

(c) whether the price rise has been made with the consent of Government; and

(d) if so, the justification therefor and the steps Government propose to take against the soap manufacturers?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI DALBIR SINGH):

(a) to (d). The increase in prices of toilet and washing soaps have been allowed by the Government with effect from 20th July 1973 due to rise in prices of both indigenous oils and imported fatty materials required for the production of soap. The increases are as follows:—

i) Laundry Soap (Bar per kg.)	42 Paise
ii) Laundry Soap (Cake of 150 gms.)	6 Paise.
iii) Carbohc Soap (Cake of 150 gms.)	9 Paise.
iv) Popular Toilet Soap (Cake of 102 gms.)	11 Paise.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

REPORTED DESTRUCTION OF WHEAT SEEDS WORTH ONE CRORE OF RUPEES BY THE NATIONAL SEEDS CORPORATION

DR. RANEN SEN (Barasat): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Agriculture to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:—

“The reported destruction of wheat seeds worth one crore of rupees by the National Seeds Corporation.”

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI F. A. AHMED): The reported news item regarding the statement made by the Chairman, National Seeds Corporation, about the destruction of wheat seeds worth about Rs. one crore by the Corporation, has come to the notice of the Government of India.

The fact has been ascertained from the Chairman of the National Seeds Corporation. While answering questions put to him by correspondents

at Bhopal, he had only stated that during the course of the last few years, the Corporation had to condemn seeds of hybrid millets and other crops valued at Rs. one crore. since the viability and germination capacity of these seeds had gone to a level lower than the standards adopted by the Corporation. This statement has obviously been misunderstood to mean destruction of wheat seeds worth Rs. one crore.

The National Seeds Corporation normally, ~~do not destroy~~ condemned seeds of food crops. The N.S.C. does not sell any sub-standard seeds for use as seed. Seeds, which fall below the minimum germination standard, are condemned and disposed of, for use other than seed.

The National Seeds Corporation was established as the principal agency for promoting the development of a sound seed industry in the country and as such, it has been playing a leading role in making foundation seed available for raising certified seeds. As the principal foundation seed agency, the Corporation had in previous years, been producing foundation seeds with reference to the targets fixed under the High-yielding Varieties Programmes in the Fourth Five Year Plan. Sufficient quantities of seeds were produced in the years 1966-67 to 1968-69 for meeting the foundation seed requirements of hybrid crops under the High-yielding Varieties Programme. To the extent, therefore, there was a shortfall in achieving the targets under the High-yielding Varieties Programme, the National Seeds Corporation was left with surplus stocks of foundation seeds. Since seeds are subject to the phenomenon of ageing, seeds had to be condemned over the last few years, as they progressively fell below the minimum standards. Thus, over the last few years, seeds worth about Rs. one crore have been condemned and disposed of.

[Shri F. A. Ahmed]

The National Seeds Corporation has since revised its method of assessing market demand for the various varieties of seeds, to obviate such heavy losses. Among other things, it now insists on a firm indent a year in advance from State Governments and other Seed Production Agencies and takes up production programmes accordingly.

DR. RANEN SEN: Which the country is in need of adequate amount of good seeds and improved seeds, from the statement and from the newspaper reports, it is quite evident that the Seeds Corporation (which was established in the year 1966) has not played its role properly. In the statement made by the Minister there is an anomalous position taken by the Minister himself. He said "The Corporation had to condemn seeds of hybrid millets and other crops valued at Rs. one crore. In the next sentence he says: "The statement has obviously been misunderstood to mean destruction of wheat." It is not clear and what I would like to know is, what he means by condemnation and destruction. By condemnation does he mean that they were kept in godowns and warehouses but were not destroyed? So this is a very intriguing point which arises out of this statement which he has given.

In the second page last sentence he has said, 'Over the last few years seeds worth about Rs. one crore have been condemned and disposed of. What is the meaning of the words 'disposed of'? So this statement is a little anomalous. In the statement itself it is said it is not sold. They were sub-standard. The second point that I want to know is this. Is it not a fact that only 10 per cent of wheat seeds produced last year were to be treated which would have saved them from destruction? There is definite evidence of sabotage done inside warehouses or in the treatment plants or whatever it is, which resulted in destruction or which resulted in condemnation of this thing.

Thirdly, is it not a fact that there is a lot of dissatisfaction among the employees? Serious charges have been levelled to the effect that there have been favouritism, not proper promotion not proper selection-grades, etc. etc. Is it a fact or not that two years back employees made a representation to the Ministry and the Minister more or less agreed with the suggestion of the employees: stated in the memorandum? In spite of that, even after 2 years, the employees' memorandum has not been replied to. The Minister made an assurance saying that a Committee will be set up headed by a Member of Parliament. But that assurance has not been fulfilled and that Committee has not yet been set up.

The last point that I would like to know from the hon. Minister is this. I have got here with me the 9th Annual Report and the Statement of Accounts for 1971-72. The Chairman's address here looks a little funny. He says:

"The emphasis has been placed rightly so on the active employment of private sector in certification of seeds production. It would, however, be dangerous to completely eliminate the public sector from this role."

I was under the impression that the weight of the public sector will be more on gradual elimination of the private sector in the other field. Here, it seems that the Chairman suffers from the fact that he allows the public sector to continue as a decoration. In the Annual Report I have with me, page 11, the last sentence reads:—

"Unfortunately, however, it has been noticed that like the enforcement of the Seed Act, the certification work also has become an additional duty for most of the department's hierarchy in the State Governments. This is proving a drag on the development of seed programme."

Here also it looks a little frunny that even after six or seven years from the existence of the Act, the Chairman is in a dilemma as to find out who is responsible for this certification and development of quality seeds. Lastly, I want to put one more point. I think the whole matter has to be properly gone into. The statement made by him would not satisfy the House. As I have pointed out earlier, there are contradictions in the statement. In regard to the employees' demands, and in regard to the functions of the Seeds Corporation and development of seeds, the demand is that a proper enquiry committee should be set up. May I know whether the Government is prepared to go into this question?

