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Agrahayana 16, 1893 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(Third Session)



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LOK SABHA

Tuesday, December 7, 1971
Agrahayana 16, 1893 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Ten of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

RE. STATEMENT BY DEFENCE MINISTER

MR. SPEAKER : I may inform the House that the Defence Minister will make a Statement at 1 O'Clock before we adjourn.

PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE

ACCOUNTS OF CENTRAL SILK BOARD

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A.C. GEORGE) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Audited Accounts (Hindi versions) of the Central Silk Board for the year 1968-69, under sub-section (4) of section 12 of the Central Silk Board Act, 1948. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1235/71.]

RAILWAY CONVENTION COMMITTEE

INTERIM REPORT

SHRI R. K. SINHA (Faizabad) : I beg to present the Interim Report of the Railway Convention Committee, 1971.

10.05 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE PROCLAMATION IN RESPECT OF THE STATE OF WEST BENGAL—Contd

MR. SPEAKER : The House will now take up further discussion on the Resolution moved by Shri Mohsin about the continuance in force of the Proclamation. Shri Subodh Hansda.

SHRI SUBODH HANSDA (Midnapore) : Mr. Speaker, yesterday when Shri Bhattacharyya was speaking he said that President's Rule is not liked by the people of West Bengal. It is true that in a democracy there must be representative government of the people but in the extraordinary circumstances which have developed in West Bengal there is no other solution except President's Rule. Though he said that this is not welcomed by the people I can say that President's Rule is welcomed by the people of West Bengal because there was no other way to check the disturbances. Again, he was complaining that there is no rule of law there. But we should remember the circumstances in which there is no rule of law. He was also complaining of police atrocities and things of that nature. It is true that there are certain cases where there have been police excesses while there are many cases where the police remained inactive. I feel that the police should Act in such manner as the situation demands and, if necessary, they must act firmly to maintain law and order. I hope the Minister will go into the question of police acting in a proper manner and taking timely action.

Referring to the dismissal of some government servants he said that it was done illegally and he condemned the action of the Governor. Even though his party may take that view the people

[Shri Subodh Hansda]

of West Bengal are really happy to see that some of the employees who were indulging in politics and anti-national activities have been rightly dismissed from service. So far as the liking of the people for that act of the Governor is concerned, when the CPM called a bandh in West Bengal, to protest against the dismissal, that bandh was frustrated by the people of West Bengal. Therefore, they cannot say that the dismissal of those government servants was disapproved by the people of West Bengal, or the action of the Governor was illegal. In fact, I would say that the Governor should take firm action against some of the existing employees who are still indulging in politics in West Bengal.

In the recent past there were heavy floods in West Bengal. Most of the areas in West Bengal were flooded and there was heavy damage to crops and existing roads, particularly in my district. Some of the areas like Naraingarh, Sabangh, Pingla, Bhagwanpur, Pataspur, Daspur, Dehra and Keshpur were badly affected. There is little hope of good crops in all those regions. During this period the prices of foodgrains have shot up and now they are above the reach of the poor people. Those people who are poor have no avenues of employment either and so there is no means of livelihood. There are starvation deaths, particularly in areas like Naraingarh, Sabang and Pataspur Police Station areas. I hope government will rush rice to all those areas just to save the people from starvation. Relief work undertaken in all those areas at present is quite inadequate. More relief work should be taken up in those areas so that the people could be saved from starvation.

During the incessant floods the most important roads of the District were badly damaged, particularly the roads leading from Midnapore to Dherua, from Balichach to Pingla and from Gopivallabhpur to Pandachecha. Some of the other important roads are completely damaged with the result that public vehicles could not ply in those areas. All those roads have to be repaired or reconstructed. Apart from that, new roads should be constructed

in the interior areas like Banspahari and Belpahari to connect Jhargram sub-division headquarters. Then there should be a good road to connect Mokrapur to Temathani via Madan Mekan Chowk. Now that area is neglected; particularly during the flood season, the entire area is flooded and even the government officials are not able to go to that area for inspection. So, it is essential to have road communication to those area by constructing new roads.

Coming to unemployment, it is perfectly true that the unemployment problem in West Bengal is gradually growing up day by day. It is no use saying that the government should take in hand new industrial units just to give employment to these people. Government have taken up the 16 point programme just to revive the closed units and take over the sick units. It is not an easy job. Government have taken up this programme but I do not think this will solve the unemployment problem in West Bengal.

Who will invest money in West Bengal? No one is willing to invest money in West Bengal in industrial units because they are not sure whether they will get raw materials and a return on their investment. Unless the government guarantee the supply of raw materials no industrialist is going to set up any new industries in West Bengal.

Government have set up many financial institutions to give credit to industrial units. But the finances of these financial institutions are controlled by industrialists like Shri Birla who have their own representatives in the financial institutions. The financial institutions are not giving help to the sick units. Government is taking some steps to revive the closed industries. It is a good attempt, no doubt, but before giving life to the closed industries, why do you not give prolonged life to some existing industries which are somehow surviving.

In the Haldia Project the local people are not getting any employment. On the other hand, people

from outside like Calcutta are getting employment. Why not government give employment to the local people, especially those who have been affected by the project. I hope government will take note of this and steps will be taken to see that the local people get a chance.

Now, the Government have taken up certain irrigation projects, Karasavati and Keleghai projects. These projects are already under construction. For these projects, the Government have taken thousands of acres of land, as well as cultivable lands, from poor people and they have not been given compensation. I know, the people should sacrifice for the country's cause. But lands taken from the people who have got only 2-3 acres for the construction of these projects have nothing to fall back upon. I want to know from the Government what help they are getting from the Government, whether they have been given any compensation. I would urge upon the Government to take steps to give full compensation to the poor people whose lands have been taken by the Government.

Lastly, there are some other irrigation projects which have been left out, particularly, in the Jhargram sub-division, the Dolong river project which is pending since 1947. When we ask the Government about it, we get a reply that this is under consideration. I do not know how long it will be under the consideration of the Government. There is the Subarnarekha Embankment scheme which is a flood control scheme. If this Dolong project is taken up, it will serve the purpose of flood-control also. I hope, this will be taken up to save the people from floods as well as to help them to get irrigation from this river.

DR. RANEN SEN (Baraset): Mr. Speaker, Sir. (*Interruptions*)

When I was in the West Bengal Legislative Assembly, this is how we used

to address the Speaker as "Mr. Speaker." Bengali is a very flexible language. We adopt all English words in it. (*Interruptions*) "Mr. Speaker, Sir, even the amendment that was given notice of by the Marxist party on this resolution has also been withdrawn by them. Therefore, there is no other way out than this (the President's rule).

On the President's rule in West Bengal I will initiate my discussion by stressing the need for civil defence measures. Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the city of Calcutta and the adjoining industrial belt the arrangements for civil defence measures are not satisfactory. It is true that as a result of the successful attacks by the Indian Air Force, the Pakistan Air Force has been shattered and this no doubt, has given a sense of security to the people of West Bengal but still I feel there is full justification for stepping up the civil defence measures. During the last few days many events have taken place both at national and international level. Unless we take adequate lesson from these incidents and make arrangements to ward off any possible danger that may arise in the near future, I am afraid the entire civil life in West Bengal will be put into jeopardy.

From what has happened during these past few days, it is not clear the role that China will play. This war for independence has made one thing clear to us all beyond all shadows of doubt that the Soviet Union is the only true friend of India. They are also the true friends of the freedom loving people of Bangla Desh. The Soviet Union have helped all liberation movement all over the world, and they have once again come forward to help the people of Bangla Desh in their struggle for freedom. The role of conspiracy of the imperialist America, is not difficult to discern because these imperialists of America have worked consistently against the interests of the freedom loving people of Indo-China and Middle East. It was but natural that

*The original speech was delivered in Bengali.

[Dr. Ranen Sen]

America will adopt the same policy with regard to Bangla Desh also. But it was difficult to predict the role "the revolutionist China" was going to play. Their main role was to stab in the back of the freedom movement in Bangla Desh.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, Sir, for the security of West Bengal and keeping in view the possibility of threat from China we have to step up our civil defence measures. A citizens council has been set up there. This council has met only once so far. An executive committee has also been set up. But this body like the earlier body has also met only once so far. Therefore, I would like to ask the Government whether we can put up with the present state of affairs or we should bring about an improvement therein. Let us suppose the State is placed under a difficult position. There is no good arrangement for supply of water to the people. Moreover, the committees that have been formed have not been decentralised a fact which was stressed by my friend Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu, the other day. As a result of this non-decentralisation these bodies would not be able to enlist the cooperation of the common people for war efforts. Even assuming that war is not thrust upon this State, it is necessary to strengthen this State because from here we can help the jawans and the men of Mukti Bahini who are fighting in Bangla Desh. Therefore, the second urgency of the situation is that the Government should take early steps to ensure reopening all the factories that are lying closed at present. This will not only offer employment to people but the production that will be achieved will go a long way to lend support to our war efforts. Therefore, I say Sir, that all the defence employees that have been retrenched should be called back and they should be offered employment. The Government should stop the policy of retrenchment. At the moment all the political parties in West Bengal are with the Government and nothing should be done which may affect industrial peace in the country.

Today West Bengal is being ruled by the bureaucrats and police—to put things in plain words. These bureaucrats are doing more harm than good and police have on many occasions taken to a policy of repression—a fact which even members of the Congress party, I hope, will concede.

Therefore, if we are to strengthen the State of West Bengal then during this President's rule the Government's policy should be directed to make the people happy.

I come from Bongaon which is on the border. I have received information from Bongaon and the near about places that many people were injured and killed as a result of border shelling. It is time that the Government should state clearly as to what they are going to do with these persons. After all these persons had to suffer for no fault of their own. The other day I saw a television feature, wherein it was stated that more than 181 persons were dead and more than 500 persons were injured as a result of Pakistan action in West Bengal. These are common people—these are poor people. I would like to know from the Government why these persons should not be given the benefits of war risk insurance. Every member of this House should know that many thousands of persons were killed or injured in Tripura-Assam border.

Now I would speak something about the cultivators of West Bengal. At present more than one lakh police cases are pending against these cultivators. If we expect that the cultivators should produce more, then all these cases should be withdrawn immediately. Not only this. Barring all those persons against whom Government have positive evidence of having helped the enemy or having acted as their agents, all other persons who were arrested for taking part in democratic agitations, agrarian agitations should be released and all political prisoners should be released forthwith. Of

course, I do not say that the Marxist MLA who was arrested with a revolver should be released. But I say all those persons who had no specific charge against them should be released.

The jute workers comprise the big section of the industrial workers of West Bengal and their number is indeed a big one. These workers have put forward a demand for increase in their wages. Day before yesterday the Foreign Trade Department had issued a pamphlet wherein it was stated that this year as compared to the last years, the jute goods to be produced for export will be more than 600 crores of rupees over the last year's figures. This is what the Government says. Then I ask the Government how many hundreds of crores of rupees will go into the pockets of jute mill owners. Thus the Government help the mill owners to earn while they do nothing with regard to the demands of the workers. Are we to believe that the President's rule in West Bengal is only to let loose the police for a lathi charge on the people or they will also do something to meet the demands of jute mill workers. The workers of the Indian Oxygen Company are producing gas which is used for defence purposes and other purposes also. The owners of this company, taking advantage of the war situation, is trying to violate the agreements that had been arrived at with the workers and the Labour Department of West Bengal Government has done nothing in this matter. Therefore I would like to know if during the President's rule, which is being extended for 6 months more, the Government would intervene in this matter or not.

When the news about the recognition of Bangla Desh by the Government reached West Bengal, scenes of jubilation were witnessed. Boys danced on the streets; they sang in ecstasy and distributed sweets on the streets. It is necessary that every effort should be made to enlist the cooperation of the people for

war efforts who are so very sensitive to such matters.

The prices have soared very high and things have gone beyond the reach of a common man, but things are being sold in black market. I would like to know how many hoarders and black marketeers have been arrested during the President's rule. Why should not Government whip the black marketeers in open streets. Even baby food is not available. Therefore, I would like to know whether Government is going to deal with these people with a firm hand. I urge that Government should take every step to bring down the prices of commodities all over India. Finally I would urge upon my Marxist friends that if they are left with any revolutionary conscience then to them I should say "Beware of China".

*SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI (Calcutta South): Mr. Speaker, Sir, (interruptions) I feel proud speaking in my mother tongue today. I generally speak in English. The differences of languages is not the main thing today. There has not been any conflict in Bengal over languages. The conflict has taken place in Bengal over establishment of democracy. Today my heart is overwhelmed, my heart wants to speak and sing in that language through which the feelings of Mujibur Rehman found expression. I am not speaking in Bengali due to my bias against any language. Today a proposal has come before this House for extending the President's rule in West Bengal by another six months. In this connection I have a few submissions to make. Three questions are very important in this context. Firstly, the question of holding elections in West Bengal, secondly the political situation in West Bengal and thirdly the problems that pervade the industrial sphere in West Bengal today. I won't take much time because at this historic moment not only the people of West Bengal but the people of the entire country are

*The original speech was delivered in Bengali.

[Shri Priya Ranjan Das Munsii]

anxiously waiting for significant developments to occur. I know at this historic moment our victory can be best ensured if we can rise above petty political narrowness. Therefore, through my speech I do not desire to take up petty political matters and I do not wish to hurt the feelings of other political parties also, I feel, Sir, that we have been provided with another opportunity to rectify our past political mistakes at this historic moment through the countrywide declaration of emergency. After the expiry of President's rule when the time comes for forming a democratic Government in West Bengal through fresh elections, I wish, then all the political parties will be able to cooperate fruitfully to raise the prestige of West Bengal on the democratic front. The workers of our party, the workers of CPI and CPM should do well to remember that if we want to create a 'Sonar Bangla' in West Bengal as was dreamt by Mujibur Rehman, then we should bring an end to the regime of pipe guns and Bombs in West Bengal. I feel that the new horizons and new dreams that have emerged today, in that situation we (all political parties) will be able to work in cooperation, peace and harmony. Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has not been possible to hold fresh elections in West Bengal primarily due to two reasons. Firstly, in all those areas where the refugees from Bangla Desh have been settled, it has not been possible to scrutinise and overhaul the voters lists due to the unsettled and emergent conditions prevailing there. Secondly, the officials i.e., the S.D. O., the police, magistrates etc., are all busy and having their hands full with the refugee problem. Another thing that appears important to me is that apart from these areas, an impression has taken root in the minds of the people of our entire State that it is futile to hold election after election. This does not serve any purpose. It will be better to establish and maintain some stability in the political and administrative sphere over a period of time before holding fresh elections. You are aware Sir, that during the President's rule and under the able leadership

of Shri Siddhartha Sankar Ray, and due to the farsightedness of Mr. Das, there has been marked improvement in the law and order situation in West Bengal. I do not believe that there has been a complete political stability and establishment of law and order in Bengal or that the police excesses etc. have completely disappeared but I certainly believe that the situation has considerably improved and it is much better today than what was two years ago.

