

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Three Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

(MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair)

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT—
contd.

FAMINE CONDITION IN THE COUNTRY

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: We now take up the motion that the House do now adjourn. Mr. Samar Guha,

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI K. RAGHU RAMAIAH): Sir, before you call upon Mr. Guha, may I say, with your permission, that you will kindly allocate the time in such a way that the debate is concluded by 6 o'clock because every time we are experiencing that we are sitting late causing inconvenience to the staff and the Members?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Guha,

SHRI SAMAR GUHA (Contai):
Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I move:

"That this House do now adjourn."

I do not know to what extent our human cord will respond to the pangs of hunger which caused the last breath of not one or two or hundreds but of thousands in West Bengal, Assam, Orissa and other parts of the country. Having the fortune of subsidised meals in the railway canteen in Parliament House and having also the fortune of being frequently invited to lunch and dinner in five star hotels, I do not know, as I said earlier, whether our human feeling, our sympathetic cord, will respond to the sighs, the cries of those hungry millions who passed away and those who are still roaming in search of a morsel of food. a lode-full of watery kicheri in different parts of the country.

On the 30th October, in my constituency of Contai, in the early morning when I got up, I found a dead body lying in the nearby area of house where I stayed. When the police was informed, they did not take any notice of it. The dead body was removed by the Satkar Samiti. On that very day noon, when I was passing by the side of the police station, I found a little girl trying to nurse her mother lying in a fainted condition. The mother and the daughter were going to take a meal from a gruel kitchen run by the Youth Congress Committee there. While I was coming back, I was surprised to find only the little girl standing in the queue. Going a few steps ahead, I found the still body of the mother of that girl lying there. The girl could not even weep for the mother who left her for ever; she was so much hungry that she left her mother to get a lode-full of kicheri from the gruel kitchen.

On that very day 30th October, I was going to address a meeting at Balighai near Contai. Just on the way, I found in the bazar another dead body lying unclaimed. Another report came from Cooch-Behar. It was very prominently put out in almost all the West Bengal papers. In a gruel kitchen, there was a queue. A lady was found to carry a child in her arms standing in the queue before the gruel kitchen. When the food was distributed, the organisers of the kitchen were agast to find that the mother left the child. Then it was found it was the body of the child still, dead, completely motionless. The mother had come with the dead child in her arms just to take advantage of the fact that she would get two units of watery kicheri from the gruel kitchen.

I will add many more tragic tales from press reports afterwards. I do not find there is any awareness in the Central Government that since the great famine of 1943 during the British days there had not been such an un-

presented famine that is now raging in West Bengal, Assam, Orissa and other parts of the country.

I know that Government will stoutly oppose when I give the figures of starvation deaths. It is not my figure but the figure of the West Bengal Government circles which say that about 10,000 persons died of starvation in West Bengal. If you take the report of the all parties delegation that visited Delhi to meet the Prime Minister and also reports from Orissa and Assam, about 25,000 persons died of starvation in West Bengal, Assam and Orissa. A large number of them died of a type diarrhoea which is called cholera type; euphemistically it is called gastro enteritis. A large number who have died of famine are described as due to gastro enteritis. I shall now refer to the callousness, apathy and indifferent attitude of the Central Government to these tragic happenings. I do not know whether any country with a traditional civilisation could tolerate such a Government. Either the Government itself would have abdicated its power or people would have risen in revolt against such a callous Government to throw it out of power. I do not know whether the Government is to rule the people to death.

It is strange that the Central Government kept completely mum. Neither the President nor the Prime Minister nor any other minister made any statement. The Times of India gave some coverage but no national paper in New Delhi covered reports about this unprecedented famine. The Ministers are making torrential statements on other issues. I appealed to the President; I ran after the then Food Minister; but none of them cared to visit West Bengal or Assam or Orissa or M.P. This was a deliberate move to avoid the responsibility because if any of them made a statement that there were thousands of starvation deaths the responsibility of feeding those people would devolve

upon them and it will assume a national character and turn out to be a national calamity and the Centre would be responsible to feed the famished people. When there is a national calamity it is the responsibility of the national Government at the Centre to solve the problem and feed the famished people.

I was really shocked that instead of accepting the tragic fact of starvation deaths, Babuji, who is the champion of the cause of the downtrodden people, the Harijans and the Adivasis, issued two statements denying these facts. On 20th October, he said at Patna,

"None would be allowed to die of starvation. I cannot assure you full meal, but I can assure you that none would be allowed to die of starvation."

Then on 12th November, he said in Rome:

"Although a large number of Indians were not getting enough to eat but nobody was starving in the country."

"He further said that he had no figures on hunger problem in India but he did not think that people have starved to death. They do not get good quantity of nutrition."

At least I did not expect this from Babuji. Who are the people who are dying? Not the rich people who have the fortune to stay at 5 star hotels. Not those who have the benefit of serving the Central Government and getting some benefits, but it is the adivasis, the Harijans, the landless labourers, the down-trodden people for whom you raised the slogan *garibi hatao*. But today they have been completely removed from the world because *garibi* was the cause of their starvation and death.

Sir, I will start...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Start? We hope we would conclude this debate by 6 O' clock. On that basis you may take 20 minutes.

SHRI SMAR GUHA: I will take 40 minutes.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You have already taken 14 minutes and you say "I will start..."

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: The debate will go on at least till 8 O'clock because it is a burning problem and so many from that side also will be speaking.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: It is correct that we often take more time than what is allotted. It depends on the subject. I agree that this is a very important and painful subject and we should not be too much inhibited by time. On the other hand, I also agree with the legitimate request made by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs that it imposes a lot of difficulties on the staff if we sit very late. The House is the supreme authority to decide about it. I am only putting this to you that when the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs makes a request to me, I take note of it. When you submit your difficulties, I take note of it and ultimately it is for the House to regulate. In any case, I want to pick up a quarrel with everybody. That is not my business. I am here to regulate. In any case, I want to draw your attention to this limitation. Some of the best things in the world can be said in one minute. May I tell one story? Lord Byron sat in an examination to describe about the mystery of water becoming wine. There were others and they wrote profusely. For a long time, he did not write anything. At last he put only one sentence, and that one sentence got the first prize for him. That was: "The water in the firskin became conscious of her Lord and blushed." So, one sentence can do the job.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: If you want me to express in one sentence, even if a red hot iron is put into the heart of these people, that would not rouse the sympathy of these people. It needs many more hot irons than one.

To start with my own constituency— I leave the other districts and other

States to other speakers—in my constituency alone there have been 700 deaths. I will not say that all these deaths are due to starvation. There was gastro-enteritis, a cholera type of diarrhoea, sweeping the whole area. Here it is not a question of my word against the word of somebody else. The Governor of West Bengal, Shri Dias, who was once your Food Secretary, and "people are living on grass roots." If you go there you will find thousands of people who for three or four months have not taken a morsel of rice. They live on some milo, some makka, some wheat or some wild vegetables like kachus and other things. Only adulterated food is sold in the market. Tamarind seeds and sea-shells are dried and powdered and then it is mixed with atta. When people eat this they immediately become a victim of cholera type of diarrhoea. According to the Indian Medical Association, there are 4,000 cases and about 700 people have died of cholera and diarrhoea and innumerable bodies are found in the streets. Distress sales of land, utensils and cattle are going on; they sell their children and mothers are found to sell even their bodies to feed their children.

Now let me quote what a Congressman has said.

Mr. Nurul Islam General Secretary of the West Bengal Pradesh Congress Committee said:

" 'starvation deaths' had been reported to the committee from different parts of the State."

There is another official statement on the 10th September with the caption "Over 100 starvation deaths in Bengal".

It says:

"Over 100 people died of starvation in the two districts Bankura and Purulia during the past one month, according to the information sent to the State Secretariat by the official sources."

Then, your own Minister, Mr. Santosh Roy, said:

"Fifteen million people in the rural areas of West Bengal are either starving or living on one meal a day."

The report says:

"...from district officials some reliable reports reaching two Ministers here spoke of at least 80 deaths due to malnutrition or want of food."

There is another report with the caption "250 starvation deaths in Cooch-Bihar which is dated 21st September. Mr. Sisir Kishore Kar, MLA said:

"...during the last two months more than 60 people died of starvation in his sub-division (Tufanganj) while another Congress legislator, Mr Sunil Kar reported 75 starvation deaths in Sadar Sub-division."

There is another Railway BSF official report which says (26th September):

"Hunger goads them out of their village home, only to die unnoticed on the soulless concrete platform making it almost a daily affair now on the Cooch-Bihar railway station.

Five such gaunt bodies unidentified, lay unclaimed at the railway station during the last five days bringing to 12 the total number of such bodies found at the station, official sources said.

Even before this months, according to BSF sources, 11 people have died of starvation in a single village of Kalamati under Dinhata police station... During the last 3 days, 5 people including a child died of malnutrition..."

This is what the Jalpaiguri Congress President, Shri Jagadananda Roy, said:

"The District Congress President, Shri Jagadananda Roy, MLA estimated that at least 400 people had died of starvation in his area lone..."

Then, a Congress MLA has said, in Calcutta, that 100 people had died of starvation in his constituency.

This is what your Congress President of West Bengal has said that the famine toll may be 1000. It says:

"The West Bengal Pradesh Congress Committee President, Shri Arun Kumar Moitra said here yesterday that according to reports received from Congress workers at various districts as many as 1000 people had so far fallen victim to the famine conditions in the State."

I will give you another report that starvation deaths may reach 10,000. In West Bengal the famine situation has further deteriorated. It says:

"Even a State Government relief worker admitted that over 2000 persons have died of starvation and the figure may reach over 10,000 by the end of the third week of this month."

This is what the State Relief Minister, Shri Santosh Roy says:

"The State Relief Minister, Shri Santosh Roy, officially stated three weeks ago that over 1.5 crore people were experiencing acute distress conditions and did not even get a meal once in a week. Now, this figure has crossed 22 million, reportedly mentioned by the A.I.C.C. General Secretary, Mrs. Purabi Mukherjee."

[Shri Samar Guha]

I do not know whether there is any necessity for further strengthening of what I have said, that 10,000 people have died of starvation in West Bengal. This is your official figure.

Now, I want to show you these photographs. I will leave it to the House to judge it. Babu Ji, these are the people; look at these people, these starvation deaths. I will lay the photographs on the Table of the House. You look at these people. Do you consider them as human beings? Are they not famished people? These are all from my constituency alone. Do you call them human beings? Look at the mother's dead body; the daughter is lying around. Look at these people. Are they not famished, starved people, the victims of starvation? Have you any human feeling? These are the starvation conditions in West Bengal.... (Interruptions).

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY (Nizamabad): Have you collected from Bangladesh in 1971?

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: Mr. Reddy, I tell you, I led a demonstration of 15,000 people in my constituency, people came only from 5 miles' area, because I could not provide transport. Even then, I did not want to exploit it for the purpose of politics. It was done by the Socialist Party. I did it in the name of Famine Resistance Committee, not in the name of the party because I did not want to exploit the food situation in the name of politics. Don't try to judge each and everybody by the reflection you made. I do not want to tire you by reading from these reports. But I would only request you to go through the reports that have been published in West Bengal papers—horror tales, horrible tales. Is it possible in an independent country? We call ourselves a free country. We call ourselves a civilised people. We say we have fundamental rights. We say we have Directive Principles in our Constitu-

tion. We call ourselves a humanitarian people. If we have human blood in our veins, these reports should have moved us. These are not my reports. What a horrowing tale it is. How hundreds of people are dying. Yet the Central Government remains completely callous, completely indifferent and not a statement has come out from any of either the President or the Prime Minister or any of the Central Ministers.

To avoid the responsibility they say, these are not starvation deaths, but deaths due to malnutrition. That euphemistic word 'malnutrition' has been repeatedly used parrotlike, that rotten word that was used during the imperialist days....

SHRI DINESH JORDER (Malda): It was Churchill who used that word.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: They never used the word 'starvation death'. Now, we call ourselves progressives, we call ourselves socialists. We call ourselves members of a free country. You also use the same word and say 'They died of malnutrition, not due to starvation.'

What do the experts say? I will just give you a few words of what the experts say about this. Malnutrition is a misnomer. Dr. Jagadish Banerjee, one of the most eminent doctors of Calcutta—what did he say? He said that the "term 'malnutrition' may sound high-falutin and should not be used to rationalise the tragedy that from hunger they are heading to death, that those who are perishing on the platforms, pavements and villages were victims of mere deficiency of vitamins and minerals." Similar views have been expressed by all the eminent doctors and physicians of Calcutta. They die of starvation not by anything else. They get decayed without any food days in and days out and their flesh is being eaten by the stomach. Anybody who had been to jail or who had been on a hunger strike may

know that the man's body gets emaciated and how the stomach gets its food. It gets food from your own flesh, from your own protein, from the protein inside your body. A fasting man lives in that way. These starving people—do you call it malnutrition? Day in and day out, for months together they get themselves decayed that their flesh is absorbed by the starving stomach. You call it malnutrition? I think the reason is that they want to avoid the responsibility of calling it 'starvation death'.

Then, even during the British days there were Famine Codes. They used to prepare Famine Code for all the States. What is their definition of a famine? "The Commissioner or the Local Government on receipt of a telegram required by Sec. 40, may declare famine and the real criteria for gratuitous relief is that when nearly half the per cent of the population (according to the preceding census etc)." So, only half a per cent was required for declaring an area as famine area, but according to the West Bengal Government 10 per cent people are receiving relief, yet, West Bengal has not been declared famine state.

The British Government had an elaborate code as to how they should tackle a famine. Now, we are talking about relief, but we have not got any code in our free country. We do not have such a code to see that if there is famine how the Government will tackle the problems and meet the situation. We do not have such a code. We do not have any National Fund for the purpose; nothing is done in this regard. This is only making a mockery of relief.

It is stated that in West Bengal 22 million people are in starvation. What steps have been taken? They have not got a single pie from the Central Government. They have not given a single pie to West Bengal or Orissa or Bihar or any other State. This is the position. West Bengal Government have spent Rs. 10 crores,

leaving aside the amount regarding maintenance, contingency and others, they could spend only Rs. 10 crores. It would come to Rs. 5 per head. That would give you only 1 1/2 kilo of rice or 2 1/2 kilo of Atta. How many days can you feed the people of 22 million at this rate? This will cover only for a week. What to speak of Opposition MP, even Congress MP is considered as a political pariah by the West Bengal Government. He has no say in the matters concerning his constituency. An MLA has been made a mini-badsha in his constituency. He gives the jobs in regard to the developmental projects. He is not accountable to anybody. He does all the work, developmental work and everything in regard to relief and gruel kitchen. As a result what we find is corruption, loot and politics. This is not inter-party but intra-party politics. I should say. Whatever is being given large parts of them are being wasted due to the corruption and loot as I have mentioned. This is the position, Sir.

If there was one Babuji from West Bengal in the Central Government, if there was one Chavan from West Bengal or Assam in the Central Government, not like dancing dolls, picked up puppets, such things would not have happened. They are waiting at the darbar, as dancing dolls at the behest of the Prime Minister whom they look as the Maharani of Prajatantric Bharat. If such a Minister from West Bengal or from Assam or from Orissa had been there he would have revolted against the Central Government for the callousness with which they have treated this problem. The Chief Ministers of West Bengal or of other states are coming to Delhi: they look up at the Prime Minister as if she is the queen of democratic India. But if there was such a person as I mentioned, he would have thrown the bunch of keys of the Writers' Building at the face of the Writers' Building at the face. Look here either you give us sufficient quantity of food to feed the

[Shri Samar Guha]

starving people or you yourself feed them or take the blemish for all the starvation deaths. This is what such persons would have told at the face of the Central Government.

Now you have become very pious and this is, with regard to the report of the Finance Commission. They said, no ad hoc grant should be granted in respect of national calamity and all that. They said no ad hoc grant should be given to any State. What is the amount spent by West Bengal Government? They have spent ten per cent from development expenditure. What is the amount for Maharashtra, Gujarat, M.P.? You have spent more than Rs. 300 crores last year. I do not grudge. But what has been done for West Bengal and other States? After all the Finance Commission is recommendatory body and suddenly you become very pious and accept this sort of recommendation. How can the West Bengal Govt. feed 22 million people there? Your attitude is not only ridiculous, it is heartless attitude when people are dying like this, when there have been reports of so many starvation deaths which have been reported. You suddenly become pious in this respect. This is what I wish to submit.

I am concluding by making following demands:

1. Government should declare the starvation areas in West Bengal, Assam, Orissa, Bihar, Eastern U.P., Madhya Pradesh and other parts of our country as famine areas and undertake the national responsibility of feeding the people of these areas.

2. A national commission should be set up to go into the reports of starvation deaths and make an immediate assessment of the requirements of feeding these starving people.

3. All parties' relief committees should be set up to feed the people

in the famine areas keeping the problem of famine above politics.

4. All international humanitarian agencies like CARE, CARITUS, CASA, etc. and other international bodies working in India should be urged to undertake massive relief work in the famine areas. (If you are in distress certainly other western countries who have exploited this country for centuries have a duty towards this country. There is nothing wrong in asking for their help),

5. The Government should continue to extend relief upto the month of January till the famished people are fit to undertake work in test relief projects.

6. Massive test relief work should be undertaken by integrating such works with development projects. All land revenues, or loans or debts etc. piled up on the cultivators should be quashed.

7. Students in the famine areas should be given adequate aid for their studies.

8. Massive drive for nutrition programme should be introduced.

9. Policy of levy on the cultivators in the famine areas should be revised.

10. The President, Prime Minister, Food Minister and other Central Ministers should immediately visit the famine areas.

I conclude in one sentence: Either in a free country you feed the famished people or if you have any conscience in you, you quit and leave the country to devils. You have already left the country in the hands of the devils because devils are taking lives of millions of our starving countrymen.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is difficult to contain an opposition Member like Mr. Guha within the time allotted to him but I expect the Members of the ruling party to cooperate with me in terms of the request of your own Minister and not mine.

Now, there are 10 Members from the Congress Party listed here and if I give 10 minutes to each Member it means one hour and forty minutes which is the time allotted to them. So, I will request them to confine within 10 minutes.

श्री नाथूराम मिर्धा (नागौर): माननीय उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, इस सदन में आज विरोध पक्ष की तरफ से जो एडजर्नमेंट मोशन हमारे देश में भुखमरी के हालात और दूसरी चीजों के बारे में बहस करने के लिए रखा गया है, उस पर मैं भी कुछ अपने विचार आप के सामने रखना चाहता हूँ। हमारा देश एक बहुत बड़ा देश है, जिस की आबादी 57 करोड़ है। उत्तर से पूर्व, पूर्व से पश्चिम और उत्तर से दक्षिण में दूर तक फैला हुआ देश है। हर साल कुदरत जो कठिनाइयाँ पैदा करती है उन के अनुसार कहीं बड़े पैमाने पर बाढ़ आती है और कहीं सूखा पड़ता है। इस वजह से देश के कृषि उत्पादन को हर साल बहुत बड़ा भ्रंश लगता है। कुदरत के इस धक्के से हमारे देश की उत्पादन की गति पर, देश के खाद्यान्न के हालात पर और दूसरे हालात पर इस का बहुत बड़ा कुप्रभाव पड़ता है।

पिछले 30-32 वर्षों में न सिर्फ हमारे देश में, बल्कि दुनिया में कुछ ऐसे हालात बन हैं कि जो विकासशील देश हैं, उन में जो शासकीय परिवर्तन हुए और उन परिवर्तनों के कारण दुनिया के देशों में जो खुशहाली

आई, उस के परिणामस्वरूप लोगों की जीने की अवधि (लांगविटी) बढ़ी। हमारे देश में भी जब हम आजाद हुए थे उस समय जीने की औसत आयु 28 साल थी, लेकिन आज वह औसत आयु 52 साल है। इसी प्रकार दुनिया के बहुत से देशों में, विशेषकर जो हमारे एशियाई देश हैं उन में जो परिवर्तन हुआ, उस के परिणामस्वरूप जनसंख्या बहुत बढ़ी ताबद में बढ़ी और जन संख्या के बढ़ने से उन के यहां हर तरह की चीजों की, खाने-पीने की चीजों की, दूसरी चीजों की, मांगे बढ़ी। दुनिया के अन्दर दिन न ग्रीर टैक्नालाजी की भी तरफको हुई, हमारे देश में भी हुई। खाद्यान्न में ही जब हम आजाद हुए थे, हमारा उत्पादन 500 लाख टन था, लेकिन उस के बाद दुगुना और तिगुना उत्पादन हुआ, लेकिन उस के साथ साथ आबादी भी बहुत तेजी से बढ़ी, जिस का नतीजा यह हुआ कि जब इस तरह के कुप्रभाव कुदरत का तरफ से हमारे देश में होते हैं तो जो हमारा वितरण व्यवस्था है, जो हमारा हाट-बाजार व्यवस्था है, जिस में जब लोग देखते हैं कि माल का कमी होने वाली है तो वे उस माल को रोक जाते हैं, थोड़ा ये दुकानदार रोकते हैं, थोड़ा कम्प्यूमर रोकता है, थोड़ा उत्पादन करने वाले रोकते हैं—इस का हमारी वितरण व्यवस्था पर बहुत खराब असर पड़ता है और उस का परिणाम यह होता है कि जो हमारा बमजोर तब का है, जो गरीब लोग हैं उन को उस कठिनाई का सब से ज्यादा सामना करना पड़ता है।

अभी श्री समर गुह जा ने, जो बांग्ला के एम० पी० हैं, अपने इनार्के की जानते बयान की, कुछ फोटो भी दिखाये, कुछ

(श्री नाथूराम मिश्री)

आकड़े भी उन्होंने रखे । उन्होंने कहा कि अब तक 25 हजार आदमों भूख से मर गये हैं । बहुत स अधिकारों का उन्होंने जिक्र किया , कुछ कांग्रेस मेंनां का भी उल्लेख किया जिन्होंने कहा है कि लोग भूख से मर रहे हैं । जहा तक आफीडों का सवाल है अलग अलग सुबां में अलग अलग एजेन्सियों से जाच करवा कर जा आकड़े प्राप्त होते है उन के आधार पर त्रवाव दिये जाते है । वेस्ट बंगाल को ही ने लाजिये, वहा का सरकार ने जो आकड़े, डाट्टे किये है उन के आधार पर वहा 700 स्टार्वेशन टेन्स हुई है । वहा जो जाच की गई, उन के बाद यह कहा गया कि दरअसल में वे भूख मर रहे, मरे, लेकिन गरीबों के अन्दर निम्न लोया को खाने को चाहिये जब उनना नही मिलना है तो उन का शरीर जो कमजोर हो । है, उन के अन्दर से रेडियन्सम पावर मि जा गे है, जिनके कारण उन को जल्दी इन मरार का छाया पडता है । इन तरह के हाताफतानारे दश के अन्दर कई इताकों में है और इताकों मीट करने के लिये हमारी सरकार, चाहे केन्द्रीय सरकार हो या राज्यों का सरकार हो पूरा तरह म अचनां शक्ति और जार स काम कर रहे है । ज । इस प्रकार के हालात हमारे सामने आते है तो हमें ऐम इताकों का शायर घोणा करना चाहिये, उन के अन्दर धन का व्यवस्था होना चाहिये, परचेजिंग पावर बढ़ाने के लिये, वहा नये काम-काज खाने को व्यवस्था होना चाहिये । इन दृष्टिकोण से, श्री समर गुड जा का पता हुआ , हमारी सरकारें पीठे नी है, इन अक्बल महानेतरक राज्य सरकारों और