SHRI F. A. AHMED: So far as the statement of the Chairman is concerned, that is with regard to the writing off or destroying the seeds worth one crore of rupees. The hon. Member actually raised matters which are not relevant to the statement which has been asked for from me. I would like to refer to his two statements—one is about what is meant by condemnation of seeds or what is meant by destruction or disposal of seeds. May I say that so far as condemnation is concerned, it only means that the seed falls below the Corporation's standards of germination. They should not be sold as seeds. So far as destruction is concerned, these seeds are not destroyed but they are disposed of as poultry or cattle feed and not for consumption purposes.

As regards the other question, namely, the grievances of employees may inform him that a Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Gadgil, M.P., has been set up. It has met a number of times. He has been asked to submit its report by the end of September, 1973. When it is available, we shall take necessary action in the matter.

So far as the relevant question is concerned, namely whether seeds worth Rs. 1 crores of wheat have been destroyed or disposed of or have been written off. I may inform him that so far as the figures available with us are concerned, from 1963 when this corporation started till 1972, only seeds worth Rs. 51,000 of wheat were written off. This figure of Rs. 1 crore relate to seeds with regard to hybrid jowar, bajra, maize and jute and all other varieties and so on, and it does not concern wheat as has been stated in the press report.

DR. RANEN SEN: I had also raised the question of duplication of work as between the Seeds Corporation and the State Government. How are Government going to solve this problem? I read out from the report earlier.

MR. SPEAKER: The agencies other than the Seeds Corporation have been mentioned in the statement already. I think the hon. Minister did refer to them in his statement. But if he wants to explain it, he may do so.

SHRI F. A. AHMED: I think the hon. Member is aware that according to the Act, the State Government are the certifying agencies. So far as the Seeds Corporation is concerned, it mainly concerns itself with producing foundation seeds and also producing some certified seeds. So far as the State Government are concerned, they take up production of certified seeds and they are also certifying agencies. There is no duplication of work, and the Seeds Corporation is doing very useful work.

SHRI VASANT SATHE (Akola): This case Brings out a glaring example of how a bureaucracy-dominated corporation works. The report is a public document, and if you see the report, you will find that the turnover of the corporation during the year rose to Rs. 529.27 lakhs....

MR. SPEAKER: It is not a general discussion on the report. The matter is very specific, namely, disposal of the seed.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: I am quoting precisely from that part of the report which deals with destruction of the seed. The report says:

"During the year, the corporation has written off stocks of the gross value of Rs. 70.37 lakhs, including foundation seed of hybrid of the value of Rs. 59.88 lakhs produced during 1966-67 and 1967-68."

This is the report for 1971-72, and so, they are writing off now the stock of 1966-67 and 1967-68. Then, it says:

"...which was made in the accounts for the year 1970-71, at the residual value of Rs. 12.9 lakhs..".

Now, see the travesty of the whole thing....

MR. SPEAKER: I am trying to content to connect it with the call-attention.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: You will do that immediately.
It further says:

"The net profit would thus have amounted to Rs. 56.25 lakhs on current account, but for write-off of accumulated stock of foundation-seed of hybrid valued at Rs. 55.34 lakhs. The matter of subsidising this loss is still under consideration of the Government."

This shows that Rs. 1 crore of seeds which were destroyed related to the stock accumulated from 1966 onwards. It was shown in the balance-sheet only to inflate the balance-sheet and show that they were still in profit. Does the hon. Minister not think that this method of accumula-

ing stocks of even condemned seeds, when he knows that a particular seed which has lost its germination value is of no use, is not fair?

I beg to differ with the Minister when he says that this is disposed of for other purposes. Now-a-days even this seed is poisoned in a particular way for preserving its germination value. This seed should not—scientists say should not—be given to poultry or cattle. Are you now giving it to poultry and cattle?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Then what will be the effect on poultry and cattle?

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur): That is why they are getting rotten eggs.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Only to show their value. How much did they get? This is a question directly related to this. So this rupees one crore worth of seed has to be destroyed. Did you suffer a loss on account of that? How do you suffer a loss? Kindly see the value of seed for three years 1969-70 to 1971-72. It is Rs. 103.46 lakhs out of which the residual value that they got by selling this seed, as you say, to poultry and cattle owners is Rs. 25.7 lakhs. The net loss was Rs. 78.40 lakhs. Do you not think this calls for a serious inquiry? Who is responsible for it? What are you going to do to the officials concerned?

The reason is this. The official appointed here as Managing Director is taken on deputation from some other department, some IAS person who has nothing to do with agriculture. He is to be there only for two years. During that period, he does not want to show any loss. Therefore, he shows even this stock as an asset in the balance sheet and the whole thing is inflated and you are not allowing it to be written off.

It was to the credit of the present Chairman who took charge in August 1971, who is an agriculturist, that he insisted that this stock must be written off. But for him, today you would have seen a profit of Rs. 50 lakhs in the balance sheet—on paper. What are you going to do about it?

The question that arises directly is: First, are you going to institute an inquiry into the working of the National Seeds Corporation to evaluate the work of the Chairman, Managing Director or anybody else. Where they had bungled to the extent of a crore of rupees, you sit silent. Are you going to be just passive witnesses to this whole thing? Therefore, my direct question is: When this thing has come to notice—it is a fraud, fraud on the exchequer, fraud on the public, fraud on the growers of seeds fraud on the producers, agriculturists—are you going to make an inquiry through a Parliamentary Committee? If the present Chairman is to blame, sack him. After all, his terms and conditions are not even settled. He has been given only a stenographer and a peon.

