, जो मुझे उठाए गए थे उनका
उत्तर देते हुए दो बातें कही थीं। उन्होंने कहा
था कि कोफीपोसा है। उसमें भी नजरबन्दी का
प्रावधान है। पुरानी जनता सरकार ने उस कानून
को रद्द नहीं किया और इस आधार पर वह इस
कानून का औचित्य उहराना चाहते हैं। मेरा उनसे
निवेदन है कि इस कानून का सम्बन्ध चोरबाजारी,

[श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी]

मुनाफाखोरी, जमाखोरी से है और इन बीमारियों का इलाज देश में हो सकता है, सबूत देश में प्राप्त किए जा सकते हैं, ऐंसेंशियल कमोडिटीज एक्ट के अन्तर्गत, अगर आवश्यक हो तो उसे मजबूत बना कर, अपराधी के खिलाफ कोर्ट में सफलता से मुकदमें चला कर उन्हें सजा दिलाई जा सकती है। कोफीपोसा में ऐसे लोगों को नजरबन्द किया गया है जिन के स्मगलर होने का सन्देह है, लेकिन उस सन्देह की पुष्टि के लिए देश में सबूत उपलब्ध नहीं हैं। लेकिन इस आधार पर इस कानून को लाना सही नहीं ठहराया जा सकता है।

दूसरी बात उन्होंने और भी गम्भीर कही कि यह एक एनेबलिंग प्राविजन है। राज्य सरकारों को इसे अमल में लाना है। राज्य सरकारें अमल में लाएं या न लाएं यह उनकी प्रादेशिक स्वायत्तता के अन्तर्गत आता है। अगर वे अमल में नहीं लाएंगी तो जनता में अलोकप्रिय बनेंगी, लोगों का विश्वास खो दगी —

एक माननीय सदस्य : खो दिया है।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : नहीं खोया है। केरल में क्या हुआ है यह भी मत भूलिये।

श्री गिरिधारी लाल व्यास (भीलवाड़ा) : आप अपनी बात करिये।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : हम आपकी टाट कर रहे हैं। श्री प्रणब मुखर्जी ने एक छिपी हुई घमकी भी दी है :

"I would humbly and most respectfully remind him...."

श्री ज्योतिर्मय बसु को वह रिमाइंड करवा रहे थे :

"....that he should forget that there is a weak Government at the Centre. We know our competence, how, within our area of competence, to make a State Government agree to abide by a provision."

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Within our area of competence.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:

इनको आए हुए अभी जुम्मा जुम्मा आठ दिन नहीं हुए हैं और इन को मालूम होना चाहिये कि यह फैल पालिटी है, प्रादेशिक सरकारों के साथ, वे किसी भी रंग की हों, किसी भी रूप की हों, किसी भी ढंग की हों, जिनको जनता ने

मत दे कर सत्तारुढ़ किया है, उनके साथ आपको सह-अस्तित्व के आधार पर आचरण करने का अभ्यास करना होगा।

इस विधेयक में पुलिस कमिश्नर को, डिप्टी कमिश्नर को अधिकार दिया गया है कि वे नजर बन्दी आदेश दे सकते हैं। इस बात की पूरी सम्भावना है कि इस अधिकार का दुरुपयोग किया जाएगा।

दिल्ली में एक नए पुलिस कमिश्नर आए हैं जो पिछली जनता सरकार में कुछ मुकदमों में फंसे हुए थे।

श्री सी० पी० एन० सिंह (पदौना) : झूठे मुकदमे थे। हाई कोर्ट का निर्णय आ चुका है उस पर। इसको प्रोसीडिंग में से निकाल दिया जाना चाहिये।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : इससे तो आप इन्कार नहीं कर सकते हैं कि वह मुकदमों में फंसे हुए थे। अब इस बात की पूरी आशंका है कि —

श्री सी० पी० एन० सिंह : यह अपमान है। हाई कोर्ट का निर्णय आ चुका है।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : निर्णय के बारे में मैंने कुछ नहीं कहा। इतना ही कहा है कि जनता सरकार के वक्त में वह अनेक मुकदमों में फंसे थे।

श्री सज्जन कुमार (बाह्य दिल्ली) : यह कहिये कि फंसाए गए थे।

SHRI C. P. N. SINGH: On a point of order, Sir. The hon. Member has cast aspersions on the judgement of the Delhi High Court. Is that permissible?

SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA: He has not done that.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I think he has not done that there is no point of order.

SHRI C. P. N. SINGH: He said that. There were false cases against him, the old Government had instituted these cases. The hon. Member is aware of the fact that those cases were false and that is why the High Court has acquitted the person concerned.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: He never said anything about the judgement.

When an hon. Member is speaking in this House, you note down all the points that he makes. You will have your own time, sufficient time. And when you get a chance, or on behalf of your party when you get a chance, you reply to him. That would help you; that would help me also.

श्री गिरधारी लाल व्यास : गलत मुकदमे क्यों लगाये जो मुकदमे हैं कोर्ट द्वारा खत्म हो गये उनका बिक्र कर रहे । इन्ही के द्वारा गलत मुकदमे चलाये गये ।

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: When you get a chance to speak on this resolution you reply to them. Suppose you rise every time. When you are speaking, if another Member from this side interrupts, your attention will be diverted.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: They do not want a fair debate in this House.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please listen to him and note down all the points. When you speak, you reply to him. That is the parliamentary procedure. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAVINDRA VERMA: This is not possible. I can raise it as a point of order.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : अगर ऐसा व्यक्ति दिल्ली के पुलिस कमिश्नर के नाते आचरण करेगा और उसे नागरिकों की व्यक्तिगत स्वाधीनता छीनने का अधिकार दिया जायगा तो इस बात की पूरी आशंका है कि (व्यवधान) !

एक माननीय सदस्य : हमारा निवेदन है कि जोर से बोल कर हमको डराना चाहते हैं ।

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: I am not yielding. I am not yielding. The question is whether I will be allowed to continue or not. Let that question be decided once and for all.

श्री गिरधारी लाल व्यास : अगर इन्होंने नोटिस दिया है श्री मिडलर के बारे में तो बोल सकते हैं बरतना नहीं ।

श्री कृष्ण कुमार गोयल (कोटा) : क्या इनकी संज्ञा यह है कि डिबेट चलने न दी जाए ?

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Sir, either you control them... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV (Azamgarh): In spite of your appeal, Sir, they are not listening.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You allow him to speak. You reply to him when your turn comes. It would be proper. We have no time. (*Interruptions*) Order, order.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Let it be decided once and for all.

SHRI BAPUSAHEB PARULEKAR (Ratnagiri): On a point of order.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: There is a point of order. All of you please sit down. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BAPUSAHEB PARULEKAR: I am on a point of order. You have called me, Sir. I would like to invite your attention to rule 349(ii) which says:

Whilst the House is sitting, a member—

* * * *

(ii) shall not interrupt any member while speaking by disorderly expression or noises or in any other disorderly manner;"

All these learned friends here are behaving in a disorderly manner.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You address me, and do not show your fingers towards them.

SHRI BAPUSAHEB PARULEKAR: It says here that no member shall interrupt any member while he is speaking by disorderly expression or noises or in any other disorderly manner. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I accept this rule and we will see that all the sections of the House will faithfully implement this rule.

SHRI C. P. N. SINGH: Including the Janata Party.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I said, 'all the sections will faithfully implement this rule'.

SHRI C. P. N. SINGH: This resolution says:

"This House disapproves of the Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential *Commodities..."

but the hon. Member has been talking about Delhi Police and the appointment of the Police Commissioner. Is it relevant? (Interruptions)

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मुझे लगता है कि मेरे मित्रों ने इस विधेयक को नहीं पढ़ा है। इस विधेयक में लिखा गया है, क्लॉज 3 (2) में—

"Any of the following officers, namely, district magistrates; Commissioners of Police wherever they have been appointed may also, if satisfied as provided in sub-section (1), exercise the powers to detain any person."

इसमें पुलिस कमिश्नर के आचरण की चर्चा हो सकती है। (व्यवधान) इस बात की पूरी आशंका है कि इस कानून का उपयोग उन व्यापारियों के विरुद्ध किया जायेगा, जो सत्तारूढ़ दल से राजनीतिक मतभेद रखते हैं।

एक माननीय सदस्य : आपकी मदद करते हैं।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : हां, हां, जिन्होंने जनता पार्टी का समर्थन किया है या और किसी विरोधी दल का समर्थन किया है। (व्यवधान)

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, डिस्ट्रिक्ट मजिस्ट्रेट को भी अधिकार दिये जा रहे हैं (व्यवधान)।

मेरा निवेदन यह है कि सरकार को यह विधेयक वापिस ले लेना चाहिये और लोग आपके साथ हैं, आपको प्रचण्ड बहुमत मिला है,

देश में आपकी आधी आई है, छोटे-छोटे चोर-बाजारियों के खिलाफ आप इतना बड़ा ब्रह्मास्त्र लगा रहे हैं ? (व्यवधान) व्यापारी सत्तारूढ़ दल के साथ हैं। अभी साप्ताहिक हिन्दुस्तान के इसी सप्ताह के अंक में श्री बशशरनाथ गोटेवाला का एक लेख आया है, जिसमें उन्होंने कहा है कि सारे व्यापारी कांग्रेस के साथ हैं और वह श्रीमती इन्दिरा गांधी को विजयी बनाने के लिये अपने दल बल के साथ चिकमगलूर भी गये थे। उन व्यापारियों को बुलाकर आप समझा सकते हैं, इस नई हवा का लाभ उठा सकते हैं, अगर सचमुच में यह व्यापारियों के खिलाफ है तो ? मगर तीर.... (व्यवधान)

एक माननीय सदस्य : यह ब्लैक-मार्केटिंग्स और होर्डिंग्स के खिलाफ है।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : क्या पार्लियामेंट के मेम्बर ब्लैक-मार्केटिंग करते हैं ?

(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR): Very objectionable remarks, my friend, has made. I would request him to withdraw them.

SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA: Nothing objectionable. He is asking a question.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR: He cannot say that the Members of Parliament indulge in blackmarketing. (Interruptions).

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: I did not say that. You did not follow. (Interruptions).

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: If he had said that he includes himself also.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR: He cannot include others.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: What did you say?

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: I did not say that.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please clarify it.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:
I was put a question. Then I put a counter-question whether Members of Parliament indulge in blackmarketing. That is not objectionable.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR: That is objectionable.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:
I did not say that Members of Parliament are indulging in blackmarketing. No. The hon. Law Minister is expected to be more alert and more intelligent.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR: I am trying to be more alert.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:
May be because of the language, he did not follow me.

v5.00 hrs.

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं इस प्रस्ताव को दोहराना चाहता हूँ कि सरकार एसेंशल कामोडिटीज एक्ट और क्रिमिनल प्रोसीजर कोड में ऐसे संशोधन करे, जिनमें ऐसे अपराधों में लगे हुए व्यक्तियों को कस्टडी में रखने का समय बढ़ाया जा सके तो उसका समर्थन करेंगे। सचमुच मैं जिस बात की सरकार रोक-थाम करना चाहती है, वह बात यही है कि ऐसे लोग जल्दी से जमानत पर न छूटें। आप जानते हैं कि यदि कोई हत्या के आरोप में गिरफ्तार किया जाता है, तो उसे पुलिस की कस्टडी में, या जूडिशल कस्टडी में, रखा जा सकता है और जब अदालत उसे छोड़े, तभी वह छूट सकता है। समाज-विरोधी कृत्य करने वालों के बारे में भी यही रवैया अपनाया जा सकता है। अगर आवश्यक हो, तो सामान्य कानून को कड़ा बनाया जाये, लेकिन इस सरकार के हाथों में, जो बदले की भावना से प्रेरित है, हम नजरबंदी कानून के अधिकार नहीं देना चाहते हैं। (व्यवधान) इस लिए मैं सदन से अपील करता हूँ कि.... (व्यवधान)

श्री सी० पी० एन० सिंह: शाह कमीशन, स्पेशल कोर्ट्स, क्या यह बदला नहीं था ?

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : हमने कमीशन बनाये थे। अपराधियों के लिए अदालत के दरवाजे खुले थे। हमने बिना मुकदमा चलाये किसी को जेल में बंद नहीं रखा, और आप वही करना चाहते हैं।

श्री गिरधारी लाल ब्यास : आपने वह पाप किया है, जो किसी ने नहीं किया है। जो पार्लियामेंट में चुन कर आया, उसकी निकाल दिया और जेल में भेज दिया।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : इसकी शुरुआत भी पहले कांग्रेस के मित्रों ने की थी। एक चुने हुए मेम्बर को पार्लियामेंट से निकाल दिया था। हम लोगों ने नहीं, पहले आपने ही निकाला था। माननीय सदस्य को इसकी जानकारी नहीं है।

श्रीमती इन्दिरा गांधी ने कहा था कि हम पुरानी बातें नहीं उखाड़ना चाहते हैं, हम नाइनटीन-एटीज की चुनौतियों का सामना करना चाहते हैं। क्या नाइनटीन-एटीज की चुनौतियों का सामना करने का तरीका यह काला कानून है ?

वैसे भी पुरानी सरकार को आप जाने में या अनजाने में बधाई दे रहे हैं। कम से कम आपको एक काम तो हमारा पसंद आया। मगर काम-चलाऊ सरकार की नीयत पर हमको शक नहीं था। वह सत्ता का दुरुपयोग करेगी इसकी आशंका नहीं थी। फिर भी हमने विरोध किया था, क्योंकि हमारे लिए यह सिद्धांत का प्रश्न है। लेकिन जहां तक आपकी नीयत का सम्बन्ध है, पिछले पंद्रह दिनों में हमने जो कुछ देखा है, उसके कारण हम आपको यह अधिकार नहीं दे सकते हैं।

मैं सदन से मांग करूंगा कि वह मेरे इस प्रस्ताव को स्वीकार करे।

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Motion moved.

"This House disapproves of the Prevention of Blackmarketing and Manitenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Ordinance, 1979 (Ordinance No. 10 of 1979) promulgated by the President on the 5th October, 1979."

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Various points have been raised by Mr. Vajpayee and I shall take care of them when I reply to the debate according to the normal practice; now I am not touching the points raised by him.

I beg to move:

"That the Bill to provide for detention in certain cases for the purpose of prevention of blackmarketing and maintenance of supplies of commodities essential to the community and for matters connected

[Shri Pranab Mukherjee]

therewith, be taken into consideration."

The Bill seeks to replace the Ordinance No. 10 of 1979 promulgated by the President on 5th October 1979 and was brought into force by a notification with effect from 15 October, 1979.. A copy of the Ordinance was laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha on 23-1-80 and those of statutory orders issued thereunder and the statement explaining the circumstances which necessitated its promulgation were laid on the Table of the House on 25th January 1980.

The year 1979 from March onwards witnessed an unprecedented rise in prices of essential commodities due to various economic and other factors. The previous government had promulgated the Ordinance to empower the Union as well as State Governments to deal effectively with the various malpractices like profiteering and blackmarketing indulged in by unscrupulous elements, by taking recourse to preventive detention.

The present price situation is causing considerable anxiety and the need to continue the legislation to effectively combat the tendency to indulge in malpractices is felt by the Government.

The Bill which is in replacement of the Ordinance will empower the Central Government and the State Governments and their officers, specially empowered in this behalf and the District Magistrate/Commissioner of Police to detain persons. The Order of detention passed by a District Magistrate or a Commissioner of Police will ordinarily be valid for a maximum period of 12 days (15 days in exceptional circumstances) and the detention has to be confirmed by the State Government within this period. The Bill provides that the grounds of detention will be furnished to the detenu and the Central Government will be informed of the passing of the

detention order or its confirmation within a specified period. Necessary safeguards have been provided to refer the cases of detentions to the Advisory Boards set up for this purpose. The Advisory Boards have to be constituted by the Central Government as well as State Governments in accordance with the recommendations of the Chief Justice of the appropriate High Courts and will be presided over by a sitting judge of the High Court and assisted by not less than two other retired or serving High Court judges. There is also a provision for personal hearing to the detenu who will not, however, be allowed to appear through a legal practitioner. The Advisory Boards will have to submit their reports to the appropriate Government within 7 weeks from the date of detention and this will ensure that no person is kept under detention for a period longer than 2 months without the approval of the Advisory Board. The State Governments will be empowered to revoke the detention orders passed by an officer of the State Government. The Central Government will be similarly empowered to revoke the detention order passed by an officer of the Central Government or by the State Government. The maximum period for which any person could be detained, after due confirmation by the Advisory Board, is restricted to 6 months from the date of detention.

The Bill which seeks to replace the said Ordinance and the provisions made thereunder would enable the Government to take necessary preventive action against anti-social elements who are likely to indulge in blackmarketing, hoarding, profiteering etc. and also act as an effective deterrent measure.

As I have already mentioned, I will reply to Shri Vajpayee's points while I reply to the main debate. With these words I beg to move that the Bill be taken into consideration.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to provide for detention in certain cases for the purpose of prevention of blackmarketing and maintenance of supplies of commodities essential to the community and for matters connected therewith, be taken into consideration."

There are five or six Members who have moved some amendments. Do you want that every Member should move the amendments one by one?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Let every Member move the amendments. If the Members are not there they cannot move the amendments.

SHRI K. K. GOEL (Kota): I beg to move:

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 26th April, 1980." (58).

SHRI CHANDRAJEET YADAV (Azamgarh): I beg to move:

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 31st March, 1980." (59).

SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI (Patna): I beg to move:

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 31st March, 1980." (60).

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS (Bhilwara): I beg to move:

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 22nd May, 1980." (72).

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri R. L. P. Verma is not present. (Interruptions).

Only these amendments have come. Others may be under consideration.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA (Tura): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, I am opposing the Motion. I have no amendments.

Sir, I rise to support the Bill. Our country is a very rich country but it is inhabited by poor people. We know the majority of our people are living below the poverty line. This is not because of the lack of wealth in this country but I think the reason is it is more because of lack of fair distribution of the wealth among the people in the country. Therefore, what is required today is that there should be a machinery for the fair distribution of our wealth among all the sections of the people in all the areas in our country.

