

[अध्यक्ष महोदय]

नहीं है। उस को पढ़ने में मुझ से गलती हुई और मैंने समझा कि उस का कोई लड़का नहीं है। उस के और लड़के होंगे, उन के नाम और होंगे।

श्री स० मो० बनर्जी (कानपुर) : चमन लाल दूसरा लड़का है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : यह तो मुझे पता नहीं है।

12.13 hrs.

MOTION ON THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS—Contd.

The Prime Minister and Minister of Atomic Energy (Shrimati Indira Gandhi): Mr. Speaker, I have noted with great interest the points made in the debate on the President's Address, which contains an analysis of the problems and tasks confronting our country and the manner in which the Government proposes to tackle them.

Hon. Member Shri Kachhavaiya, I believe, made a remark that notes were not being kept but I should like to inform him that detailed notes were kept and even the note of this particular remark came to me.

I welcome the comments and the suggestions and even the criticisms made by them because these help the Government to evolve concrete measures to face problems, to tackle them and to overcome the difficulties which the country is facing. In this House we have a tradition that on the question of welfare and prosperity of the people of our country, on the question of the integrity and security of our territory we all work in a spirit of co-operation regardless of party affiliations. I should like to have the same kind of spirit of co-operation throughout the nation, not only among our politician but even with other people such as the scientists, educationalists, industrialists,

workers and peasants. We who are politicians give guidance; we settle the objectives and the targets in the country . . . (Interruptions).

श्री रामसेबक यादव (बाराबंकी) : भ्रगर प्रधान मंत्री मातृ भाषा में बोलें, तो कोई दिक्कत महसूस नहीं होगी।

श्री बागड़ी (हिसार) : प्रधान मंत्री मातृ भाषा में बोलें। अंग्रेजी उन को नहीं आती है और वह बोल नहीं पा रही हैं। (Interruptions).

Shrimati Indira Gandhi: We must rely on expert and specialist advice how to carry through these measures.

Many hon. Members have referred to the lack of progress in many fields. This I admit. I entirely agree that our pace had not been adequate to our needs. But I must submit that this is not because our objectives are wrong or unattainable but because we have failed to instil into our society the requisite degree of efficiency without which sufficient progress is not possible. If we look at the other countries, whether they be capitalist countries or socialist countries, we will find that those who have achieved notable progress are those which have laid the greatest stress on efficiency. Those countries have been able to harmonise science and technology in the greatest measure and in particular to use in the fullest measure the young talent of the country of the young minds which are teeming with ideas. While I shall need the guidance and help from those who have the experience of long years of public work, I should like to invite the co-operation of our young men and women in shaping the future of our country which they will inherit.

We are yet a long way from giving the sort of educational opportunities that our people should have. But we are proud that amongst those who have had the opportunity of being

educated, there are a fair number who have achieved results in one sphere or another. This talent must not be allowed to go to waste.... (*Interruption*). Efficiency, therefore, must be the watchword in every sphere of activity, more especially in public administration. Our patterns of administration were drawn or designed at a time when the government's main business was to keep law and order. They are not adequate for the challenges which we face today. What we need, therefore, is a revolution in the administrative system without which no enduring change can be brought about in any field.

I should like to say that there has been a department of administrative reforms which will shortly complete two years of its existence. In this period, it has initiated a number of studies on administrative problems. Some have been completed and the recommendations evolved are in the process of being implemented. The effect of the implementation is beginning to be felt. Since this work involves painstaking study, the results invariably come in slowly. Although there has been talk of need for reform in administration for a long time, this is probably the first time that the problem has been tackled in a systematic and solid manner. The work is perhaps not spectacular and it covers a relatively small area, but if the approach adopted is developed and extended, we feel that considerable improvements can come about.

Many hon. Members have referred to the problems of corruption. No doubt, there are corrupt individuals, but to say that the entire administration is corrupt or that people holding high office lack integrity is a gross exaggeration. While I would like to assure the House that every case of corruption must be dealt with firmly, let us not debase ourselves by mutual denigration and character assassination. (*Interruption*).