Another thing. Here is a Corporation which spends today instead of Rs. 12,000, which it used to be, on a building Rs. 22,000 per month on rent. The total expenditure on perquisites and wherewithal is Rs. 50,000 a month. Are you going to look into the working of this Corporation? I would urge upon you to immediately appoint a committee to inquire into the working of this Corporation, the Committee to consist of MPs, so that this loss does not recur?

SHRI F. A. AHMED: I am sure the hon. Member would not have raised these questions if the facts were before him.

As I mentioned earlier, there was a surplus of seeds in 1966-67, 1967-68 and 1968-69 because of an impression given to the Seeds Corporation that
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they were required to produce foundation seed of so much quantity and that was on the basis of the various programmes which were proposed to be undertaken by the seed farms and the Central Government in the following year. The hon. Members must also appreciate that foundation seeds cannot be produced unless and until at least two years' advance notice is given to them. On the basis of the information these foundation seeds, mostly of hybrid variety of maize, jowar and bajra but not mainly of wheat, were produced and they were being supplied from year to year. But, unfortunately, they were surplus, over and above the quantity, required by the State Governments and the Central Government. After a period of three or four years they become sub-standard and not fit for use so far as the seeds are concerned. Therefore, when they were condemned where they were not considered suitable for seed purposes, they were allowed to be disposed of, written off, so far as the Seeds Corporation is concerned.

It is not correct that in one particular year that much quantity was condemned. In 1969-70 some quantity was condemned; in 1970-71 some quantity was condemned; in 1971-72 some quantity was condemned. The total of all these seeds which were condemned came to the value of about Rs. 1 crore; Rs. 1,00,03,000 or something like that.

It was disposed of by selling it for other purposes.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: I beg your pardon. According to your figures, in 1969-70, the value written off was only Rs. 9.91 lakhs; in 1969-70, the value written off was only Rs. 9.91 lakhs; in 1970-71, it was Rs. 10.21 lakhs; but in 1971-72, it was Rs. 58.28 lakhs. That means major portion that was written off was in 1971-72. Why was the stock allowed to be accumulated for so many years?

SHRI F. A. AHMED: It was allowed to be accumulated because till that year this quantity was not considered unusable as seed. Only when it became sub-standard, it was disposed of. (Interruptions).

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Three years.

SHRI F. A. AHMED: Yes; for three or four years these seeds are kept.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Is that what your scientists say?

SHRI F. A. AHMED: When they found it was fit for other purposes, the seeds were disposed of. So, there is nothing wrong so far as the disposal in 1970-71 was concerned. And, as I said, the seeds were produced from 1966 to 1969. If the 1969 production was disposed of in 1971 and 1972, I do not see what wrong has been committed. That is very difficult for me to appreciate, from what the hon. Member is saying.

* Secondly, what I would like to point out is this. He said that wheat seeds worth one crore of rupees were condemned. According to the statement of the Chairman that has been denied. The value of the wheat seeds is only Rs. 51,000.

So far as his question with regard to the seeds which are supplied for purposes of poultry, etc., is concerned may I tell him that these seeds are disposed of for the purposes of poultry after they have been washed and then cleaned. Then they are supplied for other purposes and so on, and it is not actually a loss, that much quantity that has been written off, so far as the Corporation is concerned.

श्री मन्त्रिये (बांका) : अध्यक्ष महोदय प्रश्न एक है लेकिन पहलू ७ हैं। मैं मंत्री महोदय से कहना चाहता हूँ आज से सवा तीन सौ साल पहले या करीब साढ़े तीन सौ साल पहले संत तुकाराम ने शुद्ध बीज के महत्त्व को अपने अभंग में कहा था :

आधी बीज एकले,
शुद्ध बीज पोटी,
तर कोटी तर कोटी,
जन्म घेती,
प्राधी बीज एकले ।

लेकिन आश्चर्य की बात है कि साढ़े तीन सौ साल के बाद अभी इसका महत्त्व हमारी सरकार के ध्यान में नहीं आया ।

मैं केवल मुद्दे रखता हूँ ताकि समय बचे और मंत्री महोदय इकट्ठा जवाब दें ।

पहला मुद्दा यह है कि राज्य सभा में श्री शिन्दे ने कहा था कि यह टकनिकल आर्गेनाइजेशन है। जब यह टकनिकल आर्गेनाइजेशन है तो कृषि पंडितों और कृषि वैज्ञानिकों के अलावा जो आई० ए० एस० लोग हैं उनको मैनेजिंग डाइरेक्टर लगातार क्यों बनाया जा रहा है ?

सवा दो साल पहले जब इस कारपोरेशन के कर्मचारियों ने ग्राडिट के बारे में शिकायत की तो शिन्दे साहब ने राज्य सभा में बड़े ठाठ से जवाब दिया था कि स्पेशल ग्राडिट बोर्ड है, गलती कर नहीं सकती है, इसलिये यूनियन के कर्मचारियों के जो आक्षेप हैं वह बिल्कुल गलत हैं। अब जो सीड कारपोरेशन की नई रपट है उससे बिल्कुल स्पष्ट हो गया है कि ग्राडिट के लोगों ने जितनी सावधानी से अक्र-उंट्स को जांच करनी चाहिये थी वह नहीं की, और जो माल वास्तव में कंडेम करने के लायक था उसको वह अपने स्टॉक में बताते जा रहे थे और कृत्रिम ढंग से मुनाफा बढ़ाते जा रहे थे। तो जो उन्होंने यह कहा है कि उस समय यह स्टॉक खराब नहीं था, वह बिल्कुल गलत है। मैं यह पूछना चाहता हूँ कि क्या चेअरमैन ने आपसे यह नहीं कहा था कि :

"Proposals for condemnation of seeds were pending since 1968".

