

11.07 hrs.

**SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GUJARAT), 1976-77—  
contd.**

**MR. SPEAKER:** Now, we take up further discussion on the Supplementary Demands for Grants in respect of the Budget for the State of Gujarat for the year 1976-77. Shri D. D. Desai to continue.

**SHRI D. D. DESAI (Kaira):** Yesterday, I was saying that the Members were agitated about the high price of groundnut and non-availability of cotton in certain parts of the country and the Government of India had difficulties in procurement of cotton for the textile industry and for their ownself and had to resort to imports in both these commodities. Gujarat seems to be the principal State which was under criticism. I would put it correctly that the State of Gujarat would like very much to grow groundnut and cotton in abundance which are badly required by the country but the policy of support price must be declared before the sowing season. In the case of groundnut, there is no price declaration even today. The effect of this is that groundnut oil is sold in Rajkot, according to Times of India, at Rs. 3.60 a kilo whereas in many other parts of the country, the price is as high as Rs. 9/- or so. This shows the distortions in economy which could occur if certain improper methods are used. The same thing had also happened in the case of cotton. The cotton of long staple fibre had dropped to Rs. 2400/-. There was no purchaser and the result was that the farmers were in distress; the Government of India was approached; nothing could be done and the import was arranged. Today, the difficulty is that the Government had to import cotton and that too, I am afraid, was done by mistake. The price of imported cotton is higher by about Rs. 500 to Rs. 1500 than the cotton which could be procured in the country. The first bale of imported

cotton came in the third week of October whereas if the amount of Rs. 35 crores and 90 crores in foreign exchange which were given to the foreign farmers for importing cotton, were given to the Indian farmers in June, they would have given cotton in October at a much cheaper price. In other words, the operations of our policy in respect of these commodities which are sensitive, may be taken notice of. The same thing has happened in respect of other commodities. I have drawn the attention of the House repeatedly that unless the support prices are declared well in advance of the sowing season, it is difficult for the farmers to know what exactly is wanted by the Government. In the absence of remunerative price and due to non-lifting of goods and restrictions on the movement of stock, depression takes place and this creates reduction in crop acreage and the crop output. The important factor in these two cases is the input. The farmers cannot afford fertilisers and insecticides and these are some of the things which may be taken note of.

Then there is another issue. We have two turbo-generator sets, gas turbines, lying there for years. Unfortunately, I have been asking to let me know the places where the gas is occurring. If the longitude and the latitude is precisely given, we can easily know the nearest Indian coast where the pipeline can be laid. You know the high cost of marine pipeline. This distortion and unnecessary manipulation by some bureaucrats to have a better life in some other place is unnecessarily going to harm and cost us much more than what we should have borne. Ultimately the sufferer will be the economy of India and the Government of India itself. What is not right, will not stand. And, therefore, to try to do something wrong will not be proper either.

I have mentioned about fertilizers earlier. One of the points is about the high cost of our fertilizers. This

has affected our production. People have been telling that our fertilizer consumption has gone down. The fact is otherwise. We have found that the farmers are unable to afford fertilizers; because our costs are so high that they cannot have them; and the crop prices which they get are lower. To-day, unfortunately, the prices of our agricultural products are the lowest in the world. I am ready to establish it, in spite of what others might say. But the costs of our agricultural inputs are the highest. With the inputs having the highest cost, our farmers are able to get you the lowest price of products. The difference is borne by the subsidy given to the millions and millions of farmers, to our economy. If they are ready to do it, and if we are the beneficiaries, why should not we take care of these people, by seeing to it that their inputs in this respect are stabilized or brought to a particular level? There are two factors: One, stabilization of farm produce prices and another, the stabilization of input prices. In regard to input prices, we had seen that fertilizer costs are disproportionately higher. To-day, the Bombay High gas offers us a unique advantage, to enable us to supply farmers the fertilizers at a uniform price. It should not be used for power stations because that will be a waste of chemical raw materials.

There is another aspect to which I would like to draw attention. The matter is now before the tribunal. In an arid zone like Gujarat, particularly in Saurashtra, Kutch and many parts of northern Gujarat, rainfall is meagre and the loss of rain-fall means famine or drought. I would request the Government and the PM to intervene and see that the deliberations before the Narmada Tribunal are brought to a close, because the arguments that are going on there, are irrelevant to the tribunal's terms of reference. If we can afford the high fees of the lawyers, they make merry. They get the best of incomes.