Some people have come with the argument that if this law is passed, it will infringe the fundamental rights of the citizens of this country. I would only like to put this question: When millions of our people are living below the poverty line and are denied the basic necessities of life, when thousands of our people are living in starvation and hundreds of them are dying of starvation because of the illegal act of some people like blackmarketeers and hoarders, when the basic necessities of life are denied to the people because of the activities of some anti-social elements, does it not infringe the fundamental rights of the people the most important rights that is the right to live?

This Bill only seeks to replace an ordinance promulgated by the previous Government. Some of the people who are the authors of this ordinance are now opposing the Bill. I do not know the reason, but the only presumption can be that this Bill was suitable for them at the moment because they had certain ulterior motives. This ordinance was promulgated on the eve of the elections. The purpose for which it was promulgated has been served and now they do not require this Bill any more. So, they are opposing it!

[Shri P. A. Sangma]

Shri Vajpayee, a senior member of this House, has said many things against this Bill. The big people of this country do not know, though they pretend to know, how the people in the rural areas are suffering. The people in the rural areas do not bother about the international conference on law or such things. They are bothered about the essential commodities required for their daily life. It is not at all difficult for the big people like Members of Parliament, Ministers and ex-Ministers to get essential commodities. There is no dearth of these commodities at all for them. So, they will not know where the shoe pinches. But what about the fate of the people in the rural areas? I come from a rural area. In my place, in October, November and December, the price of kerosene was Rs. 10 a litre. The price of sugar was Rs. 5 a kilo.

15.15 hrs.

[SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV *in the Chair*]

And my areas is such a backward area that in order to reach a particular market to get a litre of kerosene or to get a kilo of salt people have to walk two days continuously. After reaching the market they do not find kerosene, they do not find sugar, they do not find anything. In the month of November-December last kerosene went out of market. They say 'out of stock' because they knew that the area being a Christian area people will require more kerosene to celebrate Christmas and New Year and that the final examinations in all the schools and colleges were approaching and so everybody will require kerosene for studying in the night so that he can pass the examination. So, they say, there is no supply of kerosene, it is not available. But in the blackmarket if somebody could offer Rs. 10/- he could get the kerosene. Well this sort of difficulties may not be faced by the people living in Delhi, by those people who can get things done, but it is neces-

sary that in order to share the wealth that is there in the country, the ordinary people should also have the minimum necessities of life. I fully agree that this kind of Act is a necessity. Our area is a farflung area. In the last two or three years when I was a Member of this House I have been trying to impress upon me of the Ministers about the necessity of certain essential commodities in our area. But we were ruled by such kind of people who did not know the geography of the country. It is very interesting to point out here that once in 1977 when the Janata Party took over the administration of this country, very very important Minister—I should not tell his name here—while discussing the border problems of our State, could not understand what border problem we have. He asked: "Are you a border State?" We replied "Yes, Sir we are a border State". He asked: "Which side of the border Meghalaya is? Is it on the China border or on the Burma border?" We told him that ours is on the Bangladesh border." Oh, yes. All right, please carry on", he said. So, if a gentleman, a responsible Minister who is running this country, does not even know where Meghalaya is situated, whether it is on the China border or Burma border, how can he understand the necessity of a villager, whether he is getting sugar or whether he is getting any essential commodities? Therefore, when we look into the matter, we should not only look at it from the technical point of view or the constitutionality of this measure—well, I do not know about the constitutionality of this Act, the Law Minister has already answered that question, there are people coming and saying that there is an Essential Commodities Act, this law can be invoked to punish those people. But I know as a humble lawyer practising in a district how difficult it is to implement the Essential Commodities Act. A lawyer who is practising in Supreme Court

or a High Court, with all my due respect to him, may not quite appreciate how this kind of law is very difficult to be implemented. We have the practical experience and it becomes more difficult when this kind of blackmarketeers, profiteers and the hoarders do such illegal things in connivance with those people who are in administration. In the last few years I have been desperately trying to get certain steel materials for my district. The Janata Government came out with the formula that the materials would be given to the consumers directly from stock at Gauhati. Gauhati is a place which is 500 k.m. away from my constituency, and there is no transport. How can we expect an ordinary man to go to a place 500 k.m. away and get a small quantity of material? It is a fact that materials had been allotted to the State Government, I do not dispute it, but they do not reach our place. Other meant for the northeastern region get lost at Calcutta. Such things are going on, not only in our part of the country, but I believe in many other parts also. Therefore, we have to see that whatever essential commodities are available for the consumption of the people reach them, they should not be made use of for the profit of a few individuals. I believe such a kind of law should be enacted.

With these words I support the Bill.

SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT (Ahmedabad) There is a Resolution from the hon. Member Atal Bihariji opposing the Ordinance. At the time of the introduction of this Bill, Shri Ram Jethmalani and other hon. Members opposed it on several grounds, on the competence of this House to legislate, on its desirability and many other points. I am here to support the Bill and oppose the Resolution of Shri Atalji.

Being a practising lawyer, I think I will have something to say in this matter. I am not a big lawyer as my learned friend Shri Ram Jethmalani may be, but I know one thing. When I was a student, he was a professor, and he taught the Constitution. What I remember as a student, he has forgotten as a professor. I want to tell him this much that as a learned advocate he has quoted maneka's case and others to support his contention. I think lawyers are more known for quoting authorities rather than referring to them. Therefore, I have decided to read out a paragraph which is contradictory to what Atalji and Shri Ram Jethmalani observed.

I will deal with three aspects. I come from Gujarat. When there was Congress Party rule there for a short while, we introduced a provision in regard to edible oils. Our State has a problem of edible oils all the time. We distributed to 2.5 crores of people out of 3 crores, edible oil at Rs. 5.50 through Government machinery. Then came the Janata Government, and prices shot up to Rs. 15. This Ordinance was there, but the Janata Party Chief Minister came out with the statement that he could not implement the law. When prices shot up to Rs. 15 and people asked the Chief Minister how he proposed to deal with the situation, he said he was helpless. Let me tell this hon. House that the election of 1980 was an answer of the people to those who called themselves to be helpless. This was an election in which the price rise was the main issue, in which the housewives have played a prominent part and they have answered that we want in this country a Government, which either by itself or through the state machinery, can control and curb the price rise so that a few handful of people cannot just loot the people, the commodities available in the market cannot go to a few and the millions cannot starve because of the hoarding and blackmarketing of the commodities. That is precisely the reason.

[Shri Maganbhai Barot]

My learned friend, Atalji said, let us amend the Essential Commodities Act and the Criminal Procedure Code. I have practised both the laws, Criminal Procedure Code at least for a quarter of a century and the Essential Commodities Act, at least for a decade. Let me quote only one judgement of the High Court of Gujarat in this context. This is what a Judge had said about the blackmarketeers. "It is easy to get a camel pass through a needle's eye, but it is difficult to get a rich man convicted in a court of law." If that is the position, what do we do? That is the reason why we require this strong action, in spite of the fact that it affects the fundamental rights. I will quote only one illustration.

The hon. Member, Mr. Madhu Dandavate, the other day asked the Civil Supplies Minister a question. Probably he wanted to get credit for the Janata Government. He asked whether from 1977 to 1979, the production of foodgrains went up. His question gave me an opportunity to ask a supplementary and I asked the hon. Minister whether it is true that though the production went up, the farmers did not get adequate price and the consumers had to pay more though the commodities were available in large quantities in the country. The hon. Minister replied: 'Yes'.

I very earnestly ask the hon. members of the Opposition, please tell us, why is it that though the production was high the producer did not get his price, the consumer had to pay more. What did you do about it? You had enough time to do something. I don't joke upon it. Tell us where is the remedy to meet the situation where rich people with their blackmoney, on the eve of the market produce coming into the market, buy and hoard it in their godowns and they prosper and the

poor farmers sell their produce and the rich alone can hoard it. Then they come out with them and sell it for fabulous prices later. Who suffers? The sufferer is the poor man who earns his wages honestly, sweating and toiling. Please answer this. Have we not to differentiate between the rich and the poor, between the exploiter and the exploited. Today is the day for that. 1980 election is the verdict. It is a mandate given to Mrs. Gandhi that we are fed up with the price situation and that she is the only person in the country who can control the prices. That is why, the measure, which, of course, originated from the people on the other side, is here before us. It originated from Lok Dal, which is only the other side of the coin. When I look into the records, I find that though the Janata Party came to power in March 1977, upto the month of August 1978, it thought that MISA was alright and only in the month of August 1978, it repealed MISA. COFEPOSA still remains. Atalji wants to make a difference between the COFEPOSA and the Bill. When I look into the debates, I find that the original opposition was based on the fact that those people who are politically vindictive may misuse it. Here this absolutely clear and it refers to only one class of people, viz., the blackmarketeers and the hoards. There is a law to try murderers.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Does the hon. Member desire to continue his speech tomorrow?

SHRI MAGANBHAJI BAROT: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member may continue his speech tomorrow. Now, it is time for Private Members' Bills.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We now take up the Private Members' Legislative Business. Introduction of Bills.

15.30 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT)
BILL*

Amendment of Eighth Schedule

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat):
I beg to move for leave to introduce
a Bill further to amend the Constitu-
tion of India.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to intro-
duce a Bill further to amend the
Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: I introduce
the Bill.

15.31 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT)
BILL*

*Amendment of article 31C, omission
of Part XIVA, etc.*

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat):
I beg to move for leave to introduce
a Bill further to amend the Constitu-
tion of India.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to intro-
duce a Bill further to amend the
Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: I introduce
the Bill.

15.32 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT)
BILL*

(Amendment of article 311)

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat): I
beg to move for leave to introduce a

Bill further to amend the Constitu-
tion of India.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to intro-
duce a Bill further to amend the
Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: I introduce
the Bill.

15.33 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT)
BILL*

(Amendment of articles 102 and 103.)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE
(Rajapur): I beg to move for
leave to introduce a Bill further to
amend the Constitution of India.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to intro-
duce a Bill further to amend the
Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE:
I introduce the Bill.

15.34 hrs.

ALIGARH MUSLIM UNIVERSITY
(RESTORATION OF MINORITY
CHARACTER) BILL*

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI (Bom-
bay North West): I beg to move for
leave to introduce a Bill to declare
the minority character of the Aligarh
Muslim University.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to intro-
duce a Bill to declare the minority

character of the Aligarh Muslim University.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: I introduce the Bill.

15.34 hrs.

CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE (AMENDMENT) BILL*

SHRI V. N. GADGIL (Pune): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the code of Civil Procedure, 1908.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI V. N. GADGIL: I introduce the Bill.

15.34 hrs.

TRADE AND MERCHANDISE MARKS (AMENDMENT) BILL*

SHRI V. N. GADGIL (Pune): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Trade and Merchandise Marks Act, 1958.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Trade and Merchandise Marks Act, 1958.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI V. N. GADGIL: I introduce the Bill.

15.35 hrs.

MARGINAL FARMERS AND AGRICULTURAL WORKERS FAMILY SECURITY BILL*

SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU (Chittoor): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for security to the families of marginal farmers and agricultural workers.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for security to the families of marginal farmers and agricultural workers.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: I introduce the Bill.

15.35 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL*

(Omission of article 44).

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA (Ponnam): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA: I introduce the Bill.

15.35 hrs.

ALIGARH MUSLIM UNIVERSITY
(AMENDMENT) BILL*

(Amendment of Section 2)

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA
(Ponnam): I beg to move for leave
to introduce a Bill further to amend
the Aligarh Muslim University Act,
1920.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to intro-
duce a Bill further to amend the
Aligarh Muslim University Act,
1920."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA: I
introduce the Bill

15.35 hrs.

INDUSTRIES (DEVELOPMENT
AND REGULATION) AMENDMENT
BILL*

DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT
(Rajgarh): I beg to move for leave
to introduce a Bill further to amend
the Industries (Development and
Regulation) Act, 1951.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to intro-
duce a Bill further to amend the
Industries (Development and Regu-
lation) Act, 1951."

The motion was adopted.

DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: I
introduce the Bill.

15.36 hrs.

PHARMACY (AMENDMENT) BILL*

(Amendment of Sections 2, 3 etc.)

DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT
(Rajgarh): I beg to move for leave
to introduce a Bill further to amend
the Pharmacy Act, 1948.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to intro-
duce a Bill further to amend the
Pharmacy Act, 1948."

The motion was adopted.

DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: I
introduce the Bill.

15.36 hrs.

GOVERNMENT SERVICE (AGE LI-
MIT) AND UNEMPLOYMENT
ALLOWANCE BILL*

श्री राम विलास पासवान (हाजीपुर) : मैं
प्रस्ताव करता हूँ कि सरकारी सेवा में प्रवेश के
लिए वर्तमान अधिकतम आयु सीमा बढ़ाने तथा
बेरोजगारी भत्ते के संदाय का उपबंध करने वाले
विधेयक को पुरःस्थापित करने की अनुमति दी
जाए ।

समापति महोदय : प्रश्न यह है :

कि सरकारी सेवा में प्रवेश के लिए वर्तमान
अधिकतम आयु सीमा बढ़ाने तथा बेरोज-
गारी भत्ते के संदाय का उपबंध करने वाले
विधेयक को पुरःस्थापित करने की अनुमति
दी जाए । प्रस्ताव स्वीकृत हुआ ।

श्री राम विलास पासवान : मैं विधेयक
पुरःस्थापित करता हूँ ।

15.36 hrs.

SPECIAL COURTS (REPEAL)
BILL*

SHRI K. T. KOSALRAM (Tiru-
chendur): Sir, I beg to move for

leave to introduce a Bill to repeal the Special Courts Act, 1979.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to repeal the Special Courts Act, 1979."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI K. T. KOSALRAM: I introduce the Bill.

15.36 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT)
BILL*

(Amendment of article 326)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Muzaffarpur): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India".

The motion was adopted.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: I introduce the Bill.

15.37 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT)
BILL*

(Insertion of new article 46A)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Muzaffarpur): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: I introduce the Bill.

15.37 hrs.

ALIGARH MUSLIM UNIVERSITY
(AMENDMENT) BILL*

(Amendment of Section 2)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Muzaffarpur): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Aligarh Muslim University Act, 1920.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Aligarh Muslim University Act, 1920."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: I introduce the Bill.

The motion was adopted.

15.38 hrs.

RESOLUTION RE: TAKING OVER OF
WHOLESALE TRADE IN CERTAIN
ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES—contd.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we resume further discussion on the Resolution moved by Shri Sudhir Kumar Giri on the 25th January, 1980. Mr. Chintamani Panigrahi was on his feet.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI (Bhubneswar): While I was speaking on the Resolution I had said that during the last two and a half years we have seen how prices have gone up by more than 22 per cent. This is a steep rise in prices, as a result of which we find that the entire economy of this country is in a bad shape—rather, in shambles. In spite of what we had built up, because of bad management of economy during the last two and

a half years, we have now inherited a price rise which is galloping.

Before we think of how to deal with this problem, the major constraint before us is that there is an unprecedented drought which will result in a sharp decline in production of food-grains. It is estimated that perhaps the food-grain production will be less by 12 million tonnes this year.

There is a sharp decline in industrial growth also. It is because of shortage of power, coal, steel, cement and diesel. All these are bottlenecks now. Industrial growth has been reduced and strained labour-management relations also had added to the decline in industrial growth.

Now, another constraint is the shortage of wagons. It has come to such a position that some wagons which were carrying diesel to Orissa were hijacked by the Railways themselves because the Railways were short of diesel and they took it for their own consumption. That is the position we have come to.

Another constraint is the budget deficit. After Chaudhuri Charan Singh presented his budget, the prices have gone up to such an extent that the deficit in the budget will be to the extent of Rs. 3,000 crores. Along with that, there will be a trade deficit of Rs. 2,000 crores. Even if we revise the draft Sixth Plan, that may also become outdated in view of the rising prices and other bottlenecks. These are the formidable challenges before us. How are we to tackle these? This morning there was an answer to a question in which the hon. Minister has said how the prices have gone up.

In this Resolution the hon. Member has asked for the public distribution system. We also wanted that there should be a good public distribution system. You will find that this public distribution system was working nicely upto 1976. But after that, in almost all the States, this public distribution system has completely broken. It is not that the public distribution system

did not work, but there was a different outlook during the last two and a half years; they wanted to have a free economy and that free economy has resulted in the present difficulties that we are finding. Take the case of kerosene; we have got the Indian Oil Corporation, a public sector corporation. Take the case of grains or sugar; we have got the Food Corporation of India; we have also got the State Trading Corporation. They are expected to manage these. But what do we find today? The hon. Minister for Commerce, in the morning, has given some hints. Suppose the Central Government manages to send grains, manages to send kerosene oil, manages to send sugar, what guarantee is there that the State Governments, many of which are of a different complexion from that at the Centre, and which are now in the stage of confrontation with the Centre, will act in such manners that the essential Commodities reach the Common people. The way the non-Congress State Governments are preparing for confrontations with the Centre are most surprising, when there is a tension on our borders. Nine non-Congress State Chief Ministers gathered in Delhi and gave a threat and warning to the Centre that they would fight against the Centre. At this point when prices are rising in a galloping speed, by 22 per cent, when every effort has to be made by all to check the rise in price, when all sections of the people who are suffering from price-rise want that the rise should be arrested, there should be a decline in prices, the nine State Chief Ministers gathered in Delhi and thought it proper to hold out a threat to the Centre. Then who is there to control the prices in the States? Therefore, I would like to humbly submit before the House that we should decide to have a good public distribution system which should be monitored at one place—at the Centre.

Now, take the case of kerosene. You send kerosene, say, to Orissa. Unless you have a village Committee to

[Shri Chintamani Panigrahi]

whom the retailers are held responsible, you cannot control the price and distribution. If it is not monitored well, if it is not looked after well, you cannot bring about the result. Now the kerosene oil is selling at Rs. 6 per litre. It is something unheard of, unimaginable.