In the Industrial sphere in West Bengal, Sir, the Government has constituted the Industrial Rehabilitation Corporation of India with the object of helping the sick industries. The workers should have been given representation in the Board as we have already discussed in the Consultative Committee. But instead, we find a person called Abhijit Sen who is a black person in his deeds, who has swallowed 3 crores of rupees belonging to the Government, has been entrusted with a position of responsibility in that Board. Another person called S. Hada, who is closely associated with the Birla Group has also been included. If the industries of West Bengal are to undergo a healthy revival, then I would suggest that these two persons should be removed forthwith and the Board should be reconstituted with persons who will be answerable to the Government. Now, Sir, I will mention a few things about the condition of the farmers in West Bengal. It is true that the tillers of the land in West Bengal are fully cooperating with the Government in view of the emergent situation prevailing in the country. But the Jotedars and big landlords taking advantage of the situation have taken over full control of the produce of their taff and have hidden the stocks, just as the black marketeers and hoarders of Delhi have hidden all stocks of kerosene. Sir, if you watch the liberation struggle in Bangla Desh, you will notice that those who stood at the forefront of that struggle are the farmers, the poor and the students. In this part of Bengal, if the farmers are exploited, those who produce grains for feeding the jawans, for feeding the Indian

bers of Parliament, if they are exploited by the Jotedars taking advantage of the emergency and the police help the Jotedars then, I, in spite of being a Congress member myself will raise my voice against the Congress administration and I will openly revolt. I feel that a time has come when we should all broaden our outlook and work in cooperation and harmony for the betterment of the country, irrespective of our political ideologies or party affiliations. I believe that the youngmen of the CPI, CPM, Congress and other parties have committed mistakes due to defective leadership. Today they should change their outlook and rise above petty rivalries and try to work in cooperation with each other for a common goal. About the situation in Calcutta that was mentioned by Dr. Ranen Sen just now, I will say that there is nothing new in that. The same situation obtains in Delhi and other places also. Sir, in my constituency i.e., South Calcutta the people have mainly two problems— one pertaining to Bustee and the other pertains to the film industry.

I will conclude my speech by again stressing upon the problems stated by me earlier. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I hope you have understood the reasons for my speaking in Bengali. The reason is that my heart is very much overwhelmed today. I wanted to speak in the same language in which Rabindranath Tagore sang "Jana Gana Mana" the national anthem of India and Sheikh Mujibur Rehman also sang "Amar Sonar Bangla....." the national anthem of Bangla Desh. I had no intention, Sir, to enter into any language controversy. Let there be no misunderstanding about it.

*SHRI SAKTI KUMAR SARKAR (Joynagar): Mr. Speaker, Sir I wholeheartedly support the resolution which seeks to extend President's rule in West Bengal by six months more. I believe that the President's rule in the State is constitutionally valid. It is a democratic move because the administration in West Bengal is being run under the supervision of Parliament.

Mr. Dias, the Governor of West Bengal, is now at the helm of the administration of the State and no doubt the steps that have been taken by him have assumed important significance. We were living in a state of frustration, anguish and despair and the administrative machinery of the State had come under the political influence of political parties there. I must congratulate Mr. Dias for the significant steps that he had taken to free the administrative machinery of the State from political influence. I feel that the people of West Bengal have breathed a sigh of relief from the misrule of the administration of the two erstwhile United Front Governments. Today the people are able to move about freely on the streets. But it does not mean that the situation is completely satisfactory. Even today instances of police excesses are there and I feel that the situation needs to be improved further. In this connection I would like to make a pointed reference to one matter of importance. The conduct of the senior officers who are running the administration in the State is far from happy. They have not been able to attune themselves to democratic values nor they have been able to meet the hopes and aspirations of the people. They are still living with their old bureaucratic ways and they have not been able to rid themselves of its baneful influences. When we the Members of Parliament approach them on any matter, they do not even show the barest courtesy of a "Namaskar". Therefore, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will pray to you Sir, as a head of this House, you should kindly intervene in this matter. At least when the MPs approach the officials of West Bengal Government they should be shown due courtesy.

I would like to say on another matter of importance. We feel really ashamed and sorry for the incidents that have taken place in different jails. I had repeatedly sounded words of caution in this regard. It is most unfortunate that the senior posts have been manned by the IAS officers who have no practical experience and most of

*The original speech was delivered in Bengali.

[Shri Sakti Kumar Sarkar]

these jail incidents have taken place because of the lack of experience of these officers. During the last one year atleast 50 persons were killed in jails of West Bengal and I had invited the attention of Mr. Dias and the Home Minister Mr. Pant but nothing was done. Therefore, I feel that we have to pay our alert attention to improve the law and order situation and the bureaucratic administration in the State.

I will conclude by saying a few words about the floods in the State. During the last three years the State was visited by floods repeatedly. We have discussed this issue many times. My area, the Sundarbans, is affected adversely every year but we find that due to paucity of funds nothing could be done by the State Government. I also feel Sir, that under the prevailing circumstances it would not be possible for the State Government to bear the economic burden for these measures. I will therefore urge upon the Irrigation Minister through you Sir, that Centre should come forward to bear 70 to 80% of the expenses for flood protection measures in the State.

And finally about Sundarbans—the neglected Sundarbans. I have repeatedly asked for the development of this area. I was given an assurance also that the area will be developed and a Sundarban Development Board will be constituted. I had written to the Prime Minister also. She had written me back to say that the matter was receiving attention but beyond this nothing has been done.

I will therefore appeal to the West Bengal Government and the Governor that they must immediately take some statutory measures to set up the development board for the Sundarbans. Once again I lend my support to the extension of President's rule in West Bengal for 6 months and while doing so I will request my CPM friends, that in view of the emergency situation in the country if they refrain from hurling the criticisms against the President's rule, then I feel it will

strengthen the administration in the State. With these words Sir, I conclude my speech.

MR. SPEAKER : May I bring it to the notice of the hon. Members that some time back we introduced this practice that only those Members who give their names in advance with copies to the interpreters could be allowed to speak in a language other than English and Hindi. It is very difficult for our staff to be taken off-hand. Sometimes they are very much handicapped. It is only the second day since we recognised Bangla Desh and nobody is speaking in any other language than Bengali.

SHRI D. BASUMATARI (Kokrajhar) : South Indian languages are being allowed. Everybody wants to speak in his own language.

SHRI R. S. PANDEY (Rajnandgaon) : We do not follow, but we enjoy the language

श्री जगन्नाथ राव बोशी (शाजापुर) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, आपने अभी नियम बतलाया कि हिन्दी और अंग्रेजी के अलावा जो भी किसी दूसरी भाषा में बोलना चाहेंगे उनकी स्पीच की ऐडवान्स कापी देनी पड़ेगी। जब यह बात पहले उठी थी तब भी मंत्री महोदय के ध्यान में यह बात लाया था कि लोक सभा का सदस्य चुने जाने के लिए किसी का पढ़ा लिखा होना आवश्यक नहीं है। यहां जो भी सदस्य आयेंगे वह पढ़ना लिखना अवश्य जानेंगे ऐसा आवश्यक नहीं है। इसलिए इस नियम में परिवर्तन होना चाहिये। पार्लियामेंट में उनके आने पर कोई रोक नहीं है। कोई भी बेपढ़ा लिखा आदमी आ सकता है जनता के प्रतिनिधि के रूप में। इसलिए इस नियम में बड़ा परिवर्तन करना चाहिए। जैसे तो मैं भी कम्प्यूट बोल सकता हूँ क्योंकि यहां पर उसके अनुवाद की व्यवस्था है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आप तो बड़ी अच्छी हिन्दी बोल सकते हैं ।

श्री जगन्नाथराव बोहोली : फिर भी नियमों में परिवर्तन होना चाहिये ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : अगर इस तरह के दो चार भावनी और आ गए तो बड़ी मुश्किल हो जायेगी । मैं आप से एप्री नहीं करता । यहां तो पढ़े लिखे भावमियों को ही माना चाहिये । और बहुत से मैदान हैं जहां पर बेपढ़े लिखे लोग जा सकते हैं ।

श्री हुकमचन्द कछवाय (मुरेना) : इस वक्त बहुत से अनपढ़ लोग ऐसे हैं जिनका प्रतिनिधित्व यहां नहीं है । उनका भी प्रतिनिधित्व होना चाहिए ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मैं आपको अनपढ़ नहीं समझता । अगर आप जैसे अनपढ़ लोग दो चार और आ जाये तो बड़ी मुश्किल हो जायेगी । आप अच्छे खासे पढ़े लिखे से ज्यादा समझते हैं ।

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA (Serampore): Your ruling was only this that if a member wanted to speak in Bengali, he will intimate it to the Secretary at two hours in advance

MR. SPEAKER: My predecessor made an exception in the case of some States. Of course, under the Constitution, it should be either Hindi or English. We made certain departures. I thought there should be no discrimination. If we make a departure in one case, we have to do it in other cases also. But so far as giving notice and a copy of the speech is concerned, that will apply uniformly to all the regional languages, as it applies to the South.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA: Members from the South do not give advance copy of their speeches.

MR. SPEAKER: We do get it. There are a number of people who are masters

in English or Hindi, but they speak in the regional languages.

DR. RANEN SEN: This year you had told us that we have only to give two hours' advance notice before we speak in the regional languages. I have given two days' notice.

MR. SPEAKER: I did not object to your speaking in Bengali, because that was your maiden speech in Bengali.

श्री राम सहाय पांडे (राजनंदगांव) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरा एक सुझाव है । आपने पहली दफा कहा था कि जब भी कोई माननीय सदस्य हिंदी और अंग्रेजी के अतिरिक्त किसी दूसरी भाषा में यहां बोले तो उनको आपको लिखित स्पीच पहले भेजनी चाहिये । लेकिन बंगला भाषा के संबंध में मुझे यह कहना है कि दो तीन दिनों तक आप ऐसा न कीजिये । हमको बंगला भाषा सुनने में बड़ी अच्छी लगी । इसके माध्यम से बड़ी भारी कान्ति हुई । चाहे हम समझे या न समझें, वह हम को अच्छी लगती है । जितने ही माननीय सदस्य बंगला बोलने के लिये कीन हैं, उतने ही हम उनको सुनने के लिए कीन हैं । हम शायद एक भी शब्द नहीं बोल सकते, लेकिन हम समझते हैं कि इसके द्वारा एक कान्ति हुई है एक जागरण की बात हुई है । इस लिए इसकी इजाजत आपको देनी चाहिये ।

*SHRI C. T. DHANDAPANI (Dharapuram): Mr. Speaker, Sir, before I extend my whole-hearted support to the Resolution moved by the hon. Deputy Minister of Home Affairs, seeking the approval of the House for extending the President's rule in West Bengal by another six months, I would like to say a few words. Because of the historical common cultural and emotional link between the Tamilians and the Bengalis, I am emboldened to participate in this debate and make some observations

*The original speech was delivered in Tamil.

[Shri C.T. Dhandapani]

suggestions for implementation by the Central Government in West Bengal.

Sir, on account of political instability leading to chaos and confusion among the people in many parts of the country, the President's rule in the States has become the order of the day. When the people of the country are unable to choose as to which political party they should give their votes and when no political party gets the majority of seats in the legislature as a result of the dilemma in the people to select such a political party to rule the state, the President's rule from the Centre is imposed. It is ironical that in a democracy the President's rule in some States should be welcomed and in some others it should be imposed from the Centre much against the wishes of the people.

I would like to strike a note of warning to the political parties contributing to the creation of this unfortunate situation in the country. If this undesirable tendency is allowed to continue in our country, surely the democratic aspirations of the people will be crushed under this kind of autocratic ambition of a ruling party in the Centre. In fact, this sounds the death-knell for democracy in our country. It is high time that the political parties in our country listen to the gong and search their conscience as to how they can win back the faith and confidence of the people. They owe a duty not only to themselves but also to the people of the country who have irrevocably chosen the democratic way of life. The political parties of the country should realise that the people are no longer to be treated as pawns in the game of politics and it is imperative that the political parties should lay greater stress on the welfare programmes for the people rather than on all kinds of political philosophy.

All the same people of the country are surprised and shocked at the rapidly deteriorating law and order situation in West Bengal. It is also common

knowledge that the contribution of the political parties for this sorry state of affairs in West Bengal is not of a small order. The Communist Party of India (Marxist) is encouraging violent activities like murder, shooting, looting, arson etc. as the means for solving the problems being faced by the people in the country. They seem to believe that solutions can be found to any problem by taking resort to rifles and guns. I would like to tell that they are sadly mistaken in their approach and if it spreads, then democracy in the country will be extinct in a short time. They should realise that in the atmosphere of deteriorating law and order situation no worthwhile developmental programmes can be undertaken and completed.

Shri Siddhartha Shankar Ray, the Minister of Education in the Central Cabinet, is also designated as the Minister for West Bengal Affairs. He has an office in Calcutta to look after his work in West Bengal. It is incomprehensible to me that, after appointing a retired I.C.S. Officer as the Governor of West Bengal, why should a Central Minister be in charge of West Bengal affairs. I would like to pose this question : is this arrangement really meant to help the people of West Bengal or is it meant for the political gains of the ruling party in the Centre? I would like to know whether this Minister is looking after the economic development of West Bengal or its political development? I am afraid that this unhealthy precedent might be made use of by the Centre in future in the case of other States also, which do not toe the line of the ruling party in the Centre. I would like to categorically state that this political expediency is constitutionally improper and it smacks of partisan approach to the problems facing the country. I have no hesitation in saying that all the political parties without exception are exploiting the misery and poverty of the people of West Bengal for their own ends. The political parties, whether they be the

ruling or opposition parties, should remember that they have to face the people in the elections and they are bound to be confronted with the question as to what they have done in the interest of the common people.

We are aware of the fact that the Congress Party as also the Communist Party of India and some other Parties have at one time or the other ruled the State of West Bengal. I would quote some statistics to prove that whichever Government might have been there in the State, they have not fully utilised the allocations made to them under the Annual Plans and also under the three Five Year Plans. This only shows that there is something seriously wrong with the State Government machinery that they are unable to implement the developmental schemes by fully utilising the allocations made for that purpose. In the year 1966-67 while a sum of Rs. 63.29 crores was allotted; they spent only Rs. 53.03 crores; in 1967-68, the allocation was Rs. 60.87 crores and the expenditure Rs. 51.01 crores; in 1969-70 the expenditure was only Rs. 45.98 crores while the allocation was Rs. 46.85 crores. Who is responsible for this kind of serious lapse? Is it not an injustice done to the people of West Bengal? There is no use resorting to mud-slinging. Even under the regime of late Shri B. C. Roy, the Congress Government did not spend the money allocated for developmental purposes. You know Sir, that West Bengal is rich in marine wealth—I refer to the development of fisheries in West Bengal. In the First Five Year Plan, though a sum of Rs. 154.5 lakhs was allotted, only a sum of Rs. 64.1 lakhs was spent on the development of fisheries. For irrigation projects the provision in the Plan was Rs. 1537.8 lakhs and the expenditure was only Rs. 1419.7 lakhs. Similarly, in the sector of small industries and cottage industries the expenditure was only Rs. 67.4 lakhs, while the plan allocation was Rs. 74.3 lakhs. In the development of Ports and Harbours, the plan allocation was Rs. 190.5 lakhs, while the expenditure was only Rs. 170.5 lakhs. I am sure that what I

have stated so far is more than enough to prove that the State Government machinery is not capable of implementing the schemes of economic development by fully utilising the allocations. There seems to be something basically deficient in the administration, whether it has been under the Congress Party rule or under the other Opposition parties rule. Even in the Second and Third Five Year Plans; the amounts of Rs. 74.34 crores and Rs. 155.84 crores spent respectively are much below the allocations made. I would like to appeal to the Central Government that at least under the President's rule; some serious thought must be given to the State Administration and wherever there is draw-back or deficiency in the State Administration, it must be set right. During the President's rule it is the responsibility of the Centre to gear up the administrative machinery.

I would appeal to all the political parties that they should forthwith end mutual recrimination and start concentrating on the problem of relieving people's distress and misery. You are aware, Sir, that the benefits of economic planning have so far gone to a handful of rich families. In fact, the Indian economy is in the clutches of 75 affluent families and it is not surprising that the ruling party is also under their sway. If the Central Government do not take adequate steps to tackle the seething discontent developing in the people of the country and more particularly in West Bengal, the Government may have to rue the day when violence erupts in all its fury.

11.00 hrs.

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Gauhati): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in deference to your wishes, I will not speak in my regional language. But I will have my say in English.