पांच साल से प्रपोजल रैंडिंग था और यह लोग जानबूझ कर निर्णय नहीं ले रहे थे ताकि कृत्रिम ढंग से स्टॉक में मुनाफा दिखाया जाये और कृत्रिम ढंग से यह बतलाया जाये कि कारपोरेशन बहुत अच्छे ढंग से चल रहा है ? ? ? जलस के बारे में कितना बिलम्ब हुआ है इस के लिये में कुछ उदाहरण देना चाहता था, लेकिन उसमें समय लगेगा। मगर मंत्री महोदय ने आपके मामले अभी गलत-बयानी की।

मेरा तीसरा मुद्दा यह है कि 1 करोड़ का घाटा हुआ। स्वयं मंत्री महोदय ने कबूल किया कि हाई ईलिंग वेरिटाई का जो कार्यक्रम था उसमें जो शार्टफाल हुआ, यह कार्यक्रम मंचर गति से चला, उसके कारण कारपोरेशन के पास अतिरिक्त बीज का सरप्लस स्टॉक हो गया और इस के चलने से वह खराब हो गया। इसमें जिम्मेदारी आप की है। आप फर्ज कीजिये एक करोड़ हेक्टेयर अनाज के अन्दर लाते हैं, लेकिन उसमें से मुश्किल से 2 लाख हेक्टेयर के लिये आप लोग अच्छा बीज, शुद्ध बीज दे पा रहे हैं, बानी 2 परसेंट से भी कम। वास्तव में वह 1.7 फी सदी ही है, लेकिन मैं हिसाब के लिये 2 लाख कह रहा हूँ। 2 प्रतिशत का लक्ष्य भी आप ने पूरा नहीं किया, जब कि आप को 100 फी सदी का इन्तजाम करना है। इसमें जो नुकसान हुआ है उसको कौन भरेगा ? क्या आप कारपोरेशन को यह नुकसान देंगे ?

खराब बीज के बारे में उन्होंने कहा कि वह मृगियों को खिलाया जाता है, लेकिन क्या मंत्री महोदय इस बात से इन्कार कर सकते हैं कि जो सीड एक्ट है उसमें जो कसौटियां रखी गई हैं उससे कम गुणवत्ता वाला सीड होते हुए, जो कंडम करने लायक था, क्या यह बात सही नहीं है कि जो मृगियों को खिलाया जाना चाहिये उसको आप आकेशन करते हैं, बीज के रूप में इस्तेमाल करते हैं ?

श्री एस० एम० बनर्जी : मृगियों को ही

नहीं जानवरों को भी दिया जा रहा है, उनका बस चले तो आदमियों को भी वह दिया जाये।

श्री मधु लिमये : मैं कह रहा हूँ कि न केवल मृगियों और जानवरों को यह खिलाया जा रहा है बल्कि सीड के तौर पर बांटा जा रहा है, राज्य सरकार द्वारा उसका आकेशन होता है। इस बात को आप काटें अगर हिम्मत हो।

मेरा पांचवा मुद्दा यह है कि सीड के बारे में जो कानून है उस के ऊपर सरकार ने कितना प्रमल किया ? कितने लोगों का चलान किया गया और कितने लोगों को सजा दी गई, मंत्री महोदय हम लोगों को इस की भी जानकारी दें।

छठवा मुद्दा यह है कि उन्होंने प्राइवेट एजेंसियों को भी मौका दिया है। नेशनल टनेज क्लब नाम की संस्था श्री सुब्रह्मण्यम के द्वारा कायम की गई। यह संस्था मामूली अनाज, ग्रेन, को सीड के तौर पर बेचती है, जो बिल्कुल इस कानून की हत्या और उल्लंघन है। इस के लिए आप ने क्या कार्यवाही की ? महाराष्ट्र में सीड बेचने वाले लोग हैं। उन लोगों ने सीधे अमराळा से गिफ्ट के तौर पर मंगवाया कोई परमिट नहीं था, सरकार की इजाजत नहीं थी। लेबोरेटरी में भी टेस्ट नहीं किया गया। ऐसा आदमी महाराष्ट्र के प्लेनिंग बोर्ड में लिया गया है।

सातवां मुद्दा मैं यह उठाना चाहता हूँ कि जिन किसानों को बीज उगाने का मौका दिया जाता है, समय समय पर इन्स्पेक्शन करके, उन के ऊपर निगरानी करके उन्हें सलाह नहीं दी जाती है। होता क्या है ? जब वह बीज तैयार होने लगता है तब यह कहा जाता है कि वह बीज ठीक नहीं है। किसानों को इसमें बड़ा नुकसान होता है।

अब मैं यह मुद्दा उठाना चाहता हूँ कि नेशनल सीड कारपोरेशन का जो कामकाज है उस में काफी त्रुटियां हैं। इस में सरकार द्वारा क्या जांच होगी, हम लोगों की एक पब्लिक

[श्री मधु लिमये]

