

श्री राम सेवक हजारी : जहाँ तक रेल मार्गों के निर्माण का प्रश्न है उसमें बिहार के जो पिछड़े हुए क्षेत्र हैं उनकी उपेक्षा की जा रही है। इसमें सक्की हसनपुर रेल लाइन का मैं उल्लेख करना चाहूंगा। उसको लिया जाना चाहिए था लेकिन उस लाइन को उन्होंने नहीं लिया है।

सभापति महोदय, मैं बतलाना चाहता हूँ कि रेलों की जो भाय होती है, जो रेवेन्यू घाता है उसमें छे छः परसेंट बिहार से घाता है। उसमें भी बिहार में जो समस्तीपुर मण्डल है उस मण्डल में जहाँ यह हसनपुर सक्की रेलवे लाइन बनने वाली है सग से अधिक भ्रामवनी हसनपुर से घाती है। लेकिन वना होने पर भी उन्होंने उसको नहीं लिया है, आपकी यह नीति रही है, आपका यह विश्वास रहा है और आपने मौलिक आश्वासन भी दिया था कि [सक्की बना दिया जाएगा। उसके आघार पर मैंने आपने निर्वाचन क्षेत्र में जहाँ यह रेल मार्ग बनने वाला है कह भी दिया था कि यह लाइन बनने वाली पुनः जग में आप से मिला तो आपने कहा कि यह शुरू नहीं होगी। मेरा निवेदन है कि आपने वाले बजट में जिन रेल मार्गों का भाय निर्माण कार्य हाथ में लेने वाले हैं, उसमें हसनपुर से सक्करप रेलवे लाइन का निर्माण आप अवश्य शुरू कर दें। यदज आपने ऐसा नहीं किया तो वहाँ के लोगों को बड़ी निराशा होगी।

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

श्री राम सेवक हजारी : मैं अभी तक बोला ही क्या हूँ ? अभी तो तांच मिन्द ही नहीं हुए हैं ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Janardhana Poojary.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY (Mangalore) : Madam Chairman, I am not speaking.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You please continue your speech after the Half-an-Hour discussion at 6 p.m. Now the House will take up Half-an-Hour discussion regarding higher procurement prices for paddy and coarse grains.

HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION

PROCUREMENT PRICES OF PADDY AND COARSE GRAINS

SHRI O.V. ALAGESAN (Arkonam) : The question of procurement price of paddy has been agitating the people of all the rice growing States. It is not only the southern States which grow rice. Now, you have northern States like Haryana, U.P., Bihar, Punjab etc. which are growing rice. So this problem is there in the north also. I would like the hon. Minister to look into this problem somewhat more sympathetically than he has been doing hitherto.

The Chief Ministers of seven States represented to the Central Government and to the Minister for Agriculture in particular that the procurement price of paddy should be raised from the present level upto anything like Rs. 137.50 per quintal.

What have they done ? They have raised the price from Rs. 77 to Rs. 85 and even the hon. Minister tried to show on the floor of the House as if this is a very big rise and the rice-growing States should be satisfied with it.

17.32 hrs.

[SHRI DHIRENDRANATH BASU in the Chair]

Here, Sir, is the discrimination which being practised against the rice growing States vis-a-vis the wheat growing States; and this discrimination is only too obvious.

For instance, if you take the year 1969—70 and now, that is 1978—79.—for nearly a ten year period—What happens? In 1969—70 the wheat price was Rs.76 At that time the paddy price was Rs.56, Rs.20 Less. The price of wheat is fixed at 35% more than the price of paddy. In 1978—79 also the same situation continues.