Similarly take the case of sugar. I have suggested day before yesterday that 65 per cent of the sugar stock with the mills should go by way of levy sugar to the market, and this 65 per cent of sugar should be sold at Rs. 2.85 per kilo. There should be rationing, there should be a card; every consumer, the common man, the poor people, should get sugar at Rs. 2.85 per kilo. But now I find that the levy sugar is not being released and I was told that there is sufficient sugar available in the open market and, therefore, the question of levy sugar does not arise. This is something surprising. Therefore, we shall request the government to immediately release this 65 per cent of the sugar stock as levy sugar to the States and there should be an efficient public distribution system which has lapsed and which should be revived and every consumer should have at least a card and on his card he should get whatever quota is allotted. Therefore, I think a time limit should be fixed, say, within 7-8 days this 65 per cent levy sugar should be despatched to all the States.

With regard to the wagon shortage, the Food Corporation of India was entrusted to lift this levy sugar and send it to the States. But I have gathered the information that the Food Corporation of India has not lifted it. I am told they say that there are no wagons. Then who is to co-ordinate between shortage of wagons and the despatch and lifting of the levy sugar? I hope some kind of a high-power co-ordinating committee should immediately take up this issue.

Take the case of coal. I am glad that the hon. Railway Minister has

to-day said that the 500-600 trains which were cancelled due to shortage of coal are being re-introduced because the availability of coal has perhaps improved. It is a good thing and we are happy and the passengers will be happy to know about this thing. But so far as coal to the consumers is concerned, immediately a certain percentage of this coal which is now with the coal mines which should work well, should reach the consumer because in Orissa coal is selling at Rs. 40 per maund. It is surprising that coal which was selling at Rs. 20 is now selling at Rs. 40. Similarly in regard to edible oil, we are told that edible oil is being imported. To what extent it is being imported—I do not know. Immediate measures are to be taken to see that these items reach the consumers.

Similarly, in steel there is a great shortage. There is also an acute shortage of cement. Though the controlled rate is Rs. 26, a cement bag is selling at Rs. 50. Everything is in a mess and I would plead before the hon. Minister that immediate steps should be taken at the Central level to see that all these essential commodities reach the consumer within the next 15-20 days. Slowly the movement should start and there is a stage, as I told you earlier, the stage of confrontation between the State and the Centre. Unless the State Governments agree at least on this point that everybody should co-operate to bring down the prices and if there is any kind of political manoeuvring at the State level to give a bad name to the Centre immediately after the election, a heavy responsibility rests on the Centre, to see that if the States do not co-operate and if they try to give a bad name to the Centre, some immediate steps should be taken at the Central level so that the vast millions of the common people, the poor people and the consumers shall not suffer. They have high expectations from the government here and if they are disillusioned with the State Governments, I am sure in the coming elec-

tions they will discard the State Governments. I hope the Central Government should be careful about all these things and see that as declared by the hon. Minister all essential commodities reach the consumer through fair price shops in the States so that everybody gets it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Rajan. He is not present. Mr. Parulekar.

SHRI BAPUSAHEB PARULEKAR (Ratnagiri): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I stand to support this Resolution.

At the outset, I thank Shri Sudhir Kumar Giri for having brought before this august House this important subject for debate. This concerns every common-man. I hope and trust that the Government would give a serious thought to this problem and take immediate steps to curb the price-rise by ensuring supply of all the essential commodities at reduced prices through the fair price shops. I want to make one more request to the hon. Minister and to the Government. That is this. Let us also look to the problems above the party level. Let not the Minister say that it has shot up when the Janata Government was in power. This is a problem as I said, which concerns all. Before going into the question of remedies to be found out for reducing the price-rise, it would be necessary to see as to how the prices shoot up. On all the commodities there was a rise in the price. Some of my esteemed colleagues through their speeches on this Resolution, said that there was a rise in price throughout the year 1977 and onwards in respect of all the commodities. I find that the statements made by the esteemed colleagues are not correct because we have before us the index numbers of the wholesale prices published by the Ministry of Industry. As far as the item of sugar is concerned, I find from this table that its price came down consistently from June 1976 to June, 1978. The figures are:—

In June 1976	171
In June 1977	161.8
In June 1978	153.6

So also is the case with respect to edible oil.

The figures are:—

June 1976	108.8
June 1977	186
June 1978	161

At least, as far as these two commodities are concerned, namely, sugar and edible oil, we find that within a year from June 1977 to June 1978, the prices did considerably come down. With reference to pulses, foodgrains, coal, kerosene, cotton; drugs and medicines, there is a very little rise. The disturbing factor is that from June 1978 to the end of December 1979, there is a very big and very alarming rise, especially in respect of coal where we find that it is from 202.00 to 235.86. That is the rise. I again submit respectfully that I may not be in a position to agree with my hon. friend who said that throughout the period there was a price-rise in all the commodities. But no sooner than from June to September when this rise was seen, the Government called a meeting of the Chief Secretaries of all the States. I find from the reports and the records that at that meeting the Union Cabinet Secretary Shri N. K. Mukherjee and also the Economic Affairs Secretary Shri Man Mohan Singh attended. I would like to ask the Government to tell us as to what happened to the suggestions made by them. It is reported that various important suggestions were made to the States at that meeting of the Committee. The first suggestion that was made was that the State Governments should strengthen the public distribution system. Even in the reply given to the Starred Question No. 83 to-day, this position had been admitted. To quote some portions from the reply:

"The distribution of certain selective items of essential commodities

[Shri Bapusaheb Parulekar]

through the public distribution system has become an important function of administration to-day".

If this Government also accepts that the distribution system should be strengthened, I would like to know from the Government whether any effort was made to implement the suggestion from September to December and if it was implemented, why the price rise was not checked.

The second suggestion that was made and considered in that meeting was that Essential Commodities Act should be vigorously implemented. If I remember correctly, with reference to this, our great Leader and Prime Minister at that time, Shri Jawahar Lal Nehru had said that if we were to check this blackmarketing, the maximum punishment should be enhanced to death and the blackmarketeers should be hanged publicly in this country....

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat): By the nearest post.

SHRI BAPUSAHEB PARULEKAR: Yes, I would like to know whether the Government is going to implement the suggestion made by this great leader so that this would be a deterrent punishment. Instead of introducing legislation like the preventive detention, this would be an effective measure. With reference to this suggestion of that body, I would request the Government to tell this House as to how many cases were filed in the various States, especially in Delhi.

The other suggestions made in that meeting were that the Government should strengthen arrangements for maintaining the prices of essential commodities. The State Governments were told that stock holding limits imposed on sugar dealers with effect from 6th September should be enforced. Sugar dealers licensing order should be amended to ensure that licensing limits are brought down. Sugar Price Control (Order) should be enforced strictly to ensure early availability of sugar at fixed prices. The State Gov-

ernments were told to buy sugar from factories and supply it through the public distribution system. Prosecutions under the Sugar Prices (Control) Orders should also be launched against defaulting sugar factories. Action should also be taken against the factories whose sugar quota lapses. As regards important edible oils, the State Governments were told that all their requirements would be met by the State Trading Corporation.

All these suggestions were made in a committee of high officials. I would like to know whether these particular suggestions were implemented or not. If the suggestions were implemented, why the prices did not come down. Is the Government going to implement these suggestions as the prices during the last four-five months did not come down?

In fact, I wanted to make a few more suggestions, but as there is no time, I conclude my speech here.

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Resolution moved by my distinguished friend, Shri Sudhir Kumar Giri. The Resolution is not only timely but appropriate also, particularly in view of the fact that the prices of essential commodities are soaring very high with every passing day without being checked.

There are certain economic constraints which the hon. House and the Government should take note of. We are passing through constraints of economic crisis which is marked by extraordinary price rise. You will understand the exact extent of the price rise today if we were merely to look at the official figures of the Government itself. The wholesale price index for all commodities (base year 1970-71-100) rose to 224.2 during the week ended January 12 from 223.2 in the previous week. This price rise was higher by 1 per cent from the previous year and 20.5 per cent as compared with previous week and that of a year ago. It means there has been a constant price rise in our country. You

16.00 hrs.

would also agree with me that one of the major factors of price rise in the increase in money supply. The money supply position in our country has been constantly on the increase. There has been deficit financing also. The uncovered deficit was Rs. 1356 crores. It is expected to touch the staggering figure of Rs. 2500 crores. There is runaway inflation. Some say that to-day the inflation is in the region of more than 25 per cent. There has been the incidence of tax burden in immense proportions. Under these circumstances, price rises are bound to take place. Not only that. There has been a certain decline in production of certain consumer items. For example I want to mention sugar and edible oils. During the crushing season of 1979-80, the total production of sugar was 295,000 tonnes, as against 395,000 tonnes during the corresponding period of last year. Vanaspati production has also gone down to a very great extent. During the first 7 months of 1979-80, the total vanaspati production came down to 358,000 tonnes as against 392,500 tonnes during the corresponding period of last year.

I mentioned these two items only to highlight the fact that while the production of the consumer goods is declining, production of durable consumer goods which is used generally by high-income people is increasing. So, unless Government has a programme of its own to step up consumer food products, there will be a further increase in prices. All these things prove that unless there is some kind of a curb, this price rise cannot be halted or arrested.

Even to-day, much has been discussed about the public distribution system. Let us also see what has been the actual result of the public distribution system. According to the reply given by the hon. Minister just to-day in the morning, 232,000 fair price shops are claimed to have been established, and they cover 5,828.6 lakhs of people. There have been a good number of fair price shops and the coverage also is

not very bad. In spite of the fact that this programme was there, prices continued to rise. Therefore, a free market operation is not going to bring down the price rise.

While we are speaking about the price rise, there is also the problem of price fall. Particularly, the prices of essential commodities are rising at an alarming rate, but the prices of the agricultural products are falling. For example, jute price is falling, while the jute goods prices are rising. Raw cotton price is falling, while the cloth price is rising. Sugar price is rising, but the price of sugarcane is falling. This is the paradox, and this paradox cannot but happen in a mixed and capitalist economy. So, some kind of a restraint and a new orientation of policy has to be adopted.

And therefore the hon. Member has rightly pointed out that if free market operation is allowed to continue, the prices cannot be brought down. Therefore, he has suggested that the government should take over the wholesale trade and curb the price rise by ensuring supply of essential commodities at reduced prices. Unless the textile industries are nationalised, unless the cotton industries—there is a monopoly purchase of cotton—are nationalised, unless the jute industries are nationalised, unless the jute purchase is done through a nationalised agency, there is no possibility of the prices coming down. If there is no State take over of these very vital sinews of our economy, there is no possibility of the prices coming down. This is one part of the resolution, that is, the government should take over the wholesale trade and thereby curb the price rise. The other part of the resolution is that after taking over the wholesale trade, the government should also try to see that those essential commodities are distributed through a public distribution system. It is not only a question of distribution through a public distribution system, but a question of subsidy also comes. Unless the government takes over the physical control of it,

[Shri Chitta Basu]

unless they give subsidy, unless essential commodities are available to the people at considerably cheaper rates, the question of price rise cannot be solved.

The resolution has two parts. One is the take over of the wholesale trade. This is a very important part of the resolution which the government must study. The second part of the resolution is the public distribution system. The public distribution system which has been adopted so far and pursued so far has failed. I want to know what steps the government propose to take to improve that system so that prices come down. I again support the motion moved by my friend Shri Sudhir Kumar Giri.

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA (Balsore): 'Mr. Charman, I am thankful to you for kindly allowing me to speak on this resolution. When we consider about the price rise in the country, we should definitely look to the public distribution system which is there at present in the country. There are only two lakh six thousand fair price shops which are dealing with the public distribution system. But as per government's report, the requirement is about six lakh fair price shops. It means the rest four lakh fair price shops are to be opened. But you will be astonished to know that in some states like Orissa, these fair price shops are dealt with by some political workers who are running the government in a State like Orissa. The dealers are appointed by a committee consisting of concerned MLAs, BDOs and ACSO. You must be knowing that the government which is running in Orissa does not look to the interest of the local people. They are appointing these dealers from their own party workers who do not look to the interest of the people. So, I request the government through you that while appointing these dealers, they should revise the procedure of appointing the dealers so that they may not be selected by the political workers; they should be appointed by the officials. Similarly, supply of con-

sumer goods edible oil, cloth, etc, are to be taken over by the Union Government. Unless these are dealt with by the Union Government, private dealers and private wholesalers do not look to the interest of the poor people of this country. So automatically there is price rise in essential commodities. Similarly, I should like to point out some other disadvantages which are faced by the adivasi Harijan and other poor people in the backward areas. They do not know whether the Government cares for their interest since all the consumer goods and essential commodities dealt with by the government are not reaching them and they are not benefited at all. In 1976-77 when there was Congress Government there was enough foodgrains in the country and there was surpluses in foodgrains. But when the Janata Government came to power due to their mishandling of foodgrains and essential commodities, there was a rise in prices. In the data given by the government in reply to a starred question, you will see that every month the price was rising. I think it is due to the mishandling by the previous government.

Similarly, I want to bring to your kind notice about kerosene. You will be astonished to know. Kerosene is most essential in the rural areas. It is not available. Production and supply is not adequate. If it were dealt with through proper dealers then to some extent people would have been benefited. But now the dealers who are selling kerosene are appointed by political workers, political parties. Those who are now running the Government of Orissa especially do not care for the benefit of the people; they are appointing kerosene dealers from among their party workers. The procedure of appointing kerosene dealers from political party workers should be changed. With these words, I thank you.

श्री विजय कुमार यादव (नालंदा) : सम्भाषित महोदय, जो प्रस्ताव इस समय सदन के सामने प्रस्तुत है, मैं उस का समर्थन करता हूँ। इस सिलसिले में मैं आप के माध्यम से यह कहना

चाहूँगा कि जहाँ तक चीजों के बढ़ते हुए दामों को रोकने का सवाल है, यह मामला सरकार की नीतियों से गहरा सरोकार रखता है। वैसे इस प्रस्ताव में एक पक्ष की चर्चा की गई है, लेकिन बढ़ते हुए दामों को रोकने के लिये केवल यही कदम काफी नहीं समझा जा सकता। आज पूरे देश में जो चीजों के दाम बढ़ रहे हैं—यह हमारे लिये कोई नई बात नहीं है। जहाँ कहीं भी सरकारें पूँजीवादी सरकारें होती हैं, तो वे इसी तरह से करती हैं क्योंकि उन की नीतियों में जो खामियाँ हैं, उन की तरफ ज्यादा ध्यान न दे कर ऐसे ही कुछ कदम उठाना चाहती हैं जिन की वजह से मंहगाई पर जो रोक होनी चाहिए, वह नहीं लगती।

अभी हमारे देश के अन्दर, हमारे लायक दोस्त ने कहा कि डेफीसिट फाइनेन्सिंग की व्यवस्था है और पिछले साल ही लगभग 2 हजार करोड़ रुपये का डेफीसिट फाइनेन्सिंग किया गया। जो रिपोर्ट है, उन से पता चलता है कि हमारे मुल्क में ब्लैक मनी बड़े पैमाने पर चल रही है और ऐसा अनुमान है कि लगभग 16 हजार करोड़ रुपये की ब्लैक मनी बड़े बड़े उद्योगपतियों के पास मौजूद है। हमारे यहाँ डी-कंट्रोल की पालिसी है, हमारे यहाँ इनडाइरेक्ट टकरैज की पालिसी है बैंकों के जरिये जो कर्ज इस तरह का व्यापार करने वाले लोगों को दिये जाते हैं और सरकार की तरफ से जो सुविधाएँ बड़े व्यापारियों को दी जाती हैं, उन सब कारणों से यह ब्लैक मनी बनाने का मौका मिलता है। ऐसे जो कारण हैं, उन पर बगैर पाबन्दी लगाए और सख्ती से रोक लगाए और आमूल परिवर्तन किये बगैर, हम चीजों के दामों को बढ़ने से नहीं रोक सकते। चीजों के दामों को अगर रोकना चाहते हैं, तो जाहिर बात है कि सख्त कदम उठाने होंगे। बगैर उनके उठाए, दाम बढ़ने से नहीं रोक सकते लेकिन फिर भी इस प्रस्ताव में जिस कदम की चर्चा की गई है, अगर यह कदम उठाया गया, तो कुछ हद तक चीजों के दाम बढ़ने से रोक सकते हैं। पिछले साल जनता पार्टी की सरकार ने जो मुक्त व्यापार की पालिसी चलाई थी, वहीं इन्होंने चलाई है और अभी इस सरकार के आन के बाद इस पालिसी में कोई परिवर्तन नजर नहीं आता।

मैं एक बात यह जरूर कहना चाहता हूँ कि जब तक देश के बड़े बड़े व्यापारियों पर, उन एकाधिकार व्यापारियों पर, जिन के हाथ में थोक व्यापार है, कोई अंकुश नहीं लगाया जाता, थोक व्यापार नहीं रोका जाता, थोक व्यापारियों पर पाबन्दी नहीं लगाई जाती और तमाम आवश्यक वस्तुओं के ठोक व्यापार को सरकार अपने हाथ में नहीं लेती, पब्लिक डिस्ट्रीब्यूशन सिस्टम को सर्व-दलीय कमेटी को निगरानी में मजबूत नहीं करती और वाजिब दामों पर चीजों की लोगों को उपलब्ध नहीं कराती है, तब तक इन चीजों के दामों को कंट्रोल करना मुश्किल होगा। अभी हमारा देश बहुत नाजुक दौर से गुजर रहा है और हमारी बिहार स्टेट में और हमारे जिन्ने नालन्दा में, जहाँ से मैं

चुन कर आया हूँ वहाँ की हालत खराब है सरकारी दुकानों में आवश्यक वस्तुओं की आपूर्ति नहीं की जाती। सरकार ने अपने जवाब में कहा है कि पब्लिक डिस्ट्रीब्यूशन सिस्टम के जरिए दुकानें चल रही हैं और ये दुकानें पूरे देश में चल रही हैं लेकिन मैं यह बताना चाहता हूँ कि ये जो दुकानें चल रहीं हैं उन में आवश्यक वस्तुओं का नितान्त अभाव रहता है। उन से आवश्यक चीजें सप्लाई नहीं की जाती हैं, जनता को नहीं दी जाती है और इस का नतीजा यह होता है कि जब इन दुकानों से लोगों को चीजें नहीं मिलती हैं तो ओपिन मार्केट से लोगों को मंहगी चीजें खरीदनी पड़ती हैं। सरकारी दुकानों पर जब आवश्यक चीजों का अभाव रहता है, तो व्यापारी लोगों को दाम बढ़ाने का प्रोत्साहन मिलता है और आम जनता का शोषण करने का व्यापारियों का मौका रहता है। इस में जो सुझाव दिये गये हैं, वे बहुत अच्छे सुझाव हैं और मैं यह समझता हूँ कि इन को अमल में लाया जाना चाहिये। कई रोज से इस मामले पर डिबेट चल रही है और जब भी इस के लिये सवाल उठाया जाता है, तो मंत्री महोदय की ओर से यह कह दिया जाता है कि केन्द्रीय सरकार की ओर से सभी कदम उठाए जा रहे हैं लेकिन इन चीजों की सप्लाई करने की जिम्मेदारी राज्य सरकारों पर आती है। इस तरह से राज्य सरकारों पर जिम्मेदारी डाल कर जाहिर बात है कि जनता जो आज बढ़ते हुए दामों से परेशान है, उस को आप राहत नहीं दे सकते। जहाँ तक दामों का सवाल है, यह स्टेट का मामला नहीं है, मंहगाई का सवाल स्टेट का मामला नहीं है। यह तो पूरे देश का मामला है और मैं उम्मीद करता हूँ कि मौजूदा सरकार इस को गहराई से लगी और इस में जो सुझाव रखे गये हैं, उन के सिलसिले में वाजिब और अविलम्ब कदम उठा कर देश की आम जनता को राहत पहुँचाएगी।

इन शब्दों के साथ मैं इसका समर्थन करता हूँ।

SHRI N. G. RANGA (Guntur): Sir, I am glad to associate myself with the spirit behind this resolution. Everyone knows that private trade has been holding to ransom both the producers of primary commodities on the one side and the consumers on the other. All of us belonging to all political parties have been repeatedly saying that this has got to be remedied. Therefore, most of us have also been supporting the idea of the State taking it over. But unfortunately whichever political party comes to power, they fight shy of taking the necessary action in this regard.

