

against the rules. I have told everybody. I cannot allow. What is this?

(Interruptions)\*\*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now Calling Attention. I am very sorry. Now Mr. Bajju Ban Riyan. He is from the Opposition.

(Interruptions)\*\*

12.9 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER  
OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

REPORTED SEVERE SHORTAGE OF FOOD-  
GRAINS IN TRIPURA

SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN (Tripura East): I call the attention of the Minister of Agriculture to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

"The reported severe foodgrains shortage.....

(Interruptions)\*\*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Let the Minister, read out the statement....

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (KUMARI KAMLA KUMARI): It has been the endeavour of the Government to ensure that....

(Interruptions)\*\*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Yes, you carry on.

(Interruptions)\*\*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record. Nothing will go on record.

KUMARI KAMLA KUMARI rose—

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You carry on.

(Interruptions)\*\*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Riyan, you come here. Go very near the Minister.

(Interruptions)\*\*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is not the correct way.

(Interruptions)\*\*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I would very humbly request you. This is not the correct parliamentary procedure. You must all be given some training as to how you must conduct yourselves in Parliament. This is not the way.

(Interruptions)\*\*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do not talk, go to your seat first and sit down. I am not going to allow you. (Interruptions) What can I do? (Interruptions) I am not allowing you. (Interruptions) Are you going to raise anything regarding the adjournment motion? (Interruptions) Please sit down. One of you can speak. (Interruptions) Others please sit down. What do you say, Mr. Rakesh? (Interruptions)

श्री अर० एन० राकेश (चैल) :  
इलाहाबाद मेडिकल कालेज . . .

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I have already discussed it. Nothing doing. It will not go on record.

SHRI R. N. RAKESH: No. (Interruptions)\*\*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I have already told you that you come and meet me in the Chamber. (Interruptions) I have already withheld my consent. It cannot be permitted. (Interruptions) I can follow not your

Hindi but at least some Hindi. (*Interruptions*) I have already withheld my consent. Please sit down. You come and meet me in my Chamber.

(*Interruptions*)\*\*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You come and meet me in the Chamber. We will discuss it over a cup of tea. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL (Jaipur): I am on a point of order. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: He is on a point of order. You cannot talk anything. (*Interruptions*) What is your point of order?

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: According to the List of Business, the calling attention motion stands in the name of the hon. member Shri Baju Ban Riyan. Unless he is called upon and he calls the attention of the Minister, no statement can be made by the Minister. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: He has already called the attention of the Minister and then only the Minister has replied. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: No; you ask him.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I have no objection to call him again. He has already called the attention of the Minister.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: No.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: All right. I will call him again. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: This is not the way of conducting the proceedings. Unless the member concerned calls the attention of the hon. Minister, the Minister cannot make a statement.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: That is all right. After he had called the at-

tention of the Minister, she got up. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: Whatever had gone on record should be expunged from the record.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I shall ask him to call the attention of the Minister again. Then you all please sit down. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY (Calcutta South): Before that I want to raise one legal question. This is important. You can spare at least two minutes. My submission is this. When a Bill was passed by the Legislature unanimously, it is rejected by the Government. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I am not allowing you. This will not go on record.

(*Interruptions*)\*\*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Baju Ban Riyan, you please call the attention again of the Minister. Please sit down. No, no, nothing will go on record.

(*Interruptions*)\*\*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Agarwal, I am calling Mr. Baju Ban Riyan. Now calling attention—Item No. 10. (*Interruptions*) Please sit down. You discuss it with me in the Chamber. (*Interruptions*) I am not allowing you to raise it. This will not go on record.

(*Interruptions*)\*\*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: No, no, this is not the way. Should a Member of the Opposition raise it? No, no.

(*Interruptions*)\*\*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Yes, Mr. Riyan.

SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN (Tripura East): I call the attention of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Reconstruction to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:—

‘the reported severe foodgrains shortage in Tripura due to the failure of Food Corporation of India to despatch 15,000 metric tonnes of foodgrains to that State, which threatens the public distribution system in the State’.

(Interruptions)\*\*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Only the Minister's reply will go on record. I am on Calling Attention.