ग्रन्डरटेकिंग कमेटी है जो इस चीज को देख सकती है। मंत्री महोदय जब इतनी लापरवाही बरत रहे हैं तो मैं आपसे जानना चाहूँगा कि नेशनल सीड कारपोरेशन की जो ब्रुटियां हमने आपके सामने रखी हैं उन के बारे में मंत्री महोदय जो जवाब देंगे वह देंगे, क्या आप भी पब्लिक ग्रन्डरटेकिंग कमेटी की माफत इस की जांच करवायेंगे? वह अपना पुराना मकान छोड़कर नये मकान में चले गये। उसका किराया कितना है? मैं ने सुना है कि उस का किराया 8,000 रु० बढ़ा दिया गया है। यह वही मकान है जिस के लिए कहा गया था कि वह व्यावसायिक क्षेत्र में, इंडस्ट्रियल कामर्सल एरिया, में नही आता है। पैनालटी के कारण यह दफ्तर उस मकान से चला गया, लेकिन श्री शाहनवाज खां यहाँ बैठे हुए हैं, उन की मिनिस्ट्री का एक कार्यालय है जो 22 हजार रुपये किराया देकर उस में जाना चाहता था। यह म्यूनिसिपल कानूनों का उल्लंघन है। जब मैंने वित्त मंत्री और प्रवाह मंत्री को पत्र लिखा तब उसका ट्रांसफर रका। तीन दिन में गुप्त रूप से उस को ट्रांसफर करने का काम कर रहे थे। इन बातों का मंत्री महोदय खुलासा करें। मेरी आपसे प्रश्नना है कि नेशनल सीड कारपोरेशन में जो ब्रुटियां हैं उनके बारे में इस सदन की जो पब्लिक ग्रन्डरटेकिंग कमेटी है उस को सलाह दीजिए कि जब एक करोड़ रुपये का नुकसान हुआ है उसको लेकर वर्ष में उस की जांच करने का काम करें।

श्री फखरुद्दीन अली अहमद : आन-रेबल मेम्बर ने बहुत सी बातें कहीं और उन बातों में एक बात का उल्लेख किया जो कि गवर्नमेंट को पालिसी से तात्पर्य रखती है, कि रीनेजिड डाइरेक्टर की जगह पर आई० ए० एस० अफसरों को नहीं मुकर्रर किया जाना चाहिए। यह तमाम बातें पालियामेंट में होती हैं। इन पर गवर्नमेंट गौर कर रही है। हमें कोई कनिक्ज आदमी और तजुर्बकार आदमी मिल जाये तो हमें ऐसे आदमी को मुकर्रर

करने में कोई भी देर नहीं लगेगी, लेकिन हर चीज के हालात को देखते हुए और तजुर्बों को मद्देनजर रखते हुए यह अप्वाइंटमेंट वगैरह किये जाते हैं और खामख्वाह किसी अफसर के खिलाफ यह बातें कहेनी अच्छी नहीं मालूम होती ... (अपवादः)

SHRI VASANT SATHE: We do not even know that individual. We have nothing against that individual. We are talking of the policy.

श्री फखरुद्दीन अली अहमद : यह खयाल करना कि ऐसे अफसर से अच्छी तरह से काम नहीं हुआ है, कोई अफसर अच्छा काम कर सकता है या नहीं ...

MR. SPEAKER: He did not say anything against the officer. He only raised the question that it is a technical organisation.

श्री फखरुद्दीन अली अहमद : मैं ने इस लिए कहा कि एजेशन बहुत अच्छा है, लेकिन हम को उस एजेशन का खयाल करते हुए बहुत सी बातों का खयाल करना होता है। जब नुकसान होता है तो जो बेहतर कार्रवाई सम्प्री जाती है वह की जाती है।

तीसरी बात आनरेबल मेम्बर ने कही कि 1968 के बाद यह कार्रवाई वगैरह की गई। मैं ने इस से पहले भी यह जाहिर किया था कि तीन साल में हमें सर्विस फाउन्डेशन सोड तैयार करना पड़ा। सर्विस होने की वजह से तीन या चार साल सीड रहने के बाद देखा जाता है कि वह सब-स्टैण्डेंस तो नहीं है, उससे जमिनेशन होगा या नहीं। जब मालूम होता है कि जमिनेशन नहीं होगा तब उस को हर साल कंटेम किया जाता है। 1969-70 में कुछ भेकदार को कंटेम किया, 1970-71 में कुछ भेकदार को कंटेम किया, 1971-72 में कुछ को कंटेम किया। इस तरह से तीन बरसों तक वह कंटेम होता रहा।

श्री मधु लिमये : मैंने यह कहा था कि 17 परसेंट भूमि ही हाई यील्डिंग सीड्स के अन्दर आई। यह मैंने कहा था। सरप्लस मैंने नहीं कहा। इनका कृषि विकास का कार्यक्रम बिल्कुल मद गति से चल रहा है, इसलिए सरप्लस हो गया।

श्री फखरुद्दीन अली अहमद : मैंने कहा है कि मांग की बिना पर 1966 में, 1967 में और 1968 में जो फाउंडेशन सीड तैयार किये गए स्टेट्स में और सेंटर में उनकी उतनी जरूरत ही नहीं हुई और इस वास्ते बहर साल सरप्लस होते रहे। (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You should not be pleased only when anything comes according to your satisfaction. Sometimes, it is not according to your satisfaction and, even then, you should have patience to listen.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: The Minister is being misled by the officers. There is a need for seeds in this country. The officers tell him that seeds were surplus. We do not want our Minister to be misled by these officers.

श्री फखरुद्दीन अली अहमद : मैं आनरेबल मੈम्बर से कहूंगा कि मैं इस बात पर गौर करे कि जहां तक दूसरे सीड्स कारपोरेशन का सम्बन्ध है वह फाउंडेशन सीड तैयार करता है और दूसरे लोगों जो हैं वे मॉर्फाइड सीड वगैरह करते हैं। ये फाउंडेशन सीड जो हैं इनको इस कारपोरेशन के अलावा यूनिवर्सिटीज भी तैयार कर रही हैं और कुछ लोग प्राइवेट तौर पर भी कर रहे हैं और जब एम्प्लेट किया जाता है तब यह मान्य नहीं होता कि प्राइवेट की तरफ से कितना तैयार होगा, यूनिवर्सिटीज की तरफ से कितना होगा। सरप्लस को हुआ इन सालों में उसको देखते हुए अथ फसला किया गया है कि जब तक स्टेट गवर्नमेंट्स और सेंटर गवर्नमेंट्स से इंडेंट नहीं आएगी कारपोरेशन के पास उस वकत तक फाउंडेशन सीड वगैरह तैयार करने के लिये कोई स्टॉप न लिये जाए।