I take my stand here to support the Resolution moved by Shri Mohsin for extension of the President's Rule in West Bengal for another six months. There could have been some scope of debate

[*Shri Dinesh Chandra Goswami*]

as to whether the President's Rule should be extended for another six months or not if the Resolution had come a fortnight before but today, in the context of the entire change in the internal and international scene, there is no other alternative but to vote for the extension of the President's Rule in West Bengal. I can assure my friends on the other side that we on this side of the House are as keen as they are, that a popular Government should be installed in West Bengal the moment the circumstances so permit. But at the same time I will ask my friends, particularly my Marxist friends who all the time are shouting for elections in West Bengal to search their own hearts and find out why in spite of three elections in the last five years, we have not been able to instal a stable popular Government in West Bengal. I will, therefore, ask my Marxist friends particularly to take note of the fact and, after searching their own hearts, try to find out the causes for which a stable popular Government has not come into existent and try to remedy them.

Here, I will particularly ask the Central Government to take note of the important problems facing West Bengal as well as the entire eastern region. If we see the previous political developments in West Bengal, it is clear that there has been a serious effort of extremist party to create a vacuum both in the economic and intellectual field in West Bengal and now they are trying to spread their domain in the entire eastern region. That is why we saw a situation of chaos and confusion in West Bengal.

Coming from the border State of Assam, I can state emphatically that there has been a consistent threat by extremists to create a situation of chaos and confusion in Assam and in the neighbouring States more or less in the line of West Bengal. We are fortunate that they have not been successful uptill now in this direction. We must remember that if chaos and confusion prevails in the eastern region, and it is bound

to prevail, if we cannot bring the situation of law and order to some sort of stability in West Bengal, the very question of integrity of the entire country would be at jeopardy. So, the Central Government should take positive steps to see that we can do something to bring law and order situation in West Bengal to normalcy.

It is heartening to know that during the last few months, particularly due to the serious efforts of Shri Siddhartha Shankar Ray, there has been a lot of improvement in the law and order situation in West Bengal. But I have got my feeling that it is only a temporary lull. After all, we must remember that violence has a tendency like a proverbial demon that when it does not find any one to attack it attacks its master. Violence acts like a boomerang. That is why today the Marxist friends are talking on the floor of the House that there should be an improvement in law and order situation in the State. My own feeling is that the situation now improving in West Bengal is only a temporary lull. Unless some permanent solution of the socio-economic problems of West Bengal can be found, once more, we will see a deteriorating situation. Therefore, I will particularly request the Central Government to take note of the fact and find out some measures by which a permanent solution of the problem can be arrived at.

We must remember that there has been a tremendous attitudinal pressure in this country for economic development. The common man not to speak of the elite—know about the higher standard of living in the West and the progress made there. They, in their heart of hearts want such a climate to prevail in this country also. The students, the youth, of our country have come to know about advanced scientific and technological developments. And in their heart of hearts they want that a situation should be created in this country when they can use this knowledge and we can only hope for such a situation if there is improvement in the economic position and the economic condition. After all, the Naxalite activities are not

activities of some hooligans or goondas but we know that brilliant boys and university students who always topped in the examinations have suddenly declared themselves to be extremists and Naxalites. The reason is not far to seek. There has been a tremendous frustration in the minds of the youth of the country that in the present state their urges and aspirations are not going to be fulfilled and unless we can satisfy their thirst and unless we can create conditions in this country where the youth may feel that their urges and aspirations are going to be fulfilled, I have got my own feeling that the law and order situation will always be the most acute problem.

It is an unfortunate thing that in West Bengal and particularly in the entire Eastern Region the economic condition is very poor and that is why the frustration is much more. Therefore, I request the Central Government that while the President's rule is there, in spite of the hardships we are facing in the economic front to-day because of the complexities in the international situation, there should be a sustained effort that an atmosphere is created so that the urges of the young people may be fulfilled. If these cannot be fulfilled, I have got my own feeling that the problems of West Bengal and the acute problems of the entire Eastern Region will not be solved. Therefore, I request and particularly, lay stress on this fact- and in this context I may refer that even foreign visitors who came to this country, have taken note of this fact and only a few months ago, Senator Kennedy who visited India said that there should be an integrated policy of economic development for the entire eastern region because the Eastern Region must be taken as a complex region. The Eastern Region is indeed a very complex region because of the existence of a large number of languages and tribes and so on. Therefore, during the President's rule the Central Government should take both short term measures, measures by which one can find short-term solutions to the law and order problem and other economic problems and also long term

measures for an integrated development in the entire Eastern Region so that the urges and aspirations of the younger generations and the common man of the entire region can be fulfilled and we can hope to have a stable situation in the entire Eastern Region. The entire world is looking to the Eastern Region to-day because fast changes in the international situation in the Eastern Region are coming into existence which will change the complexity of the entire Asian political situation and as the entire world is looking to it, it is high time that we also have a role to play with regard to the Eastern Region and that we also have a completely different type of approach to the Eastern Region.

With these words, I support the resolution.

श्री जगन्नाथराव जोशी (शाजापुर) :
पश्चिम बंगाल में राष्ट्रपति शासन छः महीने आगे बढ़ाने के प्रस्ताव पर चर्चा चल रही है। एक शब्द में ही सरकार की नीति का वर्णन मुझे करना हो तो मैं ऐसे कर सकता हूँ :

The Government is willing to strike but afraid to wound. इसकी वजह से यह मामला आज तक आगे चला आया है। राष्ट्रपति शासन एक अस्थायी तरीका है काम चलाने का। स्थायी तरीका हमेशा ही लोकतंत्र में यह होता है कि लोकप्रिय सरकार चलती रहे। लेकिन कई प्रदेशों में हमारे देश में राष्ट्रपति शासन आज तक चालू है। उसके लिए एक विशिष्ट षटना जिम्मेदार थी और वह थी दल बदल की प्रवृत्ति। उसकी वजह से राजनीतिक अस्थिरता पैदा हुई थी और उसकी वजह से मैसूर, गुजरात, पंजाब आदि में लोकप्रिय सरकारें नहीं चल सकीं और राष्ट्रपति का शासन आया। किन्तु जहाँ तक पश्चिम बंगाल का सम्बन्ध है वहाँ केवल राजनीतिक अस्थिरता ही नहीं बल्कि राजनीतिक अस्थिरता

[श्री जगन्नाथराव जोशी]

थी थी और है जिस की वजह से आज भी राष्ट्रपति महोदय का शासन वहां लागू है और आगे भी उसका छः महीने के लिए बढ़ाये जाने की बात है।

पिछली बार जब पश्चिम बंगाल पर वहां बहुत हुई थी तब मंत्री महोदय ने स्वीकार किया था कि पश्चिम बंगाल की परिस्थिति में सुधार आया है। मुझे यह कहना पड़ता है कि वास्तव में पश्चिमी बंगाल में क्या हो रहा है, इसके बारे में ठीक-ठीक जानकारी सदन को नहीं मिल रही है। यदि मंत्री महोदय का यह कहना ठीक है कि पश्चिमी बंगाल की परिस्थिति में सुधार हुआ है, तो फिर आपत्कालीन स्थिति की घोषणा से पहले कुछ प्रदेशों में फरवरी में चुनाव कराने की जो बात थी, उसमें पश्चिमी बंगाल में चुनाव कराने की बात नहीं थी, इसका क्या कारण था? प्रश्न यह है कि जब 1971 में लोक सभा और विधान सभाओं के लिए चुनाव हुए, तो क्या उस समय परिस्थिति अच्छी थी? बहुत खराब थी। इसके बावजूद पश्चिमी बंगाल में भी चुनाव हुए। आज मंत्री महोदय कहते हैं कि पश्चिमी बंगाल की परिस्थिति में सुधार हुआ है। यदि यह बात ठीक है, तो फिर आपत्कालीन स्थिति से पहले फरवरी में जिन राज्यों में चुनाव कराने की बात कही गई थी, उनमें पश्चिमी बंगाल को सम्मिलित क्यों नहीं किया गया था?

इसलिए मंत्री महोदय यह स्पष्ट करें कि जो चुनाव होते हैं, क्या वे किसी राज्य की स्थिति को देखकर होते हैं। या संसदीय राजनीतिक दल की स्थिति को देखकर होते हैं। मुझे ऐसा लगता है कि यह एक परसनल इन्वेष्टिगेशन का

मामला है। यह कोई नई बात नहीं है। पश्चिमी बंगाल में जो स्थिति है, वह केरल और आंध्र आदि उन प्रदेशों में भी दिखाई देगी, जहां कम्युनिस्टों का प्रभाव है। यह क्यों हो रहा है, इसके मूल में हमको जाना पड़ेगा। केवल परसनल इन्वेष्टिगेशन से काम नहीं चलेगा।

प्रजातंत्र में मतभेद रह सकते हैं, लेकिन उनकी कुछ मर्यादा रहती है। आज हम देखते हैं कि हिंसा की राजनीति को प्रश्रय मिल रहा है। जहां तक आर्थिक पहलु का सम्बन्ध है, उत्पादन के सब साधनों को शासन के हाथ में देने से एकदम स्वर्ग पैदा नहीं हो जायेगा। आखिर चेकोस्लोवाकिया, पोलैंड और रूस में स्वर्ग पैदा नहीं हुआ है। वह तरीका तो एक साधन है, साध्य नहीं है। वह मार्ग अपनाते से जो लाभ हो, यदि उसको आम जनता में बांटा जाये और आम जनता की खुशहाली में वृद्धि हो, तब हम उस को स्वीकार कर सकते हैं। लेकिन वह आर्थिक स्थिति कब पैदा होगी?

आज-कल सत्तारूढ़ दल के जो मित्र हैं—राइट कम्युनिस्ट, उन्होंने अभी एक थिसिस निकाला है। टू काम्ब्राइन बैलट बिद बुलेट। उन्होंने खुले रूप में यह कहा है, ने सत्तारूढ़ दल के मित्र हैं और पश्चिमी बंगाल में उन का भी प्रभाव है। हिंसा का जो दौर चला है, उसको बन्द करने के लिए सत्तारूढ़ दल हमारा सहयोग चाहता है। हम भी यह चाहते हैं, क्योंकि हिंसा की राजनीति में हम विश्वास नहीं करते हैं। हमारे यहां कहा गया है : एक सब विप्राः बहुधा वदन्ति। खुले रूप से जो चर्चा होती है, उस विचार-मन्बन के जो नवनीत सामने आता है, उस को स्वीकार करने की बुद्धि और सावना हम लोगों में होनी चाहिए। Democracy is not just a framework only. It is a liberal mind to

understand, accommodate and adjust the other man's point of view, if you agree. इस बात को खे कर हम को आगे चलना पड़ेगा ।

अभी मेरे मित्र, श्री गोस्वामी, ने कहा कि इट इज़ ए सोशोइकानोमिक प्राब्लम । क्या हिन्दुस्तान के अन्य भागो मे पिछड़ापन नहीं है ? जिस प्रदेश से तीन तीन प्रधान मंत्री आये है, क्या वह उत्तर प्रदेश आगे बढ़ा हुआ है ? क्या उस में पिछड़ापन नहीं है ? क्या मध्य प्रदेश मे पिछड़ापन नहीं है ? क्या इसी कारण वहा भी हिंसा का दौर चालू हैं ? मैं समझता हूँ कि वह प्रश्न पिछड़ेपन या भुखमरी का नहीं है । मैंने खुद देखा है कि जब इस देश मे अंग्रेजो का राज्य था और जब कम्युनिस्ट पार्टी अंग्रेजो का साथ दिया करती थी, तो एक मानव-निर्मित अकाल की वजह से बंगाल मे लाखो लोगो की मृत्यु हुई, लेकिन उस समय वहाँ कोई क्रान्ति की आग नहीं बढकी । क्या ? By itself hunger does not create a revolution You will have to couple it with anger हगर के साथ जब एगर आ जाता है—वह चिमारी किसी को देनी पडती है—, तब हिंसा का जन्म होता है । जिस पार्टी का हिंसा पर विश्वास है, जहाँ-जहा उस का प्रभाव है, चाहे वह केरल हो, या पश्चिमी बंगाल या आन्ध्र, वहा नक्सलाइट्स की प्रवृत्तिया दिखाई देती है । 1967 से लेकर अब तक इस सदन मे जब जब इस बारे में बर्बा हुआ है, क्या उस मे सी० पी० आर्डी० वा सी० पी० (एम०) ने हिंसा को समाप्त करने मे सहायता देने की बात कही है ? हम हमेशा कहते आ रहे हैं कि सरकार इस प्रश्न के मूल मे आ जाये, यह प्रश्न जोते-दारों और किसानो का नहीं है, इसके पीछे जो घड़यंत्र और भावना है, उस को देख कर कब्र उठाना चाहिए, हम इसमें सरकार के साथ हैं, क्योंकि यह राजनीति किसी का

भला नहीं करती है, स्वयं उन लोगों का भी भला नहीं करती है ।

हम ने देखा है कि सी० पी० आर्डी० और सी० पी० (एम०) अलग अलग हो गये । क्यों ? क्या इसका कोई राष्ट्रीय आधार था ? नहीं । इसका कारण यह था कि इन लोगों के जो अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सेन्टर हैं, उन मे आपस में मतभेद पैदा हो गये, इसलिए यहा भी इन दलों में मतभेद पैदा हो गये । आज ये लोग एक दूसरे पर आरोप लगाते हैं कि अमुक चीन के साथ है और अमुक रूस के साथ है । हम लोगो का इस से क्या सम्बन्ध है ? देखें मैं जो परिस्थिति लानी हैं, उस की दृष्टि से अपना विश्लेषण क्या है, यह बात महत्व की है ।

इसलिए मैं कहता हूँ कि केवल शरीबी और भुखमरी के कारण ही शैक्षणिक संस्थाओ मे बम फँकने, गुरुजनों की हत्या करने या आसुतोष मुकर्जी से लेकर महात्मा गांधी तक महापुरुषो की प्रतिमाओ को खडित करने या उन पर डामर लगाने और साहित्य को जलाने आदि की घटनायें नहीं होती हैं । इसके पीछे एक प्रवृत्ति है । जान-बूझ कर अव्यवस्था और अस्थान्ति पैदा की जाती है और उस आग में सब को धकेल दिया जाता है । इस बात को न समझ कर केवल पर्सनल इन्वेष्टेशन के लैवल पर इस समस्या को देखना—जो जो हमारे साथ है, जो जो हमारे मित्र हैं, जो हमको संसारूढ़ और पदासीन करने की दृष्टि से उपयोगी हैं, उन सबको अच्छा कहना—देख के हित मे नहीं हैं ।

एक समय ऐसा था, जब केरल में चुनाव के दिनों मे मुस्लिम लीग के बारे में स्वयं प्रधान मंत्री, श्री जवाहर लाल नेहरू, कहते थे कि After all, the Muslim League in Kerala is a dead horse. उस को जिन्ह

[श्री जयन्ताचरण जोशी]

किस ने किया और क्यों किया ? पुराने जमाने में यह एक किसान सा हो गया था कि जब जब धार० एस० एस० का नाम लिया जाये, तो मुस्लिम लीग का भी नाम लिया जाये। आज-कल उस को छोड़ दिया गया है, क्योंकि वह सत्तारूढ़ दल की मित्र बन गई है। प्रश्न यह है कि इस अवधि में उस में कौन सा परिवर्तन हो गया है, कौन सा मेटामॉर्फोसिस हो गया है ? तथ्य यह है कि उस ने सत्तारूढ़ दल का साथ देना शुरू कर दिया है। चूँकि केरल में राज्य चलाने की दृष्टि से वह सत्तारूढ़ दल की सहकारी बन गयी है, चूँकि कम्युनिस्ट पार्टी ने उस का साथ देना शुरू कर दिया है, इसलिए उन को छोड़ दिया गया है, जिस प्रवृत्ति के खिलाफ एक प्रबल वातावरण और वायु-मंडल पैदा करने की आवश्यकता है, उस को छोड़ दिया गया है। हमारे सामने जो मंत्री महोदय बैठे हुए हैं, उन्होंने श्री रंगपट्टम की मुस्लिम कान्फे-रेंस में नक्सलाइट्स के विरुद्ध एक वाता-वरण पैदा करने के बजाये यह कहा कि हम धार० एस० एस० पर पाबन्दी लगाने वाले हैं, उसके लिए बिल तैयार है। यह बात अज्ञानता में आई है।

यह अज्ञानता में उप-मंत्री (श्री एक० एच० मोहम्मद) : यह सत्य है। मैंने धार० एस० एस० का नाम नहीं लिया। मैंने कहा था कि हम कम्युनिस्ट आर्गनाई-जेशन की एक्टिविटीज पर पाबन्दी लगाने की बात सोच रहे हैं और उस के लिए बिल लाने वाले हैं।

श्री जयन्ताचरण जोशी : धार० एस० एस० तो पिछले 46 साल से चल रहा है, अज्ञान के नहीं। इन लोगों के प्रेजुडिसिबल को हम जानते हैं, वे कोई नये नहीं हैं। इन के मतभेद भी हम जानते हैं। लेकिन

सवाल यह है कि उन मतभेदों का प्रजातंत्र के अन्तर्गत किस मर्यादा तक ले जाना है। जब-जब राष्ट्र पर संकट आया है, तब-तब क्या यह राष्ट्रीय शक्ति सामने खड़ी नहीं हुई है ? आज भी पचास हजार स्वयंसेवक कोई भी काम करने के लिए तैयार हैं। रक्तदान करने का काम चालू हो गया है। राष्ट्र की रक्षा करने के लिए हम कोई भी काम—छोटे या बड़े काम का सवाल नहीं है—करने के लिए तैयार हैं। हम ट्रैफिक पुलिस का काम करने के लिए तैयार हैं।

हमारे प्रेजुडिसिबल रहेंगे। उन का कोई महत्व नहीं है। प्रजातंत्र के अन्तर्गत यह होता है। प्रश्न यही है कि किस मर्यादा तक, किस हद तक, उन मतभेदों को ले जाना चाहिए। जो राजनीति सब को डुबो-येगी, हम उस को बढ़ावा क्यों दें ? जैसा कि मैंने कहा है, Government is willing to wound but afraid to strike.