(Interruptions)\*\*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Only the Minister's reply will go on record. I am not permitting.

Shri Rasheed Masood, Shri Rajnath Sonkar Shastri, Shri Jagpal Singh, Shri Raghunath Singh Verma, Chaudhry Multan Singh and some other Hon. Members then left the House.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: What is it that you are doing? I will not permit. I will stall the proceedings of the House; I cannot permit.

(Interruptions)\*\*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I would very much like some seriousness to be observed in this House. We are representatives of the people. Let us all behave—including myself—in a responsible manner. Our conduct is being watched by the whole of India.

(Interruptions)\*\*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Yes, including my conduct. The conduct of the Members of Parliament, including the Speaker and the Deputy-

Speaker is being watched by the whole of India. Please remember that. Please remember that.

KUMARI KAMLA KUMARI: It has been the endeavour of the Government to ensure that the requirement of foodgrains for Public Distribution System of the States is met to the maximum possible extent.

The stock position with the Food Corporation of India in Tripura as at the commencement of the month during the past three months was as under:—

	(Figures in tonnes)
	Total
1-1-1981	13,494
1-2-1981	12,930
1-3-1981	10,509

On 1st April, 1981 the stock of foodgrains with the Food Corporation of India was 7,750 tonnes. In addition, according to the report received from the State Government they had a stock of 5,175 tonnes of foodgrains as on 7th April, 1981. Therefore, there is sufficient stock of foodgrains in Tripura to meet their immediate requirements.

Total offtake of foodgrains in Tripura during February was 2,454 tonnes and in March it was 2,829 tonnes. During this part of the season the Aman crop of rice which is harvested in November and December also comes in the market and the availability of foodgrains is adequate.

Though there is sufficient stock of foodgrains available in the godowns of the Food Corporation of India in Tripura, some stocks of rice have not found acceptance with the State Government on account of encrustment present in some of the bags. Segregation of bags of encrusted rice has been going on. In order to replenish stocks further, the Food Corporation of India has planned for a movement of 12,000 tonnes of rice from the North Zone to Tripura during the current month. Out of this one rake

with 2,100 tonnes has already been moved on 5-4-1981, and four rakes containing about 6,500 tonnes are expected to move by 15th of this month. The remaining quantity will be moved during the second fortnight of April 1981. The Senior Regional Manager, Food Corporation of India at Gauhati has been directed to meet the requirements of wheat from the stocks received by him under Centralised booking system in Assam.

**SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN:** The position which is stated here is not according to the food position in Tripura. According to me, the food position is something otherwise. So, I will try to give the actual food position of Tripura. A few months back there was a stock of about 14,000 metric tonnes, but the whole stock is not acceptable to the people of Tripura and it is not fit for human consumption. The matter was made clear to the Regional Manager of FCI at Shillong and the matter was also made clear to the FCI at Delhi. They have assured the State Government that the quantity of bad quality rice in that stock would be cleaned and then distributed to the State Government, but this has not been done. Because there is no other alternative for the people of Tripura, some portion of it which is fit for human consumption, Tripura Government is taking. At present the position is such that the remaining stock which is available in the godowns of FCI in Tripura is not readily acceptable to the people of Tripura. It should be cleaned and then it should be re-distributed. But I am sorry to say here that the authorities of FCI in Tripura and here are trying to force the Tripura Government to take this rice. After all, when a quality control official visited Tripura and recommended that some portion of the rice should not be distributed, then they began to segregate the bags which are containing better quality rice. Of course, the hon. Minister in her statement agrees with this fact. She also agrees that the segregation work is going on. But I am sorry to

mention here that it is still going on. It was started some few months back and it is still going on. No new stocks of good quality rice are being sent there. Without proper cleaning the stock which is there is not acceptable to the Tripura Government. In view of these facts, I want to put a specific question to the Minister whether the Minister will assure the House that in future the quantity which will be sent to Tripura will be sent only after proper checking by quality control officers, so that the quantity which will reach there will be readily acceptable to them.