The country cannot afford this. Water is getting wasted. After all, whether it is Madhya Pradesh or Gujarat, the country loses. Our approach is that whoever can make better use of it, he can do so, because the country-wide problem is non-availability of food-grains. Therefore, I would strongly urge the government and the PM to see that this Narmada waters dispute is settled once and for all.

Other points like the question of power rates are also there. The power rates are the highest in Gujarat. Unfortunately or fortunately, Gujarat has to find fuel oil. Fuel oil is required badly, because of the high pricing policy of the OPEC. The oil that is found in Gujarat or near abouts is the country's property. But the country should not consider that Gujarat should face the consequences for having found oil, by not providing Gujarat either the rebate in the freight rate on fuel or an alternative fuel; so that the power rates could be equalized with the rates in the other areas. The Oil Ministry should take notice of this.

There are certain criticisms by Opposition Members. I would once again refute those criticisms. The criticism has rested on misinformed data and if any of the Members have any particular argument to show that such a criticism of the government was well-founded, we are in a position to repudiate it with facts and figures.

We are talking about the Emergency. We have the 20-point programme; and the 5-point programme. Both these programmes are excellent on paper. They are being talked about at the bureaucratic level, but the association of the people broadly, is missing. This is true again, of Gujarat also. The hon. Minister may convey this to the appropriate authorities, so that the association of people

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with the implementation of both these programmes is ensured, and that both these programmes are implemented expeditiously. This would ensure that the benefits of the programmes go to the poorer sections of the people. In Gujarat, fortunately for us, there is a very large number of people who are inclined to serve the poor. If we respect this charitable disposition of the people and use it, and if we play upon the finer values or virtues of human beings, they would go to the end of the world to see that the poor people's misfortunes are eliminated. It may be in the fields of education, training, employment or charitable institutions. It may be in any area of activity, social or any other. In each of these activities, if the government does not dissociate itself from the people of Gujarat or from the people of charitable disposition, I am quite convinced that we will succeed. I am aware of a large number of people who would be ready to serve the people of their own State, and of other States also, (*Interruptions*)... I have just mentioned, in any manner, social or economic. I also referred to charitable institutions, educational institutions and bodies giving employment-based technical training. In whatever manner the Government might want it, if it says: "Here is a scheme; here is a project on which we want so much amount of money", people would contribute liberally.

Another angle is this, viz. that the highest deposits made into the banking system is, as the hon. Minister is aware, from Gujarat. The *per capita* investment in banks is the highest there. The lowest ratio in India, of advances from banks, is made to Gujarat. In other words, whereas Gujarat deposits about Rs. 850 crores into the 14 nationalized banks, advances disbursed in Gujarat are hardly Rs. 400 crores—that means a contribution of nearly Rs. 450 crores which may mean employment to people outside the State or within State. Some

times we have been quite worried about the slow rate of growth that has been taking place in the case of the finances of the State financial institutions or other government organizations. I will give a concrete case. They have withdrawn some of the facilities, e.g., the sales tax loan. Similarly several other facilities have been withdrawn. The reason for the withdrawal is said to be lack of funds—lack of funds arising not because of non-availability of deposits from the people into the coffers of the nationalized banks or of government. Calamities, which I mentioned earlier, take away a big chunk of the investment or deposits made into the banking system and to other areas. One of the States having achieved the lowest per centage of rural electrification is Gujarat, whereas Punjab is fortunate to have achieved 100 per cent; Haryana has achieved 100 per cent; and Tamil Nadu has achieved over 90 per cent—so also Kerala and so many other States. Gujarat has attained something like 37 per cent. This shows that big tracts of countryside are without electricity. This also is one of the reasons why productivity cannot be improved, employment cannot be increased and the growth rate of standard of living cannot be improved. Funds may be made available by the government for these purposes also. We have the longest coastline *per capita* of any State in India, and we have now extended our territorial waters to 200 miles. We have an obligation to exploit this area, but are we taking care of that obligation? Obviously no, because the training of the people and the institutions which are required for this are missing. We have very friendly relations with a number of countries. Some of the Scandinavian countries as well as the Soviet Union have the finest types of designs in boats and other fishing craft, but we are not making use of them. Therefore, I suggest once again that adequate funds should be made available, as there are craftsmen available who can be utilised to manufacture these vessels.