यह नई पालिसी है और हम उम्मीद करते हैं कि इस नई पालिसी की वजह से अब आईना इतना सरप्लस शायद न हो जिसको हमें कंटेन करमा पड़े और बेचना पड़े।

जहां तक उनके सब स्टैंडर्ड होने की बात है स्टेट गवर्नमेंट्स उनको टेस्ट करती हैं और देखती हैं और जो अच्छा सीड होता है वही दिया जाता है। मेरे ख्याल से यह इनफार्मेशन गलत है कि जो फाउंडेशन वरीड हम तैयार कर रहे हैं, वह खराब है। मैं मान चूकूँ कि हमें की बजह से वह सरप्लस हो जाता है।

श्री मधु लिमये : मैंने नहीं कहा कि खराब सीड तैयार कर रहे हैं।

श्री फखरुद्दीन अली अहमद : जो सीड एक्जामिनेट हुआ वह इसलिए नहीं कि लोगों की मांग थी और हमने उनको बेचा नहीं बल्कि इसलिए हुआ कि जरूरत से ज्यादा सीड इन सालों में हुआ और उसकी वजह से खराब हुआ। इस वास्ते आईना साल में उसको बेचा गया।

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE (Betul): On a point of order, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: No point of order during the Calling Attention Motion. We have the practice of not entertaining any point of order either during the Question Hour or during the Calling Attention Motion. This is the practice that we have been following. Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: On a point of clarification.

Is it just an academic question? He asked two most important questions. He made an allegation about wilful manipulation of accounts and he asked what specific action the Minister was going to take on account of this terrible loss to which this Corporation has been put. Should there not be an answer to that? (Interruptions.)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Salve, please sit down.

SHRI PILOO MODY (Godhra): We are quite prepared to wait patiently for an answer. Let him think about it and answer. Meanwhile, we shall suspend the proceedings of the House. But he must answer these questions.

MR. SPEAKER: This is not a point of order. This is just a submission. Only those members whose names are in the list can ask questions.

श्री फखरुद्दीन अली अहमद : मालूम नहीं आनरेबल मैनबर इतने एक्साइटेट क्यों हैं। सीड स्टॉक में रखा गया। मनुपलेशन का यहां नहीं आता है। जो जर्मिनेशन के काबिल नहीं होता है उसको कंडम करके बेच दिया जाता है।

श्री मधु लिमये : स्टॉक रिबैल्यू किया जाता है। आडिटर की रिपोर्ट है। प्रॉफिट दिखाते हैं। यह मनुपलेशन आफ एकाउंट्स है। गवर्नमेंट की अगर राय यह है कि मनुपलेशन नहीं है तो वैसा कहिये।

श्री फखरुद्दीन अली अहमद : उस वक्त उसकी वैल्यू क्या है वह निकाली जाती है और उसके बेसिस पर एकाउंट्स तैयार किये जाते हैं।

श्री मधु लिमये : अपवर्ड रिविजन हुआ है...

Revaluation is not devaluation.

MR. SPEAKER: I think, you are also a Jyotirmoyed. Otherwise, there was nothing else. You had turn.

Also I would like to say this. Mr. Madhu Limaye raised a very vital question. If the Minister is not in a position to answer now, or if he thinks that the position is clear even later on, he may look into it.

Mr. Jyotirmoy Bosu.

SHR JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour): The affairs of the National Seeds Corporation are a typical example of the performance of the ruling party. They are making a mess of the whole thing in this Rs. 250-crore public sector project. I will give certain examples.

We were alarmed to see a report in the newspaper that the National Seeds Corporation recently destroyed wheat seed worth about Rs. 1 crore because it was found to be sub-standard—the Chairman, a defeated member of the ruling party told newsmen... (Interruptions). All right, I withdraw it—a member of the ruling party told newsmen.

Again there is an other newspaper report dated 23rd June, 1972. It talks about Rs. 2-crore worth of seed having been damaged. We want a clear and categorical answer on that.

There is another newspaper report dated the 3rd December, 1972 which says:

"The National Seeds Corporation has suffered a loss of over Rs. 55 lakhs during 1971-72 owing to the damage caused to its accumulated stock of high-yielding seeds".

In the statement—I call it a statement of account—given by the hon. Minister, Shri F. A. Ahmed, for whom I have no disregard—but this Ministry is nothing but an awful mess—it is said:

"The National Seeds Corporation normally do not destroy condemned seeds of foodcrops".

Now, what is the abnormally prevailing? I have given three or four sets of example. Mr. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed Saheb may kindly explain what is the abnormality that is surrounding the National Seeds Corporation of India to-day, a 250-crore project, requiring them to destroy seeds worth Rs. 1 crore over a very short span of a year. I have given a statement given on authority. I do not wish to say that it has been given

by the Chairman, but it has been given by an authority which says that the National Seeds Corporation condemned seeds of the value of Rs. 16.16 lakhs in 1969-70, Rs. 16.93 lakhs in 1970-71, which suddenly jumps to Rs. 70.37 lakhs in 1971-72. Now you have a lot of skeletons in the cup-board, Mr. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed Saheb because what has happened? These figures are cooked up figures because the loss of 1970-71 is the same as of 1969-70. What has happened in the meantime? The average annual loss of Rs. 16.90 lakhs has jumped to Rs. 70.37 lakhs in 1971-72. We want a clear and categorical answer about that.

Another thing, the residual value, strangely enough, in the case of Rs. 16.16 lakhs, was Rs. 6.25 lakhs and in the case of Rs. 16.93 lakhs it was Rs. 6.73 lakhs but in the case of Rs. 70.37 lakhs it was just less than double—Rs. 12.09 lakhs. Would you kindly make a note and explain this to us?