केन्द्रीय सरकार ने मिलकर अकाल को स्थिति का सामना करने के लिये अधिक से अधिक खर्च किया है । चाहे बंगाल हो, बिहार हो, मानाम हो, उड़ीसा हो, मध्य प्रदेश हो, राजस्थान हो, यू.पी० हा या गुजरात हा उन को समस्या के हिसाब से जितने भी खर्च की जरूरत पड़ा हमारी सरकारों ने खर्च किया ।

आज तक वेस्ट बंगाल में साढ़े 13 करोड़ ० खर्च किये जा चुके है । करीब 900 रमाइया चल रहे, है वहा चार लाख लाभां को मुक्त भाजा दिशा जाता है । आप का काम है हालात का न देखा और वहा आ कर लड़डेराजा करना । ऐराकन्बर के बारे में मुझे विगेर जानकारी है । 1500 काम चल रहे है तागों को काम काज देने के लिये और उन का परचेजिंग पावर बढ़ाने के लिये । सब से ज्यादा खाना भारत सरकार ने आप के वेस्त बंगाल में पहुनाया है पिछले 5 महीने का कारण का काटा में न देखा है जिस में पता चलता है कि । लाख 15 हजार टन अनाज वेस्त बंगाल का दिशा गया है, जब कि दूसर राज्यों का जहा कि अकाल का स्थिति है 45,50 हजार टन हा दिशा गया है । आप ज्यादा भूख है इन के बारे में प्राणाय सरकार और केन्द्रीय सरकार जागरूक है और पूरा तरह से इन काम किया जा रहा है । विरोधा बन के लोग अकाल और बाद से परेशान नही है बल्कि कुछ और हालात ने परेशान है और अपने तरिके से उन मुद्दों का यहा पर उठाते है । आप जरूर उठाये, यह आप का अधिकार है, लेकिन इन मामले में राजनीति नही लाना चाहिये । यद्यपि माननीय गुड ने कहा कि राजनीति का ऐसे मामले में काम काम में लाता

हूँ, लेकिन जो पाठ वह पढ़ रहे थे और माननीय जगजीवन राम जी को कह रहे थे उस से राजनीति स्पष्ट झलक रही थी। मैं मानता हूँ कि कठिन परिस्थिति है, अकाल जहां पर भी पड़ा है उन इलाकों के अन्दर आज भी राज्य सरकारें पूरी तरह से जागरूक हैं और पशुओं के चारे का इंतजाम, लोगों के पीने के पानी का इंतजाम उन की परचेजिंग पावर बढ़ाने के लिये रिलीफ काम भी चल रहे हैं। आज गुजरात के अन्दर 4 लाख आदमी काम पर लगे हुए हैं और दो हजार काम चल रहे हैं। इसी तरह से मध्य प्रदेश में चार लाख लोगो को काम पर लगाया हुआ है और ज्यों ज्यों हालात मुश्किल होंगे और ज्यादा उत्पादक काम खोल कर लोगों की परचेजिंग पावर बढ़ायी जायगी और ऐसे काम हाथ में लिये जायेंगे जिन से कृषि उत्पादन बढ़े। फ.इनेंस कमिशन ने हालांकि राज्यों की सीमा बांध दी है फिर भी डेफिसिट फ्राइ-नेसिंग का ब्याल रखते हुए ऐसे कठिन अवसर पर भी लोगो को इज्जत से जतने का अवसर मिले इस दृष्टिकोण से जितने भी खाद्यान्न की जरूरत है उस की व्यवस्था की जायगी और की जा रही है। जो गेहूँ और खरीफ के धान का प्रोक्योरमेंट चल रहा है और जो बाहर से लेना पड़ेगा उन सारी व्यवस्थाओं के प्रति राज्य सरकारें और केन्द्रीय सरकार जागरूक है और इस कथित परिस्थिति का मुकाबला करने के लिये द्रढ़ संकल्प है। हम पूरी कोशिश करेंगे कि और मुझे विश्वास है कि हम मुश्किल को पार करेंगे और अगले साल कुछ और ज्यादा उत्पादन बढ़ा सकेंगे।

विरोधी दलों से मेरा कहना है कि वह जरूर अपना राजनीतिक दृष्टिकोण रखे और

अपने तरीके से काम करें, लेकिन इस समय जो हालात देश के सामने हैं उन का हल निकालने के लिये देश के एक नागरिक के नाते जनता के नुमाइन्दे होने के नाते, वे कुछ गहराई से सोचें और उन का हल निकालने की कोशिश करें, सरकार का हाथ बटायें। केवल एक ही तरह का दृष्टिकोण रख कर राष्ट्रीय प्रश्नों को हल नहीं किया जा सकता। उन को गरीब लोगों की मदद करने में सरकार का सहयोग करना चाहिये।

श्री समर गुह : आप के भाषण को खिलायेंगे उन को।

श्री नाथुराम मिर्धा : मैं ने आप को बातों का जवाब दिया है। खेद है कि उस समय आप सदन में नहीं थे।

इसलिये मुझे भरोसा है कि कांग्रेस पार्टी और उस की सरकारों जहां पर भी विपत्ति है उस का मुकाबला करने में आज तक सक्षम रही हैं, आज भी हैं और आगे भी सक्षम रहेगी और हम इस कठिन परिस्थिति से बाहर निकल सकेंगे।

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I wish everybody is as co-operative. . . . (Interruptions). Mr. Samar Guha, you have had enough to speak; why do you not listen to others also?

I wish everybody is as co-operative as Mr. Mirdha. Before I call on Mr. Jyotirmoy Bosu I should like to refer to a very interesting note that he has sent to me; he wants me to give him time commensurate with his party's strength. That is very legitimate. May I tell him that calculated on the basis that the debate will conclude at 6, the time commensurate with his party's strength is eight minutes.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour) : I shall take as little time as possible. . .

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Com-mensurate.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: I never thought that you would catch it like this.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I will tell you nobody can say anything to me without being caught.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Today hunger and death are stalking various parts of the country. States like Assam, West Bengal, Orissa, Bihar, Gujarat, and Madhya Pradesh are the worst victims. I should refer to a very reputed newspaper, Economic Times which in its editorial says:

"The spectre of 1943 famine which had taken a toll of three million lives stalks in West Bengal again. Calcutta streets are crowded with famished people, taking crumbs of food from garbage, whatever euphemism the State Government might resort to, the stark reality can no longer be ignored. More than one third of the State's population of 4.5 million are facing starvation due to drought, floods and cyclone. There is obviously enough food in the countryside. . ."

That is the most important thing, Babu Jagjivan Ram.

"...conveniently hoarded under the protection of the garibi hatao sarkar and no serious dehoarding efforts have been made till recently. Voluntary efforts in Birbhum are reported to have led to arrests. . ."

That means nothing at all. In Assam several thousands of people died of starvation in Dhubri sub-division of North Kamrup district. 74 per cent of the rural population of Assam are below the hunger line.

1500 hrs.

In West Bengal, about 17 million people by a rough estimate are under starvation. Different figures have been given about starvation deaths, but it runs into several thousands. In Gujarat, particularly Saurashtra and Kuch, 17 out of 19 districts are worst affected. 15 million people are starving there. When Mr. Morarji Desai visited certain areas in Gujarat, people demanded poison from him instead of food, because they could see no hope of life from the present Government. They knew they would only starve and die. North Bihar, where half the population of Bihar lives, is one of the worst affected areas. 9 out of 10 are starving there. In Kerala, the Government have admitted there have been 550 starvation deaths. The real number is much more. In Orissa, at least 5 million people are under starvation. Conditions in M.P. are equally bad.

This Government is bluffing not only its own men but it is bluffing the world. I am quoting from a foreign paper, *Far Eastern Economic Review*:

"Hongkong, November 15, 1974. India is trying its utmost to soft-pedal reports of famine in some parts of the country. New Delhi has sent strict instructions to its diplomatic missions abroad that they should blindly deny stories in the international press saying that the problem is reaching serious proportions. The envoys are required to tell foreign officials that the situation has been exaggerated in the media. This is pricking some consciences. . ."

That is the directive. I will quote an extract from the *Time* magazine, which I am told has a circulation of 50 million:

"Nearly half a billion people are suffering from some form of hunger; . . . India alone needs 8 to 10 million tons of food this year from outside sources or else as many as

30 million people might starve. Food riots have become common place in vast sections of India. In the Kutch district of drought stricken Gujarat, peasants patiently wait for dogs and vultures to finish picking at the carcasses of dead cattle. The hungry gather up the bones and sell them to mills where they are made into bone dust, a kind of fertiliser."

Such articles have come out at which my head hangs down in shame, but this Government is unperturb because they can behave like an ostrich, which can hide its head in the sand and think that others cannot see him!

Whilst Indira Gandhi is underplaying the whole thing, it could well be compared with the saying, "When Rome was burning, Nero was fiddling". Her crooney, Sardar Swaran Singh swore in a press conference in Washington that not a single starvation death has taken place. Tell me, what a big lie it is! It is an organised, well-arranged narration of lie. Like Indira Gandhi, like Minister. He never tells the truth. They conveniently suppressed the details that even the State Congress President in West Bengal mentioned, namely, thousand deaths due to starvation have taken place. I am quoting from the *Statesman*:

"At least 1,000 people had died of starvation and various diseases caused by the acute food scarcity in West Bengal, according to the reports received by the WBPC from different districts, Mr. Arun Moitra, the PCC President, said here."

It is not my saying or the saying of critics, but of a spokesman of the party in power. The Minister of Relief in West Bengal says that the food situation in West Bengal is indeed extremely dangerous. There are so many like that. But in Cooch-Bihar, the situation surpasses all civilised

levels. What has happened in Cooch-Bihar has been described by no less a person than an eminent journalist writing for the *Times of India* as follows:

"As I entered Cooch-Bihar town last week, I was accosted by a man who implored me for help in cremating a boy, all skin and bone. I soon learnt that such cases are only too common. Often bodies of victims are abandoned on the roadside, at railway stations, in school verandahs, BDO's offices; village markets and even in backyards of private houses. At the present rate they will soon stop counting the dead and official records will show nothing even to suggest that there was a disaster."

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM): How many did he see himself?

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: He said he saw a number of dead bodies at the railway stations.

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: He was told.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: For the benefit of the hon. Minister, I will read that report again:

"As I entered Cooch-Bihar town last week I was accosted by a man who implored me for help in cremating a body, all skin and bone."

So, he saw the dead body.

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN (Muvattupuzha): No, he has not seen the body.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: I can only say that when a man is not sleeping you cannot wake him up.

[Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu]

The report further says:

".... the authorities have thought it necessary to organise official squads to dispose of bodies, often in batches."

Let there be an official machinery to find out whether it is true or not.

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN: Somebody has told him this. That is all.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: The *Economic and Political Weekly* report further says:

"The State's Relief Minister himself put the figure of the starving population at 15 million. Spokesmen of established political parties, including Ministers of the Congress, speak of starvation deaths by the hundreds. Despite the government's attempts to seal off Calcutta from the onslaught of hungry villagers, the city's pavements, parks and porcos are cluttered with destitute families who have managed to sneak through the police vigilance"

It further says:

"Hunger, of course, is a perennial experience for most people in rural West Bengal during these months of the year. But it has not been experienced on the present scale for 31 years—not since the terrible days of the autumn of 1943."

Well, if you want. I can present this copy of the *Economic and Political Weekly* to the Food Minister

In the 24 Parganas the situation is equally bad. Half the people that come to Calcutta, I should say, come from south of 24 Parganas. In Assam

in Dhubri, North Kamrup the position is the same. In Bankura for the first time starvation has stalked the middle class.... (bell rings).

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Has he finished?

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Yes.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Stephen

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: I shall make a note of the time which you give to every member and I shall dispute each one of them. It is not a joke. Do you think we are here as professional pleaders? I am terribly distressed.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Well, I understand the anger, the righteous indignation of Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu. I have drawn his attention to the limitation of time and to the request of the Minister of Parliamentary affairs. When I ring the bell it does not mean that I have asked him to stop. I gave him the warning. He had asked for time commensurate with the strength of his party and I had given him time commensurate to the strength of his party. When I ring the bell, it does not mean that he should stop. I have only given a warning.

But we cannot run this House if we show our pique on everything. You don't like certain things and, therefore, you sat down in disgust. When you sat down, I saw you sat down in disgust. I turned to you and asked "Are you serious?" and you said, "Yes". Therefore, I called Mr. Stephen. We cannot run this House in this way. We have to run it in a proper way.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: I will take another 5-7 minutes.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: If you want another 5 minutes, I will give you 5 minutes. Mr. Stephen, let us hear him for another 5 minutes.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: About Bankura, the people who never dreamt of living on dole have to accept chapatis prepared on gruel kitchens. But to the middle class, starvation had never been so close as today. It says:

"Ovens have not been lit in many homes for days together but out of shame the people have not approached the relief organisations."

That is the condition of the people there.

The conditions are even worse in the district of Purulia. I was talking about Assam. It says:

"Assam today is in the grip of famine. There have been reports of starvation deaths. Government sources have admitted that 74 per cent of the rural population are living below the hunger line.... Despite early indications of food shortage in March and April, the Government had held out false assurances of successful procurement and adequate stocks..."

There are glaring instances of failure in Assam.

Then, this is from *Patriot*:

"Believe it or not an eight-year-old boy sells in Assam for only Rs. 35 quite a bit cheaper than a medium-size goat. On 13 August, a group of newsmen visited an area of North Kamrup, said to be one of the worst flood-affected places in the State and met the eight-year-old Arfan Ali and his buyer Moslem Ali in the village of Kandhabari...."

This is what is happening very near to the place where you come from.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I am very concerned about it.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: I am very glad to hear it, I appreciate that

Coming to relief, it is only meeting the needs of 2 per cent of the population. Due to the in-fight amongst the ruling party and the stealing that goes on, even that is not reaching the common man. In relief camps that they have started in Assam, 150 gms. of broken cereals, boiled, are being given once in a day. Even there, the food is killing the people because the food is not quite good for the stomach of the starving person. So, deaths are taking place.

The other day, six Opposition MLAs from Assam came and they wanted to see the Prime Minister. They waited for 10 days. They were, more or less, refused an interview. Then, at my instance, they were able to see Mr. Dhar. Mr. Dhar promised to visit the Golpara District. Later on, he declined to go. They insisted that if the food was not rushed to Golpara District, the death-toll which is at present about 100 per day will continue.

The Government admitted that the shortage was marginal and the per capita availability of food was much more now. I will show you from the documents that I have brought here. According to the reply given by the hon. Minister, only yesterday, the total production of cereals in 1972-73 was 871 million tonnes and the total import of cereals was 6.97 lakh tonnes. In 1973-74, it is much higher. The total production of cereals in 1973-74 is 93.9 million tonnes whereas the total import of cereals is 43.47 lakh tonnes. So, the per capita availability is more. But the production is 93.9 million tonnes. The per capita availability of food per week should be 3000 grammes or 3 kg. But in a place where there is full rationing they are getting only 1250 grammes

[Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu]

per week and in areas where there is modified rationing, they are given practically nothing. The rationing system is on the verge of collapse. The public distribution system is systematically dismantled in order to make room for the joddars, black-marketeers and hoarders because if food is available through the public distribution system, the black-marketeers cannot flourish. So the black-marketeers should be given the freedom to loot in this 'Garibi Hatao' and the public distribution system should be dismantled. That is the truth.

I want to say that this is happening in total surrender of the Government to the black-marketeers, hoarders and joddars. Mrs. Indira Gandhi is running with the hare and hunting with the hound. For 800 million population there is no food problem and the finding is by no less than a team of American scientists some of whom are Nobel Laureates. But, in this country, after 27 years of freedom, not more than 22 per cent of the cultivable land is irrigated, flood prevention measures are very little, there is no drainage system and the Emergency Agricultural Production Programme and the rural Employment Crash Programme both have been utilised to further the cause of the Congress Party. In fact it has delivered nothing at all.

For the Kerala Government, the Central Government promised 80,000 tonnes of rice. They have been promising year after year at the rate of 12 ounces per adult. This month they have been given only 25,000 tonnes. Now they have been given 2 kg of rice per family per week irrespective of the number of members in a family. The State produces cash crops and earns a lot of foreign exchange through sales of jute, tea, pepper, rubber and so many other commodities. It must be treated in a way, as the yuse teh land for the

production of cash crops by not producing food items, that they are adequately compensated and they are not to come to the Central Government with a beggar's bowl year after year.

We have been demanding for a National Food Budget. Shri Jagjivan Ram has not paid any attention to it. Who is responsible for the starvation conditions in the country? Not the natural calamity, but this pro-landlord, pro-hoarder policy of this government. What is the real way out? The Government should undertake the full responsibility of feeding the people, wholesale States trading in foodgrains, commandeering the surplus foodgrains belonging to persons who own more than 10 acres of land, giving up this pro-landlord and pro-hoarder policy and stop the operation of black money and deficit financing must be stopped. Why don't you have a good procurement and distribution machinery? Because if you really strengthen the public distribution system and if you really keep the rationing system alive and meet the requirements of people, the black-marketeers, the hoarders who are the patron saints of this party and financiers and protectors of this party cannot survive and flourish. Therefore, they cannot remain in power. Therefore, you cannot run with the hare and hunt with the hounds. To-day that is the condition.

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN (Muvattupuzha): There is one point on which there is no difference of opinion in this House and that is that in the matter of food the country is passing through a difficult situation. No evidence is necessary, no statistics are necessary to prove that we are in a tight position as far as the food requirements are concerned. There is another matter on which there may be a difference of opinion, that this tightness in the matter of food is not exclusively Indian in character. It is an international phenomena to-day.

To emphasize that it is an international phenomena is not to make an attempt to reduce the gravity of the situation that our country is facing. Faced with this situation there are three approaches which are possible. One is to hold a determined position to handle the situation and to find out a solution by mutual cooperation and cooperative approach. The second approach is an approach of helplessness and despair and frustration and saying that everything is dark and there is no way out and so on. That is the second type of approach. And the third approach is this. This is an approach of extreme callousness, callous glee saying now that the Government is caught in the wrong foot, let us make capital out of such a situation, and although expressing indignation and remorse at the kind of difficulties which this country is facing, nevertheless, manipulating things on the political plane in such a manner as to make the situation really more and more difficult. These are the three different kinds of approaches which are possible.

The plea that I would like to put on behalf of my party is not to repudiate that there is no such difficult situation as we see today, that there is not ever one starvat on death, not to say everything is so easy and so on, but to plead that given the conditions that are obtaining in the country and in international plane, the Government has been doing whatever is possible, whatever is humanly possible to tackle the situation and that, had it not been for the efforts of this Government, (who tackled this problem with the highest of priority) the position would have really become dismally bad for this country. I would point my finger of accusation at my friends on the opposition because many of them are trying to make a political capital out of a difficult situation. They are doing it regardless of the repercussions which such things will have in this country, in regard to the things which do in the political

plane, in the campaign plane and in the propaganda plane.

My friend Mr. Samar Guha made certain observations. He said that 25000 people died of starvation. Anybody is free to suggest what he likes. But let us not forget that we are dealing with human problems. We are dealing with human beings. When you say that there are so many starvation deaths, that there are deaths on such a large scale, you are doing a signal disservice to this country by placing such sorts of exaggerated statements before the House. I do not know on what basis he has said that. There is no report or statement of any such kind which we have come across. We have to remember that when this country launched on her independence in 1947 we started with a population of 30 crores and today this has gone up to 56 crores. I am not saying that population moving up is a dangerous matter and we must battle against it or that we should bemoan that matter or anything of that sort. The fact remains that we had to feed 30 crores of people in 1947 and we have to feed 56 crores of people today. And in addition to this, there can be no dispute on the fact that the standard of living of the people has gone up in the meanwhile. There is a large demand for food-grains, at least in a particular section of the people in this country. In 1947 our imported figure of foodgrains was 60 lakhs tonnes. This has progressively gone down to 18 lakhs in 1971 and in 1972, around 20 lakhs. This country could feed its population without a recurrence of what we know as the Bengal Famine in 1943. There is considerable improvement in the food situation in the country. Even Mr. Jyotirmoy Bose could not deny that production in this respect has gone up and the country is moving towards self-sufficiency in the matter of food. Let the credit be given to the Government when it is due, whether it be in the matter of implementation of land reforms, whether it be in the matter of giving better fertilizers

[Shri C. M. Stephen]

better supply of seeds, by more intensive and extensive cultivation and all that, because all these measures have resulted in the improvement of the food position in the country.

The position would have been better, the estimate would have been 115 million tonnes in 1972-73. Nobody can deny from 1971-72, 1972-73 and 1973-74—for a continuous period of three years—we have been facing natural calamities of drought and floods. So much so that what was expected to be of the order of 115 million tonnes went down to 87 million tonnes and then as a result of intensive cultivation and drive it went up to 92 million tonnes. Even then the margin remained.

The question is how to get it around. Whether Government took measures to face the situation or not? Government did take measures. What measures Government took? Government reversed its policy that there shall be no imports. Although from political angle there was opposition for import of foodgrains, saying that import of foodgrains from such and such quarter should not be allowed, even then Government garnered whatever foreign exchange they had and bought food at phenomenally high price. Our Government approached Russia and imported foodgrains to the tune of 2 million tonnes on loan basis. So much so that in 1973 Government was able to import to the extent of 6.2 million tonnes. This I say because it was out of the keenness and insight of the Government to see that the people's lot should not be allowed to suffer that the Government disregarding requirements of foreign exchange garnered whatever foreign exchange they could and imported foodgrains

Now, look to the public distribution system. An effort was made to strengthen public distribution system.

That was the reason why Government announced that there will be wholesale take-over of foodgrains. We know what happened when this announcement was made. The political parties opposed it and launched a campaign against it and saw to it that that programme failed partially. So much so that the Government could only purchase to the extent of 4.45 million tonnes, as against 8 million tonnes with the result that Government could not build up buffer stock. Nevertheless, taking up the figures we find that the public distribution system was being fed on a progressively higher scale. In 1970-71 the public distribution system had 8 million tonnes; in 1971-72 it had 7.8 million tonnes and in 1972-73 it had 11.4 million tonnes in 1973-74 the public distribution system had 11 million tonnes and as on date it has 9.5 million tonnes. That means on the public distribution system the foodgrains were being passed over to the people and the people are being sustained on the basis of public distribution system. Now, Mr. Bosu said you have got sufficient foodgrains. You have managed to produce sufficient foodgrains. When Mr. Bosu underlines the position that there is sufficient foodgrains production and that the Government have imported sufficient foodgrain unwittingly he is paying complement to the Government that Government have managed to get this much in the country. But the difficulty he says is about hoarding, black-marketing and the inflationary trend. There is inflationary trend.

Recently Government took steps to fight inflation. What was the attitude of the Opposition? They fought tooth and nail against those measures. They are fighting tooth and nail against the Ordinance on smugglers and the Presidential Order. To them the fundamental right of an individual is greater than the fundamental right of the people of this country. To them the fundamental right of a smuggler is greater

than the fundamental right of the people to exist. Whatever step Government may take the Opposition wants to oppose it. Therefore, the Opposition's attitude is one of making political capital on the one side and sabotaging everything that the Government does to ease the situation.

The figures show that in the course of the last year the total raids conducted were 53,231 and the total foodgrains that were dehoarded were to the tune of 5.97 lakh tonnes. This de-hoarding took place and if de-hoarding has to take place MISA will have to be used, people may have to be arrested and put in jail.