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI K. RAGHU RAMAIAH): When, on the first day, I suggested that we should not have any Lunch Hour, I really meant it only for the period during which we were discussing the Constitution (Amendment) Bill. Now that that is over, I think all Members will be happy to have the Lunch recess today and tomorrow.

MR. SPEAKER: If the House agrees, we will have the Lunch Hour today and tomorrow.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR (Ahmedabad): The further six-month extension of President's rule necessitates the bringing of this first batch of Supplementary Demands for the State of Gujarat for 1976-77 amounting to Rs. 15.93 crores.

I would like to ask at the outset how long President's rule is going to continue in my State, because this uncertainty is killing, one can understand it if there is no majority in the Assembly of the State or there is a constitutional breakdown, but the Congress Party in my State has already a majority, and they have claimed from the house tops that they have 106 out of 182 Members. They are also constantly increasing their majority by defections and other clever methods. So, I do not know why this uncertainty should hang over the people of Gujarat, because the lack of a popular Government does mean that a certain derangement in the administration takes place. Policy decisions get bogged down. On a number of important matters, the administration, by the very nature of things, is not able to take decisions. I am quite sure that the hon. Deputy Minister while replying will say that she does not know everything, and that she will pass on my views to the State administration. Of course, she is not expected to

know everything. My question is: Why should everything be brought here at the level of Delhi when the level of Gujarat is available? The MLAs are there, the Assembly has not been dissolved, it is only kept in suspended animation. So, this uncertainty must go as early as possible, so that the administrators and the people are not in two minds.

What is more important, and more tragic in a way, is that the administrators under President's rule—I do not wish to give any names, nor is it proper to do so, nor do I want to go into the details of this or that minor incident—both in Gandhinagar Sachivalaya and Ahmedabad and elsewhere try to be in the good books of both the rival camps, the Madhavsinh Solanki camp and the Hitendra Desai camp, because they do not know who is going to become the next Chief Minister, and they think it is better to be good with both! That kind of thing is not good for the quality of Public and political life of any State, not to talk of Gujarat only.

As I said, the Congress Party has a majority of 106. Two dozen opposition MLAs have been detained under MISA, mostly belonging to the Janata Front, and they are behind bars. On October 6, only the ex-Chief Minister, Shri Babubhai Jashbhai Patel, was suddenly released. Nobody knows why he was released, he himself perhaps does not know! The others are still in prison. Here is a very interesting and a very scandalous political situation that you have a majority of 106 out of 182, or rather 176 because five Congress Members have unfortunately died and we should leave out the Speaker. Another 10 or 15 are committed to support the Congress Party, and as I said, 24 opposition Members are in jail, and yet the Congress Party is not taking a firm stand on forming the Government. I am not criticising or condemning the in-fighting in the Congress Party; that is for the

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Congress Party to decide, but, for this in fighting, why should the people of Gujarat suffer? The tragedy is that although repeatedly every five or so years the Gujarat Assembly has almost continuously given the Congress Party a substantial majority, much beyond what is desirable and healthy in a parliamentary set-up, yet they are not able to form a Government, and if it is formed, it is immediately made unstable by this or other method. I am sure my friends from the Congress Party will say that they are a disciplined people, that they work with unity, but that they have not yet made up their mind as to who should be their Chief Minister. I understand their difficulties and dilemmas. But why do they play with words? Perhaps, however, they can play with words, but realities are different. One has to face up to realities, and not play with them!

Several pressing and urgent problems still remain pending in Gujarat, and have remained pending, because the political link and liaison between the State Government and the Centre are broken and have been continuously missing. I am glad that my hon. friend, Dr. K. L. Rao, is present here. Mr. Dharmasinh Bhai Desai said that the Narmada dispute should be settled. Perhaps we were harassing Dr. Rao as to when we were going to get the award. But the Prime Minister's award has already vanished, and the Tribunal's award is also not coming. I do not say that you do not listen to what Madhya Pradesh or Maharashtra or Rajasthan says and wants, but settle the dispute immediately and in the national interests. This would have happened if Gujarat had a popular Government with its political liaison in Delhi to go on pressing the matter.