मुझे यह देख कर बड़ा दुख होता है कि गांधीजी के देश में मंत्री महोदय समाजों में कहते हैं : If there would not be a green revolution, there would be a red revolution. Whose responsibility is it to usher in a green revolution, if not your own ?

मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ कि पूरी रिसर्पॉसीबिलिटी सब कानून, अधिकार और शक्ति अपने हाथ में होने के बावजूद why did you not usher in a green revolution ?

इस सरकार को शरीरों को खुशहाल बनाने से किस ने रोका था ? किस ने उस के मार्ग में रोड़ा अटकवाया था। इतने सालों की एनर्जीज, रिसोर्सिज और देश के धन की वेस्ट के बाद आज इस सरकार के मंत्रीगण धमकी देते हैं कि देयर बिल बी ए रेड रेवोल्यूशन। मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि people are prepared to face any revolution. कई हमलों के बावजूद हमारा देश खड़ा

रहा है और खड़ा रहेगा। अमरीका या रूस के बलबूते कोई देश खड़ा नहीं रहता है। हम 55 करोड़ जनता के बलबूते दुनिया के सामने खड़े रहे हैं और खड़े रहेंगे। किन्तु जिन पर जिम्मेदारी है उस जिम्मेदारी को न निभाते हुए उन की तरफ से धमकी देना और प्रबलम को ठीक ढंग से पेश करने के बजाय दूसरे ढंग से रखना, यह कोई उचित बात नहीं है। यानी किसी को नौकरी नहीं मिलती तो फस्ट्रेशन है, लेकिन फस्ट्रेशन क्या पश्चिमी बंगाल में ही है? क्या बम्बई में नहीं है फस्ट्रेशन? क्या मद्रास में नहीं है फस्ट्रेशन? मैं अपने मित्र को भी बताता हूँ, उन्होंने भी इस बात का जिक्र किया, कम्युनिस्ट पार्टी जो हिंसा में विश्वास करती है (व्यवधान)..... यही स्थिति आज तामिलनाडु में भी पैदा हो रही है, यह हमारे मित्र ने स्वयं बताया तो सवाल यह है कि हिंसा पर जिनका विश्वास आधारित है ऐसे दल के साथ केवल चुनाव में सत्तारूढ़ दल को पदासीन करने में चूक वह सहकार देते हैं, इसलिए इसी एक आधार को लेकर उस को कोई भ्रष्टाचार कहे और हम जो देश के हित को सामने रख कर चलते हैं, देश के हित में यदि हमारा मतभेद होता है और खुले रूप में हम मतभेद सामने रखते हैं तो इस का मतलब यह नहीं कि कोई दुश्मन है। नहीं प्रजातंत्र में ऐसा होता नहीं है। इसलिए मैं आज भी कहता हूँ इन तीन प्रदेशों के अंदर जो नक्सलाइट्स का जोर है आन्ध्र, केरल और बंगाल, यह फस्ट्रेशन की वजह से नहीं है।

एक सामंतीय सङ्घ : आन्ध्र में नहीं है।

श्री जयन्ताचरण चौधरी : आन्ध्र में शासन इसलिए हो गया कि आन्ध्र मद्रास से अलग हो गया। उस के पहले आन्ध्र में भारी कम्युनिस्ट जमाव था। मैं जानता हूँ आन्ध्र को। आज कम हो गया। गुन्डू बाला जब जा कर श्रीकाकुलम् में नेता बन जाता है तो क्या हम समझते नहीं हैं।

तो मेरा कहना यह है कि राष्ट्रपति शासन कोई स्थायी रूप से नहीं है। आज भी हम चाहते हैं कि जितनी जल्दी शांति और व्यवस्था वहाँ लायी जा सके, वह लयी जानी चाहिए। इंडस्ट्रियल पीस भी एक चीज है क्योंकि आज वहाँ से कई इंडस्ट्रीज जा रही हैं। आफ्टर आल बेराव इज्जत नो साल्यूशन फार इंडस्ट्रियल अनरेस्ट। यह कोई तरीका नहीं है। औद्योगिक शांति हम भी चाहते हैं। न्याय सबके साथ होना चाहिए। कम से कम मजदूर के साथ जरूर होना चाहिए। एवार्ड जब आता है जो मजदूर के हित में जो है उस को लागू कराने के लिए आप उन को मजदूर क्यों नहीं करते, मालिकों के ऊपर दबाव क्यों नहीं डालते, देश के अंदर अनरेस्ट पैदा क्यों करते हैं? आज भी जो इंडस्ट्रीज बन्द हैं उन को चलाने के लिए शासन को कदम उठाना चाहिए। इंडस्ट्री को हाथ में लेना चाहिए। कच्चे माल की वजह से जो इंडस्ट्री बन्द होती है उस को भी देखना चाहिए और विशेषरूप से जो एक परिस्थिति होती है जिस परिस्थिति के अंतर्गत उद्योग भी ठीक चलते हैं, स्कूल भी ठीक चलते हैं, सामाजिक जीवन भी ठीक चलता है, उस परिस्थिति को लाने की दृष्टि से कड़ाई से सरकार कदम ले, अपने राजनैतिक जीवन से हिंसा को समाप्त करने के लिए कदम उठाए तो हम शासन के पैरों की ताकत बन कर रहेंगे। अन्यवाद।

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI F.H. MOHSIN) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, after hearing many friends in Bengali language and one friend in the Tamil language, I was rather prompted to speak in Kannada language, but I restrained myself after hearing the Speaker.

Sir, I am very thankful to the hon. Members for the various suggestions made by them in respect of West Bengal. As you are well aware, President's rule came into effect in West Bengal from 29th June, 1971. At the time of the imposition of President's rule, the law and order situation was quite alarming, as the Members know. During the brief spell of democratic coalition government rule in West Bengal, from 2-4-71 to 29-6-71, the incidence of violence was the highest. As many as 339 political murders had taken place during that period. 217 inter-Party clashes and 434 cases of attack on the police were reported. So, the difficulties of the administration were increased, and later on, as the House may be aware, flood havoc created another difficulty. As many as 13 out of the 15 districts were affected due to the floods in West Bengal, and eight million people were uprooted from their homes. They went away to seek shelter elsewhere, and this added to the problems of the West Bengal administration.

Further, the House is aware that the refugee influx into West Bengal created more intricate problems. Not only we had to provide food, shelter and clothing for over 75 lakhs of people who came to West Bengal, in West Bengal alone, but along with that, the law and order situation also became more difficult.

Hon. Members will appreciate the difficulties of the Administration. I should say that during the President's rule every effort has been made to solve the hardships created by the anti-social elements and

by the flood havoc and also the influx of refugees amounting to 75 lakhs people.

MR. SPEAKER : Their number has crossed a million.

SHRI F. H. MOHSIN : There are 75 lakhs in West Bengal alone. I say so because we are discussing only West Bengal. There are refugees in Assam, Tripura, Bihar, Orissa and other places also. This has created enormous problems. Various steps were taken by the State Governments to restore normalcy and to maintain law and order in the State. To curb the activities of criminals and anti-social elements, there were frequent raids to the dens of anti-social elements and quite a number of them were prosecuted under specific provisions of the law. As many as 1,758 dacoits were arrested in the districts only, apart from Calcutta. 38,400 criminals and anti-social elements had been arrested out of whom 11,000 came from Calcutta alone. 4,696 persons were detained under the West Bengal P.V. Act and M.I.S. Act out of whom 2,469 were criminals and anti-social elements other than extremists. A huge quantity of ammunitions, explosives and bombs to the extent of 70,000 were seized from various localities and various persons also. A large number of people were prosecuted. Some of them were convicted also. As a result of various measures taken by the administration there was improvement in the overall law and order situation. There has been a decline in the number of violent incidents committed by Naxalites and extremists.

Educational institutions which were closed due to such incidents have begun to function now. It is really heartening to know that the law and order situation has improved. I may give some statistics showing how the law and order situation has improved month by month. In July 1971 inter-party clashes were 97 and 83 in August and in September it came down to 54. The figures for political murders in July 1971 were 133, for August 142 and for September 86. Incidents of extremist violence and lawlessness

were 370 in July, 266 in August and 152 in September.

Looking at these figures, one could imagine that the incidents of violence are slowly coming down month by month. Though the overall situation is slowly improving we cannot be complacent about these things. Extremists and anti-social elements have not been crushed altogether. They are lying low and at any time they may raise their heads and create a law and order situation. I am one with the Members who have spoken about the Naxalite and other extremist activities creating a law and order situation. When President's rule was brought in West Bengal, it was not only due to the fact that no party could form a stable Government, but it was also due to the fact that the law and order situation had deteriorated. In order to hold elections there, it is necessary that the law and order situation should improve. As Shri Jagannathrao Joshi put it, of course today there is an Emergency, and we cannot think of the elections, but at the same time, we have to take into consideration the law and order situation and the incidents of violence. How can you think of holding elections when there are so many incidents of violence taking place every day, and when there is a large influx of population from Bangla Desh amounting to 70 lakhs of persons who are staying in West Bengal and 8 million people have been uprooted by the flood havoc. All these conditions go to show that today we cannot think of elections. Let things improve. We are not afraid of holding the elections.

Shri Jagannathrao Joshi was saying that we were afraid of holding the elections in West Bengal because our party might not win. I may state for his information that it is not so. We are very confident of victory if elections do take place, and the municipal elections in Burdwan are a pointer in that direction. We have secured 18 seats out of 25 there.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA : Why not hold elections in Rajpur and other places? You are talking only of

Burdwan. Our voters were not allowed to go and vote. One Congress man voted 60 times in Burdwan.

MR. SPEAKER : May I request West Bengal Members to remain silent, they have said enough.

SHRI F.H. MOHSIN : This is an indication to show how the wind is blowing in West Bengal. It is not as though we are afraid of holding the elections.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA : You cannot cow down the West Bengal people in this way.

MR. SPEAKER : I want a quiet wind in this House.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA : Kindly go through my speech. I did not refer to the issue of elections. It is the Jina Sangh leader who asked why elections were not being held in West Bengal.

SHRI A.K. SEN (Calcutta-North-West): I know it is a sore point for the hon. Members, and let not the hon. Member tread too much on it, as it will pain them too much.

SHRI F.H. MOHSIN : I was only replying to the point of Shri Jagannathrao Joshi who said that the ruling party was hesitating to hold elections because they had no prospects.

Shri Dinen Bhattacharyya said that there was no rule of law in West Bengal. Let him ask himself who has created this law and order situation.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA : You are a new Minister, you do not know anything.

MR. SPEAKER : May I request you to listen to each other? The Minister was patiently listening to whatever was said. I know he is not going to make a long speech. Please do not interrupt him. He is not a new Minister now.

SHRI F. H. MOHSIN : We are very eager to see that law and order is restored in West Bengal and we want the cooperation of all, including Mr. Dinan Bhattacharyya and his party.

Government has taken many steps to improve the economic condition of the people. We have launched the 16 point programme for the industrial development of West Bengal. As many as 505 units were closed as on 1-11-71 involving 56,918 workmen.

Between 1-1-71 and 31-10-71, 68 units were reopened involving 37,843 workmen who were put on jobs again. About the 16 point programme, I do not want to elaborate on it because Mr. Dinan Bhattacharyya knows very well how much Government has been striving to see that industrial development takes place there. Even in the matter of supply of raw materials for establishing new industries, every encouragement is given. We do not want that any industrialist should go away from West Bengal. We want to persuade them to continue their business there. It is not only a question of socio-economic problem but also a question of indoctrination by anti-social elements and Naxalites into the young minds in West Bengal. If West Bengal has to improve in all spheres, this indoctrination of Maoist ideology, which has brought ruin to West Bengal has to be stopped. I would appeal to one and all to see that peace is restored. Only through peace we can achieve rapid economic development. I am happy that all parties are supporting this move to extend the President's Rule. This tempo has to be kept up and we should also see that normalcy is restored in West Bengal and in the rest of the country, so that we may make further progress.

With these words, I request the House to adopt the resolution.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is :

"That this House approves the continuance in force of the Proclamation dated

the 29th June, 1971, in respect of West Bengal, issued under article 356 of the Constitution by the President, for a further period of six months with effect from the 26th January, 1972."

The motion was adopted.

11.38 hrs.

DEMANDS* FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS (RAILWAYS), 1971-72

MR. SPEAKER : The House will now take up Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways). I think it would not take more than half an hour because the demands are related to certain specific heads and are very limited in scope. Because we have cut short our time to half the normal working time, we should save a lot of time on such items.

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH (Nandyal): Half an hour is too short a period.

श्री हुकमचन्द कछवाय (मुरेना) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, आपके घंटे में क्या बोलेंगे रेलवे जैसे विषय पर? काफी लोग इस पर बोलना चाहते हैं... (ज्यबबान)... दो घंटे में क्या होगा?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आपने इसको पढ़कर देखा है? इसके ऊपर ही बोलना होगा। सप्लीमेंट्री डिमाण्ड्स का प्रोसीजर बड़े लंग हायर में होता है, उसके बाहर आप नहीं जा सकते हैं।

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI HANUMANTHAIYA): The hon. House is in possession of the document which contains the details about the supplementary demands. I do not want to make a speech at this stage.

I want the house to participate in the debate. I would be able to say something, if at all, by way of reply at the end.

Moved with the recommendation of the President;

I move that the supplementary Demands indicated against Demand Nos. 14 and 15 be granted by the House.

DEMAND NO. 14—CONSTRUCTION OF NEW LINES—CAPITAL AND DEPRECIATION RESERVE FUND

MR. SPEAKER : Motion moved :

“That a Supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1972, in respect of ‘Construction of New Lines—Capital and Depreciation Reserve Fund.’”