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shrimati Indira Gandhi: While administrative reforms are being considered, it is essential for us who are privileged to hold public posts and positions of responsibility in public life, to maintain the highest standards of rectitude. Mention was made of these two points by Shri Ansar Harvani and others, and of course, about corruption and standards by Acharya Kripalani, Shri Manoharan and many others.

There is one other point about corruption: that if the machinery of Government functions smoothly and efficiently, then, any act of corruption automatically comes to the surface and is open to public gaze. On the other hand, if the machinery is inefficient, then, not only does it allow for corruption and delays, but an image is created whereby it is felt that the reason for the delays must be corruption; that becomes the only plausible explanation for it. (*Interruption*).

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath (Hosangabad): Read the Santhanam Committee Report: your own Committee.

An hon. Member: Party interest is there.

Shrimati Indira Gandhi: A great deal of concern was expressed by many Members regarding the economic situation. In presenting the budget yesterday, the Finance Minister has already referred to the difficulties which we are facing at present in the economic sphere. I would like to emphasise that many of these difficulties are due to the fact that we in India are trying to develop at a more rapid pace to achieve within a decade or so what many countries have achieved over a longer period. This is not mere idealism as has been mentioned by many people, but is a necessity for a country placed as India is. (*Interruption*). It may be easy, but a confession of defeat, to slow down our development, and I am sure that neither the House nor the country would wish this to happen.

[Shrimati Indira Gandhi]

Hon. Members will have seen the evidence of our determination to defend the integrity of the country and of our territory in the budget provision on defence account. To my mind, it is a tragedy that the country, as poor as India, should have to divert any of its resources from development. Fortunately, within the Defence Budget is included developmental expenditure on industrial units, on hospitals, and roads and houses and many other items which are not in the same class as military hardware.

We are anxious to see that the prices of essential commodities remain stable and that the upward spiral is halted. Since the main instrument for stabilising prices is higher production, prices should also provide an adequate incentive to the producer to maximise his production. Hence the necessity to fix in advance reasonable prices for the main agricultural products.

When there is scarcity of essential commodities, efforts must be made to stop profiteering by raising prices. There may be no escape from control of prices of foodgrains and certain other items. Other controls are also sometimes necessary. The most important control which Government is exercising today is over the price and distribution of foodgrains. In the deficit States, the complaints made by some hon. members about high prices apply only to the very small proportion of foodgrains which is sold in the open market.

It has been suggested here in this House and elsewhere that the zonal restrictions should be eliminated. There can be no doubt that on a national problem, there should be a national point of view. However, I would like to place before hon. members that a practical question arises in this regard which is: Will the elimination of the zonal system not render the task of procurement more difficult? Another point is, any review of the arrangement has to take full

account of the difficulty and the possible dangers to the availability of supplies under conditions of scarcity. If it is found desirable after a review to adopt another system, it may be necessary to adjust the timing of this modification, so that the difficulties and inconveniences to the public and to all concerned are minimised.

I am glad to say that because of the recent rains, the prospect of wheat-supply seems to have improved somewhat. But rice continues to be scarce and I am afraid will remain so. This is not because we do not want to get rice, but rice is today a scarce commodity in the world market. I should like to take this opportunity to appeal to the House and specially to the hon. members who belong to Kerala and Bengal, to try and understand the situation and to explain the difficulties to the people in making rice available; to encourage the increased consumption of whatever other foodgrains may be available and to accept the principle of common-sharing and equality of sacrifice. The surplus States must part not only with what they can easily spare, but even over and above that, even if it hurts the consumers there.

Another thing we want to do is to try to make the rice-eating States increase the production there in the States themselves. Steps have been taken, as I think the Food Minister said the other day, to begin relief measures in the scarcity areas and to provide employment to those who need it. The monthly allocations of grains have already been stepped up and the scale of public distribution has been increased. Fair-price shops have been opened in the vicinity of all these relief works. The States have also been asked to take measures to meet the likely shortage of water in the coming summer months.

We must do everything possible to attain self-sufficiency in foodgrains within the shortest possible time. This,

I realise, depends not only on the fullest utilisation of traditional resources, but also on the application of modern methods of agriculture. Fertilisers are the most important ingredients in this strategy. Some concern has been voiced about the terms on which foreign capital participation is permitted in setting up fertiliser plants. While we must do whatever we can to secure the best possible terms, I think we must realise and recognise that it is better to buy fertilisers from factories in India using Indian labour, Indian raw material and a good proportion of Indian capital, rather than to buy it from abroad. We must make every effort for the fullest use of our own resources in capital, in managerial skills, in technological talents, in indigenous material and machinery. We must, at the same time, make every effort to increase our exports and to increase our earnings in foreign exchange.