[Shri N. G. Ranga]

Take, for instance, sugar industry. A number of committees and commissions were appointed in UP by the UP Government and every one of them suggested taking over the sugar industry. But none of the Governments manned by various political parties at various times has taken up this matter seriously because of the political and economic interests behind the sugar industry, on which most of the political parties come to depend at the time of the elections. This is an open secret. I do not wish to go into this vexed question of nationalisation. But so far as wholesale trade is concerned, should not the Government try to make experiments with one or two commodities, then next extend it to other commodities, by entering into the wholesale trade and gain some commanding heights so that there would be competition between State-trading on the one side and private trade on the other, in the hope that as a result of this competition the producers would be benefited and the consumers also may be protected? Some effort has got to be made in this direction at some time or the other and I sincerely hope that our Government, the Congress Government, would try to make experiments in this regard.

It is high time that the Government should begin to study the possibility of adopting what is known as the dual price system for most of the essential commodities which go into the family budget of the workers and peasants in rural areas as well as urban areas. What is happening is that the peasants are not being paid remunerative prices, although all parties are agreed that the peasants should be assured of remunerative prices and all of them have been supporting the idea of support price. Different Governments have not only accepted the principle but they also tried to fix the support prices. But the support prices that have been fixed so far have not been adequate.

They do not cover all the costs of production, not to speak of assuring the farmers a remunerative price.

Secondly, how are the support prices and remunerative prices to be fixed? Are they to be looked at only from the farmer's point of view or from the point of view of agricultural workers also? According to me, primarily the point of view of agricultural workers, self-employed peasants who invest their family labour in the production of these agricultural commodities, their basic needs for human survival and human decency, should be given priority to start with. Based upon that, you should begin to work up to the cost of production and from that you should go to a remunerative price. If you fix the remunerative prices on that basis, you may find that such prices would be much higher than the prices being paid to the agricultural workers and peasants, but nevertheless, they must be paid. How can they be paid? They must be paid by the consumers. Who are they? Is it not a fact that more and more of our people who have come to be employed in government services as well as private services and industries are earning very much more than what is being earned by the farmers, agricultural workers in the rural areas and self-employed people? They are earning many times more. Should not these be people made to pay remunerative prices for all the essential commodities that they depend upon, which they consume? Till now this principle has not been adopted and it is not on this basis that these prices are being fixed. I want serious consideration to be given to this particular principle. Once it is done, there is the other question also. There are consumers and consumers, the poorer consumers, the not-so-poor consumers and richer consumers. I want some distinction to be made between the rich consumers and the poor consumers. So far as the poorer consumers are concerned, these essential commodities should be made available at subsidised prices.

through State-owned shops, cooperative shops and various other shops also that would be licensed by the Government, over which Government would have some control. How are we to meet the subsidy? It is going to be a very high figure. It may come to easily Rs. 500 crores or even Rs. 1000 crores for the whole of India. Where from is this money to come? Just as all these friends now claiming to speak for industrial labour and belonging to different political parties, have been asking for dearness allowance and all kinds of allowances in order to enable their industrial workers to meet these rising prices, so also all these Government employees and other people who are getting more than Rs. 1,000 a month—I would even like to go down Rs. 500 a month—must be made to pay so much more in order to yield the necessary sums which would be needed to subsidise the consumption of these essential commodities by the poorer classes of people. Sir, it is a social challenge as well as a political challenge. I hope that all those friends who have been standing for industrial labour, even for the Central Secretariat's so-called labour, and all these Government officers and other officers employed in private enterprises, would be willing to accept this principle and then persuade all these increasing numbers of so-called intelligentsia, who are employed in various Services to be willing to pay higher prices than what they are paying today. It is only a part contribution that they would be making towards the social well-being. Do they not have any kind of duty at all towards the rest of the society? Is it the duty only of the agricultural workers and the self-employed artisans and of the peasants themselves to go on suffering at the cost of their own health, hygiene and happiness to be content with ever low prices for their agricultural commodities for their services in order to pamper all these rising classes, upper middle classes, richer classes of educated people, and urban people? So, I

would like the Government to make a study and go into this matter in depth and try and see how far they can possibly extend the present practice that they have been having in regard to sugar consumption, sugar marketing, where they have got two prices. Let them extend it to other commodities also and in doing so, let them make sure that the producers of primary commodities get their just remunerative price, a living wage. A living wage not only for the industrial workers for whom all our friends have been clamouring from all sides of the House all the time, not only now, but for decades and decades, a living wage for agricultural worker, and also for the farmers especially the smaller farmers, the poorer farmers should be ensured. Based upon that, you fix the price, on that price put something more in order to finance the subsidised commodities which have got to be placed at the disposal of the poorer people.

I would like these points to be carefully examined by my hon. friend, Shri Pranab Mukherjee. I know Indiraji is all for the poorer people. It is for that that the poorer people have stood by her and it is because of that that we have come here to the House in such large numbers. Those poorer people demand justice, and Indiraji is keen on doing the maximum possible justice, but she needs the co-operation of the Cabinet, of Members of Parliament, of the State Governments and of the State legislatures. It is a kind of national mission that she is charged with. Let us not look at it in a partisan manner. It is all right that we go on fighting each other like cocks at the time of the elections, but once the election is over, the masses are watching us. We must fulfil their basic demands. If we are to satisfy those basic demands we must be sincere and see that we live up to our professions and help them to get two things.

Firstly, they should get their basic needs at subsidised prices

[Shri N. G. Ranga]

which would assure them a living wage, a life which is humanly possible to live. At present more than 50 per cent of our people are living below that level. Secondly, we must assure a basic wage to the agriculturists and producers of primary products. I hope all our friends would be willing to support and strengthen this approach to this problem and offer their co-operation to the Central Government here through their local governments and assemblies.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House has agreed to two hours for this Resolution. Only 23 minutes are left, and the Minister has to intervene and the Mover has to reply. There are two or three more Members who wish to speak. If the House agrees, we can extend the time by half an hour.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

SHRI A. KALANIDHI (Madras Central): I would like to express my views on behalf of the DMK Party on the Resolution moved by Shri Sudhir Kumar Giri.

There has been an abnormal price rise in essential commodities which nobody can deny. Particularly prices went up to a very great extent, unimaginable extent, during the two and half years rule of the Janata Party. Their attention was mainly focussed on retaining their seats seeking positions and power and on solving in fight of their party. They had totally forgotten the poorer, downtrodden and weaker sections of the Society. The new Government has been formed with a massive mandate under the able and dynamic leadership of Shrimati Indira Gandhi, and people are expecting that this Government would solve the problem by checking the price rise effectively. The distribution of essential commodities, particularly foodgrains, pulses, edible oils, coal and kerosene should be streamlined so that they reach the poorer and middle class families at fair and reasonable prices.

With regard to coal supply, the distribution was mishandled by the previous Government resulting in the cancellation of many trains as a result of that the foodgrains and other commodities could not reach the people in proper time, leading to a big rise in prices. It has also affected directly and indirectly the small scale as well as the large scale industry, again contributing to a price rise.

There is an inefficient and useless Government in Tamil Nadu run by Mr. M. G. Ramachandran who does not bother about the poor and middle class people but bothers about retaining his Chief Ministership, and also at the sametime wants to act in films to retain his lost popularity. He had promised to open about 20,000 fair price shops in the rural areas, but nothing has been done so far in our State and the result is that the poor people have to fare a lot of problems. They have to stand in queues for hours together to get kerosene and other essential commodities. Regarding diesel supply, I may say that lorries are standing in queues on the roads for hours together to obtain five litres of diesel oil. This causes a lot of hardships to the people in various ways. It affects the coolies and the workers and the day to day activities of the people. Therefore, I would request the Minister to take effective and strict measures to solve the problems of the people by controlling the price rise and streamlining the distribution.

Sir, I thank you very much for having given me an opportunity to express my views on this resolution.

SHRI GHULAM RASOOL KOC-HACK (Anantnag): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the issue before the House is of vital public importance and it is a progressive resolution against anti-social elements. It seeks to find a remedy to the disease that is sucking the blood of the common man. No doubt, legislations have been enacted from time to time to prevent hoarding and pro-

steering, but it has been found inadequate to meet the requirements of the situation and for solving the problem urgently. No doubt, we have the Essential Commodities Act, but what we have experienced so far is that it has been more in breach than in compliance. So, the necessity has come for meeting the vacuum that has been left, by flagrance of this law against those who indulge in profiteering and hoarding. Some members opposed it on the basis that it would violate the fundamental rights of the people. I do not agree with them because fundamental rights are liberties that one can enjoy with regard to one's properties, but there should be no liberty to suck the blood of the common man. While the Constitution guarantees certain fundamental rights, it has kept certain checks and balances and these checks and balances are in the form of this resolution before the House. It is progressive in nature. On my behalf and on behalf of the State of Jammu and Kashmir, I support this resolution with all the strength at my command. The public in general are awaiting an answer to the various problem facing them. We must give an answer, which would be satisfactory to the electorate, who have supported us and who have reposed their confidence in us to solve their social problems.

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I appreciate the viewpoint expressed by hon. members who took part in the debate on this resolution and I share their anxiety and concern on a very vital problem with which we are confronted today. In fact, from the beginning of the session, either in this House or in the other House, the hon. members are drawing the attention of the Government and trying to express their views, if not on any individual item, on the question of soaring prices either in the form

of Calling Attention or in the form of questions or in the form of this resolution. Therefore, the gravity of the situation and the importance of the subject is known and we are fully aware of the problem itself.

At the same time, we shall have to keep in mind that it is not a fact that suddenly we are confronted with a situation where prices are rising by leaps and bounds. If we look at the state of economy for the last three years, we have found and I agree with the hon. Member, Shri Chintamani Panigrahi, when he pointed out, that so far as the health of the economy is concerned, it was not so bad but it was the question of bad management. Perhaps, it would not be wrong if someone comes to a conclusion that the present state of affairs is largely because of the bad management of the happy state of economy which the earlier Government inherited in 1977.

What was the position? I do not say that there was no rise in prices. There was inflation and it was of the order of 12 per cent. But, at the same time, there was a buffer stock of food-grains to the tune of 18 million tonnes; there was an industrial growth rate of the order of 10 per cent for the first time in this country and there was sufficient cushion so far as foreign exchange reserve was concerned. What is the position today? We are confronted with a rate of inflation of the order of 21.3 per cent. You will be surprised to know and the hon. members are well aware of it that when the Budget was presented by Mr. Charan Singh for the year 1979-80 and when his attention was drawn to the very fact that in the state of economy like ours, a huge deficit of the order of Rs. 1300 crores and an additional dose of taxation to the tune of Rs. 650 crores and odd are bound to have an adverse effect on the price front, as usual, it was pointed that there will be no effect on the prices.

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would just like to draw the attention of the hon. members to certain very salient points on that score. In January, an increase in price was 0.6 per cent; in February, it was 1.8 per cent (pre Budget) and, immediately after the Budget, in March, it was 3.4 per cent; in April, it was 7.1 per cent and today it is 21.3 per cent. Somebody may simply say that we are importing inflation. No doubt, there is an element of truth in it. With a rise in oil prices, certain percentage of inflation is imported. There is no doubt about it. But it is equally true that when you have stagnation in growth, when in the last three years the gross national product is of the order of 4 per cent and 4.1 per cent, if the money supply persists to continue in the order of 17.1 per cent and 17.2 per cent, in spite of resorting to various selective credit policies by the Reserve Bank and that was initiated by the previous Government, not by the Janata Government but by the Government headed by the Congress party, in spite of these selective credit policies, in spite of the dear money policy pursued by the Reserve Bank continuously over a period of years, when the expansion of money supply is 17.1 per cent and growth is in the order of 4.1 per cent to 4.4 per cent, it is bound to have its effect on the economy and on the price front. Added to that, the budget which was presented had a huge deficit and there were taxes over almost all items, which was supplemented by the hike in the Railway freight by 5 per cent to 10 per cent. Therefore, if somebody comes to the conclusion that there was lack of adequate will to tackle the problem, what is wrong? Capacities were allowed to remain unutilised in essential sectors like cement and steel, in aluminium and coal. Whatever capacity we had developed over a period of years by investing national resources and whatever we had reached in the earlier years—I am not talking of expansion. I am not taking of in-

creasing—but even the level of production (you were in charge of the Steel Ministry) which we had in 1976-77 was not maintained in 1977-78, 1978-79 and 1979-80. Therefore, we are placed in a situation where we find there is stagnation in economic growth, there is stagnation in GNP, there is high rate of monetary expansion, there is international crisis. Over and above that, the erroneous fiscal policies contributed simultaneously to the rise in prices.

At the same time, I would not like to simply pass on the responsibility to the previous regime. When a Government takes on responsibility, it is the responsibility of the Government to rectify and take corrective measures wherever they are needed. For that, one such area is the improvement of the public distribution system. But it takes time. The infrastructure which was built up was unfortunately not allowed to function properly. It is not merely arithmetic whether we can open fair-price shops in a large number of villages and whether we can extend the coverage commodity-wise, area-wise or population-wise. According to statistics and arithmetically, these things are all right. But the moot question is whether we are in a position to take essential goods to various points of consumption so that people can take the opportunity of getting them. That is the moot question; that has to be built up. But unfortunately, here also there is a difference in the approach. Nobody in this country would deny that speculators and hoarders play a role in exploiting the situation, particularly when there is a shortage. When State Governments are provided with an instrument, they take a lukewarm attitude. It is not the Congress Government which is running the states in this country. In only one state the Congress is entrusted with the responsibility of managing the administration of the State.

AN HON. MEMBER: What is the position of prices there?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: I am coming to that. Why I am saying this is because when there is a shortage speculators and hoarders are taking the opportunity, how are you going to deal with them? When the question comes up I will deal with it in details. But now I can tell you one simple fact. So far as the Essential Commodities Act is concerned you will be surprised to know that in one State alone, in West Bengal, more than 13000 cases are pending—and pending over a period of years, under the Essential Commodities Act, of which so much is talked about. Instruments are there; Acts are there but you don't want to utilise them. There is no denying the fact that all sorts of economic offences were indulged in during the last three years. In not a single case was COFEPOSA applied. Raids were conducted, but the raids were conducted not on economic offenders but on political opponents. All the smugglers became honest, all the hoarders became honest. There was no need for the application of COFEPOSA; there was no need for the application of tax raids and customs raids. On the one hand you allow smugglers to continue, hoarders to continue and black-marketeers to continue, you take wrong fiscal policies, even to create a situation in which there is stagnation in industrial growth there is stagnation in GNP, and at the same time you expect there should be no rise in prices? It may be our pious desire, but unfortunately it is not possible. Therefore, the moot question is, how we are going to sort out this problem. The hon. Member was suggesting: 'Why don't you take over the entire wholesale trade in all essential commodities?'. It may be a very desirable wish. But do we have the infrastructure, do we have the apparatus, do we have mechanism to that we can take over the wholesale trade? It is not a new thing to us. At one particular time, we took over trade in one commodity. Mr. Chairman, you will remember, at that time you yourself had taken the initiative. So far as the wholesale trade in wheat was con-

cerned, it was taken over. But when you have the deficiency in your mechanism, in your apparatus, it is no use trying to achieve a certain objective which is very ideal but which you cannot implement. India is not a very small country. The commodities which you are dealing with are not few in number. We have the problem of difficult terrain also. Mr. Sangma, when he was making his observations on this particular Resolution, very correctly pointed out the difficult terrain and the transport bottlenecks in various tiers of distribution with which we are faced today. If we completely ignore these facts and simply say that we are going to nationalise the wholesale trade in all essential commodities and all the problems will be solved, Mr. Chairman, Sir in my opinion, we are expecting too much. Therefore, whatever is available to us we can take the opportunity and improve the system. Certain commodities have been identified. I have spelt out those commodities while answering to questions in the morning, for instance, standard cloth, cereals, sugar, kerosene; match box. If we can build up a network through fair price shops, through co-operative societies, and ensure that these commodities will be made available to the people at reasonable prices, then it would have some effect so far as ameliorating the conditions of the common people and weaker sections of the community are concerned. But so far as controlling the price is concerned, you will have to take sound fiscal policies. There is no easy alternative. You must augment your production, you must utilise your capacities to the fullest extent possible, you must identify the areas where there are constraints on production and try to remove them. You cannot perpetuate an economy of shortages for all time to come. Unless we can produce, unless the difference between demand and supply is made up by more production, we cannot have a long-term solution, a permanent solution. In a developing economy like ours, this should be a constant exercise and we shall have to

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keep our mind alert to this problem. So far as short-term measures are concerned, one good suggestion has come from Prof. Ranga. Often it is not possible for us to say 'yes' or 'no' immediately. It requires some in depth studies—the dual price policy in certain commodities. We are having this so far as sugar is concerned. Whether we can extent this policy to certain other essential commodities, we have to examine, and I can assure him that we will examine this, we will study this suggestion in its totality; and it should be possible for us to arrive at a solution.