In the last 8 months of President's rule I find that only two meetings have taken place of the Parliamentary Consultative Committee on Gujarat

Legislation which the Speaker was good enough to appoint—one in Gandhinagar on 15th May, and another in Vigyan Bhavan in Delhi on 14th October, but I am sorry to say that we got very little time at these meetings. In Delhi we got a few hours, and when we raised so many items for discussion, there was no time available. Actually, the casual manner in which this Parliamentary Committee is treated by the Government does not augur well either for the Government or for the proper functioning of such committees.

Now, I want to invite very briefly the attention of this august House to the very difficult situation faced by some of the weaker sections and backward sections of the community in Gujarat. For example, I still find that the landless labourers in my State—I have been to some of the districts myself, I have also learnt and heard from Correspondents—are not getting their minimum wage already given to them by rules and regulations and legislation passed by the Gujarat Government. The minimum wage was increased from Rs. 3.50 to Rs. 5.50. There are countless landless labourers who are being added to these weaker sections of the community. The weaker sections must be helped forthwith. I join with you in saying that. But I am eager also to join with you in implementing what you say. The difficulty is that you do not implement it. Tens of thousands of people are not getting their minimum wages. I do not say that they should all start getting it immediately. Let the administration take effective steps to see and ensure that landless labourers on the farms begin to get their minimum wage.

Harijans and Adivasis also are not getting their due share. I find, one of the Supplementary Demands for Grants refers to increasing the staff of the Tribal Welfare Corporation. In this country, we are very quick in increasing the bureaucracy and administrative paraphernalia but not in increasing the welfare of the poor people. What is the good of telling me that the staff in

the Tribal Welfare Corporation is being increased? By merely having more clerks, you cannot provide more welfare to the tribal people who in millions are waiting to get their due share as rightful citizens of the Democratic and, now, Socialist Republic of India. This must be looked into.

As regards the textile and other workers, specially the textile workers in Ahmedabad, Surat, Baroda, Bhavnagar and in many other places and, particularly, in Ahmedabad, in my own constituency, there are lots of complaints and difficulties due to lay-offs etc. Of course, there is no bonus now because the Parliament has decided not to give bonus. The whole climate, however, is such that textile workers and other factory workers including the handloom workers are facing a lot of difficulties.

There is the problem of slum dwellers. I come from Ahmedabad which was inhabited by no less a man than the Father of our Nation, Mahatma Gandhi for 15 years, from 1915 when he came from South Africa to 1930 when he left for the Dandi March. Every fourth person in Ahmedabad, in my State is a slum dweller! My head hangs in shame because, after all, we are living in 1976 and we cannot still provide even a decent slum by having some improvement schemes. One person out of four persons is a slum dweller and is living in a veritable hell. I say, whether it is the popular rule or the President's rule or the Government of India's rule, it is not really in tune with justice and fairplay for the common people.

One of the Supplementary Demands for Grants refers to a grant of Rs. 60 lakhs to the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation for the Urban Development programme. I welcome it. But all I can say to the hon. Minister, to the Government of India is, please give more funds for the more urgent and quick implementation of slum improvement schemes and slum clearance programmes so that these unfortunate people who are hovering round the city

and the urban agglomeration for jobs—they cannot remain in the villages—coming miles away from their villages for their daily work, have some decent place to live in. Therefore, some improvement must be made there and the urban development must get more finance.

Again, I find, the commoners are faced with a number of problems. There is a rise in prices. No matter what gains the Emergency has brought about, the main problem remains and that is of rising prices, not only in Gujarat but in the rest of the country as well. There is the shortage of edible oil, and also of sugar. I do not want to mention other commodities. The problem of shortage is there in spite of the efforts to solve the problem.