Tripura is a very backward State. We have got no rail connection. A major part of Tripura is not even connected by roads. Only jeeps go there. Tripura Government have to mobilise the rice stock from the interior where they have got some rice godowns so that during the monsoon season, the people of that part should not feel any shortage. In view of that the State Government requested the Central Government to make rice available to Tripura before the onset of monsoon. The Central Government also agreed to that. And the rice was issued to the State Government and the Central Government promised that it would reach there very soon. But I am sorry to find from that statement that some quantity of rice is still on the way. Naturally it will take months to reach there because we all know that there is transportation problem because of the Assam problem and all that. I want to ask: will the hon. Minister assure the House that within April all the consignment of rice which they have planned to send to Tripura, will reach there?

**THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION AND IRRIGATION AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH):** My colleague has already given all the information about the foodstocks in Tripura. The hon. Member has said that good quality of rice should be supplied to Tripura

in future. The rice already supplied to Tripura had always been of a good quality. Tripura uses parboiled rice and over a period of time if the stocks are held during the monsoon weather or on account of moisture in the climate in that region, this parboiled rice gets encrusted. The quality is not bad. It does not appeal to people of some good taste if they have better rice available in the market. The same rice was readily acceptable under the Food For Work Programme. Now the Aman crop has come, there is plenty of rice available in Tripura and people have become a little choosy. That is why this rice is not acceptable. We have started segregation. As the hon. Member himself admitted, out of a total quantity of 10,000 tonnes, 5,000 tonnes have already been segregated. Out of that nearly 4,000 tonnes has been accepted by the State Government for public distribution system.

As for stocking of rice before the monsoon season, we are very well aware that for the entire North-East Region there should be sufficient stocks maintained in the monsoon season. But so far as Tripura is concerned, there should not be any particular difficulty because there are some rail heads. For other States there may be some difficulty: So, for whole of the North-East Region we are planning to have sufficient stock so that there is no disruption in the public distribution system.

Even Tripura Government has a stock of over 5000 tonnes of rice in its own godowns. If there was any shortage of foodstocks being felt by the State Government, they could have utilised all these stocks which would have been replenished by the Food Corporation of India. So, it is wrong to say that there has been any inconvenience caused to the people, or that there has been any disruption in the public distribution system, on account of the shortage of foodgrains in the FCI godowns.

**SHRI AJIT KUMAR SAHA** (Vishnupur): I shall not take much time. I would put only two questions and I would request the hon. Minister to reply to them specifically.

Tripura is a small State, deficit in foodgrains, and hence always dependent upon the Centre for assistance. In the statement, the Minister has accepted that some rice was sent to Tripura, which was encrusted, and on being pointed out by the Tripura Government, it is being segregated. It is a serious matter that rice, which was unfit for human consumption, was sent to Tripura. That shows clearly the attitude of the Centre to the States ruled by the opposition. In the context of this, I want to know whether any check is done to ensure that rice unfit for human consumption are not despatched to the States and if so, how this has happened. I want to know also whether such type of rice was despatched to any other State during the last one year.

Secondly, the statement does not clearly say what is the monthly or yearly consumption of rice and wheat in Tripura and whether it is being fully met or not. Since Tripura is a land-locked State, its problems cannot be compared with those of other States. In order that a land-locked State does not suffer from any disruption of food supply, it is necessary to have one more godown nearer Tripura, say in Silchar, apart from the one at Gauhati, to hold buffer stocks so that in times of need transshipment becomes easy.

**RAO BIRENDRA SINGH:** It is not true that rice sent to Tripura was unfit for consumption. As I have stated earlier, good quality rice was sent. But, on account of the moisture in climate, the colouring changed a bit, and that is called encrustment of rice. This parboiled rice is still fit for consumption, but it is not acceptable to the consumers on account of a little change in colour. Apart from Tripura, all the other States want raw rice, in which case there is no problem. Tripura is the only State in

this region which wants parboiled rice, which gets encrusted over a period of time in the godowns, on account of the moisture in the atmosphere.