The question is: Here is a national problem. Is the Opposition prepared to cooperate with the Government to tackle the national problem? Actually, the Opposition is taking stand along with the anti-social elements and joining them to fight the Government and sabotage the Government. This is the position

Therefore, all that I submit is, there is no difference of opinion that there is crisis in this country; there is no difference of opinion that the country and all the nations are passing through difficulties. Burma which was exporting rice the other day is now itself in short supply. Soviet Russia after 60 years of revolutionary existence had to go to America to purchase wheat. China today is the biggest purchaser in the international market. They are now competing with India to purchase foodgrains in the international market. Nobody is self-sufficient. We know in Rome many countries assembled and said that the world is on the razor edge of starvation.

Ultimately, the question is whether we are prepared to remain as a family to fight this and tide over the crisis. I am an aggrieved party.

Kerala gets only 25,000 tonnes. I have got to tell the people if rice is not available and wheat is available you consume wheat. If something else is available you have even to take that.

But, Sir that is not to say that the Government has discharged all their responsibilities. They have to intensify their drive against hoarders. They have to intensify their drive against anti-social elements and whatever the Opposition may say if it is necessary to nozzle down the people who are robbing the people even if you have to use 100 Presidential Orders to see that they do not scuttle the steps you take you have to do that. Now, on agricultural front we may even be required to have deviation in our policy. In enstification on the agricultural front is absolutely necessary. Industrialisation must be there but industrialisation cannot survive unless there is solid basis of agricultural production.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: Sir I rise on a point of order. The adjournment motion relates specifically to the issue of starvation deaths and the relief provided either by the Central Government or the State Governments. He is talking about long-range programme. I want to know whether the speech that is being made by the hon. Member is relevant to the subject matter under discussion.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I am very happy that this point has been raised by Mr Guha. My seat will be more comfortable if Mr Guha remembers this and is more mindful about relevancy. In this case he wants to know as to whether what Mr. Stephen is saying is relevant or not.

Now, the case that was cited is this. There is a charge on you that you are making a political capital out of the sufferings of the country.

[Mr. Deputy Speaker]

Rightly or wrongly this is the impression that you conveyed. Mr. Stephen is trying to rebut that. Is that so?

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: I only want to make a submission to you. I am grateful to you to remind me about this. The point that we made is as per the official report about the starvation deaths and the amount of relief given. Is this not a relevant thing?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Anyway that is for the House to decide. I have given my ruling only on the limited question about the relevancy.

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN: About a couple of sentences more and I have done. Mr. Bosu has made a reference to Kerala. Well, Sir, I do want to focus the case of Kerala. As the hon. Member said we are rice-eating people and we are deficit to the extent of fifty per cent of our requirements. That is why the zonal arrangement has been created—the State Zonal arrangement—and I am not disputing that. The basis of this arrangement was that the surrounding States—Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh—would together meet our requirements so that we may be able to carry on. What happened now is that Kerala is sealed off. We cannot purchase the foodgrains from outside. Every State is sealed off on the solemn undertaking that the States will take care of us. That was the basis on which this arrangement was made. But, what happened was this. The Tamil Nadu does not supply that; Andhra Pradesh does supply its quota. The other States have failed.

The present position today is that the Central Government accepts the responsibility to feed different States. But, the Central Government have no right and the authority, constitutional or otherwise, to make procurements

in different States. You have the responsibility but you do not have the machinery in order to procure the foodgrains. You have got such an arrangement. I support Mr. Bosu when he says that there must be a national food policy. That national food policy is not merely for measuring up and budgeting through but of getting whatever surplus is available throughout the country. That arrangement has got to take place. And this is a matter and I want to pinpoint on that. I call the attention of the hon. Minister to that.

I want to say in the end one thing. My submission is that the Government is going on correct lines but it is the Opposition which is scuttling the whole thing. They feel that by scuttling this thing in this way they can make us weak. Because we are strong, and the country will go ahead.

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE (Calcutta-North-East): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, in a thin House and in an atmosphere of characteristically listless indifference, we are discussing the question which affects our people most vitally.

I am happy that Shri Samar Guha has been enabled to have this opportunity of putting forward the motion which implies a reprimand on the Administration. I recall something which I did a long time ago when I noticed the ineptitudes of this Government that one can sometimes understand why people are wicked or incapable. But, one cannot understand why we are not ashamed.

As far as the present economic conditions in the country are concerned, I am sure, my friend, the Agriculture Minister will agree with me that the shades of 1943 had appeared. It is not a job that we have been able to dispel those shades. The fact is that after twentyfive years of our independence, people die of starvation in the streets of our towns and in our

villages. They come to the Railway Stations in search of food and some kind of occupation to keep themselves alive and they die—these men, women and children. If this is the condition of things to which we are reduced, I expect the Government of this country at least to come before our people with sack cloth and ashes to tell them that we are very sorry about what happened.

In 1952, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru when he was told that he had given an assurance that all imports of food would be stopped in a little while, answered frankly—I am quoting his words—

“I regret that my words have been falsified and I feel thoroughly ashamed that what was almost a pledge to the country has been broken”.

He had the guts to say, the moral and intellectual guts to say that but the Government of today is callous, is cynical, is criminal in so far as the condition of the people is concerned.

In so far as other problems were concerned, after the partition, so many problems came and Jawaharlal said in the Provisional Parliament—I am quoting his words—

“In fact, I have often wondered why the people of India put up with people like me who was connected with the governing of India after all that has happened during the last few months. I am not quite sure that if I had not been in the government, I would put up with my government”.

The people put up with him because he could appear before them as a human being and speak to them in a voice of humanity, but here the Government tries to dismiss the reports about starvation. How do you dismiss them? Mr. B. K. Daschowdhury is from Cooch-Bihar. I have no time

to refer to reports about the orrie scenes in Cooch-Bihar, the distress of the people there. Shri Samar Guha has gone a good of it. I am sure about it. Can he deny the kind of thing which has happened? Have not the Minister of Relief of West Bengal, Mr. Santosh Roy or some such person—I do not remember names—and other MLAs of the Congress Party said repeatedly that in Cooch-Bihar railway station and elsewhere dead bodies were found and they were dead because they did not have anything to eat? They could not keep themselves alive in God's good earth. Is it not true that Shri Ram Sahay Pandey gave a special interview to newspapers explaining how in some of his areas in Madhya Pradesh people had to live for more than two weeks on leaves of trees in the jungles and then they died? That was a statement he made to the press and now Mr. Stephen—I am glad he put his case comparatively moderately for him. I was afraid he would out-Stephen Mr. Stephen—even he tried to defend the case by saying, ‘No, no, not very much has happened’. How much do you wish to happen? Do you wish a re-enactment of 1943? Would you be happy? Would the Opposition be happy? Would we be happy. Does it make us happy to say that people are dying that parents are selling their children in order to get the wherewithal for life, that young women are having to sell their flesh because female flesh is dear to some people of a certain fashion? Does it make us happy to say these things or do we have to say these things because conditions have become too dismal?

I was abroad recently and I found pigs in most countries are better fed than human beings in this country? Are we going to stand this sort of things? And for how long? Do not be cynical, do not be callous, because in that case you would be political criminals of the first water and the country will throw you out. There is no doubt about it.

We have an acquiescent society, 4,000 years of social hierarchy which

[Shri H. N. Mukerjee]

never changes. Shri Jagjivan Ram knows in the blood of his blood and in the bone of his bones that we are an accretescent society; we do not change. But beware of the theory of a patient people; when a patient people turn, they will turn in a manner which you and I would all have to regret. That is why we want a change in our policy. We want intelligent application of patriotic interests in so far as the solutions of our problems are concerned. Unlike Jawaharlal Nehru this Government cynically disregards the sensitivity of our people.

Starvation deaths have taken place. I had occasion to say once before asking an adjournment motion last session that the Government of West Bengal had the gumption to say that these deaths are not on account of starvation but on account of malnutrition. Malnutrition—my foot. They died because of malnutrition and not lack of nutrition, wrong nutrition. They ate leaves of trees which are not edible. They did not die of starvation! Nobody dies unless the heart stops; so everybody dies of heart failure; nobody ever dies of any other disease? Starvation and starvation alone is the reason. In Calcutta I have seen things which remind me of 1943. People come with a begging bowl in their hands and cry for a little rice or watery gruel. Heaven knows for how long our people would have to live like this and how long the jangarkhanas should be there, how long would it be necessary for the bourgeois civilisation to exercise its philanthropy and have these miserable relief camps? I know relief camps have to be opened because they have to be fed. For how long are we going to keep our poor and destitute in special camps and feed them? Are not they human beings, just like you and me? We all live in air conditioned comfort and we make speeches. How long is this kind of thing going to continue? That is

a question which should be in the mind of everybody. That is why when elections become the topic, you all get jittery; we all get jittery because our people, if they really ask questions, will never get answers. What answers have we got to give them? Cannot we feed them? Many things are said. The global situation is wrong; the inflation is there, this, that and the other thing. Does that feed you? Why should our people accept your idea; the population problem is terrible; the Rome Conference would be something, let us wait for twenty years more. It cannot happen. That is not politics; that is not life. We have to do something about it.

Have you got that sense of urgency? I ask you, Congress Members, many of you are our friends. I am prepared to trust you. That is why I sometimes pursue policies which may not be liked by my friends on this side. But I ask: are you serious? If you are genuinely serious, what measures are you taking? Mr. Jagjivan Ram came up and said the other day that there was no real shortage and if whatever was available could be distributed in a humane fashion, the problem could be solved. God bless you, go ahead and do something about mobilising the enthusiasm of the people. Get P. R. Das Muni and the rest of them and get others from the other camps also and get a real food corps, young people who would work and get rid of your miserable bureaucracy which stands in the way. Mr. Stephen had the gumption to say that the opposition sabotaged the idea of the taking over the whole sale trade in food-grains. What a wonderful idea? For a Government Party Member, for Mr. Stehen to say that we on this side, some of us have sabotaged and defeated your policies, what kind of a Government or you? You say you adopt a certain policy and then you put up some excuses and say that because of Jansangh and Swatantra

you can't do something. Is that politics? Is that understanding? Is that humanism? I do not understand. This country should try to wake up to its responsibilities, I have a hell of a lot of material but how do I deal with them, when this thing is a human problem. Gandhiji had said and said this repeatedly. No sophistry, no jugglery in figures, no argumentation can explain away the things in Calcutta and elsewhere. From Assam to Gujarat in Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Bihar, West Bengal and Cooh Bihar, Midnapur, Bankura and Purulia and so many other places, people see what is happening. No sophistry, no jugglery in figures and no argumentation can explain away that thing. Something has got to be done about it. But I do not see any sign of an awareness of this. We have had a plan for so many years. Why is it that we hear today a repetition of what we heard in the British days, when the Budget of British India was supposed to be a gamble on the monsoon. Even now why do you say that? You had a great green revolution which had produced wonderful results. Now you say that the monsoon has behaved badly. Drought on the one hand and floods on the other have combined to bring about famine all over the country. Why do you say so? Why does it happen in 1972? We can deal with problem which had been created on account of the Bangla Desh crisis. Why don't we have foresight enough to do something about today? I am not going to blame you only for what has happened before. But do something here and now. What is the idea of a Plan? Do we still live in a completely anarchic society? My friend Shri D. N. Tiwari is here and from 1952 onwards in every session he points out that Champaran continues to be one of the most backward areas. Nothing has happened there. Gandhiji started movement in Champaran because people there lived under very difficult conditions. Champaran is very much the same even today, the condition is the same. Then why have we a Plan? What is the idea? That being

so is it not necessary for us to examine the implication of what is happening? Why is there, at the same time co-existence, talk about self reliance and talks about aid from western powers in particular looking forward to Kissinger's visit and all the rest of it? Why should we go on having this kind of plan?

Sir, I do not wish to prolong the agony of myself and of my friends. This is not a matter of more argumentation and putting up figures. I have got a whole lot of figures, but it is no good referring to these things. What are you going to do about it? Your public distribution system has, if it has not collapsed, at least broken down to such extent which is most damaging to the country. In West Bengal in particular where the political climate is important for the future of your Government and for the country as a whole, the temperature of the people is at the boiling point because things cannot be tolerated in this manner much longer. But that is not the only point. We have to do something all together in order to solve this problem. For that, Government first of all has to have the humility to go before the country and say that they are ashamed about their non-performance of what they should have performed. They should have the humility to go before the young people and tell them that they have now been able to satisfy their aspirations and their soaring hopes, but now they are trying to mobilise them in a countywide effort. That means injection into the bureaucracy and the apparatus of administration of a qualitative medicine, which this Government seems unable to bring into the picture and that is the participation of the people. Dr. B. C. Roy once tries to change the definition of democracy given by Abraham Lincoln by saying, "Government of the people, by the people, for the people and with the people". He added, "Government with the people" to the definition. It is a good idea, the participation of the people in everything. You will get

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that only if you have genuinely radical policies, in which you invite the other parties to cooperate with you. It is only on that basis that you can do it. Do adopt those policies if possible you have the least little intention of doing something good to the country. Otherwise, this situation cannot last. We are speaking only a few days after the birth anniversary of Jawaharlal Nehru. He used to care a great deal about children. Today a hundred million children, on a very low computation, go to sleep every night hungry from day to day, from years to years on end. This is the condition. Here is a country where 14 million children go blind because there is protein deficiency in their food. We talk about the greatness and glory of our country, the grandeur of our political leadership and so on. We have the gumption to do that. I ask the Government to have some humility, go before the people and tell them that they are ashamed of their inability so far to deliver the goods to the people which they are under promise to do. Then they can go forward, if they possibly can, to proceed with those radical policies which have been repeatedly adumbrated. It is on that basis that I support Mr. Samar Guha's motion. I believe this Government deserves and requires a slap in the face, a reprimand, on account of their failure in the sphere of their food policy.

श्री नवल किशोर सिंह (मुजफ्फरपुर) :

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, जब इन सदन के अन्दर भाषणों को मैं सुनता हूँ तो मन में बहूँ से प्रश्न उठ खड़े होते हैं। किन्हीं भाषणों में भाषों का ऐसा उद्देश्य होता है, ऐसा उद्देश्य होता है कि उस में बह जाने का जी चाहता है और किन्हीं भाषणों में भाषा का सौंठव और उन को सुन्दरता ऐसी होनी है कि बह बह कर जाते हैं। लेकिन हम लोग जिस विषय पर

विचार कर रहे हैं उस में न तो भाषों को उद्देश्य के लिए जगह है न भाषा की सुन्दरता के लिए। अभी प्रोफेसर एच एन मुखर्जी साहब का भाषण मैं ने सुना। मैं उन का बहुत बड़ा भक्त हूँ। वह जब बोलते हैं, उन का एक शब्द भी मैं मिस नहीं करना चाहता। वह जब बोलते हैं तो ऐसा लगता है कि हिन्दो की कहावत के अनुसार उन को जिह्वा पर स्व सरस्वती विराजती है, लेकिन उन के इतने सुन्दर भाषण में मैं तो उन का एक ही सुझाव सुना और समझा कि शासक दल और विरोधी दलों का कोई एक शामिल फूड-कोर बनना चाहिए जिस में संभवतः उन के कथन के अनुसार श्री पी० आर० दास मुझे से लेकर श्री ज्योतिर्मय वसु तक को होना चाहिए। मुझे मालूम नहीं है कि यहाँ गैस हत्या है या नहीं लेकिन एक कोमिग हुई है बिहार में।

15 56 hrs.

[Dr. HENRY AUSTIN in the Chair]

बिहार के मुख्य मंत्री ने एक बार विरोधी दल के नेताओं को यह दावत दी कि वे एक फूड कौंसिल में आ कर बिहार की खाद्य समस्या का समाधान और निदान करने की कोशिश करें और उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि प्रत्येक व्यक्ति जो इस फूड कौंसिल का सदस्य होगा उस की कैबिनेट मिनिस्टर की स्टेटस होगी। लेकिन विरोधी दलों ने मुख्य मंत्री के साथ मिल कर फूड कौंसिल में आना स्वीकार नहीं किया। इंडियन प्रेस की कैबिनेट मिनिस्टर की स्टेटस पाकर भी काम करने को वे तैयार नहीं हुए। इस के पता लगता है और मैं प्रोफेसर मुखर्जी से बहुत कुछ के साथ यह

कहना चाहता हूँ कि दरअसल अधिकांश विरोधी सदस्य शामिल होकर काम करना नहीं चाहते। मुखर्जी साहब के दल वाले अवश्य वहाँ इस काम को करने के लिए तैयार थे लेकिन एक सीमित सीमा तक ही वे भी तैयार थे, उस से आगे बढ़ने के लिए तैयार नहीं थे। तो विरोधी दलों के लोग मिल कर यह काम करने को तैयार नहीं हैं, इस से मुझे ऐसा लगता है कि इन देश में जो खाद्य समस्या है और जो अफ़ान वर्गों की बातें हैं, बिल्कुल राजनीति की दृष्टि से हम इस पर विचार करते हैं और वोट की दृष्टि से मोचते हैं। अगर हम नए के पत्र इस मामले में सितियर होते कि हम उस समस्या का निदान खोजें तो जैसा उन्होंने बताया है हम यहाँ और राज्यों में इस तरह का ही कुछ प्रगति कर सकते थे।

हिन्दुस्तान में ही नहीं, बहुत से प्रगत जिले देशों में ग्राम प्रगति के साथ एक गैम्बल है और प्रकृति पर कोई विजय नहीं पा सकता पंडित जवाहर लाल नेहरू ने एक बार कहा था कि :

“All talks about conquest of nature is bunkum. We can only adjust with nature.”

इसलिये यह समस्या सरकारों के सामने हमेशा रहेगी। किती साल अनाज उत्पाद होगा, किसी साल कम होगा। मैंने किसी माननीय सदस्य को यह कहते हुए सुना कि इतनी ही सिंचाई का इंतजाम हो पाया है, लेकिन एक किसान होने के नाते मैं माननीय सदस्य को विश्वास दिला सकता हूँ कि कितना भी सिंचाई का इंतजाम ठीक हो लेकिन फिर भी वर्षा आप के अनुकूल न हो तो उत्पादन

आप के मनोनकूल नहीं होगा। इस बनिबंदी साथ को अपने सामने रख कर हमें इस पर विचार करना चाहिए, तभी हम इस विषय के साथ और मुक्त की जनता के साथ न्याय कर सकेंगे।

एक अर्ज मैं और करना चाहता हूँ। हम जो यहाँ कुछ बोलते हैं वे बातें यहीं तक सीमित नहीं रहती हैं, बाहर भी जाती हैं। इसलिये हमें कोई ऐसी बात नहीं करनी चाहिये जिसमें कि जो माइक्रोनाजी आफ गार्टेज हमारे देश में है वह बढ़े। कोई स्केयर पैदा हो। उस की कोशिश नहीं होनी चाहिए। वहाँ इतने मर गए, इतने भूखड़े हैं, वहाँ इतने बिक रहे हैं, इतने बच्चे बिक रहे हैं, वहाँ स्त्रियाँ बिक रही हैं, अगर इस तरह की बातें हम इस मंच से कहना शुरू करेंगे तो हमें भय है न हम अपने साथ न्याय करेंगे न अपने देश की जनता के साथ न्याय करेंगे।

16.00 hrs.

इस लिए मैं यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि गार्टेज और स्केयर मिटी की माइक्रोनाजी इस देश में बनाना अच्छी बात नहीं है। हम को चाहिये। कि हम बिल्कुल ठोस और पक्की बात करें।

प्रो० मुखर्जी साहब, जिन के लिये जैसा मैंने शुरू में कहा और अब फिर दोहरा देता हूँ, उन की बाबा-शक्ति की मेरे मन में इतनी इज्जत है जितनी शायद दूसरों के लिये न हो। उन्होंने ब्रिटिश डेज की याद दिलाई — परम्परा चाहे जो हो—लेकिन इस तरह की बात कहना कि सरकार को खरी-खरी सुनाई,

[श्री नवल किशोर सिंह]

सरकार को रगड़ कर रख दिया, जब हम उधर थे तो हम भी यह काम किया करते थे, लेकिन उस वक्त में श्रीर भ्राज के जमाने में बहुत बड़ा बुनियादी परिवर्तन हो गया है। हम जितने सदन्य यहा पर है, हम को यह नहीं भूलना चाहिये कि उस वक्त हम कुछ नहीं कर सकते थे, लेकिन भ्राज कल हम जो चाहे कर सकते है।

मैं एक निवेदन भ्राप से करना चाहता था—हमारे यहा कुछ काम नहीं हुआ, ऐसी बात नहीं है। सब से बड़ा काम तो वह हुआ कि बाबू जग-जीवन राम इस देश के खाद्य मंत्री बने, मैं समझता हू कि यह एक निश्चित बड़ा काम इम समस्या के निदान का, इस समस्या के समाधान का हुआ 153 हजार रेड्स इम देश में हुई, यहा हम लोग डी-होर्डिंग की माग करते थे, 60 हजार टन अनाज बाहर निकाला गया, 5 हजार व्यक्ति गिरफ्तार किये गये। ये सब वही काम है जो साल भर से हमारे माननीय सदस्य—इधर से या उधर से—माग कर रहे थे। भ्राज जब ऐसी बात हुई है तो उधर में कोई मुबारकबाद सुनने को नहीं मिला कि तुम ने यह अच्छा काम किया है। मैं कोई बहुत अर्थशास्त्री या विद्वान नहीं हूँ, लेकिन मैंने प्रखबारों में पढ़ाई कि पिछले साल इसी महीने में सीरलज का प्रयास इण्डेक्स 5.3 परसेन्ट बढ़ा था और इम साल यह प्राइज इण्डेक्स 5.7 परसेन्ट कम हुआ है। ये सब बातें ऐसी है जिन को स्वीकार किया जाना चाहिये और सरकार की धालोचना करने के साथ साथ जो कुछ काम हुआ है उस के लिये सरकार को दाद भी देनी चाहिये।

दूसरी बात मैं यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ—प्राकृतिक आपदाओं से जो कुछ होता है, वह तो हो लेकिन सरकार के कामों से मैन-मैड फलड और मैन-मैड डाउट नहीं होना चाहिए। मैं इसके दो-तीन उदाहरण भ्रापके सामने रखना चाहता हूँ। पहला उदाहरण तो गण्डक योजना का है। भ्राप चिनिये—उत्तर बिहार में, यह गण्डक योजना जो किसी समय बिहार के लिये बरदान समझी जा रही थी भ्राज अभिशाप बन गई है मैंने खुद उस समय एक कमेटी बनाई थी कि गण्डक योजना के कार्यन्वयन के लिये आन्दोलन किया जाय। उसके बनते बनते भ्राज क्या हो रहा है—भ्राप देखिये, जितना अनाज उससे ज्यादा पैदा हो रहा है, उतना ही अनाज उसके एस्कूप चैनल में वह रहा है। इसका क्या जबाब है? मैं माला भर से कहता आ रहा हूँ, दो तीन बार सवाल भी उठाये, गण्डक योजना अनाथ हो गई है—न भारत सरकार ही उसको लेने को तैयार है और न बिहार सरकार कुछ कर रही है। बीनिया बार हमने कहा है कि भारत सरकार उसको अपन हाथ में लेकर उसको पूरा कर दे और फिर देखे कि वह क्षेत्र कितना चमक उठता है, हमारे खाद्यान्न के उत्पादन में कितनी वृद्धि होती है। लेकिन इस विषय में अभी तक विचार नहीं किया गया।