About the students and teachers. I myself being a teacher, I feel naturally more concerned with their problems. The students and teachers are also not being looked after well, whether it is the President's rule or the popular rule. There is a supplementary demand for grant about giving school building funds to panchayats for repairing buildings which were washed out during the last cyclone and flood in June, July and August, 1976. So far so good. But the problem is massive. There is one Saint in Gujarat who recently passed away and who is known as Puja Mota of Hari Om Ashram in Nadiad and, before he passed away, he said, "I want to see and ensure that every village in Gujarat must have at least one big hall for primary school children to come and sit and learn there." Already, about Rs. 30 lakhs to Rs. 40 lakhs have been contributed voluntarily by the people for building such a memorial in the Gujarat villages to this great Saint. A supplementary demand for grant of a few lakhs is, therefore, not enough. You should provide for more money for primary education and for building up schools.

There is the new pattern of 10+2+3 that is taking place all over the country, and so also in Gujarat. The pro-

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blem of higher secondary education requires greater Central assistance both through the U.G.C. and also directly from the Ministry of Education.

I do not want to say much about the teaching of English language. I find, the Governor has taken a very bold and realistic decision even during the President's rule to the effect that English will be taught to the students from the Sixth standard. Two generations of my people in Gujarat in terms of knowledge and jobs and other things have suffered because they were denied the facility of learning of English adequately. I am not one of those who want English as a medium of instruction. I want Gujarati and Hindi to prosper rightfully. But English must also be well taught. I am glad that this need has been recognised. It will require more English language teachers and more funds for schools which should be provided.

Talking about higher education, as there are sick mills, there are also sick colleges not only in Gujarat but also, I understand, in Maharashtra and elsewhere in the country. Colleges grow like a mushroom growth. There are no funds to finance them, manage them and nurture them. Therefore, I want the Government of India and the Gujarat Administration to go into the question of the closure of colleges, the funds for the management of various colleges, the salaries and UGC scales for professors and teachers.

The V. V. John Committee Report on Higher Education—I have never been tired of repeating it on the floor of the House—must be made available to us. There was a meeting last month in which the Advisor promised that it would be made available. Nearly one month has elapsed but it has not yet seen the light of the day. I would request the hon. Minister to see, that the V. V. John Committee Report on Higher Education is made available.

There is one supplementary demand for grant for free legal aid. I would

like to know how this free legal aid to people getting less than Rs. 2400 income per year is being actually given in some of the talukas in Gujarat.

Gujarat is one of the well industrialised States in the country. But I still find that there is some imbalance there. There are certain areas and regions where industrialisation can take place better and with greater acceleration and speed, with greater purpose and coordination. From that point of view, I would only mention two points. The first one is about the question of power and energy. Gujarat has been wanting to have an atomic power station in Saurashtra. The hon. Minister of Energy, Mr. K. C. Pant, goes on telling us again and again, "We will do it. But we have not yet taken a decision." When are you going to take a decision? If you do not take a decision quickly, we will be without adequate power in 1980. That will be a very serious problem.

I would say a word about the Bombay High. The utilisation of gas and oil of Bombay High bears vital importance as it will contribute a lot to the industrial development of both Gujarat and the country. I understand, the High Level Committee in New Delhi at the Central level is soon to take a decision regarding the utilisation of oil and gas found at Bombay High. But, unfortunately, the decision regarding what quantity of oil and gas will be utilised in Gujarat is still not taken. It is all the more tragic because it is estimated that about 9 million tonnes of oil and 18 million c.e. metres will be available from this complex in the next five years.

These are some of the problems that I wanted to highlight during the discussion on the Supplementary Demands for Grants for Gujarat. I hope, this is the First and the last time when the Supplementary Demands for Grants for the State of Gujarat are being brought before this House. I do want a popular Government in Gujarat to take place as early as possible, no matter to which party that popular admi-

nistration belongs. After all, the people must not be denied their due rights to have access to MLAs, the Ministers, for a number of problems that they are facing both at the State level and at the federal level. From that angle, I want the Gujarat problems to be solved effectively, efficiently and purposefully.

SHRI D. P. JADEJA (Jamnagar):  
Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Supplementary Demands for Grants relating to the State of Gujarat put forward to this House by the hon. Deputy Minister of Finance whom I can now rightly call as the Minister of Gujarat.