I would also want to know and the House is also interested to know the fullest possible details of the disposals of the seeds that you have condemned or you thought unfit. Also we want to know whether the seeds were treated with chemicals and pesticides for their preservation which make them unfit for human consumption by human-beings, birds or cattle. I also would like to know whether they are treated with insecticides and chemicals for preservation purposes.

There was a report about the Chairman of the National Seeds Corporation who seems to be more involved in the politics. This is *Hindustan Times* Editorial which says:

"The report that the Chairman of the National Seeds Corporation seems to be more involved in politics than in advancing the activities of the Corporation comes as

disconcerting evidence of an increasing tendency to treat such offices as sinecures or as resuscitation centres for aspirant politicians to the detriment of the public good."

As I have said it in the beginning these corporations have become an asylum for Congressmen. Then it goes on to say:

"The NSC has been under a cloud for some time. Following a debate in the Lok Sabha last year, a parliamentary committee was appointed to inquire into several complaints of malpractices and questionable transactions resulting in loss..."

Serious loss. It also says:

"There are complaints from farmers that they do not get good foundation seed without using political pressure, or they are supplied with sub-standard seed."

Sir, they have made this National Seeds Corporation a playground for politicians. Sir, this is the Editorial of 26th February 1972. Will the Minister kindly tell us—I have asked a few questions. When was the Parliamentary Committee constituted? What were the terms of reference of the Committee and when were they supposed to submit their report?

Its internal administration, is also another scandal.

The National Seeds Corporation, a Government of India undertaking is faced with a seedy problem. With its Chairman mostly on 'official tour' in his home town and the Managing Director's chair vacant for more than nine months, many of the projects of the Corporation remain unimplemented for want of decision making at the top levels. This is what a report in *Hindustan Times* of 24th February, 1972 says. It then goes on to say:

[Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu]

"The tour programme file of the Chairman who took over as Chairman in August last shows that he has been visiting Yeotmal or Nagpur on an average three times a month, each trip lasting about a week on official duty...

Inquiries suggest that the National Seeds Corporation has no project of any significance in Yeotmal or Nagpur to warrant the Chairman's frequent official visits. On the other hand the Chairman has reportedly not so far found time to visit any of the major foundation seed farms or distribution centres such as Pantnagar."

The whole thing is in a mess. The administration is in a mess. It has become a playground for the Congress politicians and the people are making money like making hay while the sun shines.

SHRI PILOO MODY: Even the sun has gone out.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Also Members of Parliament have complained that its funds are misused, but the Minister said, 'We do not accept it'.

The widespread complaint is that seeds are sold to their own at exorbitant prices. It is sold through their own henchmen, through their own agents who are privileged agents! We want a clear, categorical, answer to these questions. What have they got to say about the disposal of these seeds and whether they were chemically treated or not? Will he reply regarding my other point concerning charges with regard to appointments?

SHRI F. A. AHMED: Taking the last point first, I have no such report that they were sold at exorbitant prices or to their favourites and if he has any specific case, he can hand it over to me and I will make enquiries about this matter. He asked

why the value in 1971-72 is more than in previous years. This is obvious for the simple reason that the surpluses were available from 1966, 1967 and 1968. More and more quantities became available in 1971 which were condemned. I think I have already replied on this point. Therefore, the value was more in 1971-72 than in earlier years.

I think the Committee which he mentioned was set up in 1972. I will verify it, but my impression is, 1972. We have got to await the present Committee's report which is expected in September 1973 and then when the report is available we will take necessary action. I have already said that it is not wheat, but this relates to soyabean, maize, bajra, jute and various other things. That is not because they were not disposed of, but because they were surplus. I have got the details here. If you like I can give the figure so far as surplus is concerned. It is true that the chemicals were treated with chemicals but before they were disposed of they were washed and cleaned. This was done before they were disposed of for poultry and so on.

13.00 hrs.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPA: (Tellicherry): It is very clear from the statement made by the hon. Minister that the National Seeds Corporation has been running into a mess. From the statement of the Minister it was clear that there were surplus seeds which they wanted to dispose of. I do not know why the Government could not make a scientific survey to know exactly what is the seed requirement of the country. This institution is being financed in a big way. They must have such resources by which they can make from time to time the necessary survey so that the seed requirements of the country would be understood and the seeds produced according to the necessities. But, it is very clear now from what just now Shri Basu had stated

that on three or four occasions crores of rupees worth of seeds had been disposed of or destroyed. And it has become a routine business with the National Seeds Corporation. Therefore, I would like to know whether the Government is conducting any survey from time to time regarding the requirements of seeds in the country and whether they are producing the seeds according to the requirements. If they do not do it, what exactly are the reasons which are standing in the way of the Government to know as to why they are not doing that? The Government, while answering a question of Dr. Renen Sen, stated that they had already appointed a Committee headed by a Member of Parliament to look into the matter of corruption, nepotism and favouritism. The Minister sat down quietly. Here is a report in which the name of Shri Gadgil has been mentioned who is heading the Committee. If I am not mistaken, I think, he is also one of the Members of the Board of Directors which is accused of corruption. And it is very strange that for this body which is accused of corruption, which is accused of nepotism as also favouritism, you have selected one of the members of the Board of Directors and put him in the Chair. And he is now sitting in judgment. This will not bring justice and this will also not solve the problem. Why I am saying it is this, The employees of the Corporation are thoroughly dissatisfied and it is impossible for the Government to expect their cooperation to run the Corporation on a sound basis. If you want to run the Corporation in a reasonable manner, then you should also ensure that justice will be done to the employees. The committee appointed will not bring any justice demanded by the employees of the Corporation which you have promised. In this report, on page 7, it has been emphasised on the role of the private sector as against the public sector. In the field of Seeds Corporation, my fear is that there is a deliberate attempt to sabotage the public sector in the interests of the private

sector. I would like to know from Government what is the policy with regard to this role of the public sector as also that of the private sector. You say that the committee appointed will be headed by a Member of Parliament who is a member of the board of directors. I want to know whether you are conducting, from time to time, surveys regarding the needs for producing the seeds according to requirements.

