It was dealt with as thoroughly as possible within the time available. It was only yesterday that this appeared in the newspaper. Whatever information was required to answer this was collected. I have done my best in this regard. The question of the Government calling upon Mr. Gandhi and others to explain, frankly speaking, does not arise and I do not think it would have been proper at this stage for us to do anything of that kind. This shows that he has an account in a foreign bank. Therefore, we made this enquiry as to whether Mr. Gandhi has reported to the Reserve Bank of India that he had a foreign account. The Reserve Bank's reply has just been received and it is found that he has made no such report. It means that if he has a foreign account, he has committed an offence and for that steps will have to be taken. Having done that, we will further consider if this is a genuine document. We have also decided to enquire through our Embassy officials as to whether this document is an authentic one or not. This much information was collected by us. So far as other matters are concerned, I must say, that the hon. Members expect things to move too quickly. No reply has yet been received from the Embassy. So I have made every effort to see that whatever information relevant to this question could be collected was collected and I have submitted it before the House. Nothing would be dearer to me than to treat the House with the utmost respect. Whatever other points have been raised, to the extent they are relevant, I shall collect the information. Even if they are not relevant, I shall do so, because this is a matter with which the Members are greatly concerned. It will certainly be pursued vigorously in all aspects.

SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH: Will the hon. Minister give an assurance to you and to the House that as soon as the enquiry is completed, he will come before the House and make a statement suo motu? (*Interruptions*).

SHRI A. C. GEORGE (Mukandapuram): As a Member of Parliament, I received an invitation from a private publication firm "Ramdas Bhatkal Popular Prakashan". My point is that it has come in the Railway Ministry stationery, using Railway Ministry stamp and obviously using Railway Ministry Staff.

MR. SPEAKER: It is a crime. But you cannot raise it like this.

SHRI A. C. GEORGE: Normally I do not get up like this. Railway ministry stationery, railway ministry stamp and railway ministry staff have been used by a private publication firm. If it is a railway ministry publication, I can understand. But it is a private individual who is inviting me—Mr. Ramdas Bhatkal—and it is a private publication firm—Popular Prakashan. You may ask the minister to make a statement on it.

MR. SPEAKER: No, I would not take any notice of this. You should send it in the proper form in writing. You have committed an irregularity. You said you wanted to raise a point of order and I allowed it, but you are raising something else without my permission.

13.30 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON ABSENCE OF MEMBERS FROM THE SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE

SHRI GODEY MURAHARI (Vijayawada): I beg to present the First Report of the Committee on Absence of Members from the Sittings of the House.

श्री यतदत्त शर्मा (गुरदासपुर) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं सदन की प्रक्रिया और कायदे को बहुत कम जानता हूं लेकिन मैं आपका सहारा अवश्य चाहता हूं । इस सदन के सभी सदस्य किसी भी मसले पर बहुत

[श्री यज्ञदत्त शर्मा]

मेहनत करके आते हैं और उसे सदन के सामने और मंत्री जी के सामने रखते हैं । यह बात आप भी जानते हैं । लेकिन हमें बड़ा दुःख होता है जब उस मामले को भाषा की जादुगरी में समाप्त कर दिया जाता है । इस सम्बन्ध में मैं आपकी मदद चाहूंगा ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मैं आपको बुलाऊंगा और दोनों मिल कर बात करेंगे ।

13.33 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

*DEMANDS FOR GRANTS—*Contd.*

MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS—*Contd.*

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now resume further discussion on the Demands for Grants under the control of the Ministry of Petroleum and the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers. Out of 6 hours allotted, 1 hour and 5 minutes have been availed of. 4 hours and 55 minutes remain. No hon. member was on his feet last time. Shri Dharamsinhbhai Patel.

श्री धर्म सिंह भाई पटेल (पोरबन्दर) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं पेट्रोलियम, रसायन और उर्वरक मंत्रालय की मांगों के समर्थन में बोलने के लिए खड़ा हुआ हूं । अध्यक्ष महोदय, मानव की खुराक अनाज होता है और अनाज जमीन से पैदा होता है । जमीन की खुराक उर्वरक है । हमारे देश में उर्वरकों के कारखानों में एक हजार करोड़ रुपये की धनराशि लगी हुई है । 6 सौ करोड़ रुपये का उर्वरक हमें देश में आयात करना पड़ता हैं । हमारे देश के 20 प्रतिशत किसान ही उर्वरक का इस्तेमाल कर रहे हैं । 80 प्रतिशत किसान हमारे देश में उर्वरक का इस्तेमाल नहीं कर पाते क्योंकि उर्वरकों का भाव बढ़ता जा रहा है ।

हमारे गुजरात में गुजरात स्टेट फर्टिलाइजर कम्पनी डी०ए०पी०, अमोनियम सलफेट, फास्फेट और यूरिया बनाती है । इसके दाम भी जिस तरह बढ़ रहे हैं वह मैं आपको बताता हूं । 13-5-71 को डी०ए०पी के एक टन का दाम रु० 1345 था जो 1-4-72 को रु० 1402, 1-7-72 को रु० 1441, 15-12-73 को रु० 1869 और 22-3-76 को रु० 2182 डी० ए०पी० का हो गया । अब आप यूरिया के भाव देखें । 1-4-72 को इसका भाव 959 रुपये था जोकि 1-7-72 को बढ़ कर 984 रुपये हो गया और 15-12-73 को 1077 रु० हो गया और 22-3-76 को 1799 रुपये हो गया । अमोनियम सलफेट, फास्फेट का भाव 1-4-72 को 560 रुपये था जो 22-3-76 को बढ़ कर एक टन का 1941 रुपये हो गया है । दो गुना कम से कम इनके भाव हो गए हैं । अब आप कैसे आशा करते हैं कि किसान इतने महंगे दामों पर उर्वरकों को खरीद कर उनका उपयोग कर सकता है ।

इफको के एन० पी० के एक टन का भाव 2540 रु० हो गया है और यूरिया पूल का एक टन का भाव 1803 रु० है । जबकि 1973 में इसकी कीमत 1110 रुपये एक मोट्रिक टन थी । मैं चाहता हूं कि आप किसानों के हितों का ध्यान रखते हुए इनके दाम कम करें । इतने महंगे दामों पर उर्वरक खरीद कर किसान उनका उपयोग नहीं कर सकता है ।

आयल इंजन गुजरात में डेढ़ लाख के करीब चल रहे हैं । ये कुओं पर चल रहे हैं । क्रूड आयल जो इन में इस्तेमाल होता है उसके दो सौ लिटर के एक बैरल के भावों को आप

*Moved with the recommendation of the President.