

State. You should meet only your equals and not anybody lower than you.

Shri D. G. Sharma: I entirely agree with Shri Nath Pal. When you go out, Shri L. K. Jha goes out, Shri C. S. Jha goes out. You should only go to meet your counterparts and not these men.

Shri M. C. Chagla: Mr. Foster is the representative of the United States on this Committee.

Mr. Speaker: What they mean is that the Foreign Minister of no other country was present there. Every country has got its representative. They say that there was no Foreign Minister equal in status to you. But that is a different question. You need not answer that now.

Shri M. L. Sondhi (New Delhi): Shri Jha goes and meets President De Gaulle, but the Minister of External Affairs has only met Mr. Foster.

Mr. Speaker: The Discussion is over. Let us go to the next item.

18.13 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE SECOND REPORT

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Communications (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh): Sir, I beg to present the Second Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

Shri Nath Pal (Rajapur): Sir, let not the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs so rudely interrupt the proceedings. Shri Chagla is in possession of the House.

Mr. Speaker: He has concluded. Now, I would like to give some information:

Shri Nath Pal: What about Shri Chagla's reply?

Mr. Speaker: The Half-an-hour Discussion is over and the second Report

of the Business Advisory Committee has also been placed before the House.

18.13 hrs.

RE: FOOD SITUATION IN KERALA

Mr. Speaker: Now, before we adjourn, there is one other point which I would like to tell the House. I would like to make an appeal to Shri Gopalan and other friends. I have written to them just now. They knew pretty well that the Speaker cannot give them food, he can only make appeals to them.

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Jagjiwan Ram): Sir, with your permission, I would like to say something. I wanted to intervene at that time when Shri Ranga spoke. During this period I have tried to ascertain the correct position from Andhra so that I may make some firm commitment. I had been trying to get in touch with the Chief Minister of Madras, Shri Annadurai, but I have not been able to contact him because he is outside attending some functions. In the night I shall try to get in touch with him.

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): And you should inform them here.

Shri Jagjiwan Ram: Apart from that, I would like to give one or two pieces of information. The stock of rice in Kerala is 1187 tons. 3800 tons are on the move and may arrive in Kerala in the next two or three days. We have submitted indents for 800 wagons. That means 12,000 tons of rice from Andhra are to be moved to Kerala. We are making arrangements to run two specials every day carrying 2000 tons from Andhra to Kerala. These are 12,000 tons in our hands, rice that is procured in Andhra, for movement to Kerala. But procurement is proceeding. This is the firm thing that I have. More than that I am not in a position to say. I wish to make an appeal to the hon. Members. Today you can say that we may not be able to fulfil our assurances and

[Shri Jagjwan Ram]

promises. But, why not wait and watch for ten days? As I said, these are the arrangements. 3800 tons are on the move and 12000 tons we have in hand to be moved to Kerala. The proposal is to move two trains every day. By the 10th or 12th we are expecting one ship carrying 10,000 tons to arrive in Kerala. This represents the immediate availability. Over and above that procurement is proceeding in Andhra.

Shri Indrajit Gupta (Alipore):
What about wheat?

Shri Jagjwan Ram: So far as wheat is concerned, we have not as much difficulty as in the case of rice. At present the stock of wheat in Kerala is nearly 12,000 tons and 18,000 tons are already moving, which may be arriving in Kerala during the next 3 or 4 days. We have issued further instructions to move a further quantity of 20,000 tons to Kerala from the stocks that we have in the nearby places. Well, we have failed in the past due to causes beyond our control. As the hon. Members are aware, there has been some delay in the arrival of the second crop in Andhra. Now it has started coming and the arrivals are quite encouraging. I shall appeal to the hon. Members to wait and see for the next ten days whether what I am saying is going to materialise. I am quite sure that it is going to materialise. Therefore, I am making this appeal.

श्री जगज्वन राम (सहस्त्रा) : क्या बिहार के लिए भी ऐसी व्यवस्था की जा रही है ?

Mr. Speaker: Let us not bring in Bihar and other States. This is not food debate.