You have fixed the paddy price at Rs. 85 and wheat price at Rs. 115. This is also 35% more than the paddy price. Over this period of 10 year if paddy price had increased by 51 per cent, wheat has also increased by 51 per cent. So you have been maintaining this difference of 35% in procurement prices between wheat and rice. I would like to submit that this discrimination should not be permitted to continue any more. How were these procurement prices for paddy and wheat fixed ? They are fixed by the Agricultural Prices Commission. My hon. friend Mr Naidu put a question and got an answer.

from the Government in this connection. He asked as to how many farmer representatives are sitting on the Agricultural Prices Commission and the answer was given that there is only one farmer representative. They may be very earned, of course, but they cannot feel intensely about the difficulties of the farmers to fix remunerative prices for them. That is the position. There is big discrimination in the matter of giving subsidy. Who are the people who are concerned with this? The wheat producers and wheat consumers on one side and the rice producers and rice consumers on the other side. You have now fixed the price which will help the wheat farmer much more than the farmer who produces rice. Let us see what subsidy has been given to the wheat growers. You have given hundreds of crores of subsidy to them over the year. I have got the figures for 3 years. Even this amount of subsidy for three years has come to more than Rs. 500 crores.

For instance, the subsidy that was given to wheat in 1975-76 was Rs. 211 crores approximately. I am omitting the fractions. In 1976-77, the subsidy that was given for wheat was Rs. 145 crores. In 1977-78 up till the end of February, without taking into account the month of March, that is for 11 months, the Central Government has given a subsidy of Rs. 156 crores. If you add the figures of these three years, it works out to more than Rs. 500 crores. Now, let us find out subsidy has been given to rice in the year 1976-76. While you gave a subsidy of Rs. 211 crores for wheat, there is a minus subsidy of Rs. 1.40 crores for paddy. What does it mean? The Government has made a profit of Rs. 1.40 crores in procuring rice and then distributing the same. It has made a profit where as they have given a subsidy of Rs. 211 crores for the benefit of wheat growers and wheat consumers. But they have made a profit of Rs. 1.40 crores in the transaction of paddy or rice. Similarly in the year 1977-78, they have made a profit of Rs. 5.56 crores in the case of paddy. In that year for 11 months, they have given a subsidy of Rs. 156 crores to wheat growers and wheat consumers. But they have made a profit of Rs. 5.56 crores in the matter of transaction relating to paddy and rice. So, it goes on like that. It is there on the face of it this discrimination you make between the wheat producer and the rice producer. It is not only the Southern States like Andhra Pradesh or Tamil Nadu that are growing rice. Now Punjab has started growing rice. Haryana is growing rice and most of the rice that has been procured has been procured in these two States. Then only comes Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. Perhaps Tamil Nadu comes last. So, when I talk about higher procurement price

for rice, it does not mean I am pleading only for the Southern States, I plead for the Northern States as well. It is not a matter which we have been agitating for the first time, My friend, Mr. V.B. Raju in the Rajya Sabha, who hails from Andhra Pradesh and also many M.P.s have given a Memorandum with regard to this and they have pleaded very strongly for the increase in the procurement price of paddy. Now, I would like to tell you another fact relating to this. The subsidy per quintal is Rs. 23.39 for wheat and per quintal subsidy for rice is only four paise. Four paise subsidy is given to the rice and Rs. 23.39 are given as subsidy per quintal for the wheat growers or the wheat consumers. The subsidy for coarse grains is about Rs. 13.0. This is the position and on what basis the price are fixed? It is fixed on the basis of the cost of cultivation of wheat and paddy. Now, let us see whether there is any difference, whether it costs much more to cultivate wheat of one hectare or whether it costs much less to grow paddy in one hectare. These are the figures which relate to the year 1975-76. For wheat, in Punjab the cost of cultivation comes to Rs. 26.32, in Madhya Pradesh, it comes to Rs. 1,288, in Rajasthan it comes to Rs. 2064 per hectare in U.P. it comes to Rs. 2586. So, in all these four States it varies from Rs. 1300 per hectare to about Rs. 2600 per hectare.