The Government is laying the greatest stress on the programme of family planning because we realise that if 60 to 70 million additional people are added at the end of every Plan period we cannot hope to raise the per capita income or to improve standards of living satisfactorily. It is only if we make a determined drive in all these directions that we can accelerate the progress of the country.

A word about foreign aid. We are taking foreign aid and, we believe, we will have to take it, perhaps, for some time. But aid is not charity. We will take it only if we can do so keeping in view our self-respect and our principles. Otherwise . . . (*Interruption*)

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

बी बायड़ी : छमरीका से . .

अध्यक्ष महोदय : यह कमेंटरी चलती ही जाएगी या कुछ सुनना भी है ? दूसरों को तो सुनने कीजिये ।

Shrimati Indira Gandhi: We take aid in a spirit of co-operation, and I am sure hon. Members are aware that we ourselves are giving aid to many countries and we shall continue to give aid to those who stand in need. Perhaps there is some misunderstanding because of the word "aid". It is a misleading word, because a large part of this is by way of loan which we repay and we have been repaying. Besides, the real objective of taking foreign aid is for the ultimate elimination of such aid. It is only to help us to stand on our own feet.

The aid we get certainly fills the gap which it is necessary to fill, but I think the House knows that including PL-480 the aid we get is only a quarter of the total effort which we make. The bigger share is our own and we are moving towards self-sufficiency and import substitution.

I have previously expressed my appreciation of the many countries for helping us to tide over our difficulties. But may I, at the same time, express my deep distress at the exaggerated picture of starving India which is being projected in the world, and this is why we must strain every nerve and make every effort to tide over this difficult period and to come out of it stronger to be able to meet our requirements.

A question which is of great interest to hon. Members in this House and, again, outside, is the demand for the abolition of the emergency. I myself feel strongly about this matter and I do not want to prolong it a day longer than it is necessary. I am anxious that the fundamental rights which are enjoined by our Constitution are restored. (*Interruption*).

Mr. Speaker Order, order. Perhaps, hon. Members did not hear what the Prime Minister said. She said: "a day longer than it is necessary."

Shrimati Indira Gandhi: I was saying, Sir, I am anxious that the fundamental rights enjoined by our Constitution should be restored. While

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the actual timing of the lifting of the emergency must be governed by our assessment of the external threat, the House knows and our Home Minister has stated here and elsewhere that we have decided to make a drastic reduction in the actual use of powers derived under the DIR . . . (Interruption) and the entire situation is going to be reviewed very shortly.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member is interrupting time and again and is persistently obstructing the proceedings. I have asked him so many times that this obstruction cannot be allowed. An occasional interruption by a word or so can certainly be tolerated; even, in certain cases, it enlivens the debate, but persistent obstruction and not allowing the Prime Minister just to proceed cannot be permitted. . . . (Interruption).

इस पर हाजम पांच दिन तक बहस करता रहा है। सब ने जो कुछ कहना था कह दिया है। अब क्या उन को हक नहीं है कि वह जो कहना चाहती है कह सकें? आप सुने तो सही। डिफर आप करते हैं तो करें। लेकिन आप को आराम से सुनना होगा।

Shrimati Indira Gandhi: Reference was also made to the demand for a Punjabi Suba. The House knows that a committee of Parliament, which was appointed to go into this matter, will be completing its deliberations very soon. The Cabinet Committee which was dealing with it has also been re-constituted and is giving this matter top priority. Perhaps, hon. Members know that I had written a letter to Sant Fateh Singh recently in which I indicated to him that we hoped to complete the examination of this important issue by the end of this month or the beginning of the next. I have today received a reply to my letter through a personal messenger, Sardar Arjun Singh, in which he tells me that he has postponed his fast till the end of March. I need hardly repeat that Sant Fateh Singh's life is very precious to the nation and I take this

opportunity of appealing to him again to extend his fullest co-operation in evolving a solution which will be acceptable and which will lead to the largest measure of satisfaction to the people of the State.