Sir, what I can say for the consideration of the hon. Members now is that the solution suggested by the hon. Mover of the Resolution is not the real solution. Whatever we can do within the means which is in our possession, we are trying to do, we are trying to improve it, and we shall have to continue to do so. But I do not feel that merely by nationalising the wholesale trade in essential commodities we are going to solve the problem.

Because of these, I am opposing the resolution.

SHRI N. G. RANGA: Don't we need the co-operation of all Parties in this task?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Of course, and I am grateful to Prof Ranga for reminding me that in this area also we require the co-operation not merely to get the legislation passed which is before the hon. Members but in certain other areas also.

SHRI SUDHIR KUMAR GIRI (Contai): I express my deep gratitude to the hon. Members who have supported my resolution.

I not surprised to expect that the hon. Minister would bypass the problem this way. I have already pointed out in my earlier speech that there are several causes for the price rise. The

capitalist system of the economy is bound to lead to price-rise and the poor people would have to be deprived of their basic necessities of life. So I suggested some measures and I expected very eagerly that the hon. Minister and his government would give due attention to the poorest of the people. But it is regretted that they have not.

Here the Ministers are roaming in cars. Here they are rolling in carpets. They have forgotten the hungry people who have sent them to this august place. Professor Ranga who has supported my resolution and requested the government to take suitable measures—I thank him though he belongs to the ruling party—most probably has not forgotten the hungry faces of the people. People who live here and the people who live in the villages are two different sets of people having two different sets of mind. People living in abundance and people elected to the House on their support can hardly be expected to take into consideration the sufferings of the poor people.

It was made quite clear to us that the government is wedded to the principles of democracy and socialism. The Prime Minister, the other day, told the House that she is also wedded to the principle of democracy and socialism. Then if the 70 per cent of the total population live below the poverty line, how can democracy be made workable? If 70 per cent of the total population remain hungry throughout their life and cannot procure the basic necessities of life, how would they cast their vote free from bondages. If poverty continues this way it is easy for the monied man to purchase their votes. It is easy for the landlords and the capitalists to purchase the votes of these poor people. That is what has been done in many parts of the country. I, therefore, appeal to all the Members of the House and I appeal to their good senses so that this pretext or that pretext should not deprive the hungry people of the countryside. If the government has really good wishes,

it can build up the infra-structure and it can supply the basic necessities of life to the people in the villages at the uniform prices fixed up.

17.00 hrs.

It is told to us on various occasions that the people belonging to the Congress (I) Party follow the ideals of Gandhiji. Therefore, by the name of Gandhiji, I appeal to those people to please change the capitalistic and feudalistic pattern of society and engage their minds to ameliorate the conditions of the villagers most of whom live below poverty line. I appeal to them to bring about a change in our society in consonance with the principles laid down in the Preamble to the Constitution of India. My suggestion to the hon. Minister, to the Government and to the learned hon. Members of this House is, therefore, to give a second thought to it so that the takeover of the wholesale trade in the essential commodities must be resorted to and fair-price shops in a large scale opened in the villages and towns so that these basic commodities be supplied to the people at uniform prices fixed up. What is the harm in fixing up the prices of these essential commodities? If the prices of the essential commodities are fixed up, then the hoarders, and the profiteers would not be able to earn such a huge profit as they can do today. So, my Resolution stands and I again express my deep gratitude for and pay respects to those who have given their thought to the hungry people of the villages and supported my Resolution.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have now got two amendments from two hon. Members—Shri Mool Chand Daga and Shri Kamla Mishra Madhukar. Unless they are willing to withdraw them, I shall have to put the amendments to the vote of the House.

SHRI KAMLA MISHRA MADHUKAR (Motihari): I am pressing my

amendment and I want to speak on that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let me first put the Amendment of Shri Mool Chand Daga. That in the resolution,—

(i) delete "take over wholesale trade and"

(ii) add at the end—

"as soon as possible" (1)

I think he is not present. I will have to put it to the vote of the House.

The Amendment was put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now I shall put amendment No. 2 moved by Shri Kamla Mishra Madhukar.

SHRI KAMLA MISHRA MADHUKAR: I have not spoken on it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think at this stage, there is no speech made. I think at that time I did give enough time.

श्री कमला मिश्र मधुकर :—मैं दो-चार शब्द कहना चाहता हूँ, मुझे मौका दीजिये।

सभापति महोदय : सदन ने पहले ही आधा घंटा समय बढ़ा दिया था, लेकिन दुर्भाग्य से बोलने वाले नहीं थे। इस वक्त मैं समझता हूँ कि दूसरा प्रस्ताव आने दिया जाय, इसलिये मैं आप के अमेण्डमेन्ट को पेश करूँगा।

श्री समर मुखर्जी : (हावड़ा) इसे पढ़ दीजिये।

सभापति महोदय : मैं आप के अमेण्डमेन्ट को सदनमें पढ़ देता हूँ।

"That in the resolution—

for 'to take over wholesale trade and curb the price rise by ensuring supply of all the essential commodities at reduced prices through fair price shops.'

substitute 'not only to take over the wholesale trade but the production of essential commodities may also be brought under Govern-

[Mr. Chairman]

ment control and ensure the supply of all the essential commodities to urban and rural population through fair price shops under the supervision of committed persons.' (2)

I shall now put amendment No. 2 moved by Shri Kamla Mishra Madhukar to the vote of the House.

The Amendment was put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, I put the Resolution moved by Shri Sudhir Kumar Giri to the vote of the House. The question is:

"This House notes with grave concern the abnormal rise in prices of all essential commodities of human life, such as food-grains, pulses; edible oils; cloth; kerosene, coal, etc. in the country ranging between 20 to 40 per cent within a short span of time and calls upon the Government to take over wholesale trade and curb the price rise by ensuring supply of all the essential commodities at reduced prices through fair price shops."

Those in favour may say 'Aye.'

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Aye.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Those against may say 'No.'

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: No.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Noes have it....

SHRI SUDHIR KUMAR GIRI: No, Ayes have it, I want division.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right, let the lobbies be cleared.

The lobbies have been cleared. I will put the Resolution to the vote of the House: The question is:

"This House notes with grave concern the abnormal rise in prices of all essential commodities of human life, such as food-grains;

pulses; edible oils; cloth; kerosene, coal, etc. in the country ranging between 20 to 40 per cent within a short span of time and calls upon the Government to take over wholesale trade and curb the price rise by ensuring supply of all the essential commodities at reduced prices through fair price shops."

The motion was negatived.

17.11 hrs.

RESOLUTION RE. CENTRE-STATE RELATIONSHIP

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will now take up the Resolution on Centre-State Relationship to be moved by Shrimati Suseela Gopalan. Before I ask her to move this Resolution, the House has to allot time for this Resolution. The House agreed to allot two hours for the earlier Resolution. If the House agrees, we may allot two hours for this Resolution also.

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE (Howrah): This is an important subject; it will not be over during this session.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Initially, we may agree for two hours. Though time for the earlier Resolution was extended, yet there were no speakers. We may, therefore, agree to two hours initially.

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: All right.

MR. CHAIRMAN: So, I take it that the House agrees to allot two hours for this Resolution.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH): There is a discussion under Rule 193 to be taken up at 6.00 P.M. to be

raised by Shri Chitta Basu and Prof. Madhu Dandavate. It will be better if this Resolution is completed by that time

MR. CHAIRMAN: How can it be completed? This cannot be completed. Shrimati Suseela Gopalan.

SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN (Alleppey). I beg to move:

"This House is of the opinion that a reappraisal of the existing Centre-State relations with a view to give more financial powers and greater autonomy for the States in consonance with the true concept of federalism is necessary and in this context calls upon the Central Government to immediately convene a Conference of Chief Ministers along with representatives of recognised political parties."

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Resolution is most appropriate in view of the political situation in the country since the Centre-State relations are at cross roads today. The nine State Chief Ministers who met two days back expressed their concern at the toppling business of the Central Government on the plea that the State Governments have lost mandate from the people. In U. P. and Bihar, the ruling Party at the Centre got only 36 per cent and 36.4 per cent of votes respectively. How can they claim that they have got a mandate from the people of that States in their favour? I ask them if their standard is applied to Kerala, how many of their Members of Parliament will have to resign in view of the mandate the people of Kerala have given in the Assembly elections? Will they consider it correct to ask their MPs to resign? If this is the criteria, there will be elections everyday in our country. Some of the Ministers have gone to the extent of saying that they would throw the West Bangal Ministry into the Bay of Bengal. Both in the Panchayat elections as well as in Parliament elections, the ruling front in West Bengal

have got massive victory not only in the number of seats but also in the matter of percentage of votes... (Interruptions)

Not only in the number of seats, but in the percentage of votes also, they have got a massive majority. Interruptions 53 per cent is not less; and you have got only 43 per cent. (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please show some courtesy to the hon. Lady Member.

SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN: Even then you say that you are going to throw the West Bengal Ministry into the Bay of Bengal. It means that it is not a question of people's mandate, but that of political vendetta.

This actually poses a serious threat to Centre-State relations. The question of Centre-State relations is crucial to the preservation of unity and integrity of India. The several linguistic and cultural groups that inhabit the country were united before Independence in their common aspiration for freedom from colonial bondage. They are to-day united in the common aspiration to build a prosperous life for themselves as well as to develop full national resources free from imperialist interference and according to their respective socio-economic, linguistic and cultural needs. The struggle for realizing this common demand makes it incumbent on the Government at the Centre and the States, Political parties and the people at large to recognize the need for unity in diversity.

During the last two decades, while the demand has been growing for greater Powers to the States so as to make autonomy real and effective, what the Centre has been doing is to erode the limited Powers of the States.

The very existence of the constitutionally elected State Governments depends on the sweet will of the Centre as can be seen from the number of non-Congress State Government

[Shrimati Suseela Gopalan]

subverted during the three decades of Congress rule at the Centre.

During the last 12 years, Centre's tentacles have spread further on the States, even in the sphere of law and order which is formally a State subject, through the creation of CRP, BSF etc. By the 42nd amendment of the Constitution, Centre took Powers to send its Police forces and station them in the States even without the concurrence of the latter. Education which was a State subject was transferred to the Concurrent List. The personnel of the Services Posted in the States even earlier, were not under the disciplinary jurisdiction of the State Governments out of the Centre. The process has reached a stage where it threatens to reduce the States to the status of a subordinate department of the Centre under the aegis of the Union Home Ministry. All these things should be re-assessed properly.

Added to this is the concentration of all the principal means of financial resources in the hands of the Centre, while the main responsibility for nation-building activities is that of the States. They have only very limited resources, mainly confined to land revenue and sales tax, with all the expending resources of revenue like Excise, Customs etc. kept in the hands of the Centre. With the introduction of Planning, Centre has gathered still further financial and administrative Powers in its hands, reducing the States to the Position of mendicants. Even the meetings of the National Development Council have been reduced to a ritual.

Though the State Government is not responsible for the ills of the Policies pursued by the Centre, it is the State Government which has to bear the brunt of discontent caused thereby—more than the remote Union Government.

Regarding the taxation, import and exports policies, the State Government has no say. The impact of these policies have to be borne by them. Indirect taxes are mounting up every Year. During the last 32 Years, the Policy pursued was not different. In the last budget of 1979-80, Excise duty which has a direct impact on the common People, amounted to Rs. 7700 crores, whereas corporate tax and income tax together came to only Rs. 2728 crores. On cotton textiles it was Rs. 700 crores; on kerosene Rs. 150 crores, sugar Rs. 132 crores, matches Rs. 49 crores and soap Rs. 19 crores. As a result of this, Prices of essential commodities go up every year. The State Government has no power to challenge this.

The West Bengal Chief Minister had suggested to the Centre that 10 or 12 items of essential commodities should be distributed all over the country at fair price and they should be supplied at subsidised prices, but the Central Government did not pay any heed to it. They did not even reply to that. This was the attitude taken by the Central Government for the last 32 years, not only for the last three years. If such proposals are made before the Central Government, they are not prepared to discuss these problems. Shri Morarji Desai who was the Prime Minister also said, no question of discussing about Centre-State relations. The same attitude was adopted by Shrimati Indira Gandhi from the very beginning.

The export-import policy also affects the people to a great extent. The State Governments are never consulted. Mrs. Gandhi was talking much about the onion prices during the election campaign. But it was during her own regime, the export of onion was permitted which is responsible for pushing up the price of onion. The Janata Government also continued the same policy. But she cannot escape the responsibility of price rise of onion. Potatoes and

vegetables were also exported and in her own budget she provided rupees 500 per tonne for the export of banana. She also heavily subsidised the export of sugar and sold at Rs. 1.50 per kg. in the European market when the prices doubled or tripled in the Indian market.

Is there any possibility for the State Governments to change these policies even if they desire? Regarding the import of things like rubber and edible oils they never even consult the State Governments. If the State Governments complain about the hardships of the farmers due to the decline in the prices of these things no remedial measures are taken.

17.24 hrs.

[SHRI GULSHER AHMED in the Chair]

Kerala is producing rubber and coconut. When there is a reduction in the price of rubber or coconut, then the farmers are suffering. If the State Government complains to the Central Government, they will not take any remedial measures to prevent the hardship caused to the farmers. But if the big companies complain that there is some decrease in their profit, then they will immediately import rubber or edible oil. Coconut oil is used for commercial purposes. Only in Kerala, coconut oil is used for cooking purposes. It is more or less a commercial thing. When the big companies complain that their profit is less, then they will immediately import coconut oil. Same is the case with rubber also. But if the farmers are suffering and the State Government complains, there is no solution for that. But if the big companies complain, even without consulting the State Governments about the impact of imports, the Centre will take decisions to import rubber or edible oil. The prices of these goods come down and the farmers are suffering. Such is the policy of the Central Government for the last 32 years. It is continuing. They are not taking into consideration the opinion of the State Governments.

They have the right to withhold any legislation passed by the State Assemblies though it is very essential for the progress of the State. West Bengal's land legislation was held up for one year. Assent was not given to their legislation for giving recognition to trade unions for secret ballot. Previously, the Central Governments had done the same thing on several occasions. We have our own experience of Kerala. We had sent land legislation in 1959. That was held up in the Centre for one and half years. We had to agitate for getting assent from the Central government. They can withhold consent and they could at the same time pass any legislation which can go against the interest of the people of the State. The State Governments should have exclusive powers to make laws with respect to any matter not enumerated in the Union or Concurrent list. About this there should be a discussion. A great debate is going on about the State-Centre relation. At least at the present juncture the central Government should come forward because the State governments are unable to do many things and they have to face the anger of the people. To protect States' autonomy, an amendment to article 248 should be made to the effect that the legislature of a State should have exclusive power to make any law with respect to any matter not enumerated in the Union or Concurrent List, as against the present provision which reserves this right to Parliament. In other words, the residual powers of the federation should lie with the units and not with the Centre.

17.27 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

The States have to act in such a way while exercising their full rights in their own sphere that they do not transgress the spheres allotted to the Central Government; the latter too, on its part, should not interfere in the sphere of the States, both legislative and executive. Article 249 giving

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power to Parliament to legislate on a subject in the State List under the plea of national interest should be deleted.

While enlarging the scope of the States' sphere, we must also try to preserve and strengthen the Union authority by subjects that could be carried out by the Union authority and not by any single state, such as defence, foreign affairs, including foreign trade, currency and communications and economic coordination. The role of the Centre should be one of coordination. In areas such as planning, fixing of prices, wages, etc. the Centre may not only coordinate but also issue general direction.

In the matter of planning and economic coordination, however the Centre will have to conform to the general guidelines laid down by the National Development Council, in which the States will have representation along with the Centre. At the moment, neither the Council nor the Planning Commission is specifically referred to in the Constitution. This lacuna may be closed by introducing a separate Article which should also state clearly that the composition of the Planning Commission will be determined by the National Development Council. Loans and grants for developmental purposes are now the prerogative of the Planning Commission. It is thus important that the State have some say in the manner of operation of the Commission. But nothing beyond foreign relations, defence, communications, currency and related matters should be the exclusive domain of the Centre. The latter should help the States develop in their own way, with more powers and resources at their command.

Governors are acting as representatives of the ruling parties. They are encouraging defections. In 1958 the Government of Kerala was toppled

when Mrs. Gandhi was the President of the Congress. They could not even defect one single person from the ruling party. The Government was dismissed under the pretext of law and order. The first shot against provincial autonomy was fired by none else than Mrs. Gandhi, the well-known lady toppler. I called her lady toppler in 1969. Now after a decade she has become lady toppler with vengeance.

The future of our democracy is closely linked up with the preservation of the democratic rights of the States and the Government is out to suppress these rights with impunity. Rajya Sabha has expressed concern at the toppling affairs. Mrs. Gandhi has no respect for democracy. She has her own definition of democracy. I do not know whether Mrs. Gandhi will pay heed to the concern expressed by Rajya Sabha.