DEMAND NO. 15—OPEN LINE WORKS—CAPITAL, DEPRECIATION RESERVE FUND AND DEVELOPMENT FUND

MR. SPEAKER : Motion moved :

“That a Supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 30,06,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1972, in respect of ‘Open Line Works—Capital, Depreciation Reserve Fund and Development Fund.’”

SHRI DASARATHA DEB (Tripura East) : Mr. Speaker, Sir.....

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur) : Sir with your permission, I want to refer to one matter, after the recommendation of the Pay Commission, we were expecting that in the Supplementary Demands there would be a provision for increase in dearness allowance.

MR. SPEAKER : Please do not get up on every occasion.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Kindly hear me, it is absolutely relevant. During the emergency the government servants should remain contented. There

are 14 lakhs of railway employees. The Railway Minister should have provided for this.

MR. SPEAKER : Do not come through any channel that is available.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Do not give the impression that it is irrelevant.

MR. SPEAKER : But he should at least give some notice.

SHRI DASARATHA DEB : I also agree with Shri Banerjee that this amount should have been provided for.

MR. SPEAKER : It can be mentioned in the course of the speech, but not separately.

SHRI DASARATHA DEB : I want to draw the attention of the Railway Minister to the Howrah-Amta-Sheokhola light railways, which had served a large number of rural people. Because of the winding up of this line the people are put to a lot of difficulties.

MR. SPEAKER : Is it mentioned in the Demands?

SHRI HANUMANTHAIYA : No, Sir.

SHRI DASARATHA DEB : I would request that the government should see to it that the decision to wind up the line is not final. In fact, government should run it, in order to avoid the difficulties faced by the people.

Secondly, it was reported that the West Bengal Government were prepared to give financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 50 lakhs. If that is so, why is the Government feeling shy of taking up... (Interruption.)

MR. SPEAKER : The total is Rs. 30 lakhs and you are talking of Rs. 50 lakhs.

SHRI DASARATHA DEB : It is about the opening of new lines. The Minister himself had given an assurance in this House when the Railway Budget was debated that the employees, who were thrown out of

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employment due to the closure of this light railway, would be absorbed. But it has not been done so far.

In Bihar also, the Sasaram Light Railway employees, though the railway exists now,...

MR. SPEAKER : Kindly confine yourself to the subject.

SHRI DASARATHA DEB : I am facing the same difficulty due to the bad management of this line I think, the Government should also take that up and keep the thing running well

Then, there should be doubling of the railway line in the Bongaon sector which is near Jessore where our army is fighting now. Then, there is a line in North Bengal which is also a connecting link between West Bengal and North Bengal. All these areas have become very important places because of the war that is going on. But the single line cannot provide full facilities for movement of troops and other goods. So, the Government should see that this double line is opened up within a short period. For that they should provide some financial allocation. It is very urgent.

Then, I want to point out that in the Sealdah sector there are irregular services.

MR. SPEAKER : When somebody reads the speech, his question will be as to what was the occasion for all this. Please confine yourself to this simple thing. When the Railway Budget comes, you can say all this.

SHRI DASARATHA DEB : It is most urgent.

MR. SPEAKER : When anybody reads the debate, he will ask whether the Speaker was in the Chair.

SHRI DASARATHA DEB : During the Railway Budget debate also we raised that question. Now, Tripura is in the midst of war.

श्री विद्युत् मिश्र (पोलीहाटी) : अध्यक्ष जी, बोड़े से लोग उधर हैं और बोड़े से लोग उधर हैं जिनको बार-बार बोलने का मौका मिलता है। चाहे एक धादसी की पार्टी हो, चाहे दो ब्राह्मणियों की पार्टी हो और चाहे कोई बिना पार्टी के ही हो, उन्हीं लोगों को बार बार बोलने का मौका मिलता है और हम लोगों को मौका ही नहीं मिलता है। (ब्यवचार).....

SHRI DASARATHA DEB : Tripura has now become a bottleneck so far as transport is concerned. We have been urging again and again that this new line construction from Dharmanagar to Agartala is very, very urgent at this period. There is a tremendous difficulty that our people are facing. If you read this report, you will find that due to the bottleneck of transport... (Interruption)

MR. SPEAKER : I am only reading the Supplementary Demands. You should not go beyond the scope of the debate.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA ; (Serampore) : This is a new line.

SHRI DASARATHA DEB : I am asking when they have already surveyed it why it has not come in these Supplementary Demands for opening a new line. This Dharmanagar-Agartala line is very important. Things cannot move there. Due to the bottleneck of transport actually our people are getting restive because fish costs Rs. 15 a Kg; milk Rs. 10 a Kg; onion Rs. 5 a Kg; dal Rs. 3 a Kg. and pulses are not available. This is the thing we are facing when we are in the midst of a war. It is important from the military strategy point. Troop movement will be there and you must realise the importance of this.

From the statement which I want you to refer to, you will find that *dhotee* had disappeared from Tripura and when the Government placed an order on Calcutta, they refused; even the Bombay merchants refused due to the absence of transport facilities.

Coming to another point regarding casual workers... (Interruption)

MR. SPEAKER : May I inform you of the procedure? During the Supplementary Demands Debate there is no general debate. It is confined purely to the specific Demand.

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH : Whenever the Supplementary Demands used to be discussed, the Members used to participate and offer their suggestions... (Interruption)

MR. SPEAKER : It is never the case.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD (Bhagalpur) : We have to point out the omissions also in this document. We have to offer suggestions also..... (Interruption)

MR. SPEAKER : You have yourself set the procedure that there cannot be a general debate on the Supplementary Demands.

SHRI DASARATHA DEB : In Tripura, what is going on is this...

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : There has been the convention in the House that on Supplementary Demands, we should confine ourselves to the Demands. But if there is a Demand for Grant under the head "new lines" whether it is Rs. 10,000 or Rs. 1,000, while sanctioning that amount, we can also demand other new lines.

MR. SPEAKER : After all, I am bound by the rules of the House which you have approved. I do not need guidance when the rule is so specific. Rule 216 says :

"The debate on the supplementary grants shall be confined to the items constituting the same and no discussion may be raised on the original grants nor policy underlying them save in so far as it may be necessary to explain or illustrate the particular items under discussion".

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : The discussion on supplementary demands for grants has taken place in the House like this and the suggestions are offered... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I expect some better guidance from you.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : I am guiding you... (Interruption)

MR. SPEAKER : You are misguiding me rather.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : The supplementary demands have been discussed like this... (Interruption)

श्री विभूति मिश्र : अध्यक्ष महोदय पेज 6 और 7 पर जिन तीन लाइनों को छोटी लाइन से बड़ी लाइन करने के लिये कहा गया है, बजट में उन का सुकाव नहीं था। यह जो छोटी लाइन से बड़ी लाइनें की जा रही हैं, यह नई लाइनें हैं, लेकिन हम लोगों के यहां जो छोटी लाइन है समस्तीपुर से मोतीहारी और रक्सौल होते हुए नरकटियागंज तक, उसको नहीं लिया जा रहा है।

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : We have to say all this.

SHRI A. P. SHARMA (Buxar) : There are certain assurances given by the hon. Railway Minister at the time of the Railway Budget. If those assurances have not been fulfilled, we can raise the matter here.

MR. SPEAKER : I quite appreciate what you say. But, I think, the proper occasion is when the Railway Budget comes...

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : After one year. (Interruption)

SHRI DASARATHA DEB : The hon. Minister gave some promise regarding victimisation of workers. In Barauni, there was an agitation on the part of the

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employees and there was a long strike also. A representation was made to the Ministry and, I think, some Agreement was reached, and the work was resumed that the employees who participated in the agitation will not be victimised. But, still these people are suspended and their service break is there and their promise has not been fulfilled. So, I request the Minister that at least at this stage they should give up this attitude of victimising the workers.

Not only in Barauni but in other parts also hundreds of workers were being victimised in Siliguri and all over India.

MR. SPEAKER : On the Railways ?

SHRI DASARATHA DEB : Yes, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : Be on the track, on the right track !

SHRI DASARATHA DEB : Lastly, I want to refer to the casual workers also. It is very unfortunate that casual workers in which lakhs of people are involved some of whom have worked for 12 years or 14 years or 16 years like that, are not absorbed as regular workers. The Government allow them to work for two or three months and then they retrench them.

SHRI A. P. SHARMA : No time limit for the Opposition Members ?

MR. SPEAKER : You didn't agree to the time limit when I proposed. So I am allowing it... (Interruptions) When I put it to the House about time limit, I was not given any indication nor it was agreed. So I am keeping quiet.

SHRI DASARATHA DEB : In conclusion I would say only regarding this casual labour. This type of practice should be given up. Just to deny them a lawful right to be absorbed as a regular worker, the Railways employ them for two or three months and then retrench them before they complete six months so as to entitle them to be absorbed as a regular worker. I would say that this type of practice of deceiving the workers should be stopped totally.

MR. SPEAKER : May I say again that this is not a general debate. Mr. Venkatasubbiah.

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBIAH (Nandyal) : I confine myself to the Supplementary Demands that have been brought forward by the Minister.

One is about the electrification of Madras-Vijayawada line at a cost of Rs. 31.03 crores.

11.59 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY]

I do not know why the Minister has brought it through a supplementary demand. As a matter of fact this has been under the consideration of the Railway Ministry for a long time and it was one of the items that have been conceived by the railway administration long time back. I am glad that at last the Minister has come forward with this Demand. But I request him that it should be extended beyond Vijayawada because this Vijayawada line as explained in the memorandum to the Supplementary Demand is a link between the eastern portion of the country and the western portion of the country. So, this programme has to be extended beyond Vijayawada also.

With regard to setting up an organisation for this purpose, I remember that an organization was in vogue in Calcutta when electrification was being done in that part of the country. I do not know whether another different organisation is being set up or the same organization is being expanded. I know that this organisation was wound up some time back, and many of the technicians and workers employed there were thrown out of employment. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the present organisation would be a part of the organisation already in existence in Calcutta.

12 hrs.

I now come to rail renewals between Kottavada and Kirandul in the Balladilla Visakhapatnam area. This railway line is

intended to bring iron ore from Bailadilla to Visakhapatnam, and it has been financed by the Japanese also. I do not know why the question of renewal has now arisen with regard to this entire track. I am sure the technicians and engineers who were engaged in this job when the construction of this line was thought of would have taken all those factors into consideration and the weight that would move also on the track. But it looks as though there was not a proper planning when the railway line was laid. From the explanatory memorandum, we find that though the total traffic on this railway line has been less than 25 GMT up-to-date, there has been abnormal flattening and wear-out of the rails and condemning limits have been already reached. I do not know whether there is anything wrong with the designing of the track. I think all the difficulties would have been foreseen by the administration when the railway line was laid.

In this connection, I would like to bring one point to the notice of the hon. Minister. This line should not be confined only for bringing iron ore. This lies in an area which is mostly inhabited by the Adivasi and tribal people. For instance, areas like the Araku valley etc. are in this region. A vast tribal population lives in this area. This rail link would provide better transport facilities for the Adivasi and tribal population which has been living in isolation because there has been no opening up of these areas. Therefore, I suggest that this line should be converted into a passenger traffic line. If initially the hon. Minister finds it difficult, then I would suggest that it should be converted into a mixed goods-cum-passenger traffic line. I would also like to point out that this area was under the control of the Naxalites till some time back, and as such the problem of law and order was also involved. This area had been serving as a place of hide-outs for the Naxalites to carry on their nefarious activities. In view of this also, I would like the hon. Minister to see that this line is converted into a passenger traffic line.

Regarding the conversion of metre gauge from Guntakal to Dharmavaram which has been mentioned in the explana-

tory memorandum, I congratulate the hon. Minister on his having thought of this conversion. But I would request him to see that Bangalore and Secunderabad are also linked up by a broad gauge line. These are two important capitals of two important States. I would, therefore, request the hon. Minister to see that the two places are linked by broad gauge. Up to Guntakal this has been done, but I would request him to proceed further and connect these two State capitals by converting the line into broad gauge. This will serve a long-felt need. Many important towns would also be linked up thereby. This line would also offer vast passenger traffic potentialities. I would, therefore, request the hon. Minister to see that this conversion and linking up of the two State capitals is done as early as possible.

With regard to the conversion of the Trivandrum-Quilon-Ernakulam metre gauge into broad gauge, I am glad to find that the railways have taken certain positive steps. I would like to point out in this connection that the hon. Minister's idea of connecting all the important State capitals with the Central capital by means of Rajdhani Expresses would bear fruition only if the metre gauge conversion into broad gauge takes place. I hope that within the hon. Minister's tenure as Railway Minister, his cherished idea of connecting all the important State capitals with the Central capital would materialise, as a result of the conversion of the metre gauge which has now become outdated into broad gauge.

In this connection, I would request the hon. Minister to take up the surveys that have been left behind or kept in cold storage for so long especially with regard to places which are considered to be backward. In these backward areas, further action with regard to surveys already conducted or recommended by the various State Governments should be expeditiously taken. Wherever there is a vast potential of mineral and forest resources, the aim of the Railway Minister should be to help exploit them successfully and economically and thus improve the economic condition of the local people. I hope next time the

[Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah]

hon. Minister comes before the House he will come for sanction for these surveys.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Before I call upon the next speaker, I would like to announce that the Defence Minister will make a statement at 1 P. M. before we adjourn.

श्री विभूति मिश्र : मेरा सुझाव है कि तीन तीन मिनट दिये जायें ताकि सभी बोल सकें ।

SHRI K. BALATHANDAYUTHAM (Coimbatore): While speaking on these Supplementary Demands for Grants my general criticism is that the Minister is coming forward with piecemeal proposals which do not fit in with the general master plan of renewal, doubling, renovation etc. I distinctly remember that the Minister while speaking on the Railway Budget did not countenance many of the proposals to change the gauge from metre to broad. In the Supplementary Demands for Grants, I welcome the change from metre gauge to broad gauge; I welcome the electrification proposal from Madras to Vijayawada. I also welcome the doubling being done in certain parts. But this is not done in an overall perspective.

Take, for example, the electrification of the line between Madras and Vijayawada. When we do that, we must have, as Shri Venkatasubbaiah said, a perspective of extending it further, if necessary, to Delhi. With regard to doubling, I support the proposal of my Marxist friend that even the supplementary demands for grants must have a perspective, specially at this time of national emergency. When we have some proposals ready for doubling the line in the Sealdah division from Bongaon, we must take into account the need for extending the line to Jessore which is strategically very important. Merely because there is a proposal or plan ready we do not come with supplementary demands without applying our mind to considerations lack of linking up those places with centres of strategic importance during this national emergency.

With regard to the line between Madras and Arkonam, I was really surprised to

find that there have been 37 rail fractures. In a vast country like ours with a network of railways, it is really surprising that between Madras and Arkonam there were so many rail fractures. It has also come to light that the ultrasonic rail flaw detectors have detected 700 flaws. How did this come about? Is it because some special rails were used in that part between Madras and Arkonam or is it because you have detected only 700 flaws and you have not attempted to find out if there are flaws in other lines or not.

Now, I am glad that they have done something, at least in this section of the railways, and they have renewed that section and have incurred some expenses. I am in full support for the demands for grants for that. But this has to be done with the perspective of not merely speeding up the trains in that section in the near future. There is as much justification for having electrification between Madras and Arkonam as you have between Madras and Vijayawada. The Madras-Arkonam line also is giving connection to the trains to Bombay in the north and to Trivandrum in the south. So, many of these lines converge at Arkonam, and the line between Arkonam and Madras which is being renewed must be taken up with the perspective of electrification.