The range is between Rs. 1300 and Rs. 2600. What does it cost to cultivate paddy in one hectare in the same year, 1975-76 in Karnataka, it is Rs. 2600/— Almost the same as the cost of wheat cultivation in Punjab. In Andhra Pradesh, it is Rs. 2193. In Tamil Nadu, it is Rs. 1754/— In Tamil Nadu the figure given is for the year 1973-74. I have got the figures of cost of cultivation of paddy in the northern States, but I do not want to tire the House with them. It will thus be seen that as far as cultivation cost is concerned, there is no difference between paddy and wheat. To grow paddy in one hectare, the cost in Andhra Pradesh is Rs. 2600/— and to grow wheat in Punjab it is Rs. 2600/— Then how is it that you fix a price having a difference of Rs. 30/— between the two? You give Rs. 85/— for paddy, and Rs. 115/ for wheat —which means a difference of Rs. 30/—.

We have put questions on this, and the same answer is given; and some justification is sought to be given. There is a case for raising the procurement price of paddy. The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has asked for Rs. 129/- per quintal of paddy; and other Chief Ministers have also asked for the same, from the Central Government. We don't want the issue price to be raised at all. Just as the issue price of wheat was not raised when they went on

[Shri O.V. Alagesan]

increasing the procurement price of wheat, we do not want the issue price of rice to be increased. Otherwise, the consumers will be put to difficulty. You raise the procurement price of paddy; and if there is difference, then we have to make it up by subsidy. When you are giving crores and crores of rupees for wheat-growers, why not give the same subsidy to paddy-growers? They also feed the country, as much as the wheat-growing States do. So, there is a clear case for increasing the procurement price of paddy. All the Chief Ministers of rice-growing States have urged this matter, almost with one voice. Formerly, it was only Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh which were asking for a higher procurement price for paddy. Now there are 7 Chief Ministers of States. All of them have urged that the procurement price for paddy should be increased.

It is a matter of satisfaction that the man at the helm of affairs in the Ministry of Agriculture is a practising farmer himself and I think in his farm, he is cultivating paddy also. He should know it more intimately than any of the members of the Agricultural Prices Commission. So, I don't want him to be guided by the figures of his officers, or by the figures of the officers of APC. He should be guided by his own practical experience and give a higher procurement price for paddy.

SHRI C. K. JAFFAR SHARIEF (Bangalore North) : I do not know, after the Minister has replied, whether the House will be adjourned or not.

MR. CHAIRMAN : After the Ministers reply, we will have four Members who will put questions ; their names are here.

SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF : I have got one submission.

Will you permit me after that ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is not possible. This is half-an-hour discussion, as you know.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA) : The hon. Member has tried to put forward a case for raising prices of paddy, support price of paddy. But the basis taken for that is that there has been discrimination between the price of wheat and the price of paddy. So, on that basis, he has tried to build up his case.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : On the cost of cultivation. Kindly do not misrepresent me.

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA : And on that basis, he has stated that it should be raised, though he has not stated to what extent it should be raised. He said, one of the Chief Ministers has asked for Rs. 127 for paddy. So, it should be given to that extent ; it possible, it may be increased further. But he has very positively stated that the issue price should not be raised ; the issue price should be kept as it is today and the rest of the amount should be met by subsidy. My contention is that this argument that there is discrimination has no foundation, no basis absolutely.

The hon. Member has not mentioned that there was a time in the history of India when the paddy and wheat prices were the same ; he has not mentioned any time ; may be 20 years back, may be 50 years back, he should have said something that there was a time when the prices of paddy and wheat were the same. To my knowledge, the prices of wheat and paddy were never the same, because of the reason that wheat is a finished product, as we purchase it from the market. But paddy is not a finished product. Paddy has to be shelled and 30 per cent of it is lost in the process ; and what we receive is only about 70 per cent. Seventy per cent is the highest yield. Normally, we get about 65-67 per cent. This is the rice we get out of paddy. So, we have to compare the prices of rice and wheat of the finished product. Then the price of rice will be prevailing higher than the wheat prices. Even now, it is prevailing higher than the wheat prices.