The needs of Tripura are very small. They are consuming about 500 tonnes of wheat under the public distribution system and another 500 tonnes for the flour mills. The allocation of rice for Tripura is 5,000 tonnes per month, but it has not been lifting this quantity. In January there was no off-take from the FCI godowns in Tripura; it was nil. In the month of February the quantity lifted was only 1,400 tonnes. As against that, stocks of the order of about 10,000 to 12,000 tonnes per month are always maintained, which is more than two months' requirement of the State and the State Government itself has over 5,000 tonnes in its own stock. So, there is no problem at all. It is an entirely useless effort to try and blame the Centre for not doing its duty towards Tripura.

**SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY** (Calcutta South): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir. I was a little bit shocked when our hon. Minister spoke that the people or the Government of Tripura were willing to accept this rice under food-for-work. Now, they have become a little choosy and they do not want to accept it. When the inherent thinking of the hon. Minister, a very honourable man, is like that, a State being a beggar has no right to choose. I do not accept this philosophy. How you can compel a State to accept it with certain conditions...

**RAO BIRENDRA SINGH:** We have not compelled.

**SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY:** That is what you wanted to say.

The second point is this. This is an extremely critical condition. You know that it is the responsibility of

your Government to make rice available to the people of the State and the Chief Minister was writing to you because after all, no responsible Government can sit idle when it sees that its stocks are depleting and the Central Government is not coming forward and if it comes forward, it comes forward with the quality of rice which is unfit for human consumption. I request our hon. Minister to send this type of rice to other States and see the reaction of the State Governments and the reaction of the people. So, at present even if you have released two godowns...

**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** Other States do not want boiled rice. That is what he said.

**SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY:** Whatever it is, there is the quality of wheat which is not fit for human consumption.

Now, it will appear from the statement here that our hon. Minister, a very responsible Minister undoubtedly, is satisfied...

**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** Every Minister is responsible.

**SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY:** Yes, Sir, and a Member is also responsible. A Member can one day become a Minister.

He is satisfied that the stock position is all right. But what is the assessment of the State Government? Why is it that the Chief Minister is urging upon the Central Government to do something? I would only remind our hon. Minister about what happened in Tripura when the Tripura Government was writing to the Central Government: 'Come and help as certain things are developing in Tripura'. You did not respond to it, I mean, the large-scale disturbance that took place. This time also the Government is appealing to the Central Government and urging upon the Central Government to come forward to send it. Now, we are not interested in release, but the question is whether they are actually getting this quan-

tity, whether they are getting it from the FCI godown, and whether this is fit for human consumption. When you say, 'We are despatching', it does not mean that they are receiving. Between the despatch and actual receipt there is a gap and sometimes it takes unusually long time to bridge that gap and normally what happens? The State is in a precarious position because it cannot discharge its responsibilities and maintain the public distribution system because of depletion in the stock. So, it is not to accuse the Centre. You are already in the dock. What is the use of accusing you? You have already deprived the people of West Bengal of it, it has been proved times without number. But this is not the thing. It is only an appeal to the Central Government to discharge their responsibility.

SHRI ANANTHA RAMULU MALLU (Nagarkurnool): Sir, is he putting a question or making a speech?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: He is making a speech in the form of a question.

SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY: For a good question a long preparation is necessary.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, my pointed question is this.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: He is a Professor, he knows the rules.

SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY: I also know a little bit of how to violate them. (*Interruptions*) I do not teach every one. There are some Congress (I) Members who are unteachable. I do not try to teach them.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, what I want to ask is this.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Prof. Chokraborty, they will not also come to you for having your tuition.

SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY: No, Sir. I do not accept such students. It is not to accuse the Government. It is not to belittle it.

Is there any discrepancy between your assessment and the assessment of the State Government? What steps are you taking to see that the State has a good stock so that the distribution system is maintained? The third point is, monsoon is coming. No Government can sit idle when it sees that the stock is depleting. What concrete steps are you going to take to make these things available? What concrete steps are you going to take to replace that amount of rice which is not fit for human consumption and to send the total amount to the State of Tripura?

I do not exactly remember the name of the Committee which recommended 25,000 metric tonnes for Tripura. Are you going to accept that recommendation and give that amount to the State of Tripura as an allotment?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: I have said it again and again and I would repeat that a thousand times if that would satisfy the hon. Member that the foodgrains sent to Tripura were fit for human consumption. It is wrong to say that rice sent to Tripura was unfit for consumption. Please understand that.