Mr. Pranab Mukherjee has said that he will force the Government of Bengal to implement the Preventive Detention Act. Blackmarketeers were arrested during Emergency but their names were not given. Many of them were released under suspicious circumstances. Charges were brought before the State Assembly of Kerala that some Ministers have taken bribe for releasing the arrested blackmarketeers. You want this Bill to be implemented by West Bengal Government! The present laws are enough to arrest the law-breakers and they are already doing it. But the question is whether the centre is prepared to help them. But the Centre does not want to use this ordinary law but instead they want to bring preventive detention for political ends.

SHRI N. G. RANGA (Guntur):
Not for political purpose.

SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN:
A reappraisal of Centre State relations is quite essential.

The Government should give up the present method of dealing with the State Governments. Half of the State Governments are headed by non-Congress parties. Therefore, it is imperative that a dialogue should be initiated with the Chief Ministers as well as political parties in the country so that proper democratic norms of Centre-State relations can be evolved in the country. It also has its own bearing on the unity and the integrity of the country. I would appeal to the democratic sense of all the Members of the House to support this motion so that provincial autonomy in the country is maintained. However, if the Central Government continues its present policy of showing scant regard to the democratic norms that govern the State-Centre relations the tension between the Centre and State Governments will continue and the future of democracy will be at stake.

I hope the House will take into consideration all this and will pass this Resolution so that there should be a re-appraisal of the whole policy pursued in our country.

MR. SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"This House is of the opinion that a reappraisal of the existing Centre-State relations with a view to give more financial powers and greater autonomy for the States in consonance with the true concept of federalism is necessary and in this context calls upon the Central Government to immediately convene a Conference of Chief Ministers along with representatives of recognised political parties."

There is an amendment moved by Shri Nadar.

SHRI A. NEELALOHITHADASAN NADAR (Trivandrum): I beg to move:

"That in the resolution,—
after "is necessary" insert—
"and a strong Central Govern-

ment is an utmost necessity under the present state of national and international affairs in India". (1)

SHRI SANJAY GANDHI (Ame-
thi): We have just heard a tirade. It is understandable that when there are parties whose influence is limited to a small local area, they would like more power for themselves because they cannot exercise their powers beyond their small border. But there is a great danger in increasing the powers of a State. I want to give a specific example of what happened in Uttar Pradesh. Not very long ago an incident had happened on the 14th of last month. There was a bus going in a village called Narainpur in the District of Deoria of Uttar Pradesh. It knocked down an old lady. The villagers surrounded the bus and demanded compensation. They were taken to the police ostensibly to work out a settlement.

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER (Durgapur): It is an irrelevant example.

SHRI SANJAY GANDHI: It is very relevant. As a communist you should appreciate it.

They were taken to the police station ostensibly to make a settlement. The Lok Dal M.L.A. of the area represented the State Government; his name is Shri Bankey Lal. I am sorry, I have to name him. It is not usual to name some one but in such a serious situation, it is necessary. The negotiations were held, and after the negotiations were held the police caught the negotiators and beat them. Not only beat them, the Muslim members that were there, their beards were pulled out. They were pulled out in such a way that in a large number of cases the skin came up with the beard. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Do not interrupt.

SHRI SANJAY GANDHI: The Hindu members that were there, their choties were pulled off. Some of them have lost part of their scalps with their choties. After that Shri Bankey Lal took a team of 200 police men and P.A.C. men, surrounded the village. As they entered the village the first person they encountered was Posh-e-Imam of village. The police probably wanted to show that they do not discriminate against anybody. The Posh-e-Imam was the first man to be beaten up. The M.L.A. entered the house and went to sleep. In the meantime, the police went to each house and each house was broken down. That village has more than 250 houses. Not one House has remained intact. Every house has been broken. Not one woman, minor or major, has been left without being raped (*Interruptions*). Old women, who were too old to be raped, were beaten up and a number of them had their bones broken. They were lying there for more than a week with their bones broken. The D.M. and the police of the local area came and said, "We will give them aid." They took away these women. Four women were taken away from the village. They did not take them to the hospital. Nobody knows where they have been taken. They have all disappeared. While the rape was going on, one old Harijan man was thrown into a well. He died there. Four others were killed. (*Interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing is to be recorded without my permission.

(*Interruptions*)*

SHRI SANJAY GANDHI: Yesterday when I visited the village, 90 per cent of the women have not been able to come back to the village. The reason they gave is that the State Government has posted the same policemen for their protection who had raped them. A judge has been asked to order an enquiry into the incident. It is the same district judge who refused to give

these people bail. All these people were arrested. The same district judge that cooperated with the police and refused to give these poor people bail has been appointed by the State Government to enquire into the matter. Do those poor villagers have any faith in the State Government there? Do those women have been raped and do those girls who have been raped— young girls of 11 and 12 years have been raped—have any faith in the State Government there? The State Government is providing them with no protection. The State Government has not even ordered that outside police force should come. They want the local police to come. The only people who have gone there to help the villagers have been the Youth Congress workers. No other party was willing to go and the State Government has done nothing there. When such situation prevail, is it possible to give the State Governments more powers? Is it desirable? Where a State Government misbehaves, where the State Government uses its powers to molest poor women and to beat old women, in such a situation, it is desirable only to reduce the powers of the State Governments and to arm the Central Government with powers to protect the poor people, to protect the poor women and to protect the young girls. It is sheer irresponsibility the opposition party has shown by their total lack of concern for such heinous incidents. (*Interruptions*). I do not think any opposition party, any person who was elected by the people of India, would have the gumption to get up and talk like this when they hear of 10 and 11 year old girls being raped, when they hear a whole village being destroyed, when they hear of the whole moral character of village being ruined. This is the first time that such a heinous thing has happened in the whole of India. Even during the time of the British it has never happened that a whole village has been obliterated. It is important that such poor people should get protection and the Centre should have the power to give them

protection. The Centre should have the power to go out to any poor people who demand protection. The people in these villages are demanding it. In Western U.P. there is no shortage of diesel, there is no shortage of kerosene. Whatever was given to Eastern U.P. has been diverted to Western U.P. and the only excuse given by our Minister is that he can do nothing about it. He gives the quota to the State and the Government distributes it to whomsoever they like. When the State Government turns vindictive and when the State Government gives the quotas only to those people who voted for them, is it not the duty of the Central Government to protect the poor people? Is it not necessary for the Central Government to have the power to protect the people? It is important that the Centre should have the power to protect the poor people wherever the poor people demand protection. (*Interruptions*). Our Communist Members are scared of the Centre. Maybe they think that if the Centre can go there, rigging will not take place. (*Interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER: That is not the way. You will have you rsay when your turn comes.

SHRI SANJAY GANDHI: Are not the Centre's powers required...(*Interruptions*).

SHRI GULSHER AHMED: Sir, there is a convention that when a maiden speech is made by an hon. Member no interruption should be made (*Interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Halder, you are a very seasoned politician. You should not speak while sitting there all the time interrupting.

SHRI SANJAY GANDHI: Sir, a lot of other things have been said, I could answer them, but I do not wish to dilute the incident that happened in Narainpur. I do not wish that when poor people are Bulldozed, when they are killed, their bones are broken.

Another incident also happened there. My Janata Party friends may not think it very heinous. But when these people were in the police station and the Muslims asked for reading namaz, they were taken out and two lines were made, one of Muslims and one of Hindus and each was made to urinate in the mouth of the other. These are all incidents that had happened in Narainpur, these are all incidents that had happened with the active backing of the State Government. The Chief Minister of U.P. on the floor of the House said that nothing had happened and his own Minister had to get up and contradict him. His own Minister had to say that 'I had to hang my head in shame when I saw what happened'. Sir, in such a situation where even a Minister of the State Government wants Central protection, is it not necessary to arm the Central Government with powers to protect the poor people, to protect the helpless and to protect the Harijans?

AN HON. MEMBER: To bulldoze them? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SANJAY GANDHI: To protect them against the bulldozer of the State Government so that the poor people have a sense of security, so that the poor people can look up for protection. The poor people in Narainpur today cannot even look up at anybody when they speak. They say: "We have lost our sense of shame". They say that 'we have nothing more to look forward in life'. None of the girls can return to this village because they say that if they return to the village, they will never get married. They have to go to other villages and live under assumed identities. So, if in such a situation the Centre cannot help, then there is no need for a Central Government, then there is no need for a State Government. And all we will have in this country is anarchy. Thank you.

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV (Azamgarh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention to a very serious matter. If what the hon. Member

[Shri Chandrajit Yadav]

has said is true, then really it is a matter of shame for the whole country. (Interruptions).

AN HON. MEMBER: It is true, it is my constituency. I know it for a fact.. (Interruptions).

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV: It is a matter of very great shame. When the hon. Member held a press conference yesterday and said that girls were raped, I talked to the Chief Minister because it is a very serious matter. He told me that two high officials who happened to be Scheduled Caste, the Secretary of Social Welfare and a D.I.G. were sent, and they have reported that so far as the rape cases are concerned, there is no truth in it. If they are true, these are harrowing facts. So, I request you to constitute a Committee of this House because it is a very serious matter if these facts are true. because it is a matter of shame to everybody that ten and eleven year-girls are raped. It is better to constitute a Committee of this House. Let the Committee go into all the details and report to the House for strong actions. It is a serious matter.

MR. SPEAKER: It is a very good suggestion. I will consider it.

SHRI N. G. RANGA (Guntur): It is for the Government and not for the House.

MR. SPEAKER: It is a suggestion he has made. The Home Minister will consider it.

SHRI SANJAY GANDHI: I would like to add that a Committee may be constituted, but let it consist mainly of women Members to whom the women there will be willing to talk openly.

SHRI C.P.N. SINGH (Padrauna): This is a very important matter, and I have been trying to raise it under every rule of this House, but I have

not been able to do it. I agree that a Committee may go into the matter, but the Centre should be able to send somebody immediately to alleviate the grievance of the residents of Narainpur village in my constituency.

MR. SPEAKER: It is for the Government to do it. The Home Minister is sitting here. He has taken note of everything.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH): On the merits of the case, the Chief Minister of U.P. had sent his own Minister to go and enquire into the matter. He has come and made a statement on the floor of the Assembly corroborating what Mr. Sanjay Gandhi and other people have said.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister will take note of it.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA (Tumkur): The Home Minister has got every right, when it has been corroborated, to intervene immediately.

MR. SPEAKER: It is under his consideration.

SHRI C. P. N. SINGH rose—

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded.

SHRI C.P.N. SINGH**.

DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI (Sitapur) rose—

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded.

DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI

श्री कमला मिश्र मधुकर (मोतीहारी) : अध्यक्ष जी, मैं इस प्रस्ताव का समर्थन करता हूँ। इसलिए कि इस प्रस्ताव में यह मांग की गई है कि देश में 30 वर्षों के बाद और जनता राज्य के बाद जो नई

स्थिति पैदा हुई है, उसको दृष्टि में रखते हुए केन्द्र और राज्यों के संबंधों का फिर से मूल्यांकन किया जाए। उसमें एक नए मेम्बर जी ने कुछ बातें कहीं हैं, वे तथ्य की बातें हो सकती हैं, उसमें कोई ऐतराज नहीं हो सकता है, लेकिन यदि उससे यह निष्कर्ष निकाला जाए कि केन्द्र को और मजबूत किया जाए, ताकि वह राज्यों में हस्तक्षेप कर सके, तब तो फिर संविधान को बदल दीजिये और नया संविधान बनाइए और देश में यूनितरी सिस्टम लागू कर दीजिए, ताकि केन्द्र को जब चाहे हस्तक्षेप करने का अधिकार रहे।

लेकिन इस समय तो यह अधिकार नहीं है। इस समय तो संघ और राज्यों में वित्तीय सवालों पर यूनितरी सिस्टम ही काम करता रहा है। हमारा राज्य बिहार है, जो बहुत पिछड़ा हुआ राज्य है वहां के तमाम साधन जो केन्द्र के अधीन आते हैं, यदि इस समय उन साधनों का फिर से मूल्यांकन नहीं किया जायगा, बटवारे के सम्बन्ध में, तब तो फिर बिहार पिछड़ा ही रह जाएगा।

माननीय सदस्य यह कहें कि बिहार से केन्द्र को सब कुछ मिले, लेकिन बिहार का हिस्सा न मिले, वे ऐसा कह सकते हैं, लेकिन मैं ऐसा समझता हूँ कि उन का ऐसा कहना न्यायिक नहीं है। केरल में, पश्चिमी बंगाल में, बिहार में तथा अन्य राज्यों में केन्द्र को वित्तीय मामलों में अधिक अधिकार है और एक तरह से वित्तीय मामलों में केन्द्र राज्यों को भिक्षा देता है, जिस से उन राज्यों के विकास में बाधा आती है। ऐसी स्थिति में यह जरूरी हो जाता है कि हम राज्यों और केन्द्र के सम्बन्धों का फिर से मूल्यांकन करें।

इस प्रस्ताव में ऐसी कोई बात नहीं है जिस में यह कहा जाय कि केन्द्र को कमजोर कर के राज्यों को अधिक अधिकार देने की बात कहीं गई है। इस में बात केवल मूल्यांकन की है। आज जो नये सन्दर्भ पैदा हो गये हैं, नई स्थिति पैदा हो गई है, जनता की नई आकांक्षाएँ पैदा हुई हैं—उन सब को दृष्टि में रखते हुए केन्द्र और राज्यों के सम्बन्धों पर फिर से विचार किया जाये। मैं नहीं समझता हूँ कि इतनी सी बात से किसी माननीय सदस्य को ऐतराज हो सकता है। यह ऐसा विषय है जिस में किसी भी प्रकार का विवाद नहीं होना चाहिये तथा दूसरे प्रकार का निष्कर्ष नहीं निकालना चाहिये। इसलिये मैं चाहूँगा कि सरकार के लोग इस बात पर विचार करें और इस प्रस्ताव को सर्वसम्मति से पारित करें। हिन्दुस्तान में जनतन्त्र को फलना-फूलना है और संघीय स्थिति को बढ़ने देने की तमन्ना है। हम सब यही चाहते हैं कि केन्द्र और राज्यों के सम्बन्ध मधुर बनें, संघ तथा राज्य के अधिकारों का फिर से मूल्यांकन किया जाय, जिस से राज्य के लोग यह महसूस करें कि केन्द्र हमारे साथ कोई अन्याय करने वाला नहीं है। यह प्रस्ताव जनताव्रिक अधिकारों को बढ़ाने वाला है, इस से केन्द्र और राज्यों के सम्बन्ध और ज्यादा धनिष्ट होंगे। हम जानते हैं—सोशलिस्ट केन्द्रीज में, विशेष कर सोवियत यूनियन में, राज्य सरकारों

को बहुत ज्यादा अधिकार मिले हुए हैं, लेकिन वहां केन्द्र और राज्यों के सम्बन्धों में कभी कोई प्राबलम नहीं आई, कम से कम आसाम जैसी स्थिति कभी पैदा नहीं हुई। अनेक राज्यों में आप की सरकारें हैं, फिर आप राज्यों को अधिक अधिकार दिये जाने से क्यों घबरा रहे हैं। इस प्रस्ताव में घबराने की कोई बात नहीं है।

मैं पूरे हाऊस से अपील करूँगा कि सब लोग मिल कर इस प्रस्ताव को पारित करें ताकि हिन्दुस्तान की नई राजनीतिक अवस्था को दृष्टि में रखते हुए, नई वित्तीय आवश्यकता के अनुसार संघ और राज्य के सम्बन्धों को फिर से मूल्यांकन हो और राज्यों को अधिक से अधिक वित्तीय सहायता और अधिकार मिलने की गुंजाइश हो सके।

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA (Tumkur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the resolution that has been brought before the House by Shrimati Suseela Gopalan is on a subject, which is quite old and which has been discussed time and again on the floor of the House, not once but many times. The wordings of the Constitution show its federal character. The Constitution of India has been put to test on several occasions. The hon. member, belonging to a political party, which does not believe even in the existence of the Constitution, has made a statement referring to a statement reported to have been made by a Minister in West Bengal. I quite remember, even right from the days of Mr. A. K. Gopalan—I was a member of the House here—this very party, the CPM party, has categorically stated and announced that the Constitution of India should be not only changed lock, stock and barrel, but the very same people have mutilated and showed disrespect to the Constitution on several occasions.. (Interruptions).

AN HON. MEMBER: Can you cite an example?

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: I do not understand the recent statements made by non-Congress (I) Chief Ministers. They want to make a sort of consortium to overthrow the Central Government which is legally constituted. Recently, these statements have appeared in the Indian Express (Interruptions) I know the character of the political party and its leaders. We are not accustomed to that. We res-

[Shri K. Lakkappa]

pect the letter and the spirit of the Constitution. We have never tried to mutilate and deface the Constitution.

I know, you are having an alliance for the last 2½ years with the Janata Party and you are exercised on the subject and, under the guide of getting financial resources, you are coming forward with this kind of a resolution. I know the strategy of the CPM and its policies either in Kerala or in West Bengal. I know where your roots are. You talk about defections. I cannot understand that. The first defector in the country, if there is anybody, is only Mr. Charan Singh. It is only Mr. Charan Singh who engineered defections in this country. I can say, he is the father of defections. You go through the history. I cannot understand the logic of talking about defections and having an alliance with the Janata Party. You talk about morals and scruples. I know the characteristics of your party.

The Rajamanar Committee Report on Centre-State relationship was discussed time and again on the floor of the House. May I point out for the benefit of the hon. Members that it was after 1967 that different parties started to rule the States under the federal character of our Constitution. At that time, when there was only the Congress Government at the Centre, not only the Constitution was respected but the spirit of the Constitution was also put to test and the running of the administration was within the purview of the Constitution. Now, after 1967, with different political parties and political ideologies, even anti-national activities and ugly scenes have started in the corner the south, in Kerala and in West Bengal. The demand for more State autonomy, more powers, more resources and all these things have now started coming up.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member may continue his speech next time.

17.59 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

NOTIFICATION UNDER CUSTOMS ACT, 1962

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH): Sir, on behalf of Shri Jagannath Pahadia I beg to lay on the Table a copy of Notification No. 347/7/78/TRU (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st February 1980 exempting coffee, falling under Heading No. 1 of the Second Schedule to the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 when exported out of India, from so much of the duty of customs leviable thereon under the said Second Schedule as is in excess of Rs. 570.00 per quintal, under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-235A/80].