The Prime Minister and Minister of Atomic Energy (Shrimati Indira Gandhi): I want to say one word. Mr. Speaker, Sir, you were kind enough to let me have the letter which the

hon. Member, Shri Gopalan, had written to you, in which he mentions that I did not show any concern. I am very sorry that he got such an impression. I do want to assure the House of my very deep concern and anxiety over the suffering of the people of Kerala because of the delay in the foodgrains reaching Kerala in time. I would like to add my voice also to the appeal which was made by you, Sir, this morning and which has been endorsed by Professor Ranga and my colleague, the Food Minister.

We are, as you all know, facing an extremely difficult situation with regard to the availability of foodgrains. But we are doing our utmost to see that they are moved as expeditiously as possible and that they reach their destination soon so that we can minimise the difficulties. As hon. Members are aware, we are very anxious about Kerala. We are equally anxious about the other parts of the country because the same situation in a lesser or greater degree exists in many other parts. The question of Bihar has been raised, so also the question of eastern UP, parts of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Gujarat. The Chief Minister of Maharashtra came to see me only yesterday, I think. So that, this is a problem not only of Kerala but of many other parts of the country also. I do not think it would be really fair for the people of Kerala alone to try to spotlight one part of the country. As the Food Minister has stated, there has been delay due to certain causes—crops are not coming in and many other reasons he has given previously. But we do want to assure the House that we shall do what we can and that we shall double and quadruple our efforts and try to make whatever is possible available to the people. So, I would request Shri Gopalan to heed your appeal.

Shri A. K. Gopalan (Kasargod): Sir, just one hour ago you sent me a note and I consulted the co-signatories to

the letter that was sent to you and it was after consulting them that. I wrote my reply. I want to show that in my reply to you I have specially mentioned that we also wish to thank you for the anxiety you expressed in the House on the food situation in Kerala. There I further stated that because there was no reaction on the part of the Food Minister as well as the Prime Minister, we cannot consider anything now. By reaction we do not mean reaction in words and speeches; we want material reaction; that is to say, some arrangements must be made by which some rice will go to Kerala. Of course, the reaction of sympathy is good, but that is not what we wanted. Now I can speak only on my behalf, because after this appeal I will have to consult the co-signatories not only in this House but in the other House also.

I also wish to make an appeal to the Food Minister as well as the Prime Minister and make some suggestions to them. My suggestion is that the Food Minister must go to Madras. If the Food Minister goes to Madras, certainly wherever the Chief Minister is he will come. The harvest is over and as I understand there was a stock of about 4 lakh tonnes of paddy in Tanjore. So, if the Food Minister makes an appeal to the Madras Chief Minister that some lakh tonnes of paddy must be given as loan to the Centre, certainly it can be moved within two days.

I also want to tell you that today's papers say that because of no food the opening of schools on the 2nd has been postponed to the 15th. I also get several letters from Kerala. I got a letter from my brother saying that because for two days they could get only three ounces of ration one of the boys while coming from school fell down. I am getting some ration here but that is the situation there. I also know that there are difficulties but when there is a stock of about three lakh tonnes in Madras the Cen-

tre should make an appeal to the Chief Ministers of Madras and Andhra. If they say no to it then let us know that. If you make an appeal and the Chief Ministers of Madras and Andhra do not care, let us know. But I think that is not the case.

I am very sorry that we had to write to you like this. We meant no disrespect either to you or to Parliament. My hon. friend, Shri Ranga, who was my leader in the Kisan Sabha before and is my future leader, Shri Nath Pai and all the other Members were telling me since morning. We respect their sentiments but we want that something must be done immediately so that they may get something within two days before schools are opened and it may continue for some time what has happened for the last six months may not happen hereafter. That must be done.

As I told you, I cannot commit because I am speaking only on my behalf. The appeal that the Prime Minister and the Food Minister and you have made, the co-signatories and colleagues have understood that. We will also consult the Rajya Sabha Members and then we will be able to tell you about the reaction of the appeal that was made here. It was only an appeal to you, to the other Members of the House as well as to the Prime Minister and the Food Minister. It is the agony of the people of Kerala. Everyday so many letters are coming which say, "You are Members of Parliament; you are our representatives and you are not getting anything." From our own families also we are hearing that children are swooning and dying. It was that thing that made us take that action. That is the only thing I want to say.

18.24 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, June 1, 1967/Jyaistha 11, 1889 (Saka).