Then he has tried to compare some figures, giving figures of 1969-70 or 1970-71. I will try to dispel that argument also. In 1970-71, the mean wheat price was Rs. 75 to 76 when mean paddy price was Rs. 53. Now the wheat price has been raised in 1978-79 to Rs. 112.50 and paddy price has been raised to Rs. 85. This means that a rise in wheat price during the course of these 9 years is about 50 per cent. But in the case of paddy, the rise in prices is 60.40 per cent. So, that is the comparison. It is not 50 : 50 as my hon. friend was saying. In the case of wheat, rise has been upto date 50 per cent and in the case of paddy, it has been 60.40 per cent.

Now the rice was selling in 1970-71 at Rs. 85 which was about Rs. 10 more than wheat because wheat was selling at Rs. 75 at that time. Now the rise price, that is mean issue price is Rs. 140. That means there has been rise in the rice prices of 64.70 per cent. So, I would say that there has been no discrimination ; rather there has been a support in the case of rice and paddy. Rice and paddy, in fact, have got a better deal in these years,

particularly this year. This year, suddenly, there was a rise of Rs. 3 per quintal in the case of paddy and Rs. 13 in the case of rice which was the highest ever made in the recent years.

He has mentioned some figures stating that the cost of production in wheat and paddy is the same. Now about that also, there is . . .

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : That is supplied by the Government.

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA : I do not challenge that. He has mentioned that the cost per acre of cultivation of wheat in Punjab is Rs. 2,632 and similarly of paddy in Karnataka is Rs. 2,600. In the same breath he has said that the cost of cultivation in Tamil Nadu is Rs. 1,755, which is Rs. 900 less than that of the Karnataka figure. In that case, the price fixed for Karnataka should have been much more. I do not know on what basis he is calculating that. So, the cost of cultivation of one hectare does not mean anything. In rain-fed area it would be much less than in irrigated areas, where the cost of production would go high. Similarly, it depends on inputs like fertilizers, pesticides etc. Then, after spending Rs. 2,600 what is the yield which the farmer is getting. It is only after knowing all these things that one can calculate whether a farmer is gaining or losing. A mere mention of the cost of production per hectare for rice or wheat does not mean anything.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : I have referred to what has been taken into consideration by the Agricultural Prices Commission, which is relevant. If the Hon. Minister thinks it does not mean anything, I have nothing to say.

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA : The Agricultural Prices Commission looks into the yield also, apart from the cost of cultivation per hectare, be it rice or wheat. They find out whether the yield is 2 tonnes, 2½ tonnes or 3 tonnes and then arrive at the price. So, the basis of calculation of my hon. friend is wrong.

We have provided this year Rs. 8 extra for paddy. We are also providing a subsidy. Now the subsidy for rice is going to be Rs. 13 per quintal whereas the subsidy for wheat will come down from Rs. 23.50 to Rs. 17 per quintal.

श्री सखन लाल कपूर (पूजिया) : सभापति महोदय, माननीय मंत्री महोदय ने जो दलील दी है, वह उचित नहीं है। माननीय मंत्री जो स्वयं एक एग्रीकल्चरिस्ट हैं, मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि गेहूँ की फसल एक हेक्टर में कितनी होती है और एक

हेक्टर में धान कितना होता है इसको देखना चाहिए। गेहूँ और धान—दोनों फसलों में अन्तर पड़ता है, एक हेक्टर में गेहूँ की फसल ज्यादा होती है और धान की फसल कम होती है जब कि धान की खेती में खाद, बीज, पेस्टिटाइड्स तथा मेहनत ज्यादा लगती है बनिस्वत गेहूँ की फसल के। इसलिए यह कहना सही नहीं है कि धान की प्राइस ज्यादा मिलती है।