The needs of Tripura...

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (New Delhi): What was the nature of the complaint?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: As I have said it was encrustment of the parboiled rice in the godowns on account of excessive moisture in the climate there was a little discolouring. On account of that it was not acceptable for consumption. But that has been shifted and segregated. About half the quantities have already been segregated. Out of 5,000 tonnes, 4,000 tonnes have since been issued to the State Government and it has been accepted. It has been found fit for consumption. The rest will also be treated in the same manner.



**SHRI AJOY BISWAS** (Tripura West): What the Minister has told here is not the real fact. You know when Rome was burning, Nero was playing violin.

**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** Why can't you state some Indian example?

**SHRI AJOY VISWAS:** If you see the statement, it has been stated—'they are planning for movement of 12,000 tonnes of rice'.

They are now planning and we are suffering in Tripura.

**RAO BIRENDRA SINGH:** Read further, how much has been despatched already.

**SHRI AJOY BISWAS:** In your statement, you have said that you are planning.

What is the actual position? I come from Tripura. I know better. According to the statement, the stock position in Tripura is 7,750 tonnes in the FCI godowns and, out of that, only a quantity of 4000 tonnes in acceptable to the State Government. It was decided both by the State Government and the FCI that they will segregate all the stock. But the remaining stock has not been segregated.

**RAO BIRENDRA SINGH:** It is going to be done.

**SHRI AJOY BISWAS:** The stock of 7,750 tonnes which you have mentioned in the statement is not acceptable to the State Government for public distribution system. The stock of 5000 tonnes which has been segregated and which is the FCI godowns is not at one place. That is scattered throughout the State. It is not possible for the State Government to collect all the rice and distribute it through the public distribution system.

Another point is that some portion of that was used for the food for work programme. That will be distributed only after getting rice from you. Can you deny that the Chief Minister has sent a telex message to the Prime Minister on 4th April and another on 9th April? The Chief Minister has time and again approached you about it. But you are doing nothing. The Chief Minister has also stated that there is no stock of rice in Tripura for distribution through the public distribution system. Actually, in Tripura, the State Government has stopped distribution of rice. There is no stock of rice. What is the telex message of the Chief Minister to the Prime Minister? Can you place it here?

So, my specific question is this. You have to immediately send rice to Tripura so that the public distribution system can be normalised. I want to know whether you will send rice from Gauhati godown to Tripura within 2 or 3 days so that the present food crisis can be overcome. I also want to know whether the Chief Minister has sent two telegrams to the Prime Minister and, if so, what are the contents of those telegrams. Can you state that here?

**RAO BIRENDRA SINGH:** The Government of India is mindful of its duties towards Tripura and every other State and, as I have said, we have been maintaining a fairly sufficient stock of foodgrains in Tripura every month. Out of 10,000 tonnes which was available there, a quantity of only 5500 tonnes was segregated and sifted and, out of that, 4000 tonnes quantity was acceptable. That was found fit for distribution. The rest is still being segregated. The State Government also has quite a big stock of foodgrains. So, there is no shortage. That can also be utilised for public distribution system. More than 2000 tonnes quantity is already on its way to Tripura. More than 6000 tonnes are to be loaded



before 15th April. We have said that too. There is no need to worry on this account. The Chief Minister may or may not send telexes or telegrams. The Central Government will see to it that Tripura's food supplies are not cut off. The people of Tripura need face no difficulty even during monsoon season, in the matter of getting foodgrains. Sufficient stocks are maintained there.

You can save your money that is being spent on issuing telexes and telegrams.

**SHRI MUKUNDA MANDAL** (Mathurapur); Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is stated by the Hon. Minister that there is no food crisis in Tripura at present. But my information is that there is no stock of wheat in Tripura for the last 4 or 5 months. As a consequence of that, flour mills and *chakkis* are stopped and the tea-garden workers are suffering because wheat is their food.

I would like to know whether there is any retrenchment of the employees of the flour mills due to the scarcity of wheat. What is the reaction of the Government to this problem? What action is the Government going to take to solve this problem?