18.00 hrs.

DISCUSSION RE. RECENT POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN AFGHANISTAN

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat): Sir, I raise a discussion on the recent political development in Afghanistan and the resultant escalation of tension in this area. The recent development in Afghanistan cannot be and should not be viewed in isolation. They are to be viewed in conjunction with the wide range of events which have taken place on the international plane in recent times. Then and then alone will it be possible to make a proper and correct appraisal of the situation and correct conclusion can be drawn.

Among the wide range of events, I propose to mention a few.

As you know, ever since the April Revolution of 1978 in Afghanistan, Afghanistan became the target of conspiracies provocations, counter-revolution, sabotage and subversion, and

that was aided by the United States of America. The United States of America, who posed as the gendarme of world reaction, right from the day of the birth of the Afghan revolution, got itself involved in intrigues, and other subversive activities. As you know, Great Britain aided and abetted it, Egypt aided and abetted it and China also aided and abetted it and all of them supported Pakistan on an anti-Afghan course. As you also know, the country knows and the people of the world know, the Soviet Union, on the other hand, befriended the democratic and progressive aims of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union rendered all possible and friendly assistance so that the people of Afghanistan can march along the path of democracy and advancement. The Soviet Union wanted to give adequate help and timely assistance so that the gains of the Revolution can be further consolidated and further deepened.

I knew you would smile!

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): Are you allergic to smiles?

MR. SPEAKER: It is better than his laughing at you! It is not bad.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: All right, it is not bad. I think it is good because it shows he is not angry.

Now, the Soviet Union further entered into a Treaty of Friendship, Good-neighbourliness and Cooperation on December 5, 1978. While, after the Afghanistan Revolution, the people of Afghanistan were proceeding along peaceful lines in order to further their hopes and aspirations, there have been external enemies working against Afghanistan and there have been camps set up in Pakistan to arm, train and equip insurgents and raiders to conduct raids deep inside Afghan territory. The raiders received arms from the United States of America, China, Pakistan and other countries. The situation developed fast. Towards the end of December, 1979, a crucial political situation developed which really

threatened the Revolution and its gains Afghanistan's independence, Afghanistan's sovereignty and integrity. It was at this particular point of time, that is, on the 26th December, the Treaty of Friendship, Good Neighbourliness and Cooperation, entered into between the Soviet Union and the Afghan Government, was invoked in order to safeguard the honor, pride, sovereignty and national independence of Afghanistan.

Now, you will agree with me that it is the inherent right of each and every people to choose their own way of Government, to choose their own way of life; it is also the inherent right of a people to defend their system of government, to defend the way of life they have chosen for themselves; it is also the inherent right of people to make treaties or to invoke treaties in the best interests of their people. This is exactly what the Afghanistan Government has done.

These realities of the situation have been realised by the Government of India. Therefore, the Permanent Representative of India in the United Nations, stated:

"India could not look with equanimity when some outside powers have been interfering in the internal affairs of Afghanistan by training, arming and encouraging subversive elements to create disturbances within that country."

It was further stated:

"Afghanistan has every right to Safeguard its sovereignty, integrity and independence."

This also finds corroboration in the Prime Minister's remarks also. The Prime Minister's remarked:

"They think the Western presence in Afghanistan was very strong."

She told the *New York Times*. She also admitted that the Soviet troops

[Shri Chitta Basu]

were there at the request of the Afghan Government. She said:

"They were invited in on, I think, 26th December, by Amin himself."

"In so far as the presence of Soviet troops is concerned, India firmly accepts the Soviet assurance, that they would withdraw their troops whenever asked by the Afghan Government."

Therefore, the story of Soviet invasion or intervention or soviet entres in Afghanistan does not arise at all and does not stand any scrutiny at all. If there has been any interference or if there has been any intervention, if you so like to call it, this interference and intervention has been caused by the United States of America, by China and by Pakistan; they have recently formed an axis. The Soviet Union has acted only in terms of the Treaty and at the request of the Afghan Government. This is an act of friendliness, good-neighbourliness and cooperation.

The situation has escalated. The Afghan situation is nothing but a pretext for the imperialist powers to revert the world to the cold war which might be converted into a hot war too. Consistent with this policy of converting or reverting to cold war policy, the United States is intensifying military preparations in the Indian Ocean area, in the Gulf area and in various other parts of the world. It also appears that the American strategy is to build up a big task force in the South Asian region with the help of China. The USA has also decided to give heavy arms and economic aid to Pakistan which poses a grave threat to India.

Before concluding, I want to say that India is committed to non-alignment and that non-alignment should not mean non-involvement and neutrality. It is the time for test. Non-

alignment cannot have a full meaning, a complete meaning and a purposeful meaning if it is not directed against imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism. This is the case in Afghanistan where the imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism want to put back the clock of history. Therefore, non-alignment should not be equi-distant from imperialism and Soviet Union. Non-alignment means in this case to stand by the people of Afghanistan in this hour of their grim struggle when they are fighting for the preservation of their independence and integrity.

I hope the Government of India should immediately condemn forthwith and firmly the actions taken by the United States of America, by China and by Pakistan and thereby really brighten the image of India's non-alignment and by that way earn the goodwill of the entire humanity, the Socialist Bloc and other progressive nations of the world.

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV (Azamgarh): The political situation in Afghanistan is causing a serious concern to the peace-loving people all over the world. There are two reasons for this serious concern. One is, of course, the presence of Soviet troops on Afghanistan land and the second is that the United States of America along with China, Pakistan and other countries are forming an axis and are trying to create new military bases in this region. And this is a matter of great concern particularly for us, because every Indian citizen feels greatly concerned that on our border this kind of tension has been created.

It has been said time and again that the cold war situation has gone much ahead and, the people are deeply concerned that it may not be converted into a real war. Therefore, it is a matter of really great concern for every one in this august House and in our country and also peace-loving people all over the world.

I think it is not a happy situation for the Soviet Union to send its forces to Afghanistan. Soviet Union has been one of those countries which have consistently taken a position for world peace, for disarmament and has also expressed its unequivocal faith in Panchsheel and non-interference in the internal affairs of another country. Therefore, I am sure it is not a very happy situation and I hope that as soon as it is possible to withdraw Soviet troops from Afghanistan, the Soviet authorities, will move in that direction.

It has been stated by Soviet Union that they had to send their troops to Afghanistan when a friendship treaty was invoked by a legitimate government of Afghanistan. Sir, it is for the Soviet Union really speaking, and not for us, to make her own judgment. As the Prime Minister very rightly said, we have to believe what the Soviet Union has said. Therefore, I think that in this matter, as concern is being expressed and anxiety is being expressed all over the world, the conscience of the world opinion, peaceloving people of the world, the peace forces of the world, I am sure, will be able to assert themselves and they will also make everything possible to create an atmosphere where the situation will become normal.

But, the more serious situation is that the United States of America has taken full advantage of this situation. It will be wrong on the part of the United States authorities to say that they decided to send arms to Pakistan because of the Soviet army's presence in Afghanistan. It is completely a baseless thing. In this country, particularly, we know, from our own experience, that the United States of America has been arming Pakistan for many years; now the United States of America has been sending not millions but billions of dollars worth of arms to different parts of the world. It is not in the mouth of the United States authorities

to say as to why the Soviet Union sent their army? What happened in Viet Nam? The United States of America, according to their own sources of information, say that 85,000 Soviet troops are present in Afghanistan. But what happened when more than half a million United States Troops for years were in Viet Nam? They were fighting there by defying the entire world public opinion. When the entire world people were on the side of the valiant people of Viet Nam, at that time, the United States of America turned a deaf ear to the world public opinion. They were present in Viet Nam, killing innocent Vietnamese people by using all sorts of poisonous arms, gases and everything possible on earth.

What happened to China? The Prime Minister very rightly drew the attention of the whole world that the United States of America used to say that they wanted to contain Communism. What business have they got to contain Communism? Communism is a philosophy; it is an ideology. It is for the people of any country to choose whatever system they want; whatever socio-economic or political system they want to choose. By sending arms and sending troops or by invading a country, how can any other country prevent the system? Earlier China used to be a very big danger for the United States of America. The Americans used to say that. When I say 'American', I am differentiating the people of America from the authorities of the American Administration. The people of America very rightly raised their peaceful voice against the aggression committed on the land of Viet Nam. Because of that pressure, the American Administration was really compelled to withdraw their forces.

Our experience in this country is that U.S. has always been sending arms and arming Pakistan who committed two aggressions on our land. They still are in possession of some of our territory. China, who committed

[Shri Chandrajit Yadav]

an aggression on our country is still in possession of thousands of miles or kilometers of our territory. These two aggressors, who committed aggression on our country, are joining hands with the United States of America with whose weapons, the United States of America and neo-colonialist countries are always on the side of the exploiting system in the world as they were always opposed to the patriotic popular movements in all parts of the world. They are trying to militarise even the peaceful zones. In spite of powerful opposition and in spite of powerful public opinion that Americans must withdraw from the Indian Ocean, they have not withdrawn. They go on expanding the military base. They have decided to expand their Naval base in Diego Garcia armed with nuclear weapons. It is not a serious danger for us? It is not only a serious danger for us but it is also a serious danger for the entire peace-loving people and for the entire freedom loving people in the entire region. I would also like to draw the attention of our Government to another serious situation. Sir, the United States of America, China and Pakistan have formed an axis. Both China and Pakistan are aggressors on our country. They are still in possession of our land and the U.S. is arming these countries by giving them all kinds of military technology and by giving them all kinds of military aid. This has become very serious. Now in the name of religion, and Islamic bloc can come into existence, and they hold Islamic Conferences. Our Government must take note of it. It is a reactionary block playing the game of imperialists. I would appeal to the Government that in future they must ask our representative not to take part in the Islamic Conference either in the capacity of a delegate or in the capacity of an observer. What happened to us at Rabat? Can we forget that? We were humiliated, we were rebuffed. Even in the recent Islamic Conference which was held in Islamabad, our Ambassador had to withdraw

because the Pakistan President made a observation about Kashmir.

Therefore, I will say that this is a very serious situation. I would like to assure the Prime Minister and the Government that in such national crisis the entire Parliament and the country will be behind the Government in any step they take any action to defend the freedom of our country, to defend our land and also take the initiative for the establishment of peace. I hope that the Government will take the initiative along with other non-aligned countries.

Sir, we should not feel nervous as some say that we may get isolated. Even on Bangladesh issue hundred, four votes were against us in the United Nations when we were for a right cause and when we were on the right side. Therefore, the Government should take the initiative with all other non-aligned countries, other peace-loving countries so that peace can be restored in this region. U.S. must dismantle its basis and stop arming Pakistan and a situation should also be created that the Soviet Union troops should be withdrawn as early as possible.

SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA (Guna): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are living today in an ever-changing International situation. The cold-war has hotted up and will leave us scorched if we do not immediately adopt the initiative to defuse the issue. After 9 years, the eyes of the Super Powers and the International Community are once again on us. We can play a pivotal role at a time when in our region the Super Powers are confronting each other almost eyeball to eyeball.

The cold war has seen many a situation where one or the other Super Power has gone to the very brink in an attempt to keep what remains of its sphere of influence or even extend it. But because of the mutual danger both face of a nuclear war, certain restraints have been grudgingly

accepted. But now in a bid to outmanoeuvre each other, in Afghanistan they have embarked on a course which may lead to the situation getting completely out of control. The Indian Government in the interest of our country, regional stability and world peace will have to strain every nerve to see that this does not happen and it can only do so when it is in a position to counsel moderation to both. There is no room for any moralising here. At this juncture, there is no point in saying who was right and who was wrong. Let us acknowledge realities and work within a given situation, a within certain parameters and see our counsel retains an optimum effect, instead of merely joining the hysterical band. Our Prime Minister struck the right chord when she said that our stand should not be pro-Russia or pro-America but pre-India. This issue has the potentiality to engulf not only our region but the entire world in a thermo-nuclear holocaust. There is no doubt that Soviet intervention in Afghanistan has placed Soviet Russia within 350 miles of the Arabian Sea and the Soviet airforce can control the oil lifeline of the West and Japan. It is also a historical fact that from the days of Czarist Russia, she has dreamt of a direct entry into the warm waters of the Arabian Sea and the Persian Gulf. But let us not get carried away by viewing matters merely against this backdrop. Is it not true that a situation of instability was being created in Afghanistan? According to Soviet reports, the Soviet Union entered Afghanistan when they were invited into Afghanistan when the Afghan army weakened by coups and counter coups was unable to keep the internal situation within their control. It is alleged that insurgents armed with American and Chinese arms were crossing constantly into Afghan territory and operating from bases within Pakistan. If this is so, it has boomeranged on Pakistan and it is in Pakistan's interest that these acti-

vities cease immediately. Unfortunately, instead of counselling restraint, America seems to be more intent on aggravating matters by making Pakistan an American arsenal. They must realise that this move may possibly destabilise the very regime in Pakistan that they want to keep. This is because the newly armed tribal insurgents can be more of a threat to the peace of the area where they have sought refuge than to the much superior Soviet forces against whom they are supposed to fight. Let us not forget that the armed insurgents being sent into each others territory is a game two can play for there are enough discontented Pathan and Baluch tribemen in Pakistan waiting to settle scores with a regime which they consider a usurper of their homeland. India must impress Pakistan and the United States of these dangerous portents.

Secondly, in the changed circumstances, a stable Pakistan is essential to India's interest to act as a buffer between Afghanistan and India. It is indeed unfortunate that President Gen. Zia made a mention of Kashmir in the recently concluded Islamic Conference because it is in our mutual interest that we face the situation, imbued by the Simla agreement spirit, and work in unison for the peace of our region. But for this, Pakistan must be persuaded to stop accepting American and Chinese arms because if they do, it is inevitable that we will have to arm ourselves too and the effects on economic progress will be disastrous for both our countries. The United States must realise its folly and stop the flow of arms. It is no use Mr. Clark Clifford coming to India and assuring that the United States will ensure that these arms are not used against India. When asked if the United States would supervise the manner in which Pakistan would use these arms, he said: "We will

[Shri Madhav Rao Scindia]

not", but added that they would ascertain that the arms are used for the purpose for which they are sent and any violation would be regarded as dereliction of the purpose for which they are sent. I would like to know, what America would do if that dereliction of purpose takes place. This blind rearming of Pakistan by the United States and China can only be viewed by India to be as destabilising as Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.

We must also try and rule out all the potentialities for further confrontation in this region. We must see that Iran does not get directly embroiled in this controversy. Iran must realise that public opinion in the United States is putting President Carter under tremendous pressure to take strong action for the release of the hostages, but if he does so, it may induce Soviet Russia to move Southward and involve Iran, converting it into the main cockpit of Super Power fighting. It is, therefore, in Iran's interest that they help in defusing the issue and their largest single contribution at this juncture would be to release the hostages, thereby eliminating the risk of the triggering off, of Super Power action and reaction in Iran, and our country must do all in its capacity to convince Iran on this matter.

Finally, we must persuade Moscow to bow to world opinion and withdraw from Afghanistan at the earliest. History shows that it is not going to be easy for the Soviet forces to hold the lid down over Afghanistan for an unlimited period of time. Given the cooperation of the United States, Pakistan and Iran in defusing this issue by showing restraint, Soviet Russia must also be persuaded to respond.

The situation in Afghanistan is undoubtedly fraught with grave danger. We are once again on the brink. India is playing a moderat-

ing role and I congratulate Mrs. Gandhi and our Foreign Minister on having taken a wise stand. An effective foreign policy must be based on a policy of enlightened self-interest. With the galloping progress of science and technology, men stands to-day at the cross-roads. On the one side is the danger of his tumbling down a nuclear abyss into utter self-destruction. On the other, the opportunity to raise himself the pinnacle of his glory. Let us fervently hope that India will be able to play a pivotal role in Afghanistan and thereby help the world avert the danger of a nuclear holocaust and help it instead attain that pinnacle of glory.

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE (Howrah): Sir, No doubt the situation is very grave and the way it is now aggravating, immediate effective intervention is very urgently necessary.

To equate Soviet Union and America as two Super Powers and not to see the difference between the two, will land us into wrong steps. Soviet Union is a socialist country, but American imperialism is a colonial Power; and in India which was a colony of British imperialism, we had a bitter experience of what role imperialism plays, and how it poses a danger to the freedom of all countries.

18.32 hrs.

[SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV in the Chair]

Particularly to these newly-independent countries, the danger comes from imperialism, and not from any socialist country.

The example of Vietnam is there. Very recently, the example of Iran is there. With the loss of Iran to them, Americans are now trying to develop another base, and that is why they are utilizing this occasion of Soviet

presence in Afghanistan immediately to implement their longstanding strategy. So, it is not a question simply of Afghanistan.

You have seen already that the American Government has increased its defence budget. It is a colossal defence budget, as if they are going to start a war. They have taken up that attitude. In to-day's papers you might have seen that the American Government have assured that they are giving aid to Pakistan amounting to nearly \$ 2,000 million. Originally, they said it would be only \$200 million. Now within one day, it has increased 10 times. Why? Because they want to strengthen Pakistan as their spring-board, to attack all freedom-loving countries. They want to bring these Asian and South East Asian countries under their hegemony, because the Persian Gulf is rich in oil; and more than 60 per cent of the oil comes from that region. So, you have seen how they tried to cordon off Iran by sending their war-ships with nuclear weapons. The Kitty Hawk and other warships are still surrounding Iran. Their new objective is to surround Afghanistan. That is why they are quickly developing their bases, and creating trouble inside Afghanistan by giving training to those refugees who are insurgents with modern weapons, and sending them inside to start civil war and to overthrow the Government which is now being backed by the Soviet Union. Had there not been the presence of Soviet Army, Afghanistan's independence would have gone by now, and there would have been a bitter civil war. And CIA is helping this section of insurgents fully. You know the role of CIA in toppling Governments. The example of Chile is before you. That is why we support the stand taken by the Government of India and appreciate the balanced statements they have made. We support that stand.