I will not deal with the points which have already been talked about by my colleagues here. I would like to begin by complimenting the State Government for the determined effort they are making to implement the 20-point programme and, in doing so, involving the panchayat at different levels in implementing this economic programme and, more so, in the family planning programme. I only hope that they would be given more functions, more authority, to the directly elected representatives of the people in implementing the other State programmes also.

My colleague, Mr. D. D. Desai, mentioned about a very important matter and that was regarding the groundnut policy. I will not repeat what he said. But I would only like to make an appeal to the State Government, do whatever you think is proper but do it in the interest of the smaller farmer. The small farmers who cannot afford to keep their groundnut with them for long have now started coming into the market and they have started giving their produce to the wholesalers who are buying it from them at a very low rate. Though the percentage of acreage in the Saurashtra region which is the main groundnut area is 15 to 20 per cent more than what it was previously, the crop has been a failure and, more so, in the western parts of Sau-

ashtra, which means, the districts of Junagarh, Rajkot and Jamnagar. The production has, therefore, come down and with the production having come down, it is the small farmer who is going to suffer. I would request the State Government to announce a policy whereby the price of groundnut should be fixed from now on, thereby supporting the small farmer of Saurashtra.

Along with the question of price of groundnut, I would like to mention that the State Government has put a check on the movement of groundnut kernel from one taluk to another. If it is in the interest of the farmer, I do not mind. But what we have been hearing is that special permission can be given by the district level officer for such movement and these officers who are competent to give permission can only lead to corruption. If the State Government feels that such a restriction is only helping the officials at the cost of the farmer, I would request the State Government to review this policy of theirs and allow a free movement of groundnut kernel from taluk to taluk because it may be that a taluk headquarter may be far away from his own field or from his own village and he may have to sell his produce to another taluk or to another mandi which is nearer by.

I would like to mention one more point which concerns the Gujarat State Fertiliser Corporation. Now, here is a Corporation which is half-owned by the State Government, which is half-managed by the State Government. I have nothing to say against the management. On the contrary, I would compliment them that this year they have made a record profit of something like Rs. 9.53 crores. They have never made such a profit. What is the worker getting out of it? When the profit was less, they were given a bonus of 33.33 per cent. This year, because the profit has been high, they have been given 20 per cent. I am not talking as a Union leader, nor am I talking on behalf of any particular Union. I am only talking on behalf of the workers,



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Class III and Class IV workers, who have been denied their rightful share. On the contrary, when they made a representation, they were told either to accept this or to go away. Where do you expect these Class III and Class IV workers to go? Why don't they compare and see what are the wages in other industries in that area and what are the profits? The GSFC has had a record profit. It is not only the management who should get the credit for that; the rightful credit should be given to the workers also. I would only request the Central Government to intervene in this matter and see to it that these workers get their minimum 33 per cent bonus because these workers have the work in such conditions that none of them lives for more than 60 years; they have to work with chemicals. If you see their average life span, you will find that nobody passes 60 or 65 years. I would request the Government to take this more seriously and also see that, in the Board of Management, not only in the GSFC but in all concerns where Government have shares, there is a representative of the labour.

One point mentioned by Mr. Desai was about off-shore fishing and about the Gujarat coast. I would only add to it that Gujarat today has the prospects in fishing industry, as far as the area is concerned, as far as the catches are concerned, as far as the underdevelopment of this industry is concerned. Mr. Desai mentioned about new designs for new boats. I agree. Let them come. But what should we do now? These boats will come after a few years. The life span of the marine life is only a year or 1½ years. We are losing national wealth. Why should the State Government not take a bold step in chartering deep sea vessels and in having collaboration? The Agro-Marine Corporation should go into this and fully explore the possibilities that are there on the coast of Saurashtra.

I would like to compliment the State Government and the Central Govern-

ment for their announcement on the Kutch Development Board. It is a welcome decision which was long overdue. My friend, Dr. Mahipatray Mehta, has to be complimented more on this. Like Kutch, we have several parts in Saurashtra, which are drought-prone, which are backward, which do not have any industrialisation and nor do they have any scope for future development. Let Government consider having a Development Board, a Backward Area Development Board or Drought-Prone Development Board—I do not know what name you will give to that. Let them have a Board to look after the interests of the people who belong to these areas. Let it be for taluks; I am not asking for districts.