When the Minister comes with the demands for supplementary grants, he seems to be thinking only of the renovation of rails, yards and other things. He does not seem to have applied his mind to the men employed in the railways. Apart from the increase in the cost of living index which has come up to 228 points which automatically implies an increase in the dearness allowance, there is also this national emergency, and the railways being a very important means of communication in the rear, and linking up with the front also, the supplementary grants must have included a grant for an increased dearness allowance to the railway employees. It is very relevant. This shows a serious lacuna in the understanding of the Railway Ministry, the Railway Board and the Railway Minister with regard to their responsibilities in this period of national emergency. The demands for grants

appear as if you are operating in a country where there is no crisis, no national emergency. There is no relation to today's reality. So, I would request him to reconsider this question and include in the supplementary grants—we are only recommending an expenditure—a grant for meeting the increased dearness allowance to the railway employees who are going to man the railways during this critical period.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Before I call the next speaker, I would like to say one thing. I quite appreciate that the railway is a subject in which every Member or his constituency, is interested. The subject relates to the construction of new lines and open line works, etc. Everybody would like to say something or the other in relation to these demands. So, could I suggest a time-limit of two hours for this, so that we can divide the time and allow as many Members as possible to speak?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA: I

have only one request to make. Since the hon. Members are making so many suggestions, courtesy demands that I should reply to them. So, half-an-hour may be set apart for that purpose.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Will that half-an-hour of the Minister come from these two hours? (*Interruption*)

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: No.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: So, half-an-hour for the Minister, and two hours for the discussion.

श्री नवल किशोर सिंह (मुजफ्फरपुर): उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं इस अनुदान की अनु-पूरक मांगों का समर्थन करने के लिए खड़ा हुआ हूँ। मैं कोशिश करूँगा कि मैं अपने को सीमित रखूँ सिर्फ़ उन्हीं मांगों और उन्हीं विषयों के सम्बन्ध में, जो इस में दर्ज हैं।

सब से पहले मैं रेल मंत्री को इस बात के लिए धन्यवाद देना चाहता हूँ कि उन्होंने

रेलवे बोर्ड पर संसद् का प्रभुत्व कायम किया है और इस तरह से रेलवे में काफी दिनों से जो पार्लियामेंटरी एकाउंटिविलिटी न के बराबर थी, उस को उन्होंने स्थापित कर दिया है। मुझे विश्वास है कि माननीय रेल मंत्री स्वयं भी इस मामले में संसद् के नेतृत्व का कुतूहल करेंगे और यहां पर माननीय सदस्यों द्वारा जो मुझाव या राय दी जायेगी, उन पर पहले से ज्यादा ध्यान दिया जायेगा।

मेरा अनुभव है कि इस विभाग में मंत्रियों के कार्य-काल बहुत अल्प रहे हैं—बहुत जल्दी-जल्दी मंत्रीगण बदल गये हैं। यह स्पष्ट है कि जिस विभाग में मंत्री जल्दी-जल्दी बदले जाते हैं, उस में कोई मुधार का काम नहीं हो सकता है। एक मंत्री अगर किसी काम को शुरू करता है, तो जब तक वह पूर्ण हो पाये, उससे पहले ही वह उस विभाग से चला जाता है। इस बात का ध्यान रखा जाना चाहिए कि मंत्रियों को अपने कार्यक्रमों को पूरा करने का समय दिया जाये।

रेलवे लाइनों को विद्युत के सम्बन्ध में रेलवे विभाग को प्राथमिकता इकानोमिक इनफ्रा-स्ट्रक्चर क्रीएट करने को देनी चाहिए। हमारे निर्धन देश में माधनों की कमी के कारण यह सम्भव नहीं है कि हम मुख-मुविधाओं का प्रबन्ध ज्यादा कर सकें। हमारे देश में अभी धन को बढ़ाना है, धन के उत्पादन की जरूरत है। इस लिए जो रेलवे लाइनें इकानोमिक इनफ्रा-स्ट्रक्चर को क्रीएट करें, उन को प्राथमिकता मिलनी चाहिए।

इस सम्बन्ध में मैं आपके प्रदेश, मेघालय और आसाम का नाम लेना चाहता हूँ, उत्तर बंगाल और उत्तर बिहार का नाम लेना चाहता हूँ। हाल ही में मुझे इन क्षेत्रों में जाने का अवसर प्राप्त

[श्री नवल किशोर सिंह]

हुआ है। रेलवे के सम्बन्ध में ये क्षेत्र इस कदम पिछड़े हुए हैं कि वहाँ कब तक कोई इकानोमिक इनफ्रा-स्ट्रक्चर क्रीएट हो सकेगा, इस बारे में मुझे काफी सन्देह हो जाता है।

उत्तर बिहार में बरौनी से लेकर समस्तीपुर तक रेलवे लाइन है। इस सदन में सिंचाई और विद्युत मन्त्री, डा० के०एल० राव ने कई बार कहा है कि उत्तर बिहार के लोग मुझसे विद्युत की मांग न करें शून्य कि उत्तर बिहार में बिजली नहीं है। यह क्षेत्र न जाने कब तक अतिवृष्टि और अनावृष्टि से पीड़ित होता रहेगा। अगर वहाँ पर बिजली हो, तो वहाँ अतिवृष्टि और अनावृष्टि से बचने के उपाय किये जा सकते हैं। माननीय डा० के० एल० राव उत्तर बिहार में बिजली पैदा करने के साधन थर्मल पावर स्टेशन मुजफ्फरपुर में बनाने के लिए तैयार हैं। लेकिन वह तब तक सम्भव नहीं है, जब तक कि वहाँ बड़ी लाइन न हों।

जहाँ तक मैं जानता हूँ, इस तरह के प्रस्ताव सरकार के सामने हैं। मैं नहीं जानता कि सरकार इस सम्बन्ध में क्या कर रही है। लेकिन अगर वहाँ पर इकानोमिक इनफ्रा-स्ट्रक्चर क्रीएट करना है, तो इस पर विचार करना चाहिए।

माननीय रेल मंत्री को मालूम होगा कि रेलवेज में स्ट्रैटेजी ही की जो परिभाषा है, उसमें केवल मिलिटरी की स्ट्रैटेजी ही नहीं है, बल्कि उस में इकानोमिक स्ट्रैटेजी भी है। इन क्षेत्रों में रेलवे लाइनों का विस्तार करने के लिए रेल मंत्री वित्त विभाग से इकानोमिक स्ट्रैटेजी के नाम पर

कुछ वित्तीय सहायता मांग सकते हैं, जो उन्हें मिलेगी, इसमें कोई सन्देह नहीं है।

इस अनुपूरक मांग में आयरन ओर को ढोने की बात भी कही गई है। बिहार में सिंहभूम में आयरन ओर की शायद सबसे बड़ी, या बड़ी खानों में एक खान है। वहाँ सारी भूमि आयरन ओर ही है। वहाँ से किसी भी पोर्ट को आयरन ओर ले जाने के लिए जो इन्फ्रामा है, वह अत्यन्त निकृष्ट और अपर्याप्त है। उस क्षेत्र में सड़कों की दशा बहुत शोचनीय है। जहाँ आयरन ओर से इतना धन पैदा किया जाता है, वहाँ अब तक उसको ढोने की क्या व्यवस्था की जा सकी है? वहाँ का हर एक आदमी आपको बतायेगा कि उन सड़कों पर कोई ट्रक छः महीने या साल भर से ज्यादा नहीं टिक सकता है। वहाँ किरीबुर में एक पब्लिक सैंक्टर अंडरटेकिंग है मैं समझता हूँ कि अगर आयरन ओर को ढोने के लिए किसी को प्राथमिकता मिलनी चाहिए, तो पहले उसको मिलनी चाहिए।

हाल ही में बिहार में वाढ़ आई। माननीय सदस्यों ने यह प्रश्न उठाया—बाहर भी प्रश्न उठाया गया—कि हम हरियाणा और पंजाब से मामूली चारा और भूसा भी बिहार नहीं ले जा सके। 20 हजार वैनस का अलाटमेंट रेलवे ने किया। लेकिन ऐन्चुअल परफार्मेंस कितना हुआ? 6 हजार वैनस। और यह 6 हजार वैनस भी बड़ी लाइन में हुआ। छोटी लाइन जिस हिस्से में जाती है, गंगा के उत्तर में जो हिस्सा पड़ता है उसमें कुछ नहीं कर सके। यह इसलिए हुआ कि हमारे उन क्षेत्रों में रेल के याता-यात की बहुत बड़ी कमी है। अब एक नई परिस्थिति पैदा हुई है। वहाँ धान बह गए। अब रबी की खेती का भरोसा किया जा रहा है। सरकार काफी रासायनिक

खाद देने को तैयार है। लेकिन बैगन नहीं मिलते हैं। ट्रक से जो पट्टेचाने की कोशिश है वह करीब करीब असफल मिद्ध हुई है क्यों कि जो सरकार की व्यवस्था है उसके अन्तर्गत ट्रक से तो रासायनिक खाद हम ला नहीं सकते हैं। यह सब इसलिये है कि रेल की लाइनों कम हैं और या रेल के डिब्बे कम हैं। मुझे एक बात समझ में नहीं आती है, कुछ थोड़ी बहुत जानकारी हमिल करने का मौका मुझे मिला, यह बैगन की शार्टेज रेलवे में क्यों होती है? यह इसलिए होती है कि या तो हमारे पास बैगन नहीं हैं, हालां कि बैगन बनाने की कंपैसिटी हमारे मुल्क में है, लेकिन बैगन हमारे पास नहीं हैं, या जहाँ बैगन जाते हैं वहाँ ज्यादा दिनों तक अटक जाते हैं। अब अटकने का कारण ला गेंड आर्डर सिचुएशन है। क्यों है ला गेंड आर्डर सिचुएशन? इसलिए कि हमारी जो रेलवे प्रोटेक्शन फॉर्म है वह निकम्मी है इन क्षेत्रों में। यही रेलवे प्रोटेक्शन फॉर्म वेस्टर्न रेलवे में और सेंट्रल रेलवे में काफी असरदार तरीके से काम करती है। लेकिन नार्दन रेलवे, नार्थ ईस्टर्न रेलवे और ईस्टर्न रेलवे में वह बिलकुल निकम्मी है। न उसके पास कुछ अधिकार हैं और न साधन हैं। मैं विश्वास करता हूँ कि माननीय रेलवे मंत्री जो रेलवे में प्रत्येक प्रकार का सुधार लाने के लिए कटिबद्ध हैं, मेरे इन मुद्दों पर विचार करेंगे। धन्यवाद।

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : There is an ever-increasing flood of slips coming to my table. May I request the Members to kindly confine themselves to five minutes so that as many as possible can be accommodated.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : I find that this document, particularly

Demand Nos. 14 and 15, suffers from more than one defect. I thought it was small and simple thing, but it is not so.

The hon. Minister, announced in this House only a few days back that he wants to link the State capitals of India with the Union Capital. Secondly, he said that he wants that the trains should pass through natural lines, thereby saving time and money. But when I apply these principles, I find a singular lack of them in this document.

This document mentions doubling of lines. I welcome the doubling of lines, and also electrification, but what I do not welcome is the priority. How does he forget his own announcement to link the State Capitals with the Union Capital?

For example, Shri Basumatari and many other friends who are in a far-flung corner of this country cannot reach Bhagalpur easily, it takes them 40 hours. We have been demanding for a long time the Kiul-Sahibganj-Bhagalpur-Howrah line. The hon. Minister's predecessor promised it. I would say here is the Assam Mail which has got a natural route to go via Kiul, Sahibganj and Bhagalpur to Farakka bridge. The hon. Deputy Minister opened the bridge, but the track should have been doubled in advance from Kiul, for the Assam Mail to pass through this line, but this was not done.

We appreciate the hon. Minister's action against some bureaucrats, but I may tell him nothing. I am an ex-Minister, my experience as a Minister is very short, but I must tell him that he must always be guided by his conscience after reading the files and decide for himself. Don't rely upon the bureaucrats. You have your own experience of the great Mr. Ganguli and now his great successor. All these persons will mostly misguide you. You wanted to stop the Rajdhani Express at Kanpur and take a few passengers. Did the bureaucracy not oppose you very strongly? It did. Why should not the Assam Mail by now run through

[Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad]

Bhagalpur, when it cuts short the time on this line from Bhagalpur to Farakka Barrage by many many hours, by 15 hours and not merely 5 hours? Why is it not being done? Lo and behold! The General Manager of the N.E. Railway ran to Katihar and announced, "Don't worry; my dear friends! Please give up your agitation. I could not allow the Assam Mail to pass through Bhagalpur before a few months". How can he make that statement? (*Interruptions*). In the new time-table the time was given. And, this bureaucrat went and made that announcement under a little pressure. Let me tell you. A great agitation is building up between Kiul in East Bihar and Bhagalpur. Every day memoranda are being sent to me and I am sending them on to you. 6th December was their demands day. If you want demonstrations and stoppage of trains, nobody can do it better than I and the people there; I can assure you about that. So, please see that Assam Mail passes through Kiul and Bhagalpur, the earlier the better, on its natural line. I do not want anything unnatural or under pressure. But what you have said should be implemented, because it will fulfil your promise to this House that you want to link the State Capitals with Delhi. Assam and East Bihar will get the faster train. If you want me not to do the other things, you must announce it either today or within a few days. But if you want to see the strength of our demonstration and how it can be stopped, you will have to go down to Bhagalpur and say, "I shall pass the train through Bhagalpur".

On the N. E. Railway—my friend, Mr. N. K. Sinha has said it and many more will say it—when will you take up this conversion of MG into BG? You have given priority to it. The whole of UP north of Ganges and Bhagalpur suffer from it. You say, that is a big thing. You should not say, it is a big thing and you cannot do it; Assam Mail is a small one and you cannot do it. Please do not say two negatives. Say two affirmatives and show your strength and wisdom. Please take care of this bureaucracy, this big empire of

the Railway Board, which advises you this way and that way. We are here to support you. I am happy you have taken the head of one of bureaucrats. Please take many more, if they do not behave.

SHRI C. T. DHANDAPANI (Dharampuram): Sir, there are only four or five works which have been mentioned in this statement. I congratulate the Minister on having taken up the work on converting the Trivandrum-Ernakulam line into BG. But I want to say that whether it is new lines or conversion, they are being taken up only under political influence. Most of the other important works on the railways are left out.

I want to impress on him that some of the long-standing demands of Tamil Nadu have to be taken into consideration. The MG line between Trivandrum and Madras should be converted into BG. So also the line from Coimbatore to Dindigull.

The Central Government have promised a steel plant at Salem.

At the same time, there is another industrial complex in Neyveli where 18,000 workers are employed. The existing line between Salem and Neyveli is metre-gauge. It should be converted into broad-gauge to enable the movement of goods and coal to Salem.

Here I want to make a complaint that the railways do not generally pay much attention to the facilities and amenities of the railway employees. I will give one concrete instance. Pothanur is a railway station three miles away from Coimbatore. About 18,000 railway employees are residing there. Their demand for drinking water is pending with the railways for a long time. At present water is being brought to Pothanur from Mettupalayam, which is 25 miles away. Every day a train is running between Pothanur and Mettupalayam only for carrying water, incurring an expenditure of Rs. 7,000 per day, which will mean Rs. 25 lakhs a year approximately. There is a proposal before the railways for constructing a pipeline from

Mettupalayam to Pothanur, along the line of the railway line so that water could be supplied not only to Pothanur but also to the intermediate stations, including Coimbatore junction. I hope the Minister will give high priority to this scheme.

Secondly, at Pothanur our young technicians are manufacturing sophisticated instruments which in the past used to be imported from Switzerland and Japan. Whereas an imported instrument used to cost Rs. 75,000 our technicians are manufacturing them at a cost of Rs. 10,000 to 15,000. Yet, they are not provided with even sufficient spacious buildings to work.