दूसरी बात यह है कि प्राप 85 रुपये प्रति क्विंटल धान की कीमत देते हैं जब कि बाजार में 200 और 250 रुपये प्रति क्विंटल पर खाने वाला नाबख मिलता है। जैसा कि आपने कहा तीस परसेंट का भास होता है एक क्विंटल में उसके हिसाब से भी अगर प्राप प्राइस को जोड़ेंगे तो आपको पता लगेगा कि जो मार्केट प्राइस है उससे कितनी कम प्राइस पैदी प्रोग्रस को मिलती है। इसका मतलब यह है कि मिडिलमैन और सरकार के द्वारा जो खरीद की जाती है उसमें किसानों का शोषण होता है। धान में किसान का बीज, खाद और श्रम भी ज्यादा लगता है। इसके अलावा एक बात और भी है कि 70 परसेंट लैंडहोल्डिंग्स जो हैं वह 30-35 परसेंट जमीन पर छोटे छोटे किसान हैं और 65 परसेंट खेती पर 30 परसेंट किसान हैं। ऐसे जो बड़े लोग हैं उन के पास दूसरे सबसे डियरी वर्क्स हैं, घन्घे हैं और एक्सट्राइन्कम की व्यवस्था है। साथ ही बड़े होने के नाते इन के पास क्विपमेण्ट्स भी ज्यादा होते हैं, इस लिये उन को कम पैसा पुसा सकता है, लेकिन जो छोटा किसान है, जिस के पास बीज के लिए पैसा नहीं है, खाद नहीं खरीद सकता है, अच्छा पानी नहीं दे सकता है, उन को ज्यादा खर्च करना पड़ता है, लेकिन उन को रिज्यूनेरेटिव प्राइस नहीं मिलती है—मेरी दृष्टि में यह शोषण है। इस लिये जो गेहूँ का मूल्य है, वही धान का होना चाहिए यह मैं मांग करता हूँ।

डा० रामजी सिंह (भागलपुर) : हमारे माननीय अलमेशन माटव ने जो कहा है कि धान की कीमत ज्यादा होनी चाहिए, वस्तुतः यदि हम ध्यान से देखें तो 4.5 मिलियन टन धान का जो प्रोक्वोरमेन्ट है, उस में 3.5 मिलियन टन तो केवल पंजाब, हरियाणा और उत्तर प्रदेश से आता है, इसलिए यदि हम उस को बड़ा भी दें, तो उस से सदर्न-स्टेट्स को विशेष लाभ नहीं होगा। प्राप देखिए—उन के यहां से प्रकाशित हिन्दू प्रबन्धकार लिखता है—

“The Chief Ministers of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala which contribute very little to the Central pool, should be aware of the fact that their farmers have very little to gain directly by any increase of the Central procurement price for rice.”

दूसरी बात मुझे यह निवेदन करनी है कि छूट सबसिडी से कुछ भास क्षेत्र के लोगों को फायदा होता है। 1977 में 5.7 मिलियन टन छूट का प्रोक्वोरमेन्ट हुआ था, जिस में नार्दन स्टेट्स

[श्री० रायजी सिंह]

से 1.6 मिलियन टन जो 2 परसेण्ट है, इस्टिमेटेड से 16 परसेण्ट और सवन से 37 परसेण्ट हुआ। इस लिए गेहूँ का दाम ज्यादा है और चावल का दाम कम है—यह बागी इकनामिकली बाउथ-नार्थ की बागी नहीं है।

इस लिए हम कृषि मंत्री जी से यह पूछना चाहते हैं कि जहाँ तक चावल का सम्बन्ध है—हमारे मंत्री जी स्वयं एक अच्छे और अनुभवी किसान हैं—वे जानते हैं कि गेहूँ के मुकाबले जो धान की पैदावार होती है, उस में ज्यादा मेहनत होती है, ज्यादा रिस्क होता है और ज्यादा समय भी लगता है—तो क्या धान की कास्ट ग्रॉइकेशन को ध्यान में रखते हुए और जैसा एग्रीकल्चर प्राइस कमीशन की रिपोर्ट में और खास पर डिसेण्टिंग नोट में उन्होंने पैसी की प्राइस बढ़ाने की बात कही है—क्या इन चीजों की बातों को ध्यान में रखते हुए—

Rice is not a finished product, cultivation is very tedious, there is greater risk in growing paddy.

