

[Shri P. G. Mavalankar]

and the comedy of the situation is that the President was kept completely in the dark of the whole thing and the excuse given was that the President was sleeping. I do not know whether the President sleeps at 9.0' clock. I can understand if it was past mid-night. . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon. Member will continue his speech.

16. hrs.

### HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION

#### SHORTAGE OF DALDA

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPA (Tellicherry) : In the recent period, if we take the last seven years, we find that the prices of Dalda and vanaspati have been steadily increasing and there is a big shortage of both in the market. When a question was asked in this House, Government gave a very routine answer that there was shortage and they were trying to ensure the flow of oil so that the shortage of Dalda would be overcome.

The shortage of oil is cited as one of the reasons by the Dalda as well as vanaspati manufacturers for the shortage of Dalda and vanaspati in the market. I would request that this should not be viewed in isolation, because there is absolutely no justifiable reason for any one to claim that there can be a shortage of edible oil in our country. Some facts perhaps will throw light on this matter.

According to estimates, the production of groundnut in the current season is between 55 to 60 lakh tonnes, whereas in 1972-73, it was only 39 lakhs tonnes. So, there is more than one-third increase in the production of groundnut in our country. But at the same time you will see that the shortage of Dalda and vanaspati is fantastic in the market, and the prices of these items are going up disproportionately high. According to the news paper reports, a 16.5

k.g. tin is selling at Rs. 170 in Delhi, whereas the controlled price is only Rs. 126.79. I would like to bring to the notice of the House that there is a relation between the so-called shortage of oil and the fall in production and the spiralling prices. These are all interconnected. The fall in production and the fall in the availability of oil are man-made. The entire responsibility has to be squarely placed on the shoulders of the speculators, the hoarders and the blackmarketeers in our country who are speculating on oil and making enormous profit out of it. They do not sell oil and they do not allow us to see oil in the normal way. They only keep it in the underworld. They do not make use of the oil allotted to them for the production of Dalda. I would like to bring a specific case to the notice of the hon. Minister in this connection. The company which is producing Dalda, as is known to the hon. Minister more than to me, is a foreign-owned monopoly company. Dalda is manufactured and marketed by Hindustan Lever Ltd., a subsidiary of the Unilever Ltd. London, and this company is having 85 per cent of the shares from abroad. They are the producers and the people who manufacture dalda in the country. This company has a capacity of 460 tonnes in Ghaziabad and it is producing only 200 tonnes. There is a terrible shortage of dalda in the country and the foreign company is producing only 200 tonnes against 460—tonne capacity. It is only 40 per cent of installed capacity. They say they do not get enough oil. That is also not the reason. I hope you know about it because they are supplied with a certain quantity of oil. But they have a business. After all, their primary motive, perhaps the single driving force, is to loot the people, amass profit and transport it to their own country. That is the only concern of these people. So the oil allotted for the production of dalda is diverted to the production of refined oil, for the production of golden seal margarine, for the production of margo. On these items there is no price control whereas if they produce dalda, there is price control on it and the profit margin is less.

To cite an example, this is it. The control price of dalda is Rs. 9 a kilo. Golden seal margarine is sold at