At Pothanur the railways are running three schools—English-medium, Malayalam-medium and Tamil medium schools. There is no building for the Tamil-medium school. The children have to remain in a thatched shed like the refugees from East Bengal.

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER. This Demand is about the opening of new railway lines. By no stretch of imagination could the opening of a school be connected with the opening of a new railway line.

SHRI C. DHANDAPANI Students in the Tamil-medium school have to learn sitting under the shade of a tree, as it used to be in the olden days

Coming to new rail links, the Coimbatore-Chamarajanagar line via Satyamangalam should be taken up immediately. The Arokonam-Chingleput metre-gauge line should be converted into broad-gauge. When Shri Kamraj was the leader of the United Congress and when he was contesting from the Nagercoil constituency, all the Central Ministers who came there to campaign for him had promised the people of Kanyakumari that a line connecting Tirunelveli with Kanyakumari would be taken up very soon. No action has been taken on that demand so far.

The railways have taken some interest in the metropolitan transport system. The Railway Ministry has allotted Rs. 72 lakhs

for Calcutta during 1970-71 and Rs. 53 lakhs for Bombay in the years 1970 to 1972 but Madras has not been considered. I do not know what reasons the Minister has got to leave Madras out. Madras also must be included.

Before I conclude I want to say that we see in the newspapers a news item that the Railway Ministry is going to dismantle the Mettupalayam-Ooty line. There are two lines in India, the Simla line and the Ooty-Mettupalayam line. I do not know what allergy they have got against this railway line because they always say that they will dismantle it. Here Members plead for new lines but our wonderful department is trying to dismantle the existing lines. They say that it is uneconomic. Why they do not apply the same formula to the Simla line, I want to ask the Minister.

Then, in Mettupalayam by the side of the railway line people have constructed some 200 houses and are living there for a long time, for 50 to 100 years. Now the Government has issued an order for their eviction. We are here to construct houses. During the emergency we are not allowing new constructions. But does that mean that we are here for the destruction of houses? So, I would ask the Minister to reconsider it and to allow the people in Mettupalayam to live in those houses.

SHRI A. P. SHARMA (Buxar): Sir, while supporting these Supplementary Demands placed by the Minister before this House, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister to a few assurances which he had given while replying to the Budget debate in this house. The most important assurances given by him, according to me, were two. One was that every Friday he would be devoting half a day for discussing the labour problems in his Ministry. That has not been done so far. I hope, after this reminder of mine, he will be doing it in future.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Labour problem on the line?

SHRI A. P. SHARMA: Yes, Sir.

[Shri A.P. Sharma]

Secondly, he gave an assurance about working out a detailed scheme about workers' participation in management. That has also not been done so far. I hope, he will apply his mind afresh now and see that when ministries smaller than the Railway Ministry are proceeding with this scheme and are implementing it, why this is not being done in the Railway Ministry.

While speaking on these Demands I want to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the feeling expressed by my hon. friends from Bihar—Shri Nawal Kishore Sinha and Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad—whether the Minister has ever thought that there is a greater and better necessity for converting the metre-gauge line on the North-Eastern Railway which covers three States—Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Assam. This had been assured perhaps by—I do not remember—this Minister but definitely by the previous Minister.

AN HON. MEMBER : He himself has assured in his letter.

SHRI A.P. SHARMA : Shri Nawal Kishore Sinha was speaking about military strategy. I do not know whether military strategy or any important strategy that we can plan in this country can be greatly appreciated and needed anywhere more than in the North-Eastern Railway which covers the border areas of these three States. I do not want, like some other hon. Members, to point out about the running of the parallel broad-gauge line as between Bangalor and Guntakal. This is a parallel line which is going to be on the metre-gauge. Broad-gauge line will run parallel to it. Here, we are demanding the conversion of the metre-gauge line into broad-gauge line.

I hope, the hon. Minister will look round the whole country. I do not blame anybody. Anybody would do the same as the Minister is doing. But I would request him to look to the problem of these three States.

I want to again draw his attention to the suggestion made by my hon. friend Mr. Bhagwat Jha Azad about the Assam Mail.

Lastly, there is a small Light Railway in Bihar known as Arrah-Sasaram Light Railway. The survey has been conducted. I do not know the result of the survey. I know that even this narrow-gauge line is running at profit. Therefore, I would request the Railway Minister to take up this question also. Even if profit is the only criterion for converting narrow-gauge lines into broad-gauge lines, he can take this question.

With these words, I support the supplementary demands for grants of the Railways.

SHRIMATI JYOTSNA CHANDA (Cachar) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I do not like to say much. But about the list of lines which are going to be converted and which are going to be constructed, on p. 4 of the Supplementary Demands for Grants, no mention has been made regarding the conversion of N.F. Railway line, from Bongaigaon to Assam, upto Tinsukhia.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : That has been mentioned by Mr. Sharma.

SHRIMATI JYOTSNA CHANDA : I can also mention it. I expect the hon. Minister and the Railway Board to consider the strategic position of this area. But I am very sorry to find that it has not been included here.

During the Budget speech, the hon. Railway Minister said that metre-gauge lines would be converted into broad-gauge lines. But I do not find my railway line N.F. Railway here. I also want to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister that this being a life-line of the area, essential goods move there. But when I was in my district, in September, I find since April last no essential goods moved there. Not only my district suffers but, I think, Tripura, Mizo Hills, Manipur, Meghalaya all these districts suffer.

I also want to bring to his notice that the hill section line, Luming-Bachrupur

which is the life-line of Tripura and Cachar is never improved. In this scientific age, I do not find any reason why it should not improve. The trains move at 10 miles per hour like a bullock-cart. This line should be improved. I do not like to say more. I hope, he will next time consider about the conversion of this railway line in my area.

श्री हुकमचन्द्र कच्छबाब (मुरेना) :
उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, अनुदानों की अनुपुरक मांगों पर हम चर्चा करने जा रहे हैं। मैं इन मांगों का समर्थन करता हूँ। इस मांग के अन्दर मध्य-प्रदेश में वेस्टर्न रेलवे में मऊ के अन्दर विस्तार के लिए तीस लाख रुपए मांगे गये हैं। मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि मऊ के विस्तार के साथ-साथ हुने रतलाम को भी नहीं भूलना चाहिए और साथ ही साथ उससे लगा हुषा उज्जैन भी है। इसके अतिरिक्त मऊ में सेना की छावनी है जिसके कारण काफी लोगों का आवागमन रतलाम होकर होता है परन्तु रतलाम में ठहरने की जो व्यवस्था है वह बहुत ही बिगडी हुई है। इसलिए सरकार से मेरा निवेदन है कि वहाँ पर लोगों के ठहरने की व्यवस्था ठीक प्रकार से बनाई जाये।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मऊ लाइन पर मीटर गेज गाड़ी चलती है, इसको बदलकर ब्राड गेज में लाना चाहिए। रतलाम से लखवा तक इस लाइन को बनाना चाहिए। पश्चिमी नीमाड़, बाड़—ये बहुत पिछड़े हुए इलाके हैं इसलिए यहाँ पर रेलों की बहुत आवश्यकता है। बहुत दिनों से यह मांग की जा रही है लेकिन अभी तक उसकी पूरा नहीं किया गया है। अनेक वर्षों से मन्नी-मुना लाइन का काम चल रहा है। मैंने 1965 में एक प्रश्न किया था जिसके उत्तर में बताया गया था कि यह लाइन सन् 65 में चालू होगी वाकी है और

उसके बाद अब जोशी जी के सवाल के उत्तर में बताया गया कि यह लाइन 1972 में चालू होगी। तो मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इसमें इतना अनावश्यक विलंब क्यों हो रहा है? मेरा निवेदन है कि गुना तक जो लाइन आ रही है उसको शिवपुरी तक जोड़ा जाये। इससे इसका महत्व बहुत बढ़ जायेगा। इसके साथ-साथ मन्नी-देवास को जोड़ा जाये। यह एक बहुत छोटा इलाका है लेकिन इसका महत्व बहुत बढ़ जायेगा। इन्दौर एक बड़ा शहर है और इन्दौर से गुना तक आने के लिए लोगों को उज्जैन से देवास होकर जाना पड़ता है और इस प्रकार एक लम्बा चक्कर लगाना पड़ता है। इसलिए ऐसी व्यवस्था की जाये कि वे सीधे आ सकें।

अभी-अभी कुछ दिन पहले मन्त्री महोदय ने एक बहुत अच्छा वक्तव्य किया था कि जितनी भी छोटी लाइनें हैं उनको हम बड़ी लाइन में बदलने जा रहे हैं। इससे लोगों को बड़ी आशा और प्रसन्नता हुई थी। इस सम्बन्ध में मैं सुझाव देना चाहता हूँ कि मेरे अपने क्षेत्र मुरेना में एक छोटी लाइन है, जो छोटी गाड़ी वहाँ पर चलती है उसको लोग छुकछुक गाड़ी बोलते हैं, वह ग्वालियर से बामोड़, चोरा, सबलगढ़, शिवपुर तक जाती है, उसको बदलकर बड़ी लाइन बनाया जाये और उसको लवाई-माधोपुर तक जोड़ा जाये जिससे उसका सम्बन्ध राजस्थान तक हो जाये। यह बाकुधो का एरिया है। इसकी तरफ सरकार को तुरन्त ध्यान देना चाहिए। वहाँ पर जो गाड़ी चलती है उसमें पानी और बिजली की कोई व्यवस्था नहीं होती है जिससे यात्रियों को बड़ी परेशानी का सामना करना पड़ता है। सरकार ने इस इलाके को पिछड़ा हुषा इलाका माना है इसलिए इसका विकास हो सके उसकी तरफ

[श्री कुमरचन्द्र कन्नय्या]

सरकार को ध्यान देना चाहिए। इसी प्रकार से पिछले कुछ दिनों से जनता की ओर से यह भांग हो रही है कि मुरेना में जो पंचायत मेल निकलती है उसको वहां पर ठहरना चाहिए। इससे सरकार की आमदनी भी बढ़ेगी।

इसके साथ-साथ मुझे एक बात की ओर सरकार का ध्यान और दिलाना है। गाड़ियों में और स्टेशनों पर जो खाने-पीने की व्यवस्था है वह बहुत गड़बड़ है। जो व्यक्ति उसका ठेका लेते हैं वे स्वयं तो कुछ करते नहीं हैं बल्कि दूसरों को वह काम देकर मुनाफा कमाते हैं। मेरा निवेदन है कि इस खान-पान की व्यवस्था में क्रान्तिकारी परिवर्तन होना चाहिए। इसके अलावा जो लोग काम करते हैं ट्राली पर, होटलों में या स्टाल पर उनकी तनखाह बहुत कम होती है। मेरा सरकार से निवेदन है कि ये ठेके कोम्पार्टेन्ट बेसिस पर दिये जायें, किसी प्राइवेट आदमी को न दिये जायें और जो लोग स्वयं काम करते हैं उनके नाम पर ठेका किया जाये। बम्बई से दिल्ली तक जनता गाड़ी चलती है, सभी गाड़ियों में खान-पान की व्यवस्था होती है लेकिन केवल एक गाड़ी ऐसी है जिसका काम एक प्राइवेट आदमी को दिया हुआ है और वह कोई व्यवस्था नहीं करता है बल्कि दूसरों को देता है। इसलिए मेरा कहना है कि इस सम्बन्ध में विशेष व्यवस्था की जाए ताकि इस स्थिति को सुधारा जा सके। आज जो व्यक्ति बम्बई में रहता है उसका ठेका रतलाम में होता है और एक-एक व्यक्ति को 12-12 ठेके दे दिए जाते हैं जबकि दूसरे लोगों को एक भी ठेका नहीं मिलता है। मेरे पास लोग आते हैं, मैं उनकी सिफारिश करता हूँ तो जनरल मैनेजर की तरफ से यह उत्तर दिया जाता

है कि हमारे हाथ में कोई व्यवस्था नहीं है, आप रेलवे बोर्ड को लिखेंगे तो अच्छा रहेगा। लेकिन जो लोग लेना चाहते हैं वह काफी रिश्तत देते हैं और कोई भी ठेका ले लेते हैं, चाहे वह लोचि का हो या ट्रावी का हो अथवा स्टालों का हो। मैं चाहता हूँ कि मंत्री महोदय इधर ध्यान दें ताकि इस स्थिति में सुधार हो सके।

SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN (Madurai) : From the explanatory memorandum of the Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways), I find that there is a proposal to convert the Trivandrum-Quilon-Ernakulam line from metre gauge into broad gauge. I am very happy that the Government have come forward with this proposal because it is a very important one. At the same time, I find the statement which reads:

"Due to the highly restrictive capacity of the existing metre gauge line between Tenkasi and Quilon . . ."

I would like to know what it means. According to this it appears that because there is some difficulty that they are experiencing in transporting goods from Tenkasi to Quilon, they want to go in for this conversion. We want this conversion should take place for this and for many other important reasons too. But I would like to know whether transshipment between Tenkasi and Quilon is going to be abandoned because of this, and also whether the transshipment between Madurai and Trivandrum is going to be abandoned? And for that matter, what about the transshipment of goods from Madras to Trivandrum via this line. If that is going to be the case, then I think that it is a wrong thing, and it is a wrong idea which the railways are having.

There is also a proposal to convert the metre gauge line from Karur to Dindigul and Madurai and take it to Tuticorin. While there has been some mention about the conversion of the line in other parts nothing has been mentioned in the explanatory memorandum

about the conversion of Karur-Dindigul-Madurai to Tuticorin broad gauge line. When they are converting the line up to Madurai, it is only a short distance from Madurai to Quilon. I hope, therefore, that the Railways would think of converting the entire line into broad gauge, that is Madurai-Tenkasi-Quilon line and also Madurai-Tuticorin line. There is also a proposal to link Kanyakumari with Trivandrum and also with Tirunelveli. I would request the hon. Minister to look into these things also.

I am happy that Government are coming forward with the proposal to go ahead with the electrification of the Madras-Vijayawada line. That is very necessary, because of the traffic congestion and also to avoid the delay in the train times for three to four hours. There is delay in every movement due to non-electrification. In this connection, I would urge the hon. Minister to take up the electrification of the Southern sector beyond Villupuram. At present, the electrification is there only from Madras to Villupuram. I would request the hon. Minister to extend the electrification from Villupuram to Tiruchirapalli. Unless Government come forward to convert the entire metre gauge line from Madras-Trivandrum via Tiruchirapalli and Madurai they cannot solve the transshipment problem. This is something of paramount importance.

The hon. Minister has come forward with proposals for construction of many new lines. But nothing in Tamil Nadu. I would invite his attention to the demand for many new lines from Tamil Nadu also. For instance, there is a demand for the public for a line from Madurai to Karaikkudi via Melur and line between Salem and Tiruchirapalli via Rasipuram and Namakkal. I am very happy that the hon. Minister has got affection for the people of Tamil Nadu. I am happy that he is going to connect Guntakal with Bangalore by a broad gauge line. But at the same time he must show some consideration for the Tamil Nadu people for whom he says he has a lot of affection

and he should consider favourably the demands for these new lines also from Tamil Nadu.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I have been informed that the statement by the Defence Minister will be made at 1.10 P.M. and not at 1 P.M. We will have a few more speakers.

SHRI BANAMALI PATNAIK (Puri): I would like to remind the hon. Railway Minister of the promise he gave to the Members of Orissa to construct a new line in Orissa from Banspani in Keonjhar district to Jakhpura on the main line. The area covered including Sinhbhum is the Ruhr of India. This is a mining area full of rich grade iron ores, nickel, manganese and chrome. But at present it is without any communication and so it cannot develop. We have now the Paradeep port. I congratulate the hon. Minister on expediting the construction of a rail link to Paradeep. But unless the mining area is connected with the main line, there will be difficulty for transporting ores. Now the Orissa Mining Corporation is supplying ore to Japan through MMTC, but the Railway is not able to transport the required quality of ore to the port. Everyday a thousand or more tonnes of ore are carried by truck by road. This causes damage to the road. In that way, there is a loss to the road of Rs. 3-4 crores because this amount has to be spent to repair the road. Not only that, there is the loading and unloading problem which causes double expenditure on that score.