Shri Kapur Singh (Ludhiana): He is doing it already.

Shrimati Indira Gandhi: The other question raised was about the Tashkent Declaration. The Tashkent Declaration has been endorsed by the Government and blessed by this House. As hon. Members know, it has been widely welcomed all over the world. It vindicates the principle which India has always championed and which, I believe, the rest of the world now believes in which is the principle of co-existence. The basic principle underlying this Declaration is not a new one but the Declaration has given it a new validity and it has opened out a new door or way for better co-operation between India and Pakistan; it has opened a new chapter in the relations between our two countries.

Sir, I said that the Declaration has been welcomed by most of the world—all the world—except, of course, China.

Shri Maurya (Aligarh): Because you have no friend in the world.

Shrimati Indira Gandhi: China continues to adopt a somewhat menacing posture on our northern borders and by its constant denunciation of the principle of co-existence is, I think, creating tension in the world. She is pursuing a policy which is not conducive to peace in the world.

There was also mention here as to whether Government would consider having pacts with other nations. The Government's policy on this matter has been clear and it remains the same, which is that we believe that making such pacts does not only not

lead to peace but may actually increase tensions; also, in certain cases it may impinge on our independence.

Another question was about whether or not we should make a nuclear device, think, by the hon. Mover of the Motion, Shri Shivaji Rao Deshmukh, and some other people. The mere fact that China has exploded a nuclear device I do not think is sufficient reason for us to change our policy on this matter.

We are anxious not to do anything which will precipitate a crisis and lead to the development of nuclear weapons in many more countries. The policy of restraint which we have adopted must, therefore, continue. This is not because we believe that certain big powers should have a monopoly of these destructive weapons but because we are generally anxious to see total nuclear disarmament.

The other question referred to was Vietnam. Members are rightly concerned about the situation there which continues to be very critical. India's position in this regard is also clear, that is, that we are distressed and concerned about the danger of escalation of the conflict and we feel that all efforts towards a peaceful solution, specially on the basis of the Geneva Agreement, should be pursued. We have a special responsibility as Chairman of the Commission for Control and Supervision which we wish to discharge fully... (Interruption).

Two other countries which figured in the debate were Rhodesia and Zambia. While the primary responsibility to settle the constitutional future of Rhodesia remains that of the United Kingdom, we have to use all our influence to try to find a solution consistent with the dignity and aspirations of the people of Zimbabwe.

We are very friendly with Zambia and we have tried to help her in any way we can by giving supplies and by sending a rehabilitation officer along

with staff to help settle the people who have been dislodged from Rhodesia and who have had to take refuge there.

We are also deeply concerned with and shall continue our efforts for the eradication of colonialism wherever it exists and to bend all our energies to remove racialism and discrimination between man and man.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: What about Ghana?

Shrimati Indira Gandhi: The Union of South Africa still flouts the wishes of the world community and the resolutions of the United Nations. We, on our part, have fully implemented these resolutions. We hope that other countries will do so also.

Mr. Speaker: Sir, the nation today faces a host of problems, national and international, political and economic. I reiterate that the Government will address itself with determination to the challenging task of overcoming these difficulties. We shall never forget that our ultimate objective is to serve the common man. We must provide relief and succour to our people, vast masses of whom are still in abject poverty. To millions of people mere political freedom has not brought prosperity nor can it do so unless we can translate political freedom into social and economic security. We shall, therefore, continue to devote ourselves to the task of building our economy so as to improve the living standards of our people.

Through the sacrifice of countless heroes, known and unknown, we have inherited freedom and the opportunity of creating a new pattern of living for generations yet unborn. In this task, hon. Members of Parliament, I seek your help and co-operation.

Sir, I have covered a large number of points. Others were made, some of them matters of detail. I am sure, hon. Members will understand that it is not possible to deal with each one of them here, only a broad

[Mr. Speaker]

reference can be made. Many of the points are worth serious consideration and I assure hon. Members and this House that we shall certainly give that consideration.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee (Calcutta Central): We have heard of the Prime Minister's decision to go to Washington later this month even though it is an unprecedented thing for the Prime Minister to be out of the country at the height of the discussion on the Demands for Grants. May I know if she is being constrained to go post haste because of her request which— it was reported in the papers—she has made in a letter to the President Johnson that she might not go immediately and that aid might be considered sympathetically by the President has been disregarded? Has she replied to that letter? Is she going post haste only because we fear irritation of the U.S. President with our ways of doing things?