The question now is that the Government of India must be firm in declaring that these colonial powers

should never be allowed to strengthen their bases here, because Pakistan being a base of American Imperialism with so much sophisticated weapons including nuclear arms. It is a threat, a potential danger not only to Indian independence but to the independence of all the South East Asian countries. They are strengthening their base in Diego Garcia. Despite the United Nations resolution that Indian Ocean should be a zone of peace. In defiance of all this, despite a protest from the Government of India also and all the littoral countries, they are proceeding with strengthening these bases with nuclear weapons. So, the overall strategy must be kept in mind.

They have already discontinued all the economic agreements that they had entered into with Soviet Union. They are creating the war psychology to provoke these forces to come into some clash or conflict. That is why, the Afghan Government who want to defend the revolution which they have achieved in April 1978 by overthrowing feudal exploitation, have built up a democratic system now. To defend that new system of democracy and independence from American intervention, Afghanistan has sought Soviet invoking in Friendship Agreement. Moreover you know that Afghanistan is on the border of Soviet Union. So, no government can allow its own border to be the main base of American Imperialism. So, they cannot remain indifferent to this. What they are doing they have told. Once this new government of Afghanistan have their own base consolidated, the Soviet army will withdraw from Afghanistan. They are not taking any part in the internal administration. Only their presence has prevented these insurgents to enter into Afghanistan and create trouble at the instigation of the CIA and American imperialism. That is why, the Government of India taking into consideration all these things must tell more assertively and boldly that India oppose all these conspiracies of American imperialism,

[Shri Samar Mukherjee]

Government of India has told about defusion of the situation in Afghanistan, but the defusion also must be combined with our open demand that the Diego Garcia bases must be dismantled and the bases which they are developing in Gulf areas must be withdrawn. They can have no direct interest in Gulf areas, because America is thousands of miles away from the Gulf areas. That is why, this new situation, if it is to be defused, India must stand firmly by all the new developing countries and the National Liberation Movements, because the NLM is fighting this American Imperialism. That is why, this firm stand is necessary though we appreciate the stand taken by the Government of India. But we want that the Government of India should be more forthright in denouncing U. S. imperialism in their stand.

SHRI R. S. SPARROW (Jullunder): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the geo-political situation as obtains today in Afghanistan has become very explosive and we all have already appreciated this fact. The tribal spirit of independence in relation to which I would like to draw the attention of the super powers who are now involved in this particular hotspot, is that historically it has always been resilient to all types of shocks.

It may have been the days of Partho-Scythian and Hunnish times; it may have been the times of Queen Sogdiana, Spituma, Turmann, Mahir Gill and other war lords that had been involved in that region time after time inclusive of those thundering conquerors like Mahmud, Timur, and so on to Ahmed Shah Abdali, Nadirshah, etc., that spirit, indomitable spirit, of independence of the Afghan—I say this because I had the opportunity to visit these countries on various occasions—remained indeed unbreakable. Incidentally I had also the opportunity of having been posted

in my young days on the then Northwest Frontier of India and I could well understand the indomitable spirit. You may wish to play about with them rough today—that is, the Super Powers. But it is not all that easy to crush them down or to sandwich them into nothingness. On that analogy I should like to point out to Col. Karmal to uphold that spirit of independence and not to grovel on one's knees and try to find out something from out of nothing. That is just a point to him. The question to understand is, how some of the super powers want to handle and make use of this unknown landlocked spot on the surface of the globe. I was astonished about a decade and half back at what was happening in Afghanistan. When I landed at Kandahar what I saw was this: Americans with all their paraphernalia of Bulldozers, Angle-dozers and what-have-you, were in charge there for enlarging that airfield and also had made various roads in that region. Then, after one day, I landed at Kabul and what did one notice? Everything was being done there and looked after for progress or development, so to say, by the USSR. They were there. You know the road they built, right up to the king's palace; you know the extension of the aerodrome that was done. It is amazing how the big super powers have the knack of coming in from all directions under the plea of bringing up the lot of the people at large, people who are perhaps not fully developed. I am just giving out this point to the super powers; you must understand that people have eyes to see the various types of encroachment. I now come to the point to explain how this country has become hotspot of the whole world. The hobnobbing of Super Powers aside the fact is this. My Prime Minister has already given you the sequence of events starting with Daud's elimination by a combination of Khalq and Parcham parties in April 1978 and then Taraki's coming to power. Soon after in September, 1978 Taraki was killed and Amin

took over. Amin was later court-martialled and eliminated....

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have only one minute more.

SHRI R. S. SPARROW: If you permit me, I will say a few more words; I will conclude whenever you want. It is a strong guillotine, imposed, I must admit. But just give me a moment to tell you the latest situation. I will not recapitulate what has been stated by our Prime Minister and Foreign Minister. The point that comes out of this is three-fold. First of all, about the Russian ingress. All said and done, whether some people like it or not, the initiative taken and the manner in which it was taken with rumbling tanks coming in—was a little overtly done. It was not so necessary; I maintain it was not necessary. That part of it,—a slip—Russia must own, as has also been indicated by the Prime Minister. They should take the first opportunity to take her advice, diplomatically and politically work it out whichever way they may wish it and try to clear out of that country.

The second point is about China. You may know that little finger, like buffer, the province of Afghanistan known as Wakhan, China has got some of its elements working there. You have known the other day about the Karakoram Road and its implications.

Their collusion with Pakistan in that region also has tremendous significance even in relation to the Afghanistan incident.

Thirdly, I want to point this out from the Pakistan side. It is a well known fact which you cannot hide, that the so-called armed guerilla have operated inside that country (Afghanistan). There is no doubt about the authenticity of this version. I would advise Pakistan to desist from that type of action and attitude and control themselves so that, as I had

pointed out the other day, they themselves may not get into a mess, because, the ultimate result (from such a mess) will be first the start of a conventional warfare and thereafter it, may trigger off be an accidental nuclear warfare causing unaccountable harm to them.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please finish.

SHRI R. S. SPARROW: I stop and thank you very much for the few minutes given to me. I think I have been given a little less.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much for co-operation.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): Mr. Chairman, the situation in Afghanistan is very sensitive. The entry of the Russian army into Afghanistan on the one hand and also the development of cold war in the entire region, had almost brought us on the brink of disaster and any single wrong step on our part is likely to escalate the situation rather than contain the situation. Therefore, we have to be very careful in adopting various postures and taking certain attitude.

It has been the national consensus in the country. When we adopted the policy of non-alignment it was not the policy of a single party in this country but it was the national consensus in this country that we had accepted deliberately, consciously the policy of non-alignment. We do not want to be ourselves involved into politics....

SHRI CHANDER SHEKHAR SINGH (Banka): Yours was more genuine.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: All right, if you are satisfied, I accept the compliment.

So, I very much like that we do not get ourselves involved into controversy and power conflicts of super-power blocks. When we say we are

[Prof. Madhu Dandavate]

non-aligned, it does not mean we are neutral on all issues, let it be absolutely clear to all super power blocks. Our concept of non-alignment for years has meant that we will judge every issue on merit. We will judge it by the national interest. We will judge it by the wider interests of peace in the world. We will judge it by the wider interests of defying the forces of colonialism, forces of imperialism and defend the forces of freedom. In that broader concept we have defined our concept of non-alignment. Therefore, if any country on the forum of United Nations comes to our rescue and comes to our help, whenever it is beneficial to the interest of our country, we always welcome that. On the question of Kashmir, on the question of liberation of Goa, when Soviet Russia defended and supported our situation, we welcomed that but at the same time....

SHRI BUTA SINGH (Ropar): Your Prime Minister....

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: I am not worried. Please do not degenerate the entire debate to that level. Everytime if you want to bring the entire debate to bringin gthe Prime Minister into picture, I will utter her name ten times. But I do not think it is....

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not as we are concerned when on specific your time.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Therefore, I would insist that as far as we are concerned, when no specific issues Soviet Russia stood by us on Kashmir issue, on the question of liberation of Goa, we welcomed the support extended by Soviet Russia. But at the same time persons like me find that a new theory is being evolved and it is called the theory of limited sovereignty and that theory is taken advantage of to send one's

armies into Czechoslovakia men like me find it very difficult to reconcile and justify entry of Russian troops into Czechoslovakia when I stand for the concept of non-alignment. Therefore, as our concept of non-alignment demanded, we took a firm attitude. The same situation is arising today. We find that the Russian troops have marched into the territory of Afghanistan. Some people may justify it and defend it that to attack the counter-revolutionary forces, they were invited and they have gone there. But once you try to succumb to this pressure, we will be drifting away from the non-aligned world. If you look at the entire attitude, the comprehensive attitude of the non-aligned world, the third world, you will find that we are likely to get gradually isolated if we just try to align with one particular point of view or the other. I find there was a slight tilt. Initially, when the issue came up, the care-taker Government and the Prime Minister invited the Soviet Ambassador and these were the words that were conveyed to him: "India's deep concern at the substantial involvement of Soviet forces in Afghanistan and to seek withdrawal of the same." This was the communication made then. At a later stage, there was a slight tilt and we find that from New Delhi, instructions had gone to our representative in the United Nations and it was announced there. "We have no reason to doubt the bona fides of Soviet troops entering into Afghanistan and they will not say there for a day more than it is necessary." I think at a later stage, this tilt was slightly corrected. The Prime Minister announced the other day in this very House that we are neither pro-America nor are we pro-Soviet Russia, but we are pro-India. That is exactly what she said. I am glad that this posture has been taken and I hope we shall stand by this posture. That is the posture that we require. We are neither pro-America nor are we pro-Russia. We are pro-India. Our attitude has been, we have no perma-

ment enemies; we have no permanent friends; we have only permanent national interests. So, judged by our national interests only, we have to take our attitude. Very often, when the Soviet troops landed into Afghanistan, Article IX has been quoted from the Afghan-Soviet Treaty. Now, Article IX of the Indo-Soviet Treaty says:

"In the event of either party being subjected to attack or threat thereof, the high contracting parties shall immediately enter into mutual consultations in order to remove such threat and to take appropriate effective measures to ensure peace and security of their countries."

This particular article of the treaty is going to be interpreted by the foreign powers to send their armies in a foreign land. In that case, these types of articles are going to be misused. They may be used as a cover to defend the entry of one army into other territories. In that case, such treaties will be under a strain. I am one among those who feel that the Indo-Soviet Treaty and the Soviet-Afghan Treaty have no doubt certain historical purpose and therefore, they must be strengthened. But at the same time, the aberrations of these clauses, the misuse of these clauses, will again give a handle to some of the powers like the USA to increase assistance to Pakistan and develop a new atmosphere of cold war, destroying the very purpose for which non-alignment stands for. It is a fact that today the non-aligned countries the third world—most of those countries—have categorically come out with an unequivocal condemnation of the Russian army's entry into Afghanistan and I hope and trust that we shall not allow our non-alignment to be tilted like the leaning tower of Pisa, but our non-alignment remains a genuine non-alignment to serve the interests of our country and the interests of all the peace-loving people of the world.

SHRI K. A. RAJAN (Trichur): Sir, on behalf of my party, I broadly agree with the attitude, approach and the cautious steps taken by the Government on this very sensitive issue of Afghanistan. I also very much appreciate the stand taken by our representative in the United Nations. I need not go into the history of the Afghan revolution. It was a people's revolution. The Afghan revolution just gave a shock, as it is used to be, in the quarters of the imperial circles. They were playing a game, as they were playing in Chile, to subvert the real people's government and to see that another reactionary regime is brought in according to their will and pleasure. But in that they could not succeed. I am not going into the internal affairs of the Afghan people and what is going on there. But it has been publicly stated by the Soviet Union that at the request of the Amin Government, they entered there and at any time when they feel that their presence is not needed and their safety is not jeopardised, they will return to their country.

Sir, here the question is, I may say, that India has to stand up to its traditional position of non-alignment. 'Non-alignment' sometimes is unfortunately interpreted as non-involvement. The architect of non-alignment, our late Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, has clearly laid down that the essence of non-alignment lies in its anti-imperialist, anti-colonialist and anti-neo-colonialist posture. Unfortunately, I am sorry to say, there is an aberration of this non-alignment by the so-called genuine non-alignment propagated in the last 2-1/2 years under the rule of the Janata Party. But, Sir, as the time at my disposal is very limited, I want to emphasise that there is an unfortunate tendency to equate, as my comrade Samar Mukherjee stated, the super powers, the USA and the USSR. The Indian people know what had happened at the time of

[Shri K. A. Rajan]

the Bangladesh liberation, what was the attitude of the western press, what was the attitude of the imperialist quarters and what were they saying about our mission in Bangladesh. If we had learnt something from the Bangladesh liberation, I think we would not have dared to say it is an aggression in Afghanistan by the Soviet Union. I also want to emphasise one more point especially in the context of the Islamic Conference. In the Islamic Conference the President of the Pakistani regime, the head of the Government, stated that it has some connection with the Kashmir problem. I am not going into details. And on the other side, the Bangladesh President also mentioned that he also wants the protection of the American umbrella. The dangerous situation that is developing in Pakistan just to build up an armed empire under the aegis of the American imperialists is threatening the security of our country. I hope our Government with its vigilant and cautious approach will keep up its traditional non-alignment and see that the imperialist powers never subvert our independence and sovereignty. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time allotted was only one hour. Now I will call Shri Baliram Bhagat. After that I will call the Minister.

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT (Sitamarhi): Mr. Chairman, Sir the Afghan situation is very much explosive and it threatens the very security not only of the region, but of our own country. Never before was our national security so threatened as it has been in these recent months. I am happy that all sides of the House have expressed their concern and there is unanimity on this situation. (Interruptions). Sir, I think the Prime Minister rightly described that we look to our own interests, we are pro-India. That is the correct thing. But let us

first analyse the situation, what is the developing situation, and find out what is our national interest, and the steps that we should take on this situation. The situation is that in Afghanistan for a number of months a situation of destabilisation was going on and the Pakistan trained guerillas were active in Afghanistan and the Soviet Union, I understand, showed deep concern about it and got in touch with the then Indian Government and wanted that India should talk to Pakistan, persuade them so that they should not escalate these guerilla activities in Afghanistan.

19.00 hrs.

Then we have this situation that at the invitation of the Afghan Government, the Soviet Army had to move in. There is a Soviet presence in Afghanistan. We do not like any armed intervention in any country, we have said it, is our national policy but this is not an isolated incident, because we see that the worst kind of cold war or Big Power rivalry is going on. There is activity in Afghanistan of the United States, the Chinese are active in the northern parts, the Karakoram Road is very busy transshipping arms to Pakistan, there is a massive build up of arms supplies to Pakistan, there is a build up in the Indian Ocean, Diego Garcia is being activated and bases are being strengthened. All this poses a great threat, and therefore in a situation like this we cannot criticise one country for one action or the other. It is not in our interests to create further escalation by a wrong step because it has become a very active cockpit and any small thing can ignite the whole situation, this arena can become a place for a Big Power war.

Immediately there are two dangers. Once the snow melts, if the guerilla activity escalates from the side of Pakistan into Afghanistan the Soviet Union can be provoked to attack Pakistan. The big arms build up in

Pakistan at the instance of the United States and the Chinese, the U.S.-Chinese axis operating in Pakistan in terms of the arms build up, can escalate activities in Afghanistan. If that happens, it will become a very serious, very dangerous situation for us.

We are hearing every day of the supply of arms by the United States to Pakistan. First it was 200 million dollars, but now we read that it is going to be 2 billion dollars. One thing is very clear, Patently clear, and there should be agreement on this in this House also that over the years, the United States in the interests of its global security Policy has always ignored the Indian point of view, as if India is not relevant to them or the Indian interests are not relevant to them, but it has done it in the past, and it is doing it now. This fact should be recognised, and I think there should be unanimity on this.

Now, when there is this arms build up and China is operating, USA is operating, who is our friend? If a war flares up, if something happens, who is our friend? The only friend we have is the Soviet Union, and we depend upon the Soviet Union for our own security. We have a Treaty of Friendship with them. We have been taking their help for our defence preparedness. Therefore, these two facts we should realise: the United States has been ignoring India's interests, and in this situation if anything happens, if war flares up, the Soviet Union is our only friend. These are facts, these are not arguments, and in the pursuit of our national interests, we must realise this.

We have said that we follow a pro-Indian policy, but what should be our national interests? I think the national interest demands that we should take action on the following lines, that we should seek the end of the Pakistani support to the insurgents, the termination of the supply

of arms to Pakistan, withdrawal of Soviet troops, termination of massive Western aid, not only US assistance, but Western assistance to Pakistan and we must pursue actively, to create a greater awareness in the matter. It is such a very dangerous situation that the Indian Government cannot afford the luxury of sitting idle. They should not be hesitant, they must take a positive initiative as we took in the case of Bangladesh crisis. I am happy, our Foreign Secretary is going to Islamabad. We must get in touch with Pakistan, talk to them and develop our friendly relations on the basis of the Simla Agreement and step by step negotiations. We must pursue our policy of having a closer cooperation with Pakistan and other neighbouring countries and also non-aligned countries because that is the only forum where the interests of the developing countries and the weaker countries are protected. Therefore, it is vital that the Government should keep in touch with all the Opposition Leaders. They have expressed their support. There is unanimity on this question. They should follow a vigorous policy in defusing the whole situation and preventing the area from exploding into a war zone and in creating a situation where the problem is solved around the table, safeguarding the interests of our nation.

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): Mr. Speaker, Sir I am very grateful to the hon. members who have participated in this debate. We appreciate that the Government, on this particular question, has the unanimous support of all sections of the House and therefore, the solid support of the entire Indian people. There is not much to reply because when all sections agree with the line of approach and the initiatives taken already by the Government, there is hardly anything to reply. I can only assure the House that the suggestions specifically made in some respects by

[Shri P. V. Narasinha Rao]

hon. members will always be kept in view and I may even assure them that we are proceeding almost precisely on the lines suggested by them. We have not been making public statements, but we have kept our initiatives in tact and I can assure

the House that we are going to make full and effective use of them.

19.38 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Saturday, February 2, 1980/Magha, 13. 1901 (Saka).