For the convenience of transport, the MMTC had requested to extend the Railway line from Banspani to Jerudi so that the mining operation could be conducted without any transport problem being faced immediately. Similarly there was a proposal to have a line from Jakhpura to Dubri by the Orissa Government through the Mining Corporation. This is pending the final construction of the Jakhpura-Banspani line. It would save a lot of money which would otherwise have to be spent on road transport,

[Shri Basanpati Patnaik]

Previously there was a proposal to have a line from Talcher to Vimalgarh. But it was found uneconomical by the railways. As regards the area from Jakhpura to Banspani, if there is no communication, it cannot develop. So a railway connection is very necessary. It is said there is no traffic potential. But this argument is like putting the cart before the horse. Unless you give a line there cannot be any.

I would therefore, again urge upon the Minister to consider opening a new line from Jakhpura to Banspani so that this mineral area can be developed.

The mining areas of Malangatoli Naya-garh, Gandharwarda and Sukinda will have an outlet. It will not stand in the way of the development of Haldia port. There is no possibility of handling ore at the Calcutta port. So ore has to be transported either to Haldia or to Paradeep.

The district of Singhbhum which is in Bihar is also full of iron ore. But now it cannot be transported. The Banspani line will connect this. It has to be linked through this line, as has been suggested by Shri Nawal Kishore Sinha.

If you look at the figures, you will find since the railway is not able to cope with the transport, we have to resort to road transport. But we are losing every day Rs. 13 per tonne on road transport. This is being subsidised. This is a national loss. If a total of 1½ million tonnes has to be transported in this way, we can calculate the total loss. This money can be saved and ploughed back for the railways and spent on the construction of the railway line.

Sir another point may be considered. The ex-Maharaja of Mayurbhanj had constructed a narrow gauge line from Rupa to Bangripusa and the ex-Maharaja of Parlekemedi had constructed a narrow gauge line from Naupara to Gunpur. Since it is not economic to run

these two lines as they are, they should be converted into broad gauge so that the entire area can be developed. This area is predominantly a tribal area and full of forests and other potentials. Ultimately these two lines if converted into broad gauge have to connect Baugripusi with Raissaingpur, connecting Tata and Gunapur, connecting Royagada which is fast developing into an Industrial Centre in Orissa. These should be done in the interest of the backward regions.

These are the two proposals which I am placing before the Minister and I hope he will take expeditious action to implement them in the interest of backward regions ultimately for national gain.

13.00 hrs.

श्री विभूति मिश्र (मोतीहारी) : मंत्री महोदय को मैं अन्यावाद देता हूँ कि वह बहुत मजबूत कदम उठा रहे हैं। तीन छोटी लाइनो को वे बड़ी लाइनो में तबदील कर रहे हैं। दो साउथ में हैं और एक गुजरात में है लेकिन हम लोग जो नार्थ बिहार में रहते हैं उन लोगो के पास छोटी लाइन है, कोई बड़ी लाइन नहीं है। समस्तीपुर से मुजफ्फरपुर मोतीहारी, रक्सौल होते हुए नरकटियागंज तक या मोतीहारी से सीधे बगहा तक जो छोटी लाइन है, इसको मैं प्रार्थना करता हूँ कि बड़ी लाइन में तबदील कर दिया जाए। यह चीज बहुत दिनों से चली आ रही है। मैंने मंत्री जी को इसके बारे में पत्र भी लिखा हूँ। लेकिन न मालूम कितना समय उनको लगेगा इसका उत्तर देने में या इसको करने में संक योजना भी वहाँ बन गई है। उसका भी सामान काफ़ी पैदा होगा। मुजफ्फरपुर से से जाने के बाद अगर आपको जरूरत पड़ेगी तो सीधे लखनऊ को आप इस लाइन से निजा सकते हैं। वहाँ तक एक लाइन, बड़ी

लाइन हो जाए, वह मांग कई बार की जा चुकी है। मैं प्रार्थना करता हूँ कि इस पर तुरन्त ध्यान दिया जाए। दो घण्टे साउथ में और एक गुजरात में बड़ी लाइनें दे रहे हैं। मैं प्रार्थना करता हूँ कि उत्तर-बिहार को भी जरा घण्टे ब्यास में रखें। मैं चाहता हूँ कि घण्टे छुट चलकर देखें, सफर करके देखें कि यात्रियों की कितनी तकलीफ होती है।

हमारे यहां जूट के दाम बहुत गिर गए थे और उसका कारण यह था कि हम लोगों के यहां कोई डायरेक्ट लाइन कलकत्ता जाने वाली नहीं थी। यह भी एक दिक्कत हम लोगों को है। उत्तर-बिहार वालों के लिए मार्किट कलकत्ता ही है और कलकत्ता जाने के लिए हमारे पास बड़ी लाइन नहीं है। हम बोर्ड पर भी हैं। इसलिए भेरी यह मांग है कि मंत्री महोदय इस काम को भी करें। छोटी लाइन को बड़ी लाइन में तबदील कर दें।

यही मेरा कहना है। मैंने तीन मिनट से भी कम समय में घण्टा भाषण समाप्त कर दिया है।

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN (Muvattupuzha): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I rise with a feeling of genuine pleasure and gratification to support the supplementary demands for grants. My joy arises from two considerations: one is, looking at the performance of the railways in retrospect, from the date of the last budget; I had the occasion to commend them on many points of achievement. At the present juncture, I do support these demands, because the railways according to me, are performing a really grand job; they are bearing the brunt of the defence requirements, transporting men, goods and armaments on the one side, without dislocating in the least the lines which are to run to meet the civilian requirements on the other. This is a ma-

ter on which I take this opportunity to compliment the railway administration.

Secondly, looking in retrospect, I find that the Minister has succeeded in fulfilling certain targets they placed before this House. The measure in which the punctuality is being observed is one of them. Another thing is, the supplementary demands take into account certain commitments they made last time. There is one item on which I am particularly happy. I refer to the proposal for the conversion of the metre gauge line from Ernakulam to Trivandrum. This is a demand which has been in the air for quite a long time, and it had been falling on deaf ears. In the budget which was presented before this House last time, there was a mention about this, and there was a vague promise that this matter would be attended to. I am happy that the matter has been taken up. It is assuming shape, and Rs. 13 crores is being demanded for this purpose. But may I say that this is the beginning of certain other things with respect to that area also? It was in 1958 that this metre-gauge line from Ernakulam to Quilon was laid and opened, and at that time, it was a moot point whether it was a remunerative line. Experience of the past 13 years has shown that this is not only remunerative but highly remunerative, and that the area presents a fertile ground for the railways. I take this opportunity to appeal to the railway administration and to the Railway Minister to take into consideration the special needs and requirements of that area in the interest of the people of that area and in the interests of the railway itself. Here is a field for the Railways to come in. When this broadgauge is coming in other things would be following suit. Railway stations would have to come in. All the stations are ante-diluvian and dilapidated; renovation has to take place. Divisional headquarters will have to be established there in order that the needs of that area may be attended to. There is not even a workshop in that area. Workshop is an absolute necessity because of the pressure of traffic and flowing in of more railways. There is not even a major store depot in that area; it has got to be provided. There

[Shri C. M. Stephen]

is not even a scrap depot there; the scrap has to be sold out. This will have to be attended to.

I am saying so only because there is heavy traffic in that area; it is acknowledged. Therefrom it follows that the other requirements will have to be attended to. Taking into consideration the way in which the local needs and local demands were being responded to, I rest with the confidence that the Railway Administration will take note of these consequential demands and will certainly attend to them. With this feeling of satisfaction and hope I support the demands with full compliments to the Railway Administration.

श्री राजावतार शास्त्री (पटना) : इन अनुपूरक भागों के द्वारा नई रेलवे लाइनों के निर्माण के लिए राशि मांगी जा रही है। इस खिलसिले में मेरा निवेदन है कि बिहार में दो छोटी लाइनें हैं। एक का जिक्र शर्मा जी ने किया है। एक फतुहा से इस्लामपुर है और दूसरी धारा से सहस्रराम तक है। जैसा कि आपने सुना दोनों रेलवे लाइनें मुनाफे पर चल रही हैं लेकिन फिर भी इनको बन्द करने की सलाह की जा रही है। एक तरफ तो आप नई लाइनें बिछाना चाहते हैं और दूसरी तरफ पुरानी लाइनों को बन्द करना चाहते हैं। ये दोनों बातें साथ-साथ नहीं चल सकती हैं। नई लाइनें आप बनायें लेकिन पुरानी लाइनें आप तोड़ें नहीं, उनको भी चालू रखें। अगर उनके मालिक उनको चलाने के लिए तैयार न हों तो उनको आप अपने हाथ में ले लें ताकि रेल मजदूर बेकार न हों, उनके हजारों आश्रितों के सामने मुसमरी का सवाल न पैदा हो और इस इलाके के विकास में किसी प्रकार की रुकावट न आए।

पटना से गया 56 मील है और पूर्वी रेलवे में गया से पटना तक की लाइन को

बन्द करने की बात बहुत दिनों से चल रही है। उस लाइन पर यात्री बहुत चलते हैं। एक लाइन के रूकने से जो बड़ी तेज चलने वाली गाड़ियां हैं वे बहुत लेट हो जाती हैं। मेरा निवेदन है कि उसे बन्द किया जाए ताकि रेलवे का आवागमन बन्द न हो और उस इलाके के लोगों को सुविधा हो। खास तौर से जो सरकारी कर्मचारी दफ्तरों में जाते हैं, वे इस कारण से लेट हो जाते हैं और सरकार उनके खिलाफ कार्यवाही करती है।

बरोनी, गरहरा, धनबाद, कुसुन्डा, टाटानगर, गोरखपुर, इंटेंग्रल कोच फैक्ट्री, मद्रास गुन्तकल आदि जगहों में रेल मजदूरों के खिलाफ कार्रवाई की गई है, उन्हें सस्पेंड किया गया है। सात हजार से ज्यादा लोगों का ब्रेक इन सर्विस हो गया है। बहुत से लोगो पर मुकद्दमे चल रहे हैं। अभी पचास से ज्यादा पार्लियामेंट के मेम्बरों ने, जिनमें दोनों तरफ के एम० पी० हैं, रेल मंत्री को एक पत्र लिखा है जिसमें मांग की है कि इन तमाम कार्यवाहियों को खत्म किया जाए ताकि रेल मजदूर जोश के साथ देश की सुरक्षा के कामों में हाथ बटा सकें, पाकिस्तानी हमलावरों के दाँत खट्टे कर सकें। मेरा निवेदन है कि इन तमाम विक्रियमाइजेशन के केषिड को खत्म किया जाए और रेल मंत्री रेल कर्मचारियों को एक नया उत्साह प्रदान करें।

13.9 hrs.

STATEMENT RE. LATEST POSITION ABOUT PAKISTAN AGGRESSION ON INDIA

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM): The Hon'ble Members will recall the statement I made in this House in the afternoon on December 4th. I had then said that the Pakistani objective of inflicting substantial damage on us

through a pre-meditated pre-emptive attack has been frustrated. The Pak forces have been making repeated and determined efforts to inflict damage on us and probe for possible weak spots in our defences. We have been endeavouring to blunt Pakistan's aggressive military machine.

The Pakistani Air Force has been visiting our airfields, but the damage they have been able to inflict has been negligible. We have been able to repair the damage inflicted and our airfields continue to be operational. There has been a gradual decline in the sorties mounted by the Pakistani Air Force. This may be the result of the damage inflicted by our Air Force on their air installations and airfields. So far, we have destroyed 52 of Pakistani combat aircraft and 4 more probably damaged. 3 Pakistani pilots are in our custody.

Our Air Force has been concentrating for the last two days on air defence of our forward positions and providing close support to ground operations. We have also successfully attempted to dislocate Pakistani lines of communication, supply dumps and oil installations. We have lost 22 aircraft in all.

Pakistan's repeated attacks on Poonch have been beaten back with heavy losses. There has been intense pressure in the Chhamb Sector. We have withdrawn our troops to prepared positions on the river Monavar Tavi. In the fighting that preceded this planned withdrawal, Pakistanis lost 25 tanks and they suffered heavy casualties. We are exercising counter pressure in the area Akhnour and Shakargarh.

The Pakistani forces have been pushed out of the Dera Baba Nanak Enclave. The bridge across the Ravi is in our possession. The attempts on the part of Pak forces to infiltrate behind our lines have been frustrated.

In the Amritsar Sector, a few Pakistani border posts are now in our occupation. In the Ferozepore area, the Pakistani

forces have been ejected from the Sejra Enclave.

In the Rajasthan Sector, a Pakistani armoured column made a bid for the area around Ramgarh. This column was held at Longanavala and has been practically decimated. Twenty tanks were definitely destroyed and seven more damaged. We have succeeded in effecting entry into Sind from two directions. Our troops have advanced around various points and our leading elements are about 10 miles short of Naya Chor. We have also captured Islamgarh. Our forces have been able to destroy 96 of Pakistani tanks so far.

In the Eastern Sector, our troops are acting in concert with Mukti Bahini. Under our pressure, the Pakistani occupying troops are falling back. The Jessore airfield was captured by us this morning. All areas west of Kaliganj have been completely cleared of Pak troops. The important highway from Meherpur *via* Jhenaida to Goalandoghat ferry has been cut. In Hilli/Dinajpur area our troops are advancing towards the Rangpur-Bogra highway. Lalmunirghat, with its airfield has been captured. The area north of Kurigram, Rangpur, Dinajpur is now free of occupying forces.

The hon'ble Members are aware of the capture of Akhaura two days ago. The strategic centres of Maulvi Bazar and Brahmanbaria are now surrounded. Feni was vacated by Pak troops yesterday; the forward elements of our troops are now racing towards the Chandpur Ferry.

In Bangla Desh, the Pak Air Force has been virtually wiped out; our air supremacy in that area is complete. From the sea, installations of military value have been pounded around Chittagong, Chalna, Mangla and Khulna. All maritime connection between the occupying forces and West Pakistan has been completely severed.

The hon'ble Members are aware of the daring operation carried out by the Indian Navy on the night of 4/5th Decem-

ber. Two Pakistani warships have been sunk and one is believed to have been seriously damaged. Our Naval Force penetrated to within 15 miles of the Karachi harbour. Their bombardment has inflicted severe damage on the harbour installations and oil storage tanks. In the Bay of Bengal, the Indian Navy was able to sink one Pakistani submarine. The Eastern fleet is now operating off the Pak occupied coast in Bangla Desh.

The three Services are working on a highly integrated joint plan of operations. The efficiency with which these plans have been executed and the mutual support which one arm has provided to the other have been gratifying.

About the U.N., I have to inform the House that a safe conduct was given to a U.N. Aircraft C-130 from 8 A.M. to 10 A.M. on December 6th. This could not be utilized by the U.N. At the request of the U.N. Representative in New Delhi, a safe conduct for U.N. air-

craft was given for December 7th effective from 7 A.M. to 11 A.M. (IST). There have been no operations over the Dacca area since 10 P.M. last night.

It has been reported from Dacca that a U.N. aircraft has been damaged over the Dacca airfield. The Air Headquarters have confirmed that no Indian aircraft have been operating in that area up to this time. The U.N. have been advised to investigate in Dacca with regard to the damage reported to have been inflicted on that aircraft.

I would like, on behalf of the Members to communicate to the Armed Forces the appreciation of the House for the valiant way in which they are defending the country and defeating the enemy.

13.20 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till
Ten of the Clock on Wednesday,
December 8, 1971|Agrahayana 17,
1893 (Saka).*