Shrimati Indira Gandhi: I am not going post haste. This visit, as the hon. Members know, was arranged for the 1st of February. I have put it off to the end of March and fixed the date after looking at the parliamentary programme. As I have informed you, Sir, although I shall be away for nearly a week, 3 days out of that week are holidays. We chose this particular week mainly for that reason that the holidays would be there.

I have mentioned in my speech today and also on other occasions in this House and outside that much as we want aid, and we need aid, we are not going to debase ourselves in order to get it. Aid will help us for our programmes but if it does not come, we can and we shall manage by ourselves.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: On a point of clarification.

Shri Vasudevan Nair (Ambalapuzha): There are some points to be clarified . . . (Interruption).

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: One from each group might be called.

Mr. Speaker: All right. Shri Kapur Singh.

Shri Kapur Singh: The Prime Minister, while referring to the formation of the Punjabi Suba, has informed this House that the Government would give top priority to this problem and she has also informed us that Sant Fateh Singh has agreed to postpone any further action till the end of March, by which time the Government would be in a position to announce their decision. But she has added that the Government expects Sant Fateh Singh to give further cooperation. May I know what type of further cooperation and in which direction the Government expect from Sant Fateh Singh?

Shrimati Indira Gandhi: It is not cooperation over any particular point. It is just that while these things are being decided, we would like the atmosphere to be such as is most conducive to a satisfactory solution.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: I am glad that in her not-uninteresting reply, the Prime Minister has done her best to cover a large number of points . . .

Mr. Speaker: He might ask briefly . . . (Interruption).

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: It is a compliment Sir, . . . (Interruption). From you I did not expect that. Apart from a few platitudinous ponderosities that she indulged in, it was instructive. But she has left certain points uncovered and unreplyed to.

Firstly, may I ask—I made a reference to it in the course of my speech—whether there is in the Council of Ministers a Deputy Minister who was

in detention for two years in some State about four or five years ago?

Secondly, may I know whether Zambia, former Northern Rhodesia, has appealed to the Government of India for some kind of aid and, if so, what decision Government has taken in the matter?

Lastly, during the debate on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address, the *coup d'état* took place in Ghana and some reference was made to that. May I know whether the new Government of Ghana has approached the Government of India for recognition and, if so, what is the reaction of the Government to that matter?

Mr. Speaker: If she wants to answer any of the points raised by the Member, she may do so.

Shrimati Indira Gandhi: As the House is aware, many of us have been in detention at one time or another . . . (Interruption).

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: I said, it was for anti-national activity . . . (Interruption).

Mr. Speaker: The second point was about Zambia and the third was about Ghana.

Shrimati Indira Gandhi: I am sorry I do not remember the details.

Mr. Speaker: He wants to know whether Zambia has asked for aid and, if so, what has the Government decided about it.

Shrimati Indira Gandhi: I mentioned it in my speech.

Mr. Speaker: That she has mentioned in her speech.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: The last one about Ghana?

Shrimati Indira Gandhi: We are considering the matter.

Shri Vasudevan Nair rose—

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Mukerjee has spoken. Mr. Madhu Limaye.

Shri Vasudevan Nair: She has made a special appeal to members of two States.

Mr. Speaker: She has made an appeal only to the younger generation. (Interruption).

Shri Hem Barua (Gauhati): He is a young man.

Mr. Speaker: Does he include himself also in that?

Shri Hem Barua: No.

Mr. Speaker: Then he may sit down. Mr. Madhu Limaye.