और चौथी बात जैसा एग्रीकल्चर प्राइस कमीशन ने अपनी रिपोर्ट में कहा है—उस को प्रपोजनेटली बढ़ावेंगे।

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA (Tumkur) : My hon. friend Shri Alagesan, has raised a very important question namely remunerative price for paddy and coarse grains but the hon. Minister did not reply properly regarding coarse grains.

18 hrs.

There should be no discrimination between paddy and wheat growing areas, and the country should not be divided on these lines by different prices being fixed for them by the Government of India. This is what they are successfully doing. They want to play politics. But I do not want this kind of discrimination to be meted out at any time by the heads of the Government, either this Government or the previous Government or the coming Government very shortly. The Chief Ministers of the Southern States have met in a Conference and they are demanding a more remunerative price for paddy grown in Southern States. I have respect for the hon. Minister, he is a sober and good man.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please come to the question.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA : It is a question which concerns millions of rice-eaters in the South. The farmers are forced to make distress sale of their produce. The small farmers should be represented on the Agricultural Prices Commission, their

knowledge and practical difficulties should be shared by the Agricultural Prices Commission while fixing the prices. When there is a distress sale, the Government of India is incapable of increasing the market and arrange for the export of rice to the gulf countries. The Government of India, in spite of the demands by the Southern States, is not giving remunerative prices and definite help is not coming.

We will not be satisfied with this kind of evasive replies. I would like to know whether remunerative prices for paddy would be fixed in accordance with the demands of the Chief Ministers of the Southern States and whether the Minister realises that fixation of prices should be done on the basis of practical experience of the farmers and whether he would put more farmers on the Agricultural Prices Commission to meet the situation.

The third question is, whether the Government would, when there is distress sale, try to find market outside for the produce of the farmers by exporting to Gulf countries so that the farmers get remunerative prices. These three questions should be answered properly.

श्री युवराज (फटिहार) : सभापति महोदय, मैं एक बुनियादी सवाल पूछना चाहता हूँ कि कास्ट ग्रॉइकेशन बरी करती रहती है। एक साल पहले जो फटिलाहजर की कीमत थी, जो कीमत किसान देते थे उस में अभी 20 प्रतिशत की बढ़ि हो गई है। यह केवल दक्षिण और पूर्व के राज्यों का प्रश्न नहीं है। प्रथम से ले कर मेघालय तक जिन राज्यों में धान पैदावार की ज्यादा होती है, वहाँ को जनता की क्रयशक्ति कम है। (व्यवधान)

PROF. P.G. MAVALANKAR (Gandhinagar) : The discussion on the Demands for Excess Grants (Railways) was to continue from 6 O'clock. Kindly, therefore, take the sense of the House to continue the half-an-hour discussion and then we can continue with the half-an-hour discussion.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Is it the pleasure of the House to extend the time for the half-an-hour discussion by then minutes?

HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Yuvraj, you can continue.

श्री युवराज : सभी एग्रीकल्चरल इनपुट्स की कीमतें बढ़ रही हैं। इधर साल भर में फटिलाहजर, बीज, पानी, बिजली आदि सब बढ़ते बढ़ते बढ़ गई हैं और आपने पैसी का मूल्य 85 रुपये क्विंटल निर्धारित किया है जो निश्चित रूप से अर्थव्यवस्था के लिए, बिल्कुल अनुचित है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इन बढ़ती हुई कीमतों को देखते हुए और इसको देखते हुए

कि किसान ज्यादा उत्पादन कर सके और उसको कुछ लाभ भी मिल सके, क्या आप इस कीमत को बढ़ाने की कृपा करेंगे ?