एक दूसरा उदाहरण भी भ्रापके सामने रखना चाहता हूँ—कि हमारे यहा उत्तर बिहार में छोटी लाइन को बड़ी लाइन में कन्वर्ट किया जा रहा है। मधौल और कफेन गाव में जहाँ छोटी लाइन में पांच पुल थे, वहा बड़ी लाइन में कन्वर्शन करने समय दो पुल ट्राइबरेशन के बनाने में दिये गये नतीजा यह हो रहा है कि सराफ पानी रुक जाता है और हजारों एकड़ भूमि की

फसल को बर्हा से जाता है। यह मैन-मैड फुलड है, इसका क्या जबाब है—मेरी समझ में नहीं आता है। मैं चाहता हूँ कि सरकार इस पर विचार करे ताकि इस तरह की घटनाओं की पुनरावृत्ति न हो।

प्रश्न विहार के सबध में दो चार बातें कहना चाहता हूँ। इस साल विहार में करीब 15 लाख टन यानी 380 करोड़ रुपये का नुबसान हुआ है। विहार में हर साल 7 लाख टन का डेफिसिट रहता है, इस साल यह डेफिसिट 15 लाख टन का है। मकई और धान दोनों खराब हो गए। मकई तो बिल्कुल हुई ही नहीं, धान में भी काफी कमी आई। वहाँ रबी उत्पादन के आन्दोलन को बहुत तेजी से चलाना है। सरकार ने बीज दिया, लेकिन इतना लेट दिया कि 2 लाख 15 हजार क्विंटल उसके लिये एलाट हुआ था, अभी 56 हजार क्विंटल ही पहुँच पाया, बाकी कब पहुँचेगा और कब बुझाई के काम आयेगा, मेरा अनुरोध है कि वहाँ बीज जल्दी से जल्दी पहुँचना चाहिये।

रबी के उत्पादन के लिये नाइट्रोजन फर्टिलाइजर का एक खास स्थान है। मेरी सूचना है कि 95 हजार टन का एलाटमेंट विहार के लिये हुआ था लेकिन हाल ही में उसमें एक तिहाई की कमी होने जा रही है। मेरा अनुरोध है कि यह कमी न की जाय।

तीसरे—वहाँ किसानों को कर्ज नहीं मिल रहा है। वहाँ कोभापरेटिव बैंक सहकारी संस्थाओं की बसूली अच्छी नहीं हुई। बाढ़ और सुखाड़ को कारण—इसलिये उनकी

कर्ज बांटन और कर्ज लेने की शक्ति कम हो गई है। इस मद में 25 करोड़ की आवश्यकता बिहार सरकार को है। मैं भारत सरकार से यह आग्रह करना चाहता हूँ कि विहार सरकार की इस मांग को शार्ट टर्म क्रेडिट के रूप में या दूसरे क्रेडिट के रूप में पूरा करने की कोशिश करें।

श्री जगन्नाथ राव जोशी (शाजापुर) : समापति महोदय, माननीय मन्त्र गुरु जी के स्थगन प्रस्ताव पर सदन में चर्चा हो रही है, इसके समर्थन के लिये मैं खड़ा हुआ हूँ। आज देश के कई प्रदेश में भुवमसी की विभीषिका बड़ा विकराल रूप धारण लेकर खड़ी है। न केवल आसाम, बंगाल, कूच-बिहार, बल्कि राजस्थान, मध्य प्रदेश तथा अन्य प्रदेशों में स्थिति भीत की सीमा तक पहुँच गई है। यह सवाल कोई राजनीतिक नहीं है, जो वास्तविकता है उसको स्वीकार करके उसका समाधान पाने का प्रयत्न करें—यही आवश्यक है।

कुछ कांग्रेसी मित्रों ने कहा कि स्थिति इतनी विकट नहीं है—किन्तु मेरे सामने तो ये अखबारों की कटिंग है जो देखने लायक है। एक मित्र ने कहा कि कोई मृत्यु नहीं हुई—यह हिन्दुस्तान टाइम्स का झूठे खत है—आप इस को सुने।

“Possibly for the first time, the Assam Government has admitted that at least 426 persons have so far died if recent weeks in various parts of Kamrup District.”

ये 426 लोग कैसे मरे, मैलम्यूट्रीशन से मरे या कैसे मरे? लेकिन वे मरे यह बात तो

[श्री जगन्नाथराव जोशी]

वास्तविक है। किन्तु जब इस के आधार पर हम यह देखते हैं कि हमारे माननीय अन्न मंत्री महोदय रोम जाते हैं और वहाँ एलान करते हैं— 'Nobody is starving in India,' says Ram तब दुःख होता है। दूसरी तरफ इसी सदन के एक सदस्य श्री चन्द्रलाल चन्द्राकर ने कहा है—

"The Chhatisgarh people are eating grass and animal feed."

ये सदस्य विरोधी सदस्य नहीं है, ये कांग्रेसी सदस्य है, जब ये स्वयं इस बात की दुहाई दे रहे हैं कि छत्तीसगढ़ के लोग कैसे भुखमरी के कगार पर आकर खड़े हुये हैं तो मुझे लगता है कि यह भुखमरी की समस्या कोई ऐसी समस्या नहीं है कि जो आसमान से आ कर टपकी है।

कई लोगो ने कहा है—1943 में बंगाल से जो मौते हुई— उस समय की विदेशी सरकार के कहने के मुताबिक उसमें 30 लाख लोगों की मृत्यु हुई। लेकिन वह मानव निमित्त अकाल समझा जाता था, लेकिन अब तो पिछले कई सालों में भुखमरी की समस्या किसी न किसी रूप में हमारे देश के सामने खड़ी है। हर साल देश के ऊपर अकाल आता है, लाखों लोग उसमें मरते हैं—इस बात को हम क्यों अस्वीकार करते हैं।

एक माननीय सदस्य : प्रकृति के कारण।

श्री जगन्नाथ राव जोशी : प्रकृति के कारण—ठीक है। जैसे अब ठंड शुरू हो गई है, यह बढ़ती तो कड़ाके की सर्दी आयेगी। इसी राजधानी में खबरें आयेगी कि आज इतने

मरे, कल इतने मरे—उसको यह कहना कि मरे नहीं, वास्तविकता से क्यों इंकार करते हैं, उसके मूल में क्यों नहीं जाते यानी जिनका कोई सहारा नहीं है, जिनको बाहर मोना पड़ता है, जिनके पास ठंड से बचने के लिये बम्बल नहीं है, ऐसे लोग मरते हैं। और जिनका आप कहते हैं स्वाभाविक है। मतलब क्या है? हर साल ठंड में राजधानी में लोग मरते हैं। कम से कम इतना ही आप तय कर लें कि देश की राजधानी में एक भी आदमी बेसहारा हो कर फुट पाथ पर नहीं सोयेगा और किसी को ठंड से नहीं मरने दिया जायेगा।

कहते हैं अकाल आने के बाद लड़कों को बचने लगे। मतलब यह है कि लड़कों को खरीदने वाले भी आदमी इस देश के हैं।

भूखा आदमी अपने बच्चों को कुएं में फेंक दें, जंगल में छोड़ दें वह तो बात समझ में आती है, किन्तु कोई अपने बच्चों को बेचे इसका मतलब यह है कि खरीदने वाले भी यहां है समाज के अन्दर। यह स्थिति है। इसके लिये कौन जिम्मेदार है। यह कहना कि कोई होर्ड करता है हमारे हाथ में नहीं आया, सरकार लिये रोना बिल्कुल ठीक है। यानी जब सरकार रोने लगे तो सरकार को समझना चाहिए कि उसकी शासन करने की क्षमता समाप्त हो गई और ऐसी सरकार को एक दिन भी शासन की गद्दी पर नहीं बैठना चाहिए। देश के अन्दर एक दम जो अकाल की विभीषिका 'खड़ी होती है, बड़े पैमाने पर देश की जनता खेती पर निर्भर करती है और एक बार जब वर्षा नहीं होती है, तो प्राचीण क्षेत्र की जनता उदास हो कर भूमने लगती है। मेरी समझ में नहीं

आया, खाद्य राज्य मंत्री से मैं पूछता हूँ कि उनके ऊपर के मंत्री बार-बार बदलते रहते हैं, लेकिन अन्ना साहब तो लगातार इसी मन्त्रालय में हैं, पिछले सितम्बर से लगातार भुखमरी की खबरें अखबारों में आ रही हैं, और वह जानते थे कि नवम्बर में सदन की बैठक होने वाली है यह बात जरूर सामने आयेगी । तो इस के पहले जहाँ जहाँ ऐसी स्थिति है वहाँ वहाँ वह वस्तु स्थिति का पता लगाने के लिये क्यों नहीं स्वयं गये ? क्यों नहीं देखा पब्लिक डिस्ट्रिब्यूशन सिस्टम क्या है, सरकार की तरफ से क्या हो रहा है, समाज सेवा सस्त्रायें क्या कर रही हैं ? वास्तविकता क्या है और उसको हल करने के लिये कौन से प्रयत्न कर रहे हैं । क्या वह बता सकते हैं वह हर जगह गये ? गुजरात, मध्य प्रदेश के छत्तीसगढ़ इलाके, कूच बिहार, अमम में वह गये ? अगर ऐसा होता तो फिर अन्न संज्ञो का स्टेटमेंट यह नहीं आता कि यह दुनिया की शार्टेज का यह एक पार्ट है । मैं म्छनता हूँ कि दुनिया के देशों के सामने अपनी गरीबी और दरिद्रता सामने नहीं रखनी चाहिए क्योंकि उससे बदनामी होती है । लेकिन साथ ही मैं ये भी चाहता हूँ कि अपनी समस्या को वर्ल्ड कंटेकस्ट में देखने की दृष्टि से भारत में जो शार्टेज है उसको वर्ल्ड शार्टेज के साथ जोड़ा जाय, यह उचित नहीं है । फूड शार्टेज है तो वर्ल्ड फूड बैंक, पेपर को शार्टेज है तो वर्ल्ड पेपर बैंक, और उसमें हम भी शामिल हों यह उचित नहीं है । वास्तविकता जो है आपके सामने उसको छोड़ कर कहीं धीर जाना ठीक नहीं है । इसलिये भुखमरी की समस्या का एक हल तात्कालिक है और दूसरा स्थाई है । फीमोन कोड प्रोजेक्टों के जमाने से बना हुआ है । मतलब यह है कि ड्राउट प्रोन एरियाय क्षेत्र

में हैं । पाच योजना में कुछ जिक्र भी किया है जसे आन्ध्र में रायल सीमा क्षेत्र है जो ड्राउट प्रोन है, हर दो, तीन माल के अन्दर वहाँ अकाल आ जाता है, करोड़ों रुपया खर्च होता है । किन्तु स्थाई रूप से उनका हल कैसे करें इस बारे में कभी सोचा नहीं जाता है । मेरे ब्याल से 200, 300 करोड़ ० रायलसीमा को राहत देने के लिये खर्च हुआ होगा । लेकिन स्थायी रूप से अकाल नहीं आयगा इस दृष्टि से कुछ किया है, तो ऐसा लगता है कि कुछ नहीं किया है । जैसे अभी एक मित्र ने कहा माननीय डी० एन० तिवारी चम्पारन की बात 1952 से लगातार करते हैं, आज भी करते हैं । तो कई ऐसे क्षेत्र हैं जो आज भी अकाल से ग्रस्त हैं । ऐसी स्थिति आज नहीं होनी चाहिए क्योंकि यातायात के तीव्र साधन होने की वजह से जहा मुसीबत है वहा की समस्या को हल किया जा सकता है । समग्र देश के अन्दर भुखमरी नहीं होती । जहा पैदा होता है वहा से अनाज ऐसी जगह पहुँचाना चाहिए और लोगों को जीवित रखने की कोशिश करनी चाहिए । तात्कालिक रूप से यह हमें करना ही होगा ।

राहत कार्यों में जो बच्चे नहीं लग सकते कम अवस्था के कारण, या जो बूढ़े और अग्रय हैं उनको तो जीवित रखना ही पड़ेगा । ऐसे लोगों को सरकार की तरफ से कुछ मिलना चाहिए । माननीय नवल किशोर जी ने सारी बात कथ कर कहा क्या करें । महाराष्ट्र सरकार ने एक समिति नियुक्त की थी उसने अपनी जांच में कहा है कि एक क्षेत्र में लोग क्रूर खोद कर हड्डियाँ निकाल कर बेच कर

[श्रीजयकान्त राव जोशी]

अपने जीवन का नजारा कर रहे हैं। शिवे साहब को पता ही नहीं इस बात का। जनता परेशान हो कर ऐसा करती है, कबरे खोपती है। 27 साल के बाद, चार योजनाओं के बाद जनता की हालत यहां तक पहुंचे यह गर्म की बात है। यह सरकार द्वारा नियुक्त समिति ने कहा है, मैं नहीं कह रहा हूँ। माननीय हीरेन मुखर्जी ने कहा बेवशा व्यवसाय के लिये प्रवृत्त होना पड़ता है। लोगों को अपना क्रिम बेचना पड़ना है। यानी यह मजबूरियां हैं, उनकी तरफ ध्यान क्यों नहीं देते हैं। जब देश में लैंड लैन लेबरर्स हैं, भूमि पर अधिकतर जनसंख्या निर्भर हैं थोड़ा सा भी अकाल आ गया तो लोग क दम उससे पीड़ित होते हैं और सारा गांव परेशान हो जाता है तब, लोग अपने बरों को छोड़ कर दूसी जगहों पर जाने लगते हैं। और सब से बड़ी मुसीबत पशुओं पर आती है, उनको चारा नहीं मिलता और पशुओं को एक प्रान्त से दूसरे प्रांत में चारे की तलाश में लोगों की ले जाना पड़ता है तो आखिर मवेशियों को चारा, पानी कैसे मिले यह सारी व्यवस्था करने का काम आप का है। किन्तु दुर्भाग्य की बात है कि सरकार की मशीनरी

In normal circumstances it does not function and in emergency it collapses.

आपके पिछली बार जब होल सेल ट्रेड अपने हाथ में लिया यह कह कर कि हम परचेज, स्टोर और क्लिंरिड करेगे स्थाई सरकारी मशीनरी के अस्थि। लेकिन एक साल के

अन्तर ही उसको छोड़ दिया इसलिये कि हम नहीं कर सकते।

Now you will have to decide whether you must continue in power.

म देख रहा हूँ आपने बड़े उत्साह से मझे निवेद्य शुरू किया। लेकिन अन्त में पहुंचे कहां? लोग चाहे जैसे पीते हैं इसलिये उनको अच्छी पिलाओ ताकि लोग पीते ही समाप्त हो जायें। मतलब यह कि आप फेल हो गये। वहां मटका चलता था जो जुआ था, किन्तु उसको बन्द करने के बदले में आपने लाटरी निकाली एक पये में लाख कमाओ। यह कौन सा समाजवाद है? यह मैं इसलिये बता रहा हूँ कि आगे चल कर भूखमरी के साथ यही कहेंगे कि मरने वाले मरेंगे इसलिए हम आपके लिये अच्छी भूमि तैयार करेंगे। मरने वाले मरा करो, गाडने वाले गाडा करें। उसको आप बचायेंगे ऐसा मुझको नहीं लगता।

माननीय हीरेन मुखर्जी जो ने कहा :
Government by the people, for the people and of the people. But I will say this Government is not with the people. This Government is with power and without the support of the people.

क्योंकि जब आप निर्णय करते हैं वह पूरा नहीं करते, फिर कैसे आप किसी समस्या का समाधान कर पायेंगे, मेरी तो सभस में नहीं आता। आप लोग जो तय करते हैं, तात्कालिक रूप से जो भी करना है, वह भी नहीं कर सकते। ठीक इन से बात भी नहीं सकते हैं। आप होते हैं। आपको रॉना नहीं चाहिए। कुछ करके दिखाना चाहिये।

स्थायी रूप से आप क्या उपाय करना चाहते हैं यह भी पता चलना चाहिये ? ड्राउट प्रोन एरियाज का हमें पता है। अकाल आता है यह भी हमें पता है। देश में सब जगह एक जैसी वर्षा नहीं होती है इसका भी हमें पता है। जहां चाहिये वहां वर्षा नहीं होती है यह भी हमें पता है। यह भी हमें पता है कि नदियों में बाढ़ आती है। नदियों का पानी बाढ़ों को कंट्रोल करने की दृष्टि से क्यों नहीं किया जाता है, उसका उपयोग भूमि की सिंचाई करने की दृष्टि से कौन करेगा ? 1951 से लगातार हम देखते आ रहे हैं कि कृष्णा गोदारी का झगड़ा चल रहा है कावेरी का झगड़ा चल रहा है, नर्मदा का झगड़ा चल रहा है। पानी के बटवारे के जो विवाद हैं उनको हल करके पानी को प्रयोग में क्या आप नहीं ला सकते हैं ? इसके लिए भी किसी दूसरी एजेंसी की जरूरत है ? पंजाब में पानी का उपयोग करके राजस्थान को पानी पहुंचाने का काम आप क्यों नहीं कर सकते हैं ? नए मंत्री के माने में बाद क्या हुआ है। यह दुर्भाग्यवश भीन डैम को ही शैल्व कर दिया गया है। रथिन डैम को बनाने की बात तो दूर रही यह वल्ल ने क्या भी हैं कि इसको शैल्व कर दिया जाए। इसका क्या मतलब है ? स्थायी हल की दृष्टि से आप कौन से कदम उठाएंगे यह भी तो हमें पता चलना चाहिये। क्या आपको लाल बहादुर शास्त्री जी की याद दिलाती पड़गी ? उस समय जबकि इतनी स्कैन्डिनी नहीं थी, घाट परसेट ही अफाज की कमी थी, उन्होंने कहा था कि हम भीख नहीं मांगेंगे खुद ही अपना गुजारा करेंगे और इसलिए सीमकार ग्राम का भोजन छोड़ने का बचन सारा देश करे। इस विषय पर

आप क्यों नहीं टिके रहे। उन्होंने जब किसान का मरवा दिया था। किसानों की जय हो, यह देखा क्यों नहीं आप ने। फिर रूस के पांव क्यों पकड़ते हैं। ब्रिटेन के पांव क्यों पकड़ते हैं ? रूस सब से बड़ा बिचौलिया है। भमरीका से ले कर देता है। खुद का देता तो समझ में आता। आप कहते हैं कि मिडलमैन को रिमूव किया जाए। लेकिन आप इटरनल मिडलमैन स्टेबलिश कर रहे हैं। भगवान ने हमें इतनी उपजाऊ भूमि दी है और इतनी अधिक दी है, पानी भी भरपूर दिया है लेकिन आप उसका पूरा उपयोग नहीं करते हैं। 38 परसेंट पानी का भी प्रयोग आप नहीं कर रहे हैं। इसका प्रयोग क्यों नहीं हो रहा है, इस में किस ने आपका विरोध किया है। छोटी सिंचाई योजनाएं देश को समृद्ध बना सकती हैं। इनको आप हाथ में लेकर इनको पूरा क्यों नहीं करते हैं। एक भी आदमी भूख से नहीं मरेगा, इसकी प्रतिज्ञा आप क्यों नहीं करते हैं इन सब कामों में कौन आप का विरोध करेगा लेकिन कठिनाई यह है कि आप अपने निर्णय पर अडिग नहीं रहते हैं। उमसे भटव जाते हैं। पांव पकड़ने शुरू कर देते हैं, भीख मागना शुरू कर देते हैं दुनिया में जाकर। देश को आप बदनाम करते हैं और दोष विरोधियों को देते हैं। लोग भूख से मर रहे हैं यह माफ बात है, प्रत्यक्ष चीज हैं। लेकिन आप कहते हैं कि यह सब झूठ है, यह कैसे हो सकता है। रारी फाइले भरी हुई हैं, चिब पड़े हुए हैं लेकिन आप कहते हैं कि झूठ है। मैं असमंजस हूँ, बयाल मया हूँ, बसु जी मेरे साथ थे। कलकत्ता में मैंने देखा है शली-शली से, किसी की जंकशन स्टेशन पर फेंके हुए जूठे फसल इसके पहले

[श्री जगन्नाथ राव जोशी]

कि कोई कुत्त उठा ले जाए लड्डोल, इन्धिया उसकी ओर लपकते है ओर उठा लेते है । अगर उनको घर मे बढिया खाने को मिलता होना तो क्या वे जूठे पत्तल उठाएगे कुत्त मे पहले ? क्या इम तरह का वाने बहना आपको शोभा देना है ? (इश्टरशंका) चदरावर जी ने जो कुछ कहा है वह आपका मालूम ही है । उन्होंने ही कहा है कि मध्य प्रदेश की सरकार जो मांग रही है वह केन्द्र नहीं दे रहा है । राहत के रूप मे नहीं दे रहा है, जितना अनाज मांग रही है, नहीं दे रहा है । फाइनेंस कमिशन ने यह कह दिया कि स्पार्ड रूप से कुछ न कुछ हर प्रदेश करने पास रखें उन पर आप चिपके हुए है । जिम विकट रूप मे यह समस्या मुह बाए खडी है उसका क्या इम तरह से सामना किया जा सकता है । क्या उस मे केन्द्र की कोई जिम्मेदारी नहीं है ? राज्या की तान्त्रालिक प्रावण्य रतात्रा की पूर्ति करने मे केन्द्रीय सरकार असफल रही है, स्थायी उपाय करने मे असफल रही है, राहत पहुचाने मे काम मे यह सरकार असफल रही है, भुखमरी रोक्ने मे असफल रही है, कई प्रदेशा मे इस समस्या ने विकराल रूप धारण कर लिया है और उससे निरटने मे यह सरकार निताम्न असफल रही है, इस वास्ते स्थगन प्रस्ताव ला कर जा उसकी निन्दा की गई है, उसका से पूरी तरह से समर्थन करता हू ।

श्री एस० राम गोपाल रेड्डी (निजामाबाद) मुझे जगन्नाथ राव जी जोशी की एक बात अच्छी लगी है और वह यह है कि देश की बदनामी विदेशो मे नहीं होनी चाहिये ।

लेकिन इस बात को समझ कर भी वह नासमझी का परिचय दे रहे है । उनको शायद मालूम नहीं है कि उन्होंने जितनी देश को बदनामी विदेशा म को है अपोजीगन के किसी दूसरे जीडर ने नहीं की होगी । देश मे थोडी बहुत कठिनाई जरूर है । लेकिन बात का बतगड बनाना, गई का पहाड बनाना, चीटी का हाथो बनाना इनका ही काम है । इसी मे ये मजा ले रहे है । अगर कांग्रेस पार्टी को या कांग्रेस गवर्नमट का बदनाम ये करने तो इसकी इनका पूरी आजादी थी लेकिन उमके माथ ये देश को भी बदनाम कर रहे है । इसकी पूरी जिम्मेदारी इनका लेनी चाहिये (शुभवधान) ये टोक रहे है लेकिन आप देखें कि इनके दम घादमी ही चुन कर आये है ।

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय लोग भूख मे मर रहे है और आप केवन मजा करने वाने है ।

श्री एस० राम गोपाल रेड्डी अगर मच बात कही जाती है ता इनका जोश आ जाता है और उसका सबूत ये इम तरह मे दे रहे है ।

जन सघ की ही बात को आप ले । एक तरफ तो ये किमान के पास जा कर कहते है कि आप लंबी का गल्ला मत दो और दूसरी तरफ सरकार से कहते है कि गल्ला मफलाई करो, एक तरफ कहते है लोगो को कि टैक्स न दो और दूसरी तरफ सरकार को कहते हैं कि आप खर्च ज्यादा करो, सबसिडी दो । जितना पार्लिमेट मजूर करती है उस मे ही तो काम करना होता है । अगर टैक्स बढाए जाते हैं तो उसका भी ये विरोध करते है । यह सब कहा का लाजिक है । अनाज की इस साल और

पिछले साल भी कुछ कमी हुई है। उनके भी कुछ कारण हैं। ये लोग इलैक्ट्रिसिटी वालों में जा कर स्ट्राइक करवाते हैं और उस वक्त करवाई थी जबकि खेतों में फसल खड़ी थी और विजली की किसानों को सब से ज्यादा जरूरत थी। उस वक्त किसानों की हालत पर इनको तरस नहीं आया। उस वक्त रेलों की हड़ताल इन्होंने करवाई थी जबकि खाद और गल्ला लाने ले जाने की मसत जरूरत थी। विरोधी दल वाले गवर्नमेंट के काम में भ्रष्टाचार नगाने का ही काम कर रहे हैं। चलते आदमी के पांव में लकड़ी लगा कर उसको गिराने की कोशिश करने के सिवा प्रपोजीशन वालों ने आज तक कुछ किया है क्या? (व्यवधान) कांग्रेस के 160 मंम्बर उधर गए थे लेकिन जीत कर कितने वापिस आए? सीलहू ही। आगे कितने आएंगे इसका भी पता चल जाएगा।

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: The Congress has become a dustbin. All the dust from different political parties, those who have been expelled, all that wastes are being taken by the Congress in this dustbin.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are a senior Member. You cannot do that.