श्री मधु लिमये (मुंगेर): अध्यक्ष महोदय, अभी प्रधान मंत्री जी ने कहा कि मुल्क के सामने जो मुल्कालिफ समस्याएँ हैं सरकार वा इरादा है कि उन का मुस्तीदी के साथ सामना किया जाय। अभी सब से बड़ी समस्या हमारी भ्रष्टाचार की है जिस के बारे में संथानम कमीशन की सिफारिशें आयी थीं। उस के बाद चार पांच मामले उठे। उस वकत सरकार की निश्चित नीति क्या है उस के बारे में लोगों के मन में बड़ी शंका है। इसलिए मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस के बारे में वह क्या कोई निवेदन जल्दी करने वाली हैं या अभी कुछ बहना चाहती हैं ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : संथानम कमीशन की रिपोर्ट के बारे में क्या कोई निर्णय ले लिया है ?

श्रीमती इंदिरा गांधी : बहुत से निर्णय तो ले लिए गए हैं और बल में ने बहुत सफाई की है। . . . क जब भी किसी के विरोध में कोई प्राइमफेसी केस होगा तो हम जरूर उस को देखेंगे।

श्री मधु लिमये : इसी के बारे में तो गलतफहमी है कि विभिन्न प्रणालियाँ अपनायी गई हैं। तो क्या इस के बारे में कोई कार्य प्रणाली निश्चित की जायेगी ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : यह सारी चीज आप जानना चाहते हैं, यह कोई क्वेश्चन यावर तो है नहीं। क्लैरिफिकेशन के लिए या वह हो गया।

श्री मधु लिमये : सफाई के साथ बात रखी गई है परन्तु, सफाई तो हुई नहीं।

Shri Sezhiyan (Perambalur): The Prime Minister has stated that the Emergency will not be allowed to stay even a moment longer than is necessary. The word 'necessary' is relative. I would like to know who is going to decide the necessity for it—whether a judicial body would be approached. Also, I want to have an assurance from the Prime Minister that the Emergency and D.I.R. would be lifted at least after the 1967 elections.

Shri Shinkre (Marmagao): rose—

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair (Quilon) rose—

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Shinkre may sit down.

Shri Shinkre: I can represent my group.

Mr. Speaker: Which group does the hon. member represent?

Shri Shinkre: U.P.P.G.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Sreekantan Nair is also rising. Does he also belong to the same group?

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair: Yes.

Mr. Speaker: Then I can accommodate only either of the two.

Shri Shinkre: Several hon. Members have referred to border disputes between various States and also to distribution of water among the States, but the Prime Minister has made no reference to either of these questions. She may say that these are minor questions, but they concern the people of several States and are pending solution for so many years now. What is the reaction of the Prime Minister to these two questions?

Shrimati Indira Gandhi: I thought these were matters of detail. These matters are no doubt most important and we are giving deep consideration to these.

Dr. L. M. Singhvi (Jodhpur): We would like to know whether the Government, particularly the Prime Minister, has studied the question of disproportionate quantum of rations in different States—in some States the ration is much lower than what it is in Kerala—and whether at governmental level a policy decision in respect of uniform rations is being made.

Shrimati Indira Gandhi: This matter was discussed at the time of the food debate. I believe the Food Minister has said in the House that the whole food policy is being reviewed now.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Vasudevan Nair might ask one question. (*Interruptions*).

Shri Hem Barua: In what capacity?

Shri Vasudevan Nair: In both the capacities—appeal to the younger generation as well as the special appeal to members of two States.

The Prime Minister made a special appeal to members of Kerala and West Bengal that we should explain to the people the difficulty of the nation, especially with regard to rice. I should like to know whether she herself and the Government are satisfied that whatever we have produced in this country are being mobilised and distributed on an equitable basis and whether she can convince us on this account. If that is not possible, then how can she request us to explain to our people? I should like to get a reply.

Shrimati Indira Gandhi: I would like the hon. members to explain to the people in order to make it easier for them. They are the ones who are going through a difficult period. If they can be helped to adjust and use

other types of food, then it helps them.

Shri Vasudevan Nair: There is rice in the country which you are not mobilising.

Shrimati Indira Gandhi: As I said previously, we are going into the whole matter in considerable detail now. It is difficult to change the policy abruptly in the middle. We are going into the whole matter.