I would also like to know whether Government is aware that Tripura is a State deficit in foodgrains. If so, what is the quantum of foodgrains demanded by the Tripura Government to meet the deficit? What is the actual allotment made by the Government? What is the actual release or sale of foodgrains during the last six months? These are my specific questions.

Is it not a fact that there has been a set-back to the Food for Work Programme in Tripura because of the depleting stocks of foodgrains?

As regards the storage capacity, I would like to know what is the

storage capacity, I would like to know what is the storage capacity available with the FCI at present for foodgrains in Tripura? There is no mention in the annual reports of the Food Corporation of India about the storage capacity in Tripura. Why is it so?

I would like to know from the Minister whether Government has any plan to accelerate construction of requisite storage accommodation by the Food Corporation of India in Tripura.

My last question is this: It is stated by the Minister in his statement that the quantum of stock of foodgrains in FCI in Tripura is 7.715 tonnes. I would like to ask how much of this stock is considered by the Quality Control Office as sub-standard and unfit for human consumption. What is the usual practice of FCI in dealing with such foodstuffs?

These are my questions because nearly 60 per cent of the land of Tripura is under forests.

**RAO BIRENDRA SINGH:** So far as my information goes, all this stock is fit for human consumption. I have explained time and again that a part of it was discoloured and was not accepted by the consumers; but that is being segregated; only the good-coloured rice is separated for issue. During the last four months, the utilisation has been: in December only 800 tonnes were lifted by the Tripura Government; in January, the offtake was 'nil'—not a single kg. of food-grain was taken by the State Government from the FCI godown.....

**SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY:** Because of this quality.

**RAO BIRENDRA SINGH:** No, you did not need it because Tripura itself produces about three lakh tonnes of rice; you did not want anything. You know it very well.

In February, 1400 tonnes were lifted. If it was not fit for consumption

as you say, then 1400 tonnes would not have been lifted.

About March, we do not have the figures as to the quantity lifted because the Tripura Government has not, so far, sent any information as to how much they have lifted.

So, this is the position about the last four months.....

PROF. MADHU DANAVATE (Rajapur): They have lifted because bad food is better than no food.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: No. If there was shortage, they could have utilised the 5,000 tonnes which they have in their own stock; that, they are entitled to use till such time as it is replenished by the Food Corporation of India. But they have not even had the necessity to touch their own stock so far. That means, the stock position is comfortable.

SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRA-BORTY: They have already exhausted their stock for Food-for-Work Programme....

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: No. For Food-for-Work Programme, you will be surprised to know, we have issued during the last one year 11,35,000 tonnes of foodgrains free for Tripura....

PROF. MADHU DANAVATE: Now we know why Maharashtra did not get it.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: You better check up your figures.

SHRI SATYA SADHAN CHAKRA-BORTY: Is it 11 lakh or 11 thousand? Now I understand why your statistics are always wrong.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: My papers show 11 lakh tonnes.

I will check up. It must be 11 thousand; it is wrongly stated in the paper:...

SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRA-BORTY: This shows how you are misled by your people.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: This has been wrongly given by the Department. I was doubtful, but this says '...in lakh tonnes'. It is wrong. It must be 11,035. (Interruptions)

Anyway, even during the worst drought period there was no shortage of foodgrains in Tripura—we have seen the worst period, the most difficult period, in Tripura, 1979-80 after the drought.... (Interruptions)

SHRI AJOY BISWAS: Your Committee recommended 25,000 tonnes, but you sent only 11,000 tonnes.... (Interruptions)

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: The latest figure supplied to me by the Department is that 14,777 tonnes have been given under the Food-for-Work Programme and National Rural Employment Programme; apart from this, 10,000 tonnes, I remember, were given under instructions from the Home Ministry for the refugee for utilisation in camps; that was also a grant by the Central Government—10,000 tonnes which were given a few months back. So, we have been doing all that we can to help Tripura get over their difficulties.

SHRI MUKUNDA MANDAL: What about storage?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: Storage is more than sufficient.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, Reports of the Public Accounts Committee..... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I am not allowing. I have gone to the next item.