श्री एम० राम गोपाल रेड्डी : समर गुहा जी अच्छे आदमी हैं। बहुत इमोशनल भी हैं। लेकिन पीछे से उनको जो कुछ बता दिया जाता है वही वह कह देते हैं। उनकी नेकनीयती और पैट्रियोटिज्म पर किसी को सन्देह नहीं हो सकता है। लेकिन शमीम जी जो उनके पीछे बैठे हुए हैं उन्होंने तथा दूसरों ने उनको बता नहीं दिया होता तो शायद वह इस किस्म का भाषण नहीं करते।

समस्या जरूर कुछ कठिन है लेकिन समस्याओं का मुकाबला करने की धादत हमको हो गई है। बंगला देश जब आजाद हुआ तो उस में आप सब ने मदद दी थी। उस वक्त आप मदद कर सकते थे तो अब क्यों नहीं कर सकते हैं? इस वास्ते इस तरह की बातें आपका नहीं करनी चाहिये।

इनके भाषणों से ऐसा लगा जैसे गरीबों के साथ इन्होंने हमदर्दी है। मुझे एक शेरार याद आता है। मारे जहां का दर्द हमारे जिगर में है। हम से ज्यादा हमदर्दी इनके दिल में नहीं है।

देश की आमदनी हम बढ़ा सकते हैं। इन्होंने शक्कर की बात की है। उस के सम्बन्ध में मैं भी एक निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ। कोई भी दुनिया का देश ऐसा नहीं है जो अपनी जरूरत की सभी चीजें पैदा करता हो। तेल की कीमत चार गुना बढ़ी है। इससे अरब केंद्रीय मालामाल हो गए हैं। इसी तरीके से हमारे पास शक्कर है। इसकी बाहर बहुत मांग है। शक्कर में अंगर यहां एक तोला भी कम किया जाता है तो ये एडजर्नमेंट मोशन और कॉलिंग एटेंशन मोशन लि आते हैं। एक शैने का भाव अन्तरराष्ट्रीय बाजार में आठ सौ रुपया है। हमारे पास चालीस लाख टन शक्कर है। अंगर हम एक रेजोल्यूशन पास करें कि एक साल के लिए हम लोग कोई शक्कर की डिमांड नहीं करेंगे और 75 परसेंट शक्कर का एक्स्पॉर्ट हम कर दें तो हमें चार पांच हजार करोड़ रुपया मिल जाएगा। क्या आप यह करने के लिए तैयार हैं? जब कुछ करने के लिए आप तैयार नहीं हैं तो गरीबों के लिए इस तरह से भासू बहाने से क्या फायदा?

बी एम० ए० झलील (बीनवर) : रेजोल्यूशन की क्या जरूरत है। आप करते क्यों नहीं है ?

श्री एम० राव गोपाल रेड्डी : जरा सा स्मगलर्स को जेल भेजने का इतजाम हमने किया तो इतना हंगामा आप लोगो ने मचा दिया। कौन सी चीज है जो आप हमें करते देते हैं ? शक्कर की प्रोडक्शन का अगर हम 75 परसेंट भी एक्सपोर्ट कर दें तो हमें चार पाच हजार करोड़ फोरन एक्चेंज का मिल जाएगा और उससे हम चाहे जितना अनाज पैदा कर सकते हैं। लेकिन उसके लिए आप तैयार नहीं हैं। देश में जितने बड़े बड़े प्रोजेक्ट्स बने हैं वे अच्छा खाना लाभ दे रहे हैं।

आंध्र प्रदेश में दो साल से कटिनुअसली डाउट है। एक आदमी को बड़ा एक किलो अनाज दिया जाता है। मैं देहातो में गया हूँ और लोगो से मैंने उनकी हालत के बारे में पूछा है। उन्होंने मुझे बताया है कि सब चल जाएगा।

काई मकई उगाता हूँ, कोई और चीज उगाता है, कुछ न कुछ इतजाम करता है। तो यह कहना कि पूरे देश के हर आदमी को गवर्नमेंट खिलाए यह गलत है। करो फि हर आदमी अपना कुछ न कुछ पैदा कर लेता है और गवर्नमेंट थोड़ा बहुत सवमिडी के तौर पर अनाज या पैसा या और किसी तरह की सहायता देती है। यह कहा निखा हुआ है कि पूरे देश के हर आदमी को दिल्ली से अनाज रवाना किया जाये ? आप लोगों ने कितना प्रोब्योरमेंट किया है ? आंध्र प्रदेश में

हमारे सब लोगों ने मिल कर और अपीबीशन ने मिल कर 8 लाख टन प्रोब्योर किया उस में से 4 लाख टन सेंट्रल पूल में दिया। इस साल हम बस लाख टन राइस प्रोब्योर कर के देने वाले हैं। तो यह इस्तिफिट होनी चाहिए। अपने देश का नाम ऊँचा रखने के लिए हर आदमी को कुछ न कुछ मेहनत करनी पडती है और मुझे ताज्जुब यह होता है कि जनसभ वाले हमेशा जब बोलते हैं तो कहते हैं कि जनसभ का मतलब है देशभक्त, देश भक्ति का मतलब यही है कि बगला देश में जब माहू पाखा के अत्याचार चल रहे थे उस जमाने के फोटो यहा दिखाए (अवबमान)

SHRI S A SHAMIM. On a point order How can he describe starving Indians, dying Indians as Bangladesh is?

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI (Chirayinkil) This is very unfair. In this House we should not make such references to friendly, neighbouring countries. It should not go on record.

SHRI M RAM GOPAL REDDY I am not saying so. During Yahya Khan days those photographs were taken in Bangla Desh, our people also have taken those photographs. Those photos are now being produced in this House, that is my contention. I am not saying anything about Bangla Desh. Bangla Desh is as prosperous as we are now and there is no doubt about it.

तो कहने का मतलब यही है कि देश को बदनाम करने का काम न करें। बाबू जगजीवन राम के निजाम में आप लोगों ने देखा है कि 1966-67 में अपने देश में 22 लाख टन शक्कर पैदा होती थी और एक ही साप् में

उस वीदाकार को 100 परसेंट बढ़ा कर 44 लाख टन प्राप ले कर दिया। उस के बाद कट्टोल सुगर से कुली सुगर कम दाम से बिकने लगी। तो उन के मुबारक कदम हैं। उन के आते ही घन्ठी बारी बारिश सब जगह हुई है। मुझे यह नहीं मालूम कि बारिश को वह साथ जाए है या उन के पीछे बारिश आई है लेकिन उस से रबी की फसल घन्ठी होने वाली है तो। हम लोगों को कोई चिन्ता नहीं करनी चाहिए और देश को बदनाम करने वाले भाषण नहीं किए जाने चाहिए। ऐसे भाषण देना वह बन्द कर दे तो यह उन के लिए और देश के लिए दोनों के लिए अच्छा है। यह बहने हुए मैं ऐडजर्नमेंट मोशन को मुबालिफ्त करता हूँ।

SHRI SAMAR GUHA I have to go to the Business Advisory Committee I want to know when Babuji will speak

MR CHAIRMAN Opposition Members have been allotted some time But I am giving them double their time So, I think it will be about 6 30 p m

SHRI SAMAR GUHA None of the West Bengal, M.Ps. from the Congress side have spoken Why?

MR CHAIRMAN: You are not supposed to raise fresh points now.

*SHRI M. S. SIVASWAMY (Tiruchendur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, on behalf of my party, the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, I rise to say a few words on the Adjournment Motion of my hon. friend, Shri Samar Guha, which he has moved to focus the attention of this House on the spectre of famine and starvation

threatening the country. If the Members of Opposition Parties alone had stated that famine conditions and starvation deaths were widely prevalent throughout the country, the DMK. would have hesitated to extend its support to this Adjournment Motion Since the ruling party Members as also the Congress Chief Ministers of the States like Rajasthan, Orissa, West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh have been so vociferous about famine conditions in their respective States, on behalf of my party, the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, I extend my full support to this Adjournment Motion on Famine and Starvation Deaths

Shri P. C Sethi, the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, on 11th October 1974 issued a statement that, in his State, 50,000 villages in 25 districts covering 162 crores of people are afflicted by famine conditions and imminent starvation deaths I would also like to recall to the House the statement issued by the Chief Minister of Rajasthan, Shri Hari Deo Joshi, on 3rd November, 1974 that 90 lakhs of people in 10,000 villages of 10 districts in his State are living in famine conditions and starvation deaths cannot be a distant possibility Similarly, Shri Siddartha Shankar Ray, the Chief Minister of West Bengal, has stated that 30 per cent of the total population of his State is facing acute famine conditions The Orissa Chief Minister, Shrimati Nandini Satpathi has called for immediate assistance from the Centre to help 60 per cent of the people in 13 districts of the State of Orissa who are undergoing the traumatic experience of drought Even in the southern State of Kerala, where there is the coalition Government of Congress Party and the Communist Party of India 40,000 tonnes of paddy have been destroyed by drought and pests—this is the statement of the Chief Minister, Shri Achutha Menon. I have come across news reports in the daily papers that the people of Himachal Pradesh

*The Original speech was delivered in Tamil.

[Shri M. S. Sivaswamy]

are eating grass for their very survival. I thought it was only Louis, the King of France who once said that the common people could as well live on grass. But, in this era of scientific achievements and technological developments, it is regrettable that the people of Himachal Pradesh should take to grass for their living. It is time that the Government of India take serious note of this situation and ameliorate the living conditions of the people of our country.

I would like to refer here to the appalling conditions in which the people of Gujarat are living. I happened to attend the meeting of Gujarat State Consultative Committee held in Ahmedabad on 19th October, 1974. In that meeting, many Members belonging to Gujarat narrated harrowing tales of sufferings of the people of Gujarat on account of famine conditions. I toured for 4, 5 days the northern parts of Gujarat—Jamnagar Gandhidam, Verawal, etc. The hon. Members may not believe statements from one who has no personal knowledge and experience. I have toured this area. If a Member travelling by train from Ahmedabad to Verawal, from Verawal to Dwarka via Rajkot, from Dwarka to Bhavnagar, feels thirsty and wants to quench his thirst, he has to pay 5 paise or 10 paise for a glass of water, I wish to draw the attention of the hon. Agriculture Minister to the fact that lakhs of cattle do not have feed; either they are being shifted to the neighbouring States or the cattle-feed in truckloads is being brought from neighbouring States. There was a report in the Press yesterday that one lakh of children in Gujarat have lost their eye-sight on account of malnutrition. It was also demanded in the meeting of the Gujarat State Consultative Committee that several lakhs of Vitamin tablets should be rushed to Gujarat because lakhs and

lakhs of people on account of malnutrition are on the portals of death and their legs and hands have got swollen beyond recognition.

Why should there be such a horrible situation in Gujarat 27 years after our independence? If you go by train from Ahmedabad for 500 miles, you will not come across even a stray pumpset or tubewell. This assumes grave significance when there is no rain during the past three years. You compare Tamil Nadu with Gujarat. In Tamil Nadu, within a distance of 10 miles of train journey, you will see 1,000 pumpsets. But in Gujarat, if you travel by train for 1,000 miles, you will not come across even 10 tubewells or pumsets. Naturally this will end only in famine. I will humbly request the hon. Minister of Agriculture that, if his Government want to avert thousands of starvation deaths in the country, he should ensure the supply of electric power to all the villages in our country, as it obtains now in Tamil Nadu, so that tubewells in lakhs can spring up everywhere.

Sir, Tamil Nadu has, fortunately not so far undergone the vicissitude of famine. But, during October-November this year the South-east monsoon has failed us. If with the next fortnight the South-east monsoon rain does not come, then it is certain that 8, 9 districts of Tamil Nadu will be afflicted by famine. In these circumstances, it is highly regrettable that the Karnataka Government has stored more water in the Kabini reservoir than not only to meet the immediate requirement but also that of the next year. This is besides the Krishnarajasagar Dam reservoir. Tanjavur District in Tamil Nadu is known as the granary of South. If there is no rain for the next fortnight and if the water it

the Mettur Reservoir is also exhausted—this will last only for 10 days or so—the hopes of harvesting bumper Chamba crop within the next three months will be completely belied. On the one side, as I stated just now there is no monsoon and on the other side, the Karnataka Government is in fact hoarding water, depriving Tamil Nadu of water urgently needed. Our Chief Minister, Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi, has also sent a telegram to the hon. Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation here. If the famine conditions that obtain in Rajasthan, Bihar, Assam, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh are to be averted in Tamil Nadu, assured water supply is to be ensured immediately. When all of us are talking about national integration, one united nation, etc., it is unfortunate that in the southern part of our country, there is this kind of unwarranted discrimination being practised. The Karnataka Government has stored more water than the actual requirement. If water is not supplied within 15 days, 7 lakh acres of wet land with the capability of producing 15 lakh tonnes of rice will become an arid zone. As the great national poet of Tamil Nadu, Shri Subramania Bharati, used to recite, if one individual is deprived of his food, the entire world faces the threat of annihilation. If Tanjavur and Tiruchirappalli districts are denied water within the next fortnight, it is not only that the 4 crores of Tamil people will face the danger of extinction but in fact the entire country.

I wonder why Narmada water dispute between Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh, the Godavari dispute between Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh, the Cauvery water dispute between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu could not be settled amicably in the interest of entire nation especially when famine stalks the country.

The Government of India, unfortunately, were keeping Irrigation for so many years under the charge of junior Ministers. At last, they have

shown signs of wisdom in bringing together Agriculture and Irrigation under the charge of a competent and capable senior Minister like Shri Jagjiwan Babu. We are all happy that this very important portions has been assigned to him. I have got great faith in his capacity to solve knotty problems facing the country. Similarly, our D.M.K. Government in Tamil Nadu has unwavering and abiding confidence in his competence. I would even go to the extent of saying that perhaps he tops the list of those having administrative and public experience. I appeal to him that during his tenure as the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation all the unseemly river water disputes should be resolved as early as possible. I would also request him to take immediate steps for persuading the Karnataka Government to supply water to Tamil Nadu, which it has stored more than its actual requirement. If this is not done immediately, I am afraid that 7 lakh acres of wet land in Tanjavur district which would yield 15 lakh tonnes of rice would become barren and consequently a bloody revolution will become inevitable because a hungry stomach is more violent than a volcano.

SHRI SHYAM SUNDER MOHAPATRA (Balasore): Mr. Chairman, Sir, there are no two opinions on this subject that our country is passing through one of the gravest economic crisis. There should not be any two opinions on this subject that all of us together, whether we are on this side or on the other, not only put our heads together but also we should put hand in hand to solve this economic crisis rather to make a capital out of it.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Mr. Mukherjee was saying that energy of the youth should be utilised for de-hoarding and solving many such vital problems. I think, he is certainly aware of the fact that in his home State West Bengal the Ministers are also today on the streets for de-hoarding purposes. I know one young Minister Mr. Subroto

(Shri Shyam Sunder Mohapatra)

Mukherjee was himself taking the lead on the open streets for de-hoarding purposes. This is one single instance to show that the Congress is alive to the fact and the ruling party Ministers are nowhere superior in their minds than the ordinary workers that they can go whole hog with the public interest in the drive for de-hoarding. Mr. Mukherjee must bear in mind that Kremlin was not built in a day as Rome was not built in a day. Russia had to sacrifice tremendously—thousands of souls—to establish socialism. But only a few years ago there was wheat scarcity and Kremlin had to stretch their hands to Washington. So, crisis does not come to one country alone. Crisis in economic process comes to many countries wherever such exigencies are there. It is a global crisis because only a few months back 2,500 distinguished scholars from over 200 countries appealed to the United Nations Secretary General as below:

"Food shortages has created serious social unrest in many parts of the world."

I further quote:

"In the name of humanity we call upon all governments and people everywhere—rich and poor—to act together."

It is a global crisis. Our Agriculture Minister—I must say hon. Agriculture Minister—is a political Midas. Whatever he touches, it turns into gold. I personally feel that under his regime, stewardship and presidentship the Agriculture Ministry will be able to solve many problems unsolved till today.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, our Prime Minister giving an interview to an American journalist only the other day said: This is a population much larger than most countries in the world. We should not lose sight of the fact that India has a population of 55 crores and such natural calamities, whether flood or drought, have been

ravaging the soil of India almost every year since 1967. I have been working in the flood and drought affected areas since 1967. If the nature becomes erratic and betrays and goes out of the way, can scientists solve it? There are many things unsolved till today which the scientists have not been able to solve. Are we alive to the fact and are we trying to solve it in right earnest or not? This is the question. Every Chief Minister of India whether it be from Orissa or West Bengal or Madhya Pradesh or Kerala are trying their level best to see that no starvation death takes place.

I have already said about this and now again I appeal to the hon. Minister that the Famine Code should be changed. Two years ago, I think, I made an appeal to Mr. Shinde that this Famine Code should be changed, so that we may know who dies of starvation. If a person eats grass seeds he suffers from gastroenteritis people naturally suffer from malnutrition because there is no food. But let us change the Famine Code. We should know who are the persons who suffer from starvation and subsequently die.

In this connection I would like to refer to a unique statement made by a French Journalist only a few days ago. The correspondent Mario Bianchi said:

'Ex-President Richard Nixon is reported to have told his collaborators last year—when I hear ... The word India I think of Famine. It is the well-worn cliche of the wealthy countries. But today it is untrue.'

There is no famine in India. This is what the French Correspondent says. He gave two examples. One example was this: He said:

'During the last 15 years agricultural produce has doubled. Over

the same period population increased by 60 per cent.'

17.00 hrs.

This is what this French Journalist has said about the situation in India. So, I appeal to the opposition to appreciate the situation which is prevailing in India today. I could agree that we are passing through a crisis. Merely condemning the Government, criticising the Government, hurling invectives at each other is not going to solve the problem.

As far as relief is concerned the Government of India under the able leadership of Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi, has done a commendable job. We have rushed relief to every nook and corner of the country wherever there were demands raised by the Chief Ministers and the Government has given all aid possible, ad hoc sanctions etc. immediately to those concerned States. But let us not also forget the fact that we have got to work under certain limitations. There are limitations of economic resources and we cannot create our resources out of nothing. In my early days I remember what I have studied that money is what money does. Only if we can produce more and more in terms of wealth can we improve and for that we have to put our shoulders together and we must work together to see that production becomes more and more.

I want to say a few words about Orissa. Orissa has passed through one of the most serious economic situations in the country since 1952. I must appreciate that the Government of India helped Orissa Government to the maximum extent. Today the position is this that the price of rice has come down to one rupee fifty paise a kilo. Previously it was Rs. 4 and Rs. 5 and now the prices have come down. This is due to two reasons, namely, one, because of the early crop and two, because of the dehoarding drive by the youth, by the Government, by other social agencies etc.

Sir, Orissa Government has provided Rs. 9 crores as loans to the agriculturists and 2,500 quintals of seeds have been distributed among the agriculturists. Rs. 47 lakhs have been released for the test relief work.

The cardinal point is to give employment to the rural people. Only the other day I had submitted a memorandum to the Prime Minister saying that we have to provide jobs to the rural unemployed people. The crux of the problem in the present situation is this. No Government would have been able to show better results. I have seen the performance of the Opposition Government in 1967. There was a flood in Bengal in 1967, there was a flood in Orissa in 1967 and there was also a flood in Madhya Pradesh. Was there no similar type of lethargy on the part of bureaucracy? Similar conditions of starvation existed. There was a similar kind of allegation that the Government had not come up to the task. Similar situation existed. So, we have to fight with the nature and we have to fight with all the might that we have at our command to save the people from starvation; we have to channelise the relief available to us from the international agencies and they have to see that the same reaches the people in time. We have to see that there is best selection of people in the government machinery to see that the people get the relief in time.

In this context I must say that the Agriculture Ministry has done a commendable job; the Government has a commendable job. What is lacking here is appreciation on the part of the Opposition that the Government has not done anything at all.

SHRI BHALJIBHAI PARMAR (Dohad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Motion moved by Shri Samar Guha in connection with starvation deaths which are occurring in our country.

[Shri Bhaljibhai Parmar]

I come from the State which is most affected due to famine and drought conditions this year. I have brought this fact to your notice also. Out of 19 districts in Gujarat, 17 districts are very much affected. No adequate relief or earth work is started in the State. The District Officer in my district are doing something but with no results till now because they are waiting for money which is not available for our State. They are not getting the money at all. I do not know when they are going to take up the work. This year due to no rain or insufficient rain the State is very much affected. You know that in this year the foodgrains quota that is given to the State is only to the extent of 77 thousand tonnes monthly recently which is not sufficient at all. Double the quota is required monthly here. As you know, the population of this State is about 2.75 crores. Out of this, at least 1.75 crores of people are affected. They do not get the grains regularly from the fair price shops. The grain that is given is 1 or 2 kg. monthly to each individual which is not sufficient. You may say that they are not very much affected.

Relief works must be stated immediately and they must be prolonged upto twelve months, may be upto the end of October 1975. Today the question of giving bread and butter to the people hard-hit in the drought-affected areas has arisen and for this relief works are necessary. These may cost more than Rs. 100 crores. I think schemes have been submitted in regard to this, but no heed has been paid to them. The famine or scarcity conditions prevailing in the State are unique as this type of famine has not occurred within the last 100 years. Poor people have sold their household utensils, agricultural implements, bullocks, cows and buffaloes for nominal amount of Rs. 40 and Rs. 50. Now they have no money to purchase their daily requirements. If relief works are not started, they will be between

the devil and the deep sea. They will not be able to survive. This is the problem which I bring to the notice of the Food Minister and also the Government.

People are in the grip of starvation. They move from district to district. They do not get any relief. They do not get work. Scarcity is prevailing everywhere. This is the great problem for them. The conditions of the Adivasis in my constituency are very miserable. They are very hard hit and are quite helpless. They used to sell firewood from the jungle to earn their livelihood, but that too is not available now. This is the great problem for them.