श्री मौर्य : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं ने और इस सदन के बहुत से आदरणीय सदस्यों ने इस देश के 10 करोड़ शोषित सर्वहाशवर्ग शिड्यूल्ड कास्ट और शिड्यूल्ड ट्राइब्स की जो परिस्थिति है उस के बारे में सरकार का ध्यान खींचा था। लेकिन, उन के बारे में एक भी शब्द माननीय प्रधान मंत्री ने नहीं कहा। चाहे संकट हो, चाहे भुखमरी हो, चाहे अकाल पड़े, परेशानी हो, कोई भी संकट आये तो उस से पहले शिड्यूल्ड कास्ट और शिड्यूल्ड ट्राइब्स के लोग उस के शिकार होते हैं। यहाँ नहीं सरकारी नौकरियों में उन की परसेंटेज पूरी नहीं है। इन तमाम बातों को लेकर एक बहुत बड़ा संकट देश के सामने है। मैं नहीं चाहता कि बात को और ज्यादा बढ़ा कर कहें। मैं केवल यही पूछना चाहता हूँ कि शिड्यूल्ड कास्ट की समस्याओं को जो कि राष्ट्रव्यापी समस्याएँ हैं, उन को इसी तरह से वह अपनी निगाह से दूर रखना चाहती हैं जैसे और प्रधान मंत्री ने रखा ?

श्रीमती इंदिरा गांधी : श्रीमान्, माननीय सदस्य का वहना बिल्कुल ठीक है और मैं क्षमा मांगती हूँ कि मैं इस विषय पर नहीं बोली। लेकिन इस के माने यह नहीं है कि हम इस पर विचार नहीं कर रहे हैं या यह मसला हमारे सामने नहीं है। यह बिल्कुल सच है कि जब भी कोई कठिनाई आती है तो यही लोग हैं जिन को सबसे से पहले और सबसे ज्यादा भुगतना पड़ता है। सरकार इस को पूरे तौर से देख रही है कि हम कैसे उन की अधिक से अधिक मदद कर सकते हैं ?

श्री जगदेव सिंह सिवान्ती (भुजूर) : माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी ने, पंजाबी सूबे के सम्बन्ध में जो अपना वक्तव्य दिया है तो मैं यह उन को ध्यान दिलाना चाहता हूँ कि प्राज भी श्रद्धेय संत फतेह सिंह ने अपना वक्तव्य दिया है, मैं आप से नम्रतापूर्वक और बड़ी दुकता से यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि इस सम्बन्ध में हरयाणा की 80 लाख जो जनता है उस के जो अधिकार हैं उन को हनन करने का आप मन में भी विचार मत लाइए, बाहर लाने की तो बात ही क्या है ?

श्री हुकम चन्द कछबाय : (देवास) : क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि जो संसदीय सदस्यों की कमेटी बनी है पंजाबी सूबे के सम्बन्ध में क्या वह अपनी रिपोर्ट इस पार्लियामेंट को देगी या सरकार को देगी, इस सम्बन्ध में कभी कोई आप ने खुलासा नहीं किया ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : यह खुलासा मैं कर देता हूँ। अगर वह पार्लियामेंट की कमेटी है तो यह रिपोर्ट पार्लियामेंट को देगी क्योंकि इस की तारीफ रूल्स में यही है कि पार्लियामेंटरी कमेटी वही है कि जो पार्लियामेंट को रिपोर्ट दे। और फिर एक दूसरा सवाल है जो सारे हाउस का है। जिस कमेटी का चेयरमैन स्पीकर है वह कभी एग्जीक्यूटिव को रिपोर्ट नहीं जा सकती।

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur (Jalore): It is a very important matter. This question has been put to the Government and Government have expressed very different views. It is not for you to rule it out. The question has been addressed to the Government. The Government has to answer. (Interruptions).

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad (Bhagalpur): Let the Government give the reply.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: We are really very much agitated about it.

Mr. Speaker: Because there were certain other statements that we had

[Mr. Speaker]

seen in the papers, I intervened. It is in the statement of the Home Minister that he requested me to constitute a Parliamentary Committee. (*Interruptions*)

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy (Kendrapara): It is a Parliamentary Committee and not a Committee of Members of Parliament.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: It may or may not be a Committee of Members of Parliament. It is really most unfortunate that you compel us to say that such a political, controversial question should be entrusted to a Committee which is headed by the Speaker. Nothing more unfortunate has happened in this House. It is digging the grave of democracy—and you are also the mother of it here. I would like the Government to understand the situation. We will never be able to tolerate it. (*Interruptions*)

13 hrs.

Mr. Speaker: I am not responsible . . . (*Interruptions*)

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: But the Home Minister has been saying something very different.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: Let Government speak out their mind.

Mr. Speaker: If Government want to say anything, then they might say it.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: Let the Home Minister speak.

The Minister of Home Affairs (**Shri Nanda**): I would not like to intervene in a matter where you, Sir, are concerned. I must take the responsibility on myself for having requested you to become the chairman of that committee . . .

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy: It is not a Government committee; we are not responsible to Government in that regard; we have no responsibility to

Government in that matter. **Shri Harish Chandra Mathur** should, therefore, withdraw his words.

Shri Nanda: I made a statement here

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: It is not a parliamentary committee but a committee of Members of Parliament.

Shri Nanda: . . . and also in the Rajya Sabha. It is a question of interpretation on which mine cannot be the last word; it is for you.

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy: There has been an aspersion cast on you. It is very bad. He should withdraw it.

Shri Vasudevan Nair: Can an hon. Member shout at you in this manner in the course of the business? (*Interruptions*).

Mr. Speaker: I would request all hon. Members to resume their seats.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: We shall bring a motion to dissolve the committee, if necessary.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: May I make a submission on one point? Here is the Home Minister who makes an equivocal statement wherein perhaps due to internal dissensions within the Congress Party, a Congress Member says something in regard to him; I wanted him to say very openly that it was on account of the alleged desire of the Government for a co-operative solution that under your chairmanship a committee was asked to be formed in this House; therefore, any reflection on you is wrong. He should withdraw those words.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: You have permitted **Shri H. N. Mukerjee** to cast some aspersions . . .

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: I would like to say that . . . (*Interruptions*).

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Hon. Members should resume their seats.

Now, I shall take up Shri Ranga's amendment . . . (*Interruptions*).

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: You have permitted Shri H. N. Mukerjee to make some observations

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: We have also got a right to speak.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I am not going to allow hon. Members to carry on in this manner

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: Shri H. N. Mukerjee has cast some aspersions on us saying that we have dissensions in our party and, therefore, we have said so. But you are not permitting us to refute it. It is entirely improper to say that we have dissensions within the party. I am speaking absolutely on the principle of it only, and I am speaking only in respect of you. What has it got to do with the party? We are all at one with the party; I am at one with my party; I am absolutely at one with my party. Let that be understood very clearly. It is absolutely wrong on the part of Shri H. N. Mukerjee to say like that. What justification has he to say that we have dissensions in the party? I am at one with the Home Minister. . .

Shri Buta Singh (Moga): Those words must be expunged.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: Such kinds of remarks cannot be tolerated. Shri H. N. Mukerjee cannot get away with a statement like that casting insinuations on us. He should not speak in that way. It is all humbug to say that we have dissensions within the party.

Shri Maurya: What is the reason why a Congress Member is shouting and shouting like that? Why is he shouting like that?

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: Shouting is as much my right as the hon. Member's.

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair: Is it open to any hon. Member to speak on a thing on which you have ruled already? You have already said that you would be putting Shri Ranga's amendment to vote. If you are going to allow hon. Members to speak on other things, you would be contradicting your earlier stand.

Shri Buta Singh: On a point of order. . . .

Shrimati Indira Gandhi: I only wanted to say that I regret that you had been brought into a controversy here and that it was most unfair.

Shri Buta Singh: On a point of order. Shri Harish Chandra Mathur should withdraw those words first.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: I am not going to withdraw a single word. I have to add much to what I have said already. (*Interruptions*).

Shri Kapur Singh: Grave reflections have been cast on the dignity of the Chair. This House is, therefore, bound to take note of it.

Shri Vasudevan Nair: Shri Harish Chandra Mathur cannot speak like that.

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy: We know, Sir, that you are in a very delicate position, and aspersions are made against you.

Shri Maurya: Shri Harish Chandra Mathur has no business to talk like that. . . .

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy: In spite of the regret expressed by the Prime Minister who is the leader of the party, Shri Harish Chandra Mathur is still not prepared to express regret for what he had said.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: Has the Prime Minister expressed regret on my behalf?