My last point is about development of tourism in Gujarat. The Gujarat Government have already started a Tourist Development Board. Good luck to them. I hope they will be able to implement all the programmes which they want to. But why have a Board only with officials? Can they not take the help of non-officials also to serve on the Board? Furthermore, the total budget for that is only Rs. 1 lakh. I would like to know what the State Government is going to do with only Rs. 1 lakh. I would request the Minister in charge of Gujarat to go deep into this and see that tourism, which is being neglected in Gujarat and more so in Saurashtra, is taken up more seriously by the Central Government.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI SHUSHILA ROHATGI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the very outset I would like to thank all the hon. Members, who have participated in this discussion and, more or less, they have covered up the entire gamut of administration of the Gujarat State. It is true that it would be better if these things were discussed in the Gujarat Assembly itself, but we also know the circumstances which forced the President's rule there Gujarat is a State which has created a history and has been known for its culture, traditions, education, clean-

liness, and hard-working people. Some hon. Members spoke about the elections and at what time these would be held. I think, that would be taken care of at the appropriate time.

Sir, I must place on record what has been done in the meantime in the President's rule. I think, I would be failing in my duty, if I did not put certain figures before the hon. Members here, otherwise it would be one-sided picture.

During this entire period, we find that there has been general improvement in the toning up and the streamlining of the administration and very strict steps have been taken in order to gear up the machinery for the speedier implementation of the 20-Point Programme.

We find that a High Power Committee has been set up by the Governor in order to coordinate the various activities and the public distribution system has also been streamlined. There may be certain difficulties here and there, and if they are explicitly pointed out, certainly we will look into these cases. But I do find that many of the traders, who were indulging in anti-social and anti-economic activities, have been dealt with in the manner which they rightly deserved. All this had a salutary effect upon the general administration, and, therefore, the prices which had shown somewhat slight rise in the earlier months started showing a positive decline by the mid-August this year. The law and order situation, on the whole, has registered a significant improvement. All this helped in creating a better condition in the State itself. On the top of it, when the State was visited by a severe cyclone, heavy rains and floods, we find that the machinery was geared up immediately, relief measures were taken and special arrangements were made to see that the loss of life, loss or damage to cattle and damage to property and other things were minimised to the maximum possible extent. This tempo had to be kept up and as

a result, extension of the President's rule took place.

In the meantime, the Consultative Committee has already met twice. It has 34 members from the Lok Sabha and 17 from the other House. Various legislative measures have taken place, and, therefore, to say that any of the important issues have not been decided upon, I do not think, would be a very correct factual position.

One of the points mentioned by some hon. Members from the opposition was about the price rise and I would like to clarify this position. A strict vigil has been maintained over the price movements. I would like to quote the figures to show this. 4511 raids have been carried out during the President's rule till the middle of September, 1976. 336 arrests have been made as also 442 prosecutions. 47 detentions under MISA have been ordered as a part of the drive against hoarding and profiteering. 32,833 bogus ration cards have been cancelled. Rigorous enforcement measures have also been undertaken by Government and firm action has been taken against the traders who were withholding adequate supplies to the market. Prices of various eatables in the catering establishments have been fixed. The public distribution system has been strengthened by addition of 699 fair price shops till the middle of September, 1976. The cumulative effect of Government measures on the price trend is seen in the decline of the prices of a number of essential commodities ranging from 6.7 per cent to 47.8 per cent during the period June to September, 1976. I think, that would give a fair idea so far as the prices are concerned.

A question was raised about the minimum wages not being adhered to. I would submit that there are in all 34 scheduled employments under the Minimum Wages Act in Gujarat. Government has so far fixed revised minimum wages in respect of 24 employments. In five employments, process is on, while in the remaining five em-

[Shrimati Sushila Rohatgi]

ployments as the number of employees employed therein in the whole State is less than 1000 workers. Government has refrained from fixing minimum wages. At the same time if Shri Mavalankar has any specific case, certainly the Government is prepared to look into the same and rectify the situation. If any injustice or harassment is being done, we will look into that.

As regards the family planning, Gujarat has done well, as most of the States have. Gujarat has, on its own initiative, increased the target apart from those given by the Government of India and good work has been done there.