As you know, now there is President's rule in Gujarat. So it is the special responsibility of the Central Government to look after the welfare of the State till the next general elections take place. I therefore request the Central Government to pay proper heed to this problem and give adequate grants to the State so that they can tackle these problems and come out of these difficulties.

District officers like Collectors and DDOs simply plan and do nothing. So please see to it that relief works are started very soon.

Gujarat has a big cattle population. Now the problem of securing fodder for the cattle has become great. There are 78 lakh heads of cattle there. Proper arrangements should be made for procuring fodder. The Maldharis go from place to place to graze their cattle. They used to get fodder from Kutch. But in Kutch scarcity conditions are prevailing for the last four years. This aspect may also be taken into consideration.

The Government should hurry up grant in cash doles to the infirm and aged persons and to distribute grass to the needy cultivators and Maldharis and to grant subsidies to pinjrapoles. Even free kitchens may be started to feed the poor people.

The Government should not sit silent over these matters but should work with speed in tackling these problems. The Central Government has an equal responsibility in these matters as the State is under President's rule.

The financial condition of Gujarat is also very critical. This year only 10 lakh tonnes of foodgrains will be produced by the State. So there will be great need to supply foodgrains. Central help by way of grants, foodgrains, whatever is needed by the State, should be rendered to the State.

So far the Government has spent Rs. 8 crores to fight famine conditions in the State. The central team has not given any decision. They must come to proper decisions immediately and they must see to it that proper grants are given to the State.

At least 12 Kilos of foodgrains for month should be supplied to each labourer on relief work. At present present 1 to 2 kilos of foodgrains are supplied monthly to each individual which is nothing.

In the end I appeal to the Prime Minister Indiraji and her Government to take keen interest and go to the rescue of Gujarat Government and do justice to the State in solving financial as well as other difficulties pertaining to food for the people and fodder for the cattle. Nothing should come in their way in solving the problem of the State of Gujarat as it is under the President's Rule.

I once again suggest that Narmada River project may please be implemented in order to solve the food problem of Gujarat for ever and they should not keep the State in the agony of hunger and starvation by keeping it pending for years together by saying that Government have no money to implement the same.

In the end I suggest that one Cabinet Minister may be kept incharge of the State for solving all the problems till it remains under the President's rule.

I suggest that Babu Jagjivan Ram may take this charge as he is the Food Minister and he will be able to solve the difficulties.

श्री राम सहाय पांडे (राजनन्दगाव) :
सभापति जी, मुझे स्मरण है जिस राज बाबू जगजीवन राम जी की नियुक्ति खाद्य पीटफोलियो के लिए की गई उस समय उस में इरीगेशन भी जोड़ दिया गया। जब सिचाई विभाग जोड़ कर आप को यह विभाग दिया गया उमी दिन सारे देश भर में वर्षा हुई यह बात मैं प्रशंसा के लिए नहीं कहता हूँ। यह बात मैं इसलिये कहता हूँ कि एक भाग्यवान व्यक्ति के हाथ अगर देश की बागडोर आ जाय तो उस से एक आशा बघनी स्वाभाविक है। कम से कम धान की फसल के मुकाबिले रबी की फसल अच्छी होगी, उस वर्षा का अर्थ यह होगा। आप ने जैसे ही इस विभाग के दायित्व को सभाला वैसे ही विश्व भर के देशों की एक बड़ी भारी कान्फरेंस खाद्य समस्या के समाधान को लेकर रोम में हुई। आप भारत के प्रतिनिधि होकर उस में गए और वहा पर एक सब से बड़ी उपलब्धि जो प्राप्त हुई वह यह कि सब से पहली बार इतिहास में जैसे मेक्स्योरिटी कौंसिल पर दुनिया भर के देशों की सुरक्षा का दायित्व है उसी प्रकार से मानव-मात्र को भूख के कष्ट से बचाने और उस के लिए आपसी सहयोग के लिए एक सस्था का जन्म हुआ। उस की प्रेरणा श्री जगजीवन राम ने दी। वर्ल्ड फूड कौंसिल बनी।

[श्री रामसहाय पांडे]

इसके पहले इतिहास में ऐसा अवसर कभी नहीं आया कि सारे विश्व के छोटे और बड़े, समर्थ और असमर्थ, डंबलप और अन-डंबलप या डंबलपिंग, सभी देशों ने एकमत होकर इस प्रस्ताव को स्वीकार किया, ही और स्वीकार करने के साथ साथ इस सम्पूर्ण समस्या के प्रति अपना ध्यान दिया है। इस वक्त विश्व भूगोल की सीमा रेखाएँ भिकुड गई है। मह-अस्तित्व की भावना का जन्म हो चुका है। अब यह नहीं हो सकता कि समस्त का एक देश या दो देश, चार देश भूखे मरे और कुछ लोग बहुत आराम से रोटी खाए। चार ही पांच ऐसे देश है आस्ट्रेलिया, कनाडा और अमेरिका जिनके पास अनाज का बहुल्य है और यही दो तीन मिलियन टन की इटर्-नेशनल ट्रेडिंग करते है। बाँटेर के मुताबिक 38 या 40 ऐसे देश है जहा पर कि आवश्यकता के अनुरूप कमी वर्षा होती है कभी नहीं होती, कमी फलज आता है कभी सूखा पडता है। अर्थात् प्रकृति के पकोन की परिथा में वह आ जाते है। हमारी स्थिति भी इसी प्रकार है। यदि हमारा महा पानी ठीक समय पर बरस जाय तो अनाज की कमी न रहे। हमारे यहा नदिया है, पानी है। समस्त या दमवा हिस्सा पानी इस देश को उपलब्ध है। 83 पर्सी पैरिन्थग नदिया हमारे देश में बहती है, लेकिन एक वर्षा निरम-पूर्वक होने के कारण कही पाय ड और कही पर सूखा इस से हमें भकर करना पडता है। हमारी वृथीय और बायी पचवर्षीय योजना में यह कल्पना थी कि 110 से 115 मिलियन टन अनाज हम पैदा करेंगे। 107-108

मिलियन टन के निःकट हम पहुच गए थे। 7-8 मिलियन टन का हम ने वफर स्टाक भी बना लिया। यह सोच था कि अगर कभी यह माइकिल फेन हुई तो हम अनाज की कमी पूरी कर सकेंगे। लेकिन हम ने यह नहीं देखा कि लगभग तीन वर्ष तक माइकिल बिगडती रही, पानी कही अधिक बरसा, कही सूखा पडा, इसके कारण हमारे देश में अनाज की कमी हो गई और जो वफर स्टाक था हमारा वह समाप्त हो गया। यह पहली बार एम. हुमर ।

आखिर इतना मूल मत्र क्या है, खेती का तत्व दर्शन क्या है? वरन् जगजन्वन राम जी नेतृत्व में पहली बार यह हुआ कि इरीगेन को खाद्य के साथ जोड दिया गया क्या कि खेती पानी है। मंत्र में पहले उस की प्यार बुझानी चाहिए। जब पानी मिलेगा, खेत को तो फिर फर्टिल डजर, पस्टिफाइड्स और हार्टब्रिड साइ ये मत्र चाज उस के बाद आती है। मैं आपको उहा बहुत बधाई देता हूँ। आप न र्वा विनाय की रचना का मत्र साथ उहा के प्रथम पत्री के कि जब तक मिचर्ड विनाय नहीं दिया गया तब तक मंत्र न कर सकेंगे। यह प्रथम ही पत्रण है और म मन्तु व देत हूँ कि आप न ऐं कि। उमानए एम. किथ कि जब तक खेत में पानी नहीं जायग तब तक वर होय ? प्र.अ. 27 वर्षी के बाद हमारे देश में केवल 23 प्रतिशत मिच.ट. का प्रावधान अभी तक हा पया है और मध्य प्रदेश में तो केवल 8 प्रतिशत है जब कि वहा किसानों ही भाँधा हमारी है। नर्मदा है जा गुजरात, महाराष्ट्र और राजस्थान को पानी दे सकती है। उसके शगरे को भी आप निपटाएंगे, ऐसी हमारी प्रार्थना आपसे

होगी। तो यह सिचाई विधाय लेने के बाद धरती की प्यास आप बुझावेंगे। यह 44 करोड़ एकड़ खेती हमारे पास है। यद्यपि ससार में जितने प्रतिशत खेती होती है धरती पर हमारे पास उसका केवल द। ही प्रतिशत है और उस दो प्रतिशत धरती पर जिसमें खेती होती है 19 प्रतिशत आवादी का लोड है। दस प्रतिशत पानी हमको मिलता है यह हमारी खुश-किशमनी है। उस पानी का यदि हम सिचाई के प्रबंध में नहरों में, नाला में, नदियों में खेती की तरफ उम्मुख कर दे ता हम समझते है कि हम आज में दस ब्रॉम उन्नाय वर्ष तक, आधादी वाहे हमारी 2 5 प्रतिशत बढनी भी जाय तो भी उनका खाना खिला सकेंगे।

बपर स्टाक के साथ साथ जो आपने पाच सूत्री कार्यक्रम विश्व सम्मेलन में बताया उसमें एक तो यह है कि सार विश्व के देशों न यह रबीकार किया किया कि पूल होना चाहिए, वल्ड का वपर स्टाक का पूल। दूसरा है हैल्पिंग प्रोडक्शन। अब हैल्पिंग प्रोडक्शन में यह है कि फर्टिलाइजर्स, पस्टिमाइज्म और दूसरे आवश्यक उपादान देन चाहिए। तीसरा है मेकिंग दि रिसॉर्सिंस अवेलेबल, जितने साधन ससार भर में विख्यात है आधुनिक वैज्ञानिक, सब इन देशों को देना चाहिए जो देश इतने प्रगतिशील नहीं है। फिर है गेट दि टाइम आफ कैलेमिटी, उनकी मदद करनी चाहिए। जाशी जी ने बडे भावावेश में कहा कि आप भीख मागते है, चाहि माम वाह माम करते है। आज के ससार में भीख का प्रश्न नहीं है सह अस्तित्व की बात है। यह नहीं चल सकता आज की सभ्यता के अन्तर्गत, आज का नागरिकता का यह मौलिक सिद्धान्त बन गया है,

मौलिक आदर्श, मौलिक दर्शन बन गया है कि आज यह नहीं हो सकता कि कही पर अनाज का अम्बार लगा हो और कही पर लोग भूख में मरे। आज जहा से भी चाहे हम खरीदे। जैसे हमने अमेरिका से पी एल-480 की भीख नहीं मागी। हमने कहा कि हम खरीदेगे, डालर देकर खरीदेगे, हमने कनाडा को पे किया, आस्ट्रेलिया का पे किया। इसमें भीख मागने की क्या बात है? हमारे पास जो चीज नहीं है वह हम लेगे, जो चीज होगी वह हम देगे। यह जो आदान प्रदान की प्रक्रिया है उसमें भी भीख मागन की क्या बात है? आज मानवता का जीवन में सबसे बडा महत्व भी है। भीख मागने की बात नहीं है। अगर हम उनसे उधार मागे, उनमें वर्ज ले तो उसमें क्या बात है? आज ना सह-अस्तित्व है। आज भूगोल की सीमाएं सिक्क गई है। आवागमन के साधनों में दुनिया इनती निकट हो गई है कि सार ससार का दर्शन हम कुछ घटा में कर सकत है। तो इसमें क्या बात है? यदि एक देश में पानी नहीं बसता, सूखा पड गया है तो दूसरी जगह से अनाज ले सकत है। जैसे कि लटिन अमेरिका है जहा परपेचुअल फेमिन है, परपेचुअल फेमिन अफीकन कट्टीज में है हमारे एशिया के कुछ भू भागों में भी एक परपेचुअल फेमिन की जैसी कडीशन हो गई है। तो जहा ज्यादा अनाज पैदा होने की प्रक्रिया आरम्भ हो चुकी है; ज्यादा अनाज जा पैदा करते नें अगर वह उदारता के साथ और एक मानवता के मूल में सम्बद्ध होकर हमारे साथ सहयोग करते है सह-अस्तित्व की भावना से तो इसमें भीख मागने की क्या बात है। और जो आप भाषण करते है इस पब्लि

[श्री राम सहाय पाठे]

सदन में उसको अग्रर रिप्रोजेक्ट किया जाय तो क्या होगा ? हम जो भाषण करते हैं उसमें एक अपोलोजेटिक ऐटीट्यूड है हम कहते हैं वह एक नेशनल प्राबलम है । इसमें राजनीति नहीं आती । रोटी के साथ राजनीति नहीं आ सकती । रोटी वह चीज है जो हमें सुबह शाम चाहिए ही चाहिए । हमारा परिवार है बेटे बेटिया हैं उनको तो हम खिलाएंगे ही । देश के नागरिक खाएंगे ही । जिसके ऊपर प्रशासन का दायित्व है वे खिलाएंगे ही ।

श्री शिष्टे साहब भी रात दिन इसी प्रयास में हैं, श्री जगजीवन राम जी भी इसी में लगे हुए हैं, हमारे ऊपर जो दायित्व है उसका निर्वाह होना चाहिए । जहां तक आपके सहयोग का प्रश्न है, चलिए, हम ही सहयोग की भीख मांगते हैं इसमें कोई बुरी बात नहीं है । अनाज की भीख मागना, मे समझता हूँ, ठीक नहीं है, उचित नहीं है, लेकिन क्या सहयोग की भीख को आप देंगे । लेकिन आप तो बहुत बड़ा चढा कर चिल्ला का उपस्थित करते हैं । महाराष्ट्र में लोग भूख मर रहे थे, जरा सोचिये—जब महाराष्ट्र में अन्न की कमी थी, तो लोकमैन की स्ट्राइक किसने करवाई थी ? क्या यही सहयोग है ?

जोशी जी ने बड़ी उदारता से कहा कि हम सहयोग करने को तैयार हैं । आप सबसे पहले तो सहयोग करने को तैयार ही नहीं हैं, यदि तैयार भी हों तो आपका सहयोग लेने से पहले हम को दस मंत्वा सोचना पड़ेगा कि वह सहयोग क्या होगा ? आप का सहयोग,

श्रीमन्, यह है कि जब भाव बढ़ते हैं तो किसानों के पास जाते हैं और उनसे कहते हैं कि तुम्हारी खेती में जो इन्पुट्स लग रहे हैं उनके दाम बहुत ज्यादा हैं और ऊपर से यह सरकार लेबीं लगा रही है दाम कम दे रही हैं—इस तरह से एक तरफ तो किसानों को षडकाते हैं, दूसरी तरफ शहर में जाते हैं—वहां इनका झण्डा देखा, मच से इनका भाषण हुआ—नागरिकों, तुम्हें को 3 रुपये किलो में लेना पड़ता है । गांव में भी आग लगाते हैं और शहर में भी आग लगाते हैं—यह इनका सहयोग है । रोटी भी ये राजनीति की आग में सेकते हैं । हम मना नहीं करते हैं खूब सँकिये लेकिन रोटी के साथ जब राजनीति का इतिहास लिखा जाएगा—तब य बातें छिपी नहीं रह सकेंगी ।

आपने कहा कि मध्य प्रदेश के लोग भूखे मर गये, भास खा रहे हैं । मैं जानता हूँ—मध्य प्रदेश की क्या स्थिति है । 45 जिलों में 25 जिलों में ऐंसे हैं जहां पानी न होने के कारण या वर्षा न होने के कारण कठिनाई पैदा हो गई है । जहां 50 इंच पानी बरसता था, वहां 13-14 इंच पानी बरसा—ऐसी स्थिति में अनाज पैदा हो ही नहीं सकता, बोझाई हो ही नहीं सकती, कुछ भी पैदा नहीं हो सकता । जब ऐसी स्थिति हो और दूसरी तरफ भाव बढ़ रहे हों—तब आप किसी भी विरोधी दल के सदस्य का भाषण कोट करके बतला दें, जिसन यह कहा है—कि यह राष्ट्रीय समस्या है, कांग्रेस और विरोधी दल की समस्या नहीं है, यह राष्ट्र की समस्या है, हम मिल कर इस का समाधान करेंगे । किसी ने ऐसा नहीं कहा ।

हमारे जितने भी कष्ट होते हैं—प्राकृतिक कष्ट हो, मानव से उत्पन्न कष्ट हो या राजनीति से उत्पन्न कष्ट हो—उस सबका एक्सप्लायटेशन ये राजनीति में करते हैं। ऐसी स्थिति में यदि सहयोग का स्वर भी इन के गले से निकलैगा तो मुझे शक होना स्वाभाविक है।

अब मैं दो शब्द मध्य प्रदेश के सम्बन्ध में कहना चाहता हूँ—मेने आप से कहा था कि हमने एक प्रतिवेदन केन्द्रीय सरकार को दिया था जिसमें यह कहा था कि हमारे यहाँ अनाज की कमी हो गई है। जब मैं यह कहता हूँ कि अनाज की कमी हो गई है, तो मैं यह भी कहता हूँ कि हमारे यहाँ तीन वर्षों से अकाल की स्थिति हो गई है—हम को 10 करोड़ रुपया-रिलीफ़ वर्क के लिये दीजिये और 20 हज़ार टन अनाज तीन-चार महीने तक दीजिये, जब तक कि हमारी फसल न आ जाय। लेकिन अभी तक शिष्टे साहब ने कुछ नहीं दिया है हालांकि उन्होंने आश्वासन ज़रूर दिया था। मैं उम्मीद करता हूँ कि आप अपने उत्तर में इसके बारे में ज़रूर बतलायेंगे। हमारे यहाँ जैसे रायपुर में 18,59,250 एकड़ भूमि में धान की बोआई की जाती थी, लेकिन इस वर्ष केवल 3 लाख एकड़ की सिचाई का पानी मिला, बाकी सूखा रह गया। दुर्ग में 8,85 हज़ार एकड़ में धान की बोआई की जाती है, जिसमें केवल 1 लाख एकड़ भूमि को पानी मिला। राजनाद गांव में 595 हज़ार एकड़ में धान की बोआई होती थी, केवल 30 हज़ार एकड़ में बोआई हुई। बिलासपुर में 15 लाख एकड़ में धान की फसल होती है केवल 2 लाख एकड़ की सिचाई का पानी मिला।

इसी तरह मैं उत्तीसगढ़, महाकौशल, बैतूल जहाँ से साल्वे साहब आते हैं, माण्डला जहाँ से उदके साहब आते हैं, बिलासपुर—जहाँ से राम गोपाल जी तिवारी आते हैं—अगर आप इन सब का बालने का मोका देंते, तब आप का वहाँ की दुख की कहानी सुनने को मिलती। जब हम लोग वहाँ जाते हैं तो राहत-कार्य न होने की वजह से हम को कितना कष्ट होता है—आप स्वयं इसका अन्दाज़ा लगा सकते हैं। लोग बेकार बैठे हैं, पैसा नहीं है—हम पैसा मागते हैं तो आप पैसा नहीं देते, अनाज मागते हैं तो अनाज भी नहीं देते।

ठीक है—वह दिन राज़ रोज़ देखने को नहीं मिलेगा आज बुरा दिन है तो अच्छे दिन भी आयेंगे। हम आशावादी हैं और प्रकृति में विश्वास करते हैं—एक दिन हम रोटी-पर-रोटी रख कर जनता को खिला सकेंगे।

इन शब्दों के साथ मैं इस मोशन का विरोध करता हूँ।

श्री रण बंहादुर सिंह (सिबि) : समा-पति महोदय, भूख स मृत्यु के बारे में यह जो प्रस्ताव आज सभा के मामन है, उसमें आरोप और प्रत्यारापों के बीच में मैं चन्द बातें सभा के ममक्ष इमलिये रखना चाहता हूँ ताकि इन का कुछ निराकरण निकले। आरोपी और उनका जवाब मैं निराकरण ही एक ऐसा शब्द है जा बाकी रह जाता है।

पहली बात ता मैं यह रखना चाहता हूँ—समद के सामन यह जा समस्या आई है—इसके लिये हम जा कदम उठाते हैं, उन कदमों को स्थायी बनाने के लिये इस समय सरकार के

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position. During the last two years if not three years, different parts of the State have been affected both by flood and by drought. Large parts of West Bengal particularly North Bengal and some districts of South Bengal have been immobilised for months and months together because of these unprecedented circumstances and they could not earn their livelihood. These are the facts.

But, is it to be the spirit of the Motion to say that these has been failure of the Government, to say that this Government could not supply to the people of this country whatever they needed in terms of basic necessities of their lives like food, shelter, clothing, health, education and so on? I would like the hon. Mover of the Motion and other opposition members who have spoken in favour of this Motion to look at the pages of history beginning from the period of civilisation in general. Was it possible to solve all the problems of the human beings in any time in any part of the history of the civilisation? No. It was not possible. Certain problems were solved but certain new problems came up and attempts are being made to solve those new problems and in this way the process of civilisation will go on from century to century creating history, keeping a link between the past and the present. Therefore we have to face the challenges which may come up from any quarter and we should try to solve them. There is no denying the fact that a vast number of people of this country are below the poverty-line. Even the Planning paper circulated by the Government of India has shown that 40 per cent of the people of this country are below subsistence level. The West Bengal Government itself admitted that even 60 per cent of the population are living below the subsistence level. But would it be possible for the friends from the opposition and the Hon. Mover of the Motion to show from their speeches

and single report to show that the Government was not alive to the problem or to the situation.

As a matter of fact, the Government of the State was very much alive as was most emphatically stated by my hon. Friend, Shri Mohapatra. All State Governments whether it is Assam or Nagaland or West Bengal or Orissa or Bihar or Gujarat or Maharashtra, whenever such unprecedented situations happened—the Chief Ministers of these States—did their level best to face this challenge. What happened about one month ago? That was not so in any of the States in India. My hon. friend just now referred to Cooch Behar District. The same was the situation here as in most of the States. And most of the State Governments have met the situation and have come forward with all the resources as were available with them. And wherever it was necessary they were extending their help. Thousands of people have died due to starvation and all that. Still the State Governments have come forward with the patriotic zeal or impulse to face the unprecedented challenge or situation. Was it possible anywhere else? I now come to West Bengal.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: You had no guts. They had no pause or farthing to spare to West Bengal Government though all demands are coming from there.

SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY: Shri Raghu Ramaiah is here. I say that Government is doing its best. As a matter of fact, the hon. Chief Minister of West Bengal had helped—the hon. Member quoted that fifty million people of West Bengal were in distress—these people. It is true that they were in distress. What did the West Bengal Government do? 30 to 35 or even 36 per cent of these people was given this relief. As a matter of fact, in my district—Cooch Behar District—this was worst affected—I may tell you that 17 per cent

of the people were allowed the gratuitous relief known as G.R. In Cooch Behar alone, 73 schemes were taken up to give this immediate relief to the needy people. A number of gruel kitchens have been opened. Until 5th of November or let us say in the first week of November till I came here to attend the Parliament session, while I was in my constituency, it was within my knowledge, that everyday 25 to 30,000 people were fed by this gruel kitchen either arranged by Government or arranged in cooperation with certain charitable organisations. They requested some of the organisations to supply meals at a cheap rate of 20 or 25 paise a meal. They were supplying the same at 85 paise or so from the cheap kitchen. In various ways, in Cooch Behar, out of 50 lakhs people, the Government could give relief to the extent of five to six lakhs of people on each and everyday. Was it possible? Even during the U.F. Government's time in West Bengal we have seen the situation and hardly 2 to 3 per cent of G.R. was given. It is also true that because of these tremendous pressure on West Bengal Government, whatever was sanctioned in their budget for the relief measures was already spent. They have already spent more than Rs. 18 crores or so. They were going to spend Rs. 30 crores or so for which West Bengal Government is going to ask for nearly Rs. 15 crores as assistance from the Centre. What the hon. Member wanted to say was this. I would like to request him whether at the time of moving his Resolution, he had mentioned this particular aspect that the West Bengal Government wanted Rs. 15 crores from the Centre, and the Centre said 'You cannot be helped looking to the impending necessities of the humanity at large in this part of the country'. He forgot in his own emotion to mention it; rather he mentioned some other things. I do not deny that.

I would say there is a basic thing that has to be taken cognisance of. Of course, because of these crop fail-

ures, this has happened. But more so a new look has to be given. What is it? There must be a land-population ratio, particularly for the agricultural sector. In some parts of the country where the people are mainly affected, in West Bengal, Assam, Orissa, Andhra, Maharashtra or anywhere else, if one goes very deeply into this matter, one will find that land-population ratio in a particular region, in one or two districts of a region or one or two sub-divisions of districts and so on, is not there; if it was there, the poor agricultural families could maintain their livelihood by forming their own agricultural land. What is more needed is to take care of the extra labour force that is added every year because of the jumping up of the the population. This extra labour force must be absorbed by giving some economic rehabilitation benefit or assistance. For these schemes have to be prepared. Fortunately, the Central Government have for the first time given a direction to all State Government: 'You have your own State Planning Boards and you have your own district plans'. The process of district planning is going on throughout the country, not only in West Bengal, Orissa, Assam and some other States. When this is properly finalised, I believe this Government will be in a position to give certain economic rehabilitation assistance to all those poorer sections of society, particularly the agricultural labour, those who are now outnumbered, so that in an emergency, when they get immobilised and do not have the money to purchase their daily necessities, they get this rehabilitation assistance and then this source of trouble will no longer be there

I do hope the Government will expedite this process. I would beg of the Government on behalf of the West Bengal and other Governments that whatever special relief the State Governments have asked because of these peculiar circumstances they should give them grants very liberal-

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ly and not stick to the principle enunciated by the Sixth Finance Commission that no further grant should be given. Taking into consideration that this is a peculiar circumstance, the scheme of special grants by the Centre to all the schemes for the district plans at least for the development of backward regions, should be approved as early as possible.

SHRI SURENDRA MOHANTY (Kendrapara) Before I begin to offer my comments on the adjournment motion I would crave your indulgence to give me a few more minutes if I cross my time limit.

MR CHAIRMAN You are a very good speaker you can finish your speech in time.

SHRI SURENDRA MOHANTY I will try to but if I do not I crave your indulgence for a few more minutes.

Listening to the speeches that have flowed from the Congress benches I feel one common strand runs through all of them do not make a political capital out of the food situation and the starvation stalking the land leading to deaths. I would invite the attention of the House to Entry 33 of List HI of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution under which the Government of India has the responsibility of supplying and distributing foodstuffs including edible oilseeds and oils. So my submission will be that failure of the Government of India to supply and distribute food-grains in the famine-stricken States has resulted in a man-made famine and if for bringing this into proper focus, it is alleged that we are making political capital out of it I plead guilty to that charge. I do not want to mince matters. The question of starvation deaths is a political question it cannot be a humanitarian question only, it cannot be a question which is beyond the purview of politics.

Having said that, I would say that every mute corpse that is collapsing today on the footpaths of the cities and is rolling on the dust of the village lanes bears eloquent indictment of the failure of the Government of India and also the failure of the State Governments.

It is a sad irony that the man who was primarily responsible for the failure of the Government of India on the food front, instead of being indicted and punished is today adorning the Rashtrapati Bhawan (*Interruptions*).

MR CHAIRMAN No references like this.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Gwalior) Could we not discuss the conduct of the former Food Minister (*Interruptions*).

MR CHAIRMAN I have already advised Mr Mohanty not to make any such references that should be the end of it.

SHRI PILOO MODY (Godhra) Before you give the ruling will you kindly tell us if we want to discuss the behaviour of the former Food Minister in what way this is to be done? Or are all the crimes committed by the former Food Minister to be wiped out now from the memory of all Indians?

MR CHAIRMAN We are concerned with the present Food Minister and not with the past Food Minister.

SHRI PILOO MODY Will you quote the rule under which you have given this ruling because as far as I know there is no bar on mentioning the Rashtrapati?

DR KAILAS (Bombay South) He can make a reference to the past Food Minister but he cannot say that he was inducted as Rashtrapati. That is objectionable.

SHRI SURENDRA MOHANTY: Now I will come to the present Food Minister. The present Food Minister visited Rome for the World Food Conference where he is reported to have stoutly denied any starvation deaths in India. The House would be interested to know from him how much fat tax he has paid in the World Food Conference. According to Press reports in the lobby of the Food Conference in the Congress Palace the delegates were confronted with a scale which was urging them to weigh themselves and pay a voluntary fat tax at the rate of 3 dollars for every 2 lbs. over their ideal height-weight ratio. The fat tax fetched 150 dollars for the freedom from hunger campaign. These fat obese men who met in Rome discussed the problem of hunger of the world... (*Interruptions*).

What did these entrustic gentlemen do in Rome? According to Press reports emanating from Rome on November 17th "While the 1,250 delegates representing 123 nations at the World Food Conference talked a lot about hunger they also did a lot of eating, reports the associated Press. What did they eat? They consumed 6 tonnes of pastry, 6 tonnes of meat, a tonne of fish, 7 tonnes of fruits and 8,000 quarts of wine, beer and mineral water, according to the conference caterers. Their expenditure on food alone during the eleven day conference was about 2.7 lakhs dollars. In that euphoric context I would not be surprised if Babu Jaqirvan Ram denies any starvation deaths occurring anywhere in India.

For his kind information, here is the screaming headline in *Times of India*, a paper very much with the Congress Party: "2 million starve in Orissa". Here is *Patriot*, which is more loyal than the king. Its headline screams "Starvation deaths in Bhubaneswar". While starvation deaths are stalking the land, in a smug way the Congress Party has

been preaching us sermons and telling us what to speak and what not to speak. Who is responsible for this? I make bold to say it is the failure of the Government in its food policy which has resulted in a man-made famine. I call it man-made deliberately because there is no scarcity of foodgrains in the bazaar. It is available but the prices are beyond the purchasing capacity of the people, as a result of which people are dying like rats in a blind alley.

Much has been said of the dehoarding drive of the Congress Party and their loyal ally, the Communist Party. It had been bandied about that this year the Congress Government would procure 5 million tonnes of wheat and the Congress Party with their loyal allies went about drum-beating "dehoarding drive". But their procurement is not going to exceed 2 million tonnes, in spite of all these exercises.

Coming to Orissa, last year we had a bumper crop and the Congress Government's target was to procure 4 lakh tonnes of rice. Under the pressure of the hoarders, it was reduced to 3 lakh tonnes. 3 lakh tonnes were smuggled out by road, rail and sea with their connivance, as a result of which their procurement today would not exceed 2 lakh tonnes. When Government was confronted with a very serious situation with no food stocks and people dying of starvation, the Congress Government and their allies, the Communist Party—which I call 'B' team of the Congress—sundered themselves to the hoarders and millers, and the dual price system came. Millers were told, "You can procure any quantity, but you have to give 50 per cent as levy. The other 50 per cent you can sell at any price anywhere you like." The result is today you have allowed the millers to have this dual price system and sell rice at Rs 3. What is the purchasing capacity of the people in the State? When 80 per cent of the people live

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below the poverty line, you can imagine the purchasing capacity of the people in the State of Orissa. Then, how much have you done in test relief? It will not exceed Rs. 1.05 crores. Shri S. S. Mohapatra was waxing eloquent about the munificence of the Central Government. How much have you given to the Orissa Government? You have given 23,000 tonnes in October, which is the lowest which have been allotted to other afflicted States. I do not grudge the allotments to other States. They are also having starving people and I am glad you are helping them adequately. You are giving to Bengal 1,15,000 tonnes, Gujarat 77,000 tonnes and Bihar 60,000 tonnes. But how much are you giving to Orissa? Only 23,000 tonnes. I think Assam is the lowest with 18,000 tonnes and Orissa comes next with 23,000 tonnes. But even then, the population involved in Assam is lower than in Orissa. I make bold to say that the failure of the Government policy on the food front has resulted today in a man-made famine, the kind of which we had not in living memory.

18.00 hrs.

Now the question is what is going to be done for the future. The Government do not seem to have any clear food policy. In the course of the reply to the debate would the Food Minister tell us what is the actual food requirement till the next kharif or rabi crop? In Rome he declined to mention what is the actual food requirement. We do not know what is the actual food requirement. The Government do not say confidently that they will be able to face the food situation. They take umbrage behind the recommendation of the Fifth Finance Commission and they do not grant any money that would be required by the States for undertaking adequate relief work. Kalahandi and Balasore are the rice bowls of Orissa. It is a cruel irony that famine is stalking those districts

of Kalahandi and Balasore and a number of starvation deaths are taking place, not because foodgrains are not available but because the people have not got the purchasing capacity. I would like to know what purchasing capacity you are going to enthrone among the consumers so that they will be able to purchase foodgrains so that they will be able to survive.

The Food Minister should take this House into confidence and tell us what is the actual food requirement. He should also tell us whether they have abandoned the policy of State trading in foodgrains and whether they have surrendered themselves to the monopoly interests.

I want the Government to assure us that not a single man would be allowed to die of starvation. With these words, I very strongly support the adjournment motion moved by Professor Samar Guha. As I said in the beginning, every mute corpse that is collapsing and rolling on the dust of the village lanes and bylanes is an eloquent indictment of the callousness, lack of sympathy and lack of understanding of this Government and the failure of its policies.

SHRI B. R. SHUKLA (Bahraich):
Mr. Chairman, Sir, I know how hard-pressed for time you are. But that is no fault of mine. In this House, there is so much difficulty about distribution of time. You can very well imagine how difficult it would be about the distribution of food articles in those parts of the country where floods and famines are affecting the millions of our countrymen.

The question is not that the situation is not grave. The Government is quite alive to the gravity of the situation. The food scarcity is there. The question is whether the Government deserves censure for failure to meet effectively the situation which is partly man-made and which is mainly as a result of natural calamities. The food scarcity is not

mainly due to the failure of rains or excessive rains. If in one year there is failure of rains or there are excessive rains, then there should not be any food shortage because there are other years in which there are bumper crops. Therefore, the Government should so manage the food affairs that there should be sufficient buffer-stock to meet any eventuality which is caused by flood or famine.

The Government has, therefore, taken right steps to take over the wholesale trade in wheat. It also tried to take over wholesale trade in paddy. But the hon. Members occupying the Opposition Benches raised a hue and cry and they tried to sabotage the scheme. In order to meet the difficult situation, the Government modified the scheme of wholesale trade. It was followed by hoarding, profiteering and black-marketing by foodgrain dealers who had given a solemn assurance to provide sufficient and adequate foodgrains for distribution by fair price shops. But they failed in honouring their commitment. Therefore, there was reversion to the taking over of wholesale trade policy in foodgrains. However, that could not succeed to a very material extent.

Now, since our present Minister has assumed the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, he rightly pointed out that there is not so much dearth of foodgrains in the country. What is necessary is that rich farmers should be compelled to de-hoard the foodgrains which they have hoarded, motivated by profit. The anti-smuggling operations have been started. When these operations are making a visible, marked, dent on the lowering of the prices of essential commodities, the hon. Members opposite, irrespective of their party commitment, are raising a hue and cry. They are saying that their fundamental rights to freedom and property are in jeopardy. The President who is duly authorised because of the State of Emergency in the country to suspend the enforcement

of fundamental rights is being decried. The other day, these very hon. Members who are so vociferous about the cause of the poor and the exploited people in these parts of the country where there is scarcity and famine are now saying that this is an arbitrary act, that this is something which cuts at the very root of our democracy and, therefore, they staged a walk out.

Today, they are coming with an adjournment motion. The hon. Member, Shri Samar Guha, is in a perpetual state of emotion and he is always given to exaggeration. The regard for truth and fact is foreign to him.

Prfo Mukherjee spoke in anguish. He is in state of distress because he is seeing and witnessing failures and lapses in some parts of his own State. So, let us not take note of these things.

Now, in a few minutes I will put certain concrete facts which will highlight the achievements of the State Governments and also the Central Government.

Bihar has got 275,000 tonnes. .

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have a problem. I want the House to note it. My predecessor has decided that the Government reply should begin at 6.30. My list is still quite long. I do not think all members can speak if the Minister is to reply at 6.30. 3 to 4 Members can speak and each should not take more than 5 minutes.

SHRI B. R. SHUKLA: There is a dyarchy in the functioning of the Agriculture and Food Ministry between the States and the Centre. The Government is oblivious of the situation except when some abnormal situation arises and taking advantage of the opportunity furnished by this debate, I will say that in UP although there is no famine condition, there is no allegation of starvation

[Shri B. R. Shukla]

and there are, in fact, no starvation deaths, the irrigation facilities are so negligible that it needs the concentration of the attention of the hon. Food Minister who fought a war against a foreign country and brought it to a splendid finish and I hope that the food situation also would be tackled by him in the same effective and splendid way and there will be no cause for anxiety in the country.

SHRI D. K. PANDA (Bhanjanagar): With regard to the food situation in the country, much has been said and I will confine myself to the State of Orissa where the situation is unthinkable and the miserable plight of about 120 lakhs of people, even according to the Government's statistics, has become so miserable that it is unprecedented in the magnitude. Therefore, here the question is that everybody talks about the miseries of the people. Even my respected friend on my right, Shri Mohanty of BLD has also expressed his sympathies for the miseries of the people. But he did not even make a single suggestion how it can be solved, whether we shall have wholesale trade in rice or any other suggestion. If the prices have gone up and if there is hoarding, who are the people who are benefited? Is he in a position to make a reference to it? Therefore, I have nothing much to criticise either the Pragati Party which has now taken the shape of BLD because all through the Biju, Mehtab, and Singh Deo's rule, what has happened in Orissa? When they were ruling, the same conditions of famine, the same scarcity conditions were there which are man made and they are continuing till to-day. But this time, our State has gone to the level of 1918 as far as the rainfall is concerned.

It is something beyond our imagination so far as drought situation is concerned. Why are they not prepared to change the allotment. I

want to know. The report of the Sixth Finance Commission has said, Rs. 3 crores; 1.5 crores is to be given by the State and Rs. 1.5 crores is to be borne by the Centre. Our demand has been this. We demanded Rs. 20 crores for immediate rushing of test-relief programmes and for that the minimum of Rs. 10 crores would be necessary. I wish to point out in this connection that only 0.1 per cent of the total institutional finance has been allotted for Orissa. This has to be increased for rabi crop immediately to make up for the shortage of 20 lakh tonnes of rice. As far as the institutional finance is concerned, this must be immediately increased for Orissa. 46 lakhs of tonnes of rice was produced last year. 36 lakh tonnes of rice is to be consumed in the State. That is their requirement. And, 10 lakh tonnes are the balance out of which 2 lakh tonnes could be procured. The rest remained with the hoarders. On behalf of my party therefore we demand that there should be dehoarding drive and the BLD people and some people who are inside Congress, who are in league with those hoarders, went out to the extent of assaulting three of our comrades, one of whom was a harijan who was killed in the village Podamari simply because he participated in dehoarding drive which brought about 1500 quintals of paddy. In spite of the order from the Government the police people have not cooperated but they helped the hoarders and I demand that they should be taken to task and the severest punishment should be accorded to them and they should be dismissed from service.

In answer to my Question No. 992 the Minister stated that it has been planned to increase the production of summer rice from about 3 million tonnes in 1973-74 to 4.5 million tonnes in 1974-75. That means even for this 45 lakh tonnes there is no crash programme. He said 'No crash programme has been drawn as such'. Therefore, how can you meet the

deficit in Orissa this year, to the tune of 20 lakh tonnes of rice? That is only in one State. In my district from where Mr. Giri also comes, the condition is such that it is already declared to be a 'famine area'. We demanded one lakh dug wells and one thousand tube-wells which was quite possible. But they take the plea about want of rigs. I do not know why it should not be brought from Punjab or from outside. You cannot take the plea that bureaucrats and Pragati people were ruling for 26 years and they are responsible for all this. Such types of excuses and plea cannot be allowed when people are dying of starvation. Immediate aid should be given in required quantities. Institutional credit has to be increased by 10 per cent. At present this is 0.1 per cent only. This should be immediately increased. All the incomplete irrigation projects and Central Projects like Rare Earth Factory should be completed. There should be coordination between concerned departments and Planning Commission. We have difference with the Chief Minister of Orissa regarding food policy. But they depend upon three pillars. Three pillars who are supporting them are the hoarders, the millers, the traders and the producers.

SHRI SURENDRA MOHANTY: May I set right the record here? While we were in office we procured 4 lakhs tonnes of foodgrains. It has been reduced to 2 lakh tonnes now. We set that thing right when we were in office.

SHRI D. K. PANDA: My basic question is this. If we depend on these hoarders, millers and producers as well as big landlords—we expect 70 per cent procurement from these people—they can never help you.

Coming to fertilisers 80 per cent the requirement is given to these
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landlords. (*Interruptions*). We never expect the B.L.D. people to come to power. It is out of question. We will consistently fight against these hoarders and these big landlords. In the last election we fought against the same blackmarketeers and some of these big monopolists and capitalists.

So my only suggestion is this. A minimum of Rs. 10 crores should be allowed to Orissa. Otherwise a very critical situation may take place. Already the situation is very worse and it is worsening day by day. Therefore, with the central aid that you may rush in, the Orissa Government should also change their policy as far as procurement and distribution system are concerned.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I shall call the Minister at 6.30. I cannot help it. Mr. Munsri.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSRI: (Calcutta—South) Mr. Chairman, Sir, I shall confine myself only with a few suggestions.

So far as the speech of my friend Prof Guha is concerned, he spoke with emotion perhaps. He spoke about his constituency only. He might not have visited the other places in West Bengal. If he has really visited the other places like M.P. etc., he would have known the conditions existing there. Under the present economic system in our country, it may not be satisfactory so far as distribution of foodgrains is concerned. It is partly true that the people are also not happy at the moment.

What I would like to emphasise here is this that it is not wise to exaggerate things which are really not true as it sometimes confuses the people and they may take advantage of the present situation in doing certain things which are not called for. The situation in Bengal, Bihar, Assam and Madhya Pradesh and other places is not quite smooth. I

[Shri Priya Ranjan Das Munsij]

have also visited some of these areas and I can certainly say that the Government of India and the State Governments like Assam, Bengal, M.P. and U.P. have been able to tackle the situation well. In spite of the crisis that we see at the present moment, I can say with courage and conviction that it is rather unexpected of the people how to face that situation and control it. About two months before, I have myself seen the situation in Bengal and I can say that it was rather difficult to understand how it could be tackled. I can proudly say that the situation was tackled by the Government and the party and the people there in a right manner which is not comparable with any of the situation obtaining in any part of the country. Prof. Guha is interested to politicise the issue. I can say that the gruel kitchen in West Bengal—I myself have visited this—is an example of what they have done.

The allocation of food assistance and central finance to all the States is really not satisfactory. We know it. But how does the Centre get money or foodgrains? From the different States after procurement. If that is not satisfactory, how can there be a proper and systematic distribution system? We must understand this.

What I would emphasise is this. In spite of this crisis, when a call was given by Government to all the political parties to fight the menace and when a dehoarding operation went on on a big scale, except the Congress and the CPI from the Opposition, not a single Opposition party took any initiative in giving support to this measure. When we were fighting the hoarders in West Bengal, Prof. Samar Guha was busy with JP (*Interruptions*). You people kept quiet at that time. Do not talk like this. You ask your leader. Three crores were unearthed before the Puja festival. Your party was keeping quiet and giving shelter

to the hoarders for getting money. You only shout here and in the streets. When relief operations were going on, you tried to collect people in the streets and instigated them to fight against Government. Even then you could not do anything. So please keep quiet. With the support of Prof. Guha, JP, BLD and others, you are not going to come into power in five years. You keep quiet.

18.27 hrs.

[SHRI VASANT SATHE in the Chair]

What I want to submit to the Food Minister is that in the present situation food and irrigation alone can deal with the present situation. If you really want to fight the situation, you must not concern yourself only with allocation of foodgrains. You must think of tackling some basic problems. The peasants and farmers have got to be inspired. I know he supports the downtrodden. But he must immediately call a conference of all the Food Ministers and finalise measures for a minimum wage for agricultural labour. He should also expedite land reforms. Then he should attend to the utilisation of subsoil water. These measures alone can help us to deal with the present situation fully.

I know I can count on the wisdom of the Food Minister. But he should not be influenced by the comments of the Opposition and their exaggeration. While they speak inside the House like they did, outside they are busy with JP. Do not take cognisance of their speeches. Prof. Guha is mourning and is frustrated seeing the huge rallies of the Congress in Bihar and Jaipur. This has also made him angry. But I would request the Food Minister to do his utmost on the lines of the suggestions I have made.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Mavalankar.

Some hon. Members rose—

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have been requested by the Minister of Parlia-

mentary Affairs categorically in writing that positively at 6.30 the hon. Minister has to be called. So at least as far as the government side is concerned, those members who have not been able to participate so far will have to forego their claim. Shri Mavalankar will kindly cooperate by taking only five minutes.

DR. KAILAS: You may allow one or two members one or two questions.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Afterwards.

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR (Ahmedabad): Quite frankly, I should have liked this debate to be based differently, not on the basis of an adjournment motion because in such a motion aggressive and defensive postures are struck. This is not a matter of any party alone, this is a matter which concerns the entire nation. Therefore, I would have liked Government themselves to have come forward with a motion for discussion soon after the return of Shri Jagjivan Ram from the Rome conference.

Anyway I would suggest that we cannot make speeches here purely and exclusively on the basis of emotions. If emotions can feed people, let us have more of them. But we have to think in terms of certain concrete proposals and concrete ideas. This problem is not something which only our country is facing. It is a global problem; it is a problem particularly facing the entire developing world. I have not the time to go into details. But look at the two books which have come out. One is by Barbara Ward and Rene Dubos *Only One Earth*. It is published in the form of a report in time for the Rome conference. It clearly lays down certain basic facts. The developing countries of the world are facing this tremendous problem. While population is increasing at the rate of 11.5 per cent, in spite of the utmost effort food supply is increasing only by 6.9 per cent.

That report says that the widening gap has to be bridged until we do something concretely and massively about increasing food supplies and restricting the population, I am afraid that we will go on attacking and defending and that is not the way to solve the problem. I wish that this motion had come in different form. I am glad that no less a person than Shri Jagjivan Ramji has become the new Food Minister. Babuji returned from Rome recently. Even in Rome he must have seen that the Rome Conference produced more words than food. I would have very much liked the Government of India to advance the idea of the World Food bank so that irrespective of ideological differences would go to those countries which are in need of it, irrespective of whether they are behind the iron curtain... (Interruptions).

श्री शंकर बयाल सिंह (बतारा) : : साहे

छ. बज गये है। समर्पात महोदय, अगर आप श्री टाइम बढ़ाएंगे तो दूसरो को भी बोलने का टाइम देना पड़या। यह केवल आप की बात में याद दिना रहा हू।

सभापति महोदय : मेहरवानी करके सुने। मैंने पाच मिनट में मवालकर जी खत्म करे, ऐसा उनसे कहा था। जब मैं यह कह रहा था तब पाच मिनट का कुछ समय तो मैंने ही ले लिया आप लागी को समझाने में, इसलिए मैं आशा करता हू बाबू जी उतना दो मिनट का समय मवालकर जी के लिए देगे।

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR: I am glad that a seasoned and eminent Parliamentarian Shri Jagjivan Ram has taken charge of this portfolio and I am hopeful that agriculture will receive the right priority. Secondly, the food produced should be distributed properly and it should not be allowed to be hoarded by criminal and anti-social elements. The public distribution system should be strengthened.

[Shri P. G. Mavalankar]

We must change our attitude. Instead of trying to go head with industrialisation we must first set our agriculture right by having a right priority. If we do that the other sectors will take care of themselves. Let food, and agriculture be given the first priority. Our priorities were misplaced. If we have to produce more food, major and minor irrigation works and the generation of electrical energy should also be given equal importance. In this context I do not want to repeat what has been said about the Narmada Water dispute. It should be expedited by the Tribunal because that is the only way to solve the problem quickly. The recommendations of the Finance Commission make it impossible for drought hit States to get adequate financial assistance. States like Orissa, and Gujarat must be given massive assistance. I come from Gujarat and this year we had great difficulties Jagjivan Ramji knows that it will be very difficult next year, beginning from January 1975. Kharif has gone and Rabi is not promising. That is the condition in many other parts of the country also. If we give agriculture the first priority, within the foreseeable future, next five or ten years, things would improve. I hope that the new Minister with his experience and resourcefulness will tackle the situation effectively and boldly.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM): Sir, I approach the delicate subject of food, which is no doubt in a distressing situation, with all the humility at my command. I agree with the last speaker that the best way to discuss the subject would have been not through a censure motion, especially at a time when fortunately for the country, the wholesale and retail prices of essential commodities have shown a markedly downward trend. I have said that food is a very delicate subject and it reacts very sharply to even the slightest suggestion this way or that way. So, while

discussing it, care should be taken to see that we do not disturb the trend that has started in the country. I am not saying that the country is not passing through a very difficult situation. It is, nobody can say it is not. That is not the claim of the Government. The problem created by flood and drought is colossal. The area and population involved are much larger than the area and population of many countries of the world. To tackle such a problem to the General satisfaction of the people involved is something which should be appreciated.

Prof. Guha who initiated the debate is an emotional person. In all sincerity he puts the subject with all the emotion that he possesses. He started with the humanitarian in him being the uppermost. But when he was ending the politician in him overpowered the humanitarian in him. I have all appreciation for what he said. Only he has not the proper appreciation of the situation we are dealing with. I will not claim that there is no distress to the people in the affected areas. There is, but everything will have to be judged in the context of the overall national situation what is our national income, what is our per capita income, what is our lowest per capita income, what percentage of our people have the income with which they can afford to have nutritious food, what percentage have income with which they can only subsist and what percentage have income with which it is very difficult even to subsist. So, the present situation will have to be judged in the context of the overall national situation. You cannot judge it apart from that. I think if Mr. Samar Guha will bring his scientific, analytical mind to bear on the subject, he will agree that whatever has been done in this matter, i.e. providing relief in affected areas, is really an achievement by the government. He has said that this question should not be considered from a political angle. As Food Minister, I would make it quite

clear that politics in the matter of food and agriculture has never weighed with me and shall never weigh with me.

People are in distress. But is it correct to say that because of that alone there are starvation deaths? When we hear so many people have died of starvation, is it not open for us as responsible persons to verify at least a few of them to see whether those allegations are really correct and borne out by facts or not? When we at the Centre hear such reports, when such reports are brought to our notice by some persons, or they appear in newspapers, we do refer them to the proper agency in the States concerned, and it is only after verification by them that we make any statement whether there have been starvation deaths or not. This again will have to be considered in the context of the overall national situation. Something appears in the paper and some people read between the lines. Or the correspondent himself says "it is reported that such a thing has happened"; he does not take the responsibility for what he says or sends to the newspaper. That sense of objectivity is not there whether the reporter verifies what has been reported is correct or not before the news is published. If a verification is done we will find that many of the cases reported are not correct.

I have got figures of cases which have been verified by the State Governments, on the basis of the allegations made, and in some cases it has been found that the people who have been alleged to have died of starvation are still alive and are in proper health. Then it is found that some people who have been reported to have died because of starvation recently had actually died a few years ago.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: It is cruel to quote only one or two such instances.

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: I would request Samar Babu to have some

patience. I will straightway say that this does not mean that there is no case of distress. Having said that in some cases after verification we found that some people who have been reported to have died are still alive and some people who have been reported to have died of starvation recently died a few years ago, I would straightway concede there are cases where people have continuously been in distress for want of purchasing power.

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE (Howrah): Do you mean to say that there is no starvation death? Please reply categorically.

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: I will not reply categorically. If you have commonsense, you can understand it.

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: By referring to common sense you are trying to cover up a reality... (Interruptions).

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: In our country even in normal times there is a large percentage of our population whose income is such that they cannot afford to have nutritious food. If you follow that, what is the inference?

SHRI NOORUL HUDA: Please tell us.

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: I said you can draw your inference.

SHRI NOORUL HUDA (Cachar): The motion is on starvation deaths and there are reports of starvation deaths... (Interruptions). We have gone to those places ourselves and seen the condition... (Interruptions.)

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: I am not yielding. So, according to the convention what others speak should not be reported.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I would inform hon. Members that only when the Minister yields they can speak. I do not want to strike out of the proceeding anything now. But please bear this in mind.

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: The difficulty with the hon. Members is that they want me to serve their political ends. I may assure them I am not going to oblige them.

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: The way you are replying will serve our purpose.

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: Why do you feel so much disturbed then. I am stating the facts. These are the facts.

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: The Assam Government has admitted that there have been starvation deaths.... (Interruptions)

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: I repudiate that. Why are you so anxious for admission of starvation deaths? You want that that will serve your political purpose? You do not want to serve the national purpose.

SHRI SURENDRA MOHANTY: You are also trying to cover up politically by saying that there are no starvation deaths... (Interruptions)

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: You took a flight to Rome. You cannot see anything except Rome. What you see is nothing but Rome. (Interruptions). I am amazed that when we are discussing a very serious situation, the people brazen-facedly try to bring in humour in that.

SHRI SURENDRA MOHANTY: I take strong exception to this kind of remark by the Minister. He cannot get away by calling the Opposition Members brazen-faced. It is beyond your dignity.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is not unparliamentary; you know the English language very well.

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: I do not propose to offend anybody. But I must again repeat that when we are

discussing a serious question in which the whole nation is involved, in which a large number of people are suffering, does it behove any hon. Member of this House to bring in lighter or humorous things in what I am putting it to you in all seriousness. If anybody misook me of what I said, I would again appeal to him to revise his opinion. If he would consider in his cooler and saner moments, he would feel what he said was not justified on an occasion like this.

I need not go into the question how it has been said by hon. Member that due to failure of rains consecutively for three years and then excessive rains in certain large parts of the country, like north Bihar, North Bengal, Assam, the standing crop was practically damaged. In certain parts, there were drought conditions and in many areas, the kharif crop could not be sown. Even where it was transplanted, for want of rain and lack of irrigation facilities, it completely dried away. That was the serious situation that the country was faced.

We had some reserves of foodgrains, as the House is aware and procurement was also done. We tried to maintain the minimum of the distribution system.

My approach to this problem in the areas affected whether by flood or drought, is that if the affected people are provided with some purchasing power, we can avoid misery for them. The necessity, therefore, for carrying on hard manual work, light manual work and even in certain cases, providing consumption loans to the people who are not in a position to engage themselves due to physical condition or social customs of society either in hard manual work or light manual work. That is the way we can avoid misery to the people. I am specially using the word 'misery' because though it may not be starvation point, still they are put to a miserable condition and if you provide them the purchasing power, that is the only way

[Shri Jagjivan Ram]

are holding. I told them, if they cling to their stocks any further, well, they will lose much more than what they are expecting. It had naturally some effect. Apart from that, I wrote to the State Governments to take action for de-hoarding from the farmers, that is, the big farmers. I suggested to the State Government that steps will have to be taken under the Essential Commodities Act, Defence of India Rules and also the MISA. As a result of various steps taken in this regard nearly one lakh tonnes of foodgrains have been dehoarded. If effort continue like this more foodgrains will be released. And, with the prospect of next rabi crop, with the falling prices, I am sure, more and more foodgrains will be coming to the mandis.

Mr. Mohanty asked me what amount I require I will tell him if he comes to me. But I will not announce it here.

SHRI SURENDRA MOHANTY: What is the harm if you announce it here? Why can't you take the House into confidence?

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN: What reaction it will have in the market? How can that be announced here?

19.00 hrs.

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: I am not announcing it. When you will come to me I will tell you what my requirement is and also the harm that will be caused if I announce it here. We are roughly allotting to the various State Governments affected with drought and flood nearly 9 lakh tonnes of foodgrains every month. This includes wheat, rice and coarse grains. I do not want to take much time of the House by giving the figures for each States. They are available, but, certainly, where the necessity is more, we are giving more. I cannot claim that I am meeting all that is demanded because I have noticed a tendency

and that is unfortunate, that the surplus States try to show not as much surplus as they have and the deficit States try to show more deficit. So, I have to strike a mean between the two. But I think the quantity that we are allotting is more or less commensurate with the requirements of the States concerned in the situation in which they have been placed on account of flood or drought.

I went to Rome to attend the World Food Conference. Certainly India put forth a suggestion to the Conference and I am happy to say that the approach placed before the Conference by India has by and large, been accepted by the countries attending the Conference. One Member—I think it was perhaps Joshiji who with all seriousness tried to humour the House—tried to draw a caricature of the Rome Conference. I will assure him that the deliberations at Rome were not such as to lend themselves for drawing a caricature. The last Speaker, perhaps it was Shri Purushottam, said that we only talked there. He forgets that in democracy we mostly talk. That is what he does in this House as well. Even that talking did a lot of good to the developing nations and it was a gratifying thing to see that a group of 77 developing countries, moving together in all spheres, had a tremendous effect on the developed nations and I hope the unity that was established among the developing countries at the Rome Conference will continue so that we can develop our agriculture and become self-reliant in the matter of requirements of foodgrains of the developing countries.

I may inform Joshiji that when I spoke in the Conference I did not speak only on behalf of India. I spoke on behalf of the developing countries of the world. If at any stage I brought in India, it was only at a stage when I offered scientific and research assistance to the developing countries which may require that assistance. Otherwise, whatever

I said was on behalf of all the developing countries of the world and perhaps, that is one reason why the developing countries were attracted towards India.

Some friends asked, what has been the achievement at Rome? The achievement at Rome has been that there is a consciousness among the developing nations that they have been neglected and exploited all these years and that they should move concertedly in all spheres if they want to achieve anything and there has been an awareness on the part of the developed nations that they can ignore the development of the developing countries only at their great peril. I think these are the magnificent achievements of the Rome Conference.

For the Rabi sowing we have assured the State Governments that we will meet their requirements of seeds, fertilisers to a great extent and also the credit I think we have made available to the various States from our own budget roughly Rs. 55 crores as short credit loans. If further assistance will be required, we will try to find and meet their requirements.

About Bihar or West Bengal they required seeds and they approached us at a very late stage. But even at that stage we have made arrangements from the Food Corporation or from the Haryana Government to see that their requirements of seeds are fully met.

As I said, the situation is easing. I will appeal to the Members of the House not to say anything that will disturb the delicate food situation in the country. It is not my claim that there is no distress to our people in the affected areas. Some of them are in a miserable condition. I have no hesitation in admitting that. But the conditions that exist to-day are the accumulation of the economic and social conditions that have existed in the country for years. It has not been possible to disentangle ourselves from the inequitous social set-up in our country that affects the agricultural

production as well. If one compares the productivity in the Western UP and the productivity in the Eastern UP, all the conditions being similar, one would come to the painful conclusion that the social conditions are also a very important factor in agricultural production. Where one works himself in the field or where one works entirely by hired labour, the productivity shows a great variation. That social set up also is a factor to reckon with in our agricultural production.

The day I took over this responsibility I was talking to my officers of the various departments and I said that my effort will be to see that there is no necessity of a Food Department at the Centre. And that can be done only when we develop our agriculture in such a way that we become self-reliant in our requirements of food-grains. With our rivers with sweet water, with our inexhaustible reservoirs of underground water, with our fertile soil and with our sturdy farmers, there is no reason why we cannot become self-sufficient in our requirements of food.

And during the period that I will be in charge of this Ministry, I may assure the House that it will always be my endeavour to develop irrigation potential in such a way that even in the worst monsoon, our crops may not wither away.

I am conscious of the fact, myself being a student of Science, that even after all the achievements of Science, Science will have to stand as a pigmy before the giant of Nature. All the same, the pursuit of Science will continue to add to the happiness of mankind.

India, in its agriculture, will try to enlist all these scientific and technological developments for increasing the agricultural productivity in our objective of achieving self-sufficiency in our requirements of food. I may tell Shri Guha—I bow to him—that the approach to food should be kept out of all political considerations. He should

[Shri Jagjivan Ram]

join in our efforts to see how we can jointly lessen the misery of our vast mass of people. It will go a long way in our Garibi Hatao programme, if we can show that there is no one in this country who has not taken his bread during the night. There would be no children who will not be given the necessary nutrient for their proper development. This endeavour should be above all party considerations, that is, by raising the stature of this nation, by our stature we can say that in India nobody is hungry, nobody is unhoused and nobody is unclad.

It would have been better to discuss this problem—a delicate, serious and the national problem—not on the basis of an adjournment motion but on some other basis. Having done that, I appeal to the House and the mover of the Motion that with all his emotions he will also think of withdrawing his motion.

श्री सच्चु लिव्जव : (बाका) आप की अनु-
मति से मैं एक सवाल पूछना चाहता हूँ ।

सभापति महोदय मैं यदि एक सवाल
आपको पूछने दूँ तो मैं दूसरों को नहीं रोक
पाऊंगा । आप के आने के पहले यहाँ के तीन
चार माननीय सदस्यों ने मुझ से यही कहा
था ।

श्री शंकर बबाल सिंह . आप एक प्रश्न
तो मैं दो पूछूँगा ।

सभापति महोदय आप जानते हैं कि
आप की ही पार्टी के गुहा साहब हैं, वह कुछ
बम नहीं हैं, वे सारे सवाल पूछ सकते हैं ।

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: Mr. Chair-
man, Sir, I was hearing the speech of
Babuji with much . . .

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE
(Rajapur): We respect the Chair not
to ask questions My only submission

is this that in the course of the
debate, you told Dr. Kallias that you
would permit the questions later.
Would you permit us to put questions
now?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I did not say
that. I only said that I shall consider
that later. I considered that and I am
not allowing that now.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE:
The Chairman spoke like a Minister'

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: I heard the
speech of Babuji with much respect
and expectation. But it appeared to
me as if Babuji has become a doctor
who was giving very good advice to a
cholera patient: 'Wait, we are prepar-
ing a very good kind of chloromycetin
and when it is prepared indigenously,
you will be saved; don't worry, our
policy is fine, our objective is nice and
our hope is very glorious and humani-
tarian' I have heard the speeches of
many other friends. It appeared to
me that this Parliament has prepared
a bundle of speeches as good relief
articles for those people who are
anxiously looking to this Parliament
for a few morsels of food

I have been accused to be an emo-
tional man. Many people may not
know, but at least Babuji knows that
I picked a word of Swami Vivekananda
'Daridra Narayan' and the word of
Ramakrishna जतिय जीवा ततिय शिवा in
my young days, and I was greatly
inspired by these maxims of these two
great men. When I find Daridra-
narayan, the mother and the son fight-
ing each other to snatch a morsel of
food from each other, when I find a
mother leaving her dead child or a
child dead in the arms of the mother,
when I find a mother wants to get a
ladle-full of kicheri in addition with a
dead child, when I find parents giving
up their sons and daughters either to
be sold or to be lost, when I find that
parents are killing their children and
then trying to kill themselves, when
I find many Muslims divorcing their

wives to get rid of these problems, as a human being, I will become a wooden hearted, stoic person, only worth living either in a jungle or a cave, if I do not become emotional. I will consider it is a blessing of God to remain emotional in such a situation. The day I cease to be emotional—emotional not for any personal purpose but to be in tune with the emotion of Daridranarayan—then I think the day has come for me to quit. I do not speak with the voice of a hypocrite; I have not learnt the art of Machiavellian politics. I speak from my heart; I feel through my heart and I work through my heart and I consider this a blessing of God. If I do not respond to the misery of the people around me, what am I for?

Many people have accused me of exaggeration. For that very reason I have started from my own constituency. In my own constituency, I have seen and verified. I have said there are two kinds of them, one directly due to complete emaciation, devitalisation, decay from within, eating of the vitals by himself, of his own flesh, and another kind by taking adulterated food and having the cholera type of diarrhoea, a larger number of deaths being due to that. I verified not only from Government sources when I mentioned the figure of 700; I verified from the Chairman of the Medical Association. I went round the villages Babuji would believe me when I say that after the last session I could not take a day's rest; I was doing as much as I could moving about though I could not still do much. I may tell Babuji that I am also a student of science. I have my emotion but my emotion is backed by statistics and scientific argument and scientific facts. I say 700. The Chairman of the Medical Association said that it would be a thousand. To be on the safe side I deducted 30 per cent. About the others I have not said a single word of my own. I have only quoted the reports and statements of the Congress Ministers, Congress M.L.As, and Congress Presidents. If it is exaggeration

who is guilty of exaggeration? Me or your loyal associates or colleagues? Here I have got one piece and I hope you will verify it. It is in the Hindustan Standards... (Interruptions) tions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I tell you that it is totally wrong. You cannot cross the floor and go to the Minister and give something to him like this. You have to give it to me. Please do not do again. I do not wish to use strong language. It may be a good expression of your emotions or whatever it is. You should not play to the galleries in this manner. You must allow me to regulate the proceeding... (Interruptions) This sets a bad precedents and it should not be done.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: Do you accept the challenge? You are a student of science and I also belong to your faculty. The challenge is this. I have said that according to my personal investigation in my own constituency there were about 700 deaths. I have not quoted Shri Pramod Das Gupta and others who have also issued statements. I have not quoted any opposition leaders.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Will you address the chair for a change?

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: Will Babuji accept the challenge and institute a National Commission to investigate into the reports of starvation deaths, to find out whether they are real or whether it is political propoganda from West Bengal to get money from the Centre. Let the Commission be given 15 days to get at the facts.

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: I have appreciated his emotions and I have appreciated everything he has said. I have never challenged anybody nor do I accept challenges.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: The issue is whether there had been thousands of

[Shri Samar Guha]

starvation deaths, whether the Government has provided adequate relief for the starving people. I am not raising the basic issue of agricultural production or the construction of irrigation works or the price policy. I have not raised the question of the import of food or the issue of nutritious food or additional proteins content, or increasing the per capita consumption. I have said that you should feed the people who according to the official record are starving and are facing famine conditions. That is the only appeal I made to the Government. The Government is taking shelter under the Finance Commission's recommendations. If there is an earth quake in Delhi or Lucknow or Calcutta which is not covered by the Finance Commission should nothing be done? ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have taken 40 minutes for your first speech. I will be highly obliged if you finish by 7.30.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: It is not codified in the Finance Commission's recommendations. Are you not incurring extra expenditure on that? When these natural calamities have overtaken West Bengal, Assam, Orissa and other parts of the country, would you be bound by the Finance Commission's recommendations? Last year you spent Rs. 300 crores in the drought prone areas by way of central assistance. But why have you not given a single rupee to West Bengal, Assam, Orissa, etc.? You did not answer that. My only point is, get food from wherever you can, either by deboarding or by import or even from Mars. People want food. That is the only basic issue. People are dying and you have to save them. For that, no logic is needed. At least keep them in skin and bone for the coming few months. To that you have not replied.

The hon. Minister and the Congress members spoke laudably about the distribution system. Coming from a

rural constituency, I know it is the policy of the Government to kill the producers in the villages to feed the urban people. You talk about distribution of food in urban areas. It is my experience that infrequently the village people get ration through fair price shops, not frequently. We should feel ashamed of it. They got usually *makka* and milo and on occasions wheat, that too only 100 to 200 gms per head per week, which is not even sufficient feed for the chicken. That is how you are feeding the producers of rice and wheat in the villages. This is the one basic reason for famine in the rural areas and people are dying not in urban areas but in rural areas. My young friend, Mr. Das Munsi was so vociferous about gratuitous relief. In my constituency, 1.5 per cent G.R. was given S.D.O. admitted that 70 per cent of the people in Contai are facing starvation, i.e. 10 lakhs. A few days ago, when I led a demonstration before the SDO's office, he said that this circular has come to distribute 1.5 per cent reducing the quantum, but raising the total number of recipients to 6 per cent. West Bengal Govt. said Rs. 12.5 crores were distributed among 22 million people. Leaving aside the establishment, maintenance and other contingency expenditure, it comes to Rs. 10 crores. That means per head Rs. 5. That means 1½ kilos of rice or 2½ kilos of atta that you have given per head for 3 months. These are the figures given by the West Bengal Government. It is not my figure.

Babuji, forget the Finance Commission as you did in the case of Maharashtra, Gujarat and other drought-prone areas last year when you spent Rs. 300 crores. You have not started any development projects of any kind in the eastern region and you cannot expect the benefits of it. On the plea of the Finance Commission's recommendations, do not withhold your central help. You must come out with central help to feed the people and save their skin and bone.

Lastly, I have not done politics till now. I tell you there was massive demonstration in my constituency. I could not provide them transport. They come from only 7 miles and they were 15,000 people. I first decided to take 3,000 or 4,000 people with me for the satyagraha. I did not do it in the name of any party but for the famine relief committee. Then I thought that if it is a big procession with so many people, if we go like that, I will be first arrested, then the people will be lathicharged and there will be looting of the whole city. To avoid that, I stopped that and I alone offered satyagraha with 25 colleagues. I do not want to play politics at all. But, at the same time, I will tell the people in authority not to have feasts in five-star hotels not to indulge in luxuries but to do something for the amelioration of the condition of the starving people. If they continue in their present behaviour, I told Mr. Dias, "do not expect me to behave as I behaved on the 4th November. Whatever may be the consequences, I will not allow my people to die. I will fight them. If there is firing, firing there will be because the fire of hunger is more powerful than the so-called police-firing."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"The House do now adjourn"

The motion was negatived.

19.32 hrs.

ARREST OF MEMBERS

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have to inform the House that the Speaker has received the following telegram dated the 19th November, 1974 from the Police Commissioner, Nagpur:—

"Shri Jambuwant Dhote and Shri Ram Hedaoo, Members of Lok Sabha, arrested and taken in custody at 12.05 hrs. today (19-11-74), at Nagpur under section 342 IPC and Section 7 Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1932 by Shri V. B. Deshpande, Police Inspector, Sitabuldi for staging dharna at New MLA Rest House, Nagpur, and causing obstruction to MLAs and MLCs from going out to attend session of Assembly and Legislative Council at Nagpur. Both of them being produced before a Magistrate to day."

19 32½ hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

FORTY-NINTH REPORT

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI K. RAGHU RAMAIAH): I beg to present the Forty-ninth Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

19.33 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, November 20, 1974/Kartika 29, 1896 (Saka).