SHRI F. A. AHMED: As I pointed out earlier, so far as production of seeds from 1966 to 1968 is concerned, it was all phased as per the targets fixed. But, unfortunately, the target figure fixed for the requirements of seeds was such that the requirements of seeds became surplus and for some reason or the other, that target could not be achieved.

DR. RANEN SEN: What was the assessment made? This was his question.

SHRI F. A. AHMED: After that, when we found that that was not the correct procedure to follow, we had started a new procedure namely that unless and until an indent is placed on the State Government and the Central Government indicating their requirements, steps for producing the foundation seeds will not be taken up by the National Seeds Corporation. Over and above that, we are holding meetings at the zonal level every six months to ascertain the requirements of the States within each zone. And what is to be undertaken by the National Seeds Corporation and what is to be undertaken by other authorities is also assessed, and on that basis, the programme for the Seeds Corporation is drawn up and the production of foundation-seed is undertaken.

So far as the appointment of a Member of Parliament for making an inquiry is concerned, I have nothing against that Member, and I hope that

[Shri F. A. Ahmed]
whatever is proper will be ascertained by him and will be placed before us as a recommendation for us to examine and then taken a decision on.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: Here is a body which has been accused of nepotism etc., and we find that one of the members on the board of directors has been appointed as the chairman of an inquiry committee, as if there was no other MP available. It is a very strange thing that is happening.

SHRI F. A. AHMED: I have no doubt that the Member of Parliament who is making this inquiry into the working of the Seeds Corporation will give a report which would be proper and fair. There is nothing against the Member, and I have every confidence in him.

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE (Calcutta-North-East): What is all this? He is himself a member of the board of directors. How can he conduct the inquiry? How can this pass muster?

DR. RANEN SEN: How can he choose one of the members of the board of directors for this inquiry?

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE: How can it pass muster? He is a member of the board of directors, and he is also chairman of the Inquiry Committee conducting an Inquiry into the misdoings of the board of directors. How can this pass muster? There must be a rational explanation.

SHRI SHYAM NANDAN MISHRA (Begusarai): The very purpose of the inquiry will be frustrated, if he does not reply to this point satisfactorily.

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE: How can he say I have every confidence? Who the hell is he? A great Moghul?

MR. SPEAKER: There is a privilege motion by Shri Ram Ratan Sharma...

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE: When this kind of thing comes up, is it not necessary to have some little satisfaction? The hon. Minister said that he has confidence in him. Who the hell is he? He must tell us and

he must satisfy the House, and he is responsible to this House.

SHRI SEZHIYAN (Kumbakonam): It is a very crucial question. The activities of the board have been called into question. We find that a member sitting in the board of directors has been asked to conduct the inquiry on the working of the board itself. How will it do justice to the case?

How can one expect an objective and impartial inquiry?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister has replied to the point already. Whether it is proper or not, it is not for me to tell him about it.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: The House must be satisfied.

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. Mukherjee has raised it and it is for the Minister to satisfy him or not.

SHRI F. A. AHMED: I have nothing against the Member who is conducting the inquiry and I have every confidence in him.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: I have a submission to make. When the Members who are sitting in the Opposition put questions to the hon. Ministers, you often ask us to be relevant, and you often scold us when we go out of relevancy..

MR. SPEAKER: I do so for all sections of the House and not only for this side.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: When the Minister gives a totally irrelevant and absurd answer, you have to scold him and you have to pull him up.

SHRI SEZHIYAN: Please pull him up.

MR. SPEAKER: I do not scold anybody, I never scold anybody, but I only say 'Do not do it'. I do not like to scold anybody.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: You guide us.

MR. SPEAKER: I have no guidance to give. I allowed the hon. Member to put the question, and the hon. Minister has replied to it.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: May I know whether the public purpose will be served by the kind of answer that he has given? There is a definite public purpose in tabling a calling attention motion.

MR. SPEAKER: Under the rules, the hon. Member has put the question, and the hon. Minister has answered it. Shri R. R. Sharma.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): I had tabled an adjournment motion....

MR. SPEAKER: No, no. Please sit down. I have not allowed it.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: I want to seek a clarification. It is very important.

MR. SPEAKER: Clarification on what? It is not a subject for an adjournment motion. I never allow these matters under an adjournment motion.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Do not make adjournment motions so common and cheap.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: It relates to a specific failure of Government....

MR. SPEAKER: Because Judges are not being appointed, there should be an adjournment motion? No.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: I had tabled an adjournment motion. I have also given notice under rule 377. I have also tabled a call attention motion.

MR. SPEAKER: I did not allow the adjournment motion.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: The entire House is agreed that this is an urgent issue.

MR. SPEAKER: No. I have called Shri R. R. Sharma.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I do not hold it in order; it is not a matter for an adjournment motion. I am not going to allow it.

श्री मधु लिमये (बांफा) : स्वयं राज
क्यों नहीं ? एडजार्नमेन्ट मोशन क्यों नहीं ?
यह तो असफलता है । एडजार्नमेन्ट मोशन
किस लिये होता है, आप नियम देखिये ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मैंने देखकर बतलाया है ।

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: It is a very clear failure of Government on the subject of appointment of Judges.

MR. SPEAKER: Do not bring forward such a fantastic proposition that Judges are not being appointed; therefore, there should be an adjournment motion.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am not allowing any body.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: When the proper time for 377 comes, I will see. So far as the adjournment motion is concerned, I am not allowing it.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: I have given notice under rule 377.

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. By merely giving notice, you are not entitled to raise it.

(Interruptions)