A question was raised about English and I do remember that yesterday when some hon. Member was speaking, Shri Mavalankar did get up and tried to put the correct picture so far as introduction of English as a compulsory subject from 6th instead of 8th class was concerned. We found that the standard of English was rather low and, therefore, in the all-India competitions, it was really not helping the people from Gujarat and as a result, we have recently decided to introduce from the next academic year the teaching of English as a compulsory subject from VI standard in the schools. I am glad that this has been welcomed by Members concerned.

Shri Desai and many other hon. Members raised the question of groundnut oil. We find that the estimate of groundnut production for 1976-77 season is estimated at about 18 to 20 lakh tonnes of groundnut shells. With the arrival of the new crop in the market, there has been further improvement in the supply position of groundnut oil. It has now become easy. The retail price has also gone down and it is between Rs. 4.90 to Rs. 5.40 per kg. The wholesale price at Rajkot for a 16 kg. tin is Rs. 72 exclusive of taxes for a new tin and Rs. 71 for an old tin. The offtake from the fair price shops has also gone

down. That shows that the problem was a temporary one and stringent measures have been taken to overcome that.

As regards the Plan outlay for 1976-77, this has been raised recently. We had a proposal from the State for an additional outlay to the tune of 43.15 crores, but the Planning Commission, after taking into consideration the relevant matters, agreed to an additional outlay of 21 crores. This would take the total approved plan outlay for 1976-77 to Rs. 214.25 crores. Originally, the Plan outlay was Rs. 193.25 crores which also included Rs. 15 crores for tribal sub-plan. I have also got with me the break-up and it gives priority to total overall development.

A mention was also made by some hon. Members about the John Committee Report. This has been examined from time to time, but so far no final decision has been taken because the recommendations have far-reaching implications and there is the financial aspect also. The State Government might have to bear the additional financial burden. The Report is still under consideration.

I think, I have covered most of the work that has been done in the State so far. We find that the State Government under the President's rule is going ahead with the task of development, with special priority to the 20-Point Programme and to see that more and more amenities are made available to the people. At the same time, I have no doubt, whatsoever, that the Gujarat State which has played a historic part in the past, is destined to play even a better part in future with the cooperation and participation of the people. When it is under the President's rule, we find that all the schemes are going ahead at the scheduled time.

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR: What about the specific points I raised? The Deputy Minister has not replied to

them. At least, let her kindly pass them on to the Gujarat Administration.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: I think I have replied to almost all the points raised by the hon. Member. If any points remain, certainly they will be taken care of by the Ministers concerned.

MR. SPEAKER: Except about the introduction of popular rule, she has tried to answer every other point.

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR: About the V. V. John Committee's Report on higher education, even on the floor of the House I have been repeatedly requesting through this Government as well that that committee's report must be made available. The Adviser has already promised. So, why not get it printed and make it available? I think that should be accepted.

MR. SPEAKER: She will consider it.

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR: The Adviser assured us to have it printed. I am only asking her to get it expedited.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI: The Government will consider the publication of the report after a decli-

sion has been taken on the recommendation.

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR: Last month, in the Consultative Committee over which the Home Minister presided, the Adviser said specifically in reply to my query and promised that the committee's report will be made available to the people of Gujarat. Therefore, it should be expedited.

MR. SPEAKER: It will be conveyed to the Minister concerned.

Now, the question is:—

“That the respective Supplementary sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the third column of the Order Paper, be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Gujarat to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1977, in respect of the heads of demands entered in the second column thereof against:—

Demands Nos. 3, 9, 12, 16, 26, 28, 30, 35, 39, 49, 55, 57, 58, 60, 63, 65, 73, 74 and 76.”

*The motion was adopted.*

*List of Supplementary Demands for Grants (Gujarat) for 1976-77 voted by the Lok Sabha*

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Demand for Grant voted by the House	
		Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
1	2	3	
3	Elections . . . . .	21,00,000	
9	Tax Collection Charges (Finance Department) .	18,91,000	
12	Other Expenditure pertaining to Finance Department	6,15,000	
16	Other Expenditure pertaining to Legal Department .	1,04,000	..
26	Agriculture . . . . .	1,000	1,00,00,000
28	Animal Husbandry and Dairy Development .	3,09,000	..