

There has been a fall in the prices of different foodgrains at Indore and Bhopal mainly due to the brightened prospects of the ensuing kharif crops owing to good rains received in the State. The raids organised by the State Government to unearth the hoarded stocks have also reported to have aided the bearish sentiments.

As I have had occasions to inform the House, we have been able to meet the most difficult phase of the food situation created by unprecedented drought over the major portion of the country. There has been satisfactory rainfall all over the country and kharif crops prospects have substantially improved. With the coming in of the kharif crop in the market there is bound to be an easing of the food situation throughout the country.

12.12 hrs.

STATEMENT RE: ALLEGED PRINTING OF POSTERS BY D.A.V.P. FOR DELHI UNIVERSITY STUDENTS UNION ELECTIONS

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI DHARAM BIR SINHA): I beg to lay on the Table a statement in reply to an allegation regarding the DAVP's role in the recent Delhi University Students Union elections.

Statement

Yesterday, Shri Phool Chand Verma made an allegation in the House that the DAVP published posters worth about Rs. 5 to 6 lakhs for the pro-Congress candidates in the recent Delhi University Students Union elections. This allegation is baseless and politically motivated. Neither the DAVP nor any other governmental agency has printed or published any poster of this type. Similar allegation that DAVP has brought out posters in connection with the Delhi University Teachers' Association elections is equally unfounded and malicious.

RE: DISCUSSION ON INDIA-PAKISTAN AGREEMENT

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Alipore): I understood you to say yesterday, that you would be convening a meeting of the Business Advisory Committee to see if time could be found for a discussion on the Indo-Pakistan Agreement. May I take it that because some parties are not in favour of this discussion, therefore, you have withdrawn your suggestion now?

MR. SPEAKER: No, it was not withdrawn. But in view of the fact that the Minister of External Affairs is going away today, I was just thinking when we could have it....

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING (SHRI D. P. DHAR): If you would permit me, Sir, I have been authorised by the Minister of External Affairs to submit for your kind consideration, that if it is the will of this House, by and large, to have a discussion on this issue, then it can be had only today, because the Minister is leaving for Algiers this evening; if it is at all necessary and if it is the overwhelming wish of this House, then it could be had only today...

MR. SPEAKER: This afternoon is a non-official day. What to do in this situation?

SHRI D. P. DHAR: He is leaving today.

MR. SPEAKER: I considered this. Unfortunately, the whole of this evening is for non-official business. There is no other way out. Now, let the hon. Minister take up his own item regarding the approach to the Fifth Plan.

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE (Howrah): Kindly allow one or two minutes for hon. Members to have their say. The situation outside is very serious. Please find some way out. If you allow hon. Members to have