श्री सुरजीत सिंह बरनाला : एक माननीय सदस्य ने कहा है कि चावल की कीमत दो सौ और आठ सौ रुपया हो गई है। जो बढ़िया किस्म का चावल है उसकी इतनी कीमत हो सकती है। लेकिन साधारण धादमी जिस चावल को खाता है उसकी कीमत वहीं बढ़ी है और जो इन्फ्रा प्राइस है 150 या 170 रुपया वह ही चली आ रही है। जहां जरूरत होती है वहां इसको पहुंचाते जाते हैं, रिमोटैस्ट पार्ट में भी पहुंचाते हैं और इसी प्राइस पर इन्फ्रा करते हैं।

श्री डा० रामसिंह जी की बात से सहमत हूँ कि ऐसा खयाल कभी नहीं घाना चाहिए कि यह चावल है या नहीं और यह हाउस है या यह नार्थ है। लेकिन कुछ लोग हैं जो इसको साउथ और नार्थ का सवाल बना लेते हैं। ऐसी बात नहीं होनी चाहिये (व्यवधान) सक्क्या साहब कहते हैं कि हम ऐसी बात नहीं कर रहे हैं लेकिन करते जा रहे हैं।

So far as the question of food production is concerned, such things should never come in politics should never come in so far as agriculture and food is concerned. Every person in the country, whether he belongs to any party or any affiliation, needs food and it is our duty to supply food to all the parts of the country and to all the States of the country. This is our endeavour. Fortunately, so far we have been succeeding in that.

A suggestion was made by Mr. Lakka-ppa that some exports should be made. I may inform the hon. Members that exports are being made. We are exporting wheat and we are also exporting rice for the first time, as Dr. Ranji Singh said. We started exporting last year and we are exporting some wheat and rice this year also. We have already exported rice and we are exporting more rice and wheat to neighbouring countries and to some far-off countries also. We are trying to find markets outside for our rice and wheat. Personally, I am of the opinion that we are, in the coming few years, going to produce much more quantities of rice and wheat than what we are producing now. We are hoping to have a bumper crop, a good crop. Of course, after meeting our

requirements, we are to find an export market. We are already doing it.

We are thinking of exporting other agricultural commodities also.

There was a mention about the coarse grain also. The price of coarse grain has also been raised from Rs. 74 to Rs. 85 that is, an increase of Rs. 11 in one year. This is also a historical fact. Never before it has been raised to that extent. We are also trying to arrange for procurement. We have asked the State Governments to procure on behalf of the FCI. Wherever necessary, we have also opened centres in various States for procurement.

SHRI G.K. JAFFER SHARIEF (Bangalore North) : Sir, I have a submission to make. Yesterday, in the evening there were a lot of police officers and the police force within the jurisdiction of the Parliament House. I would like to know whether those police officers and the police force was with the permission to the Speaker. As a matter of fact, Mr. Antulay, a member of the other House, questioned the police officers.....(Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN : This question was raised in the morning. You must give notice. I am not allowing that, Please take your seat.

The House will now take up further consideration of the Demands for Excess Grants (Railways) and the Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways).

Shri Janardhana Poojary to continue his speech.

DEMANDS FOR EXCESS GRANTS (RAILWAYS), 1976-77

AND

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (RAILWAYS), 1978-79—contd.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY (Mangalore) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am not speaking in a sense of confrontation, but with pain and sorrow, and I shall deal with the bonus issue. Before doing so, I seek your permission to speak in Kannada.

*Shri Madhu Dandavate and Shri George Fernandes who were the prominent leaders of labourers and Railway employees in the year 1974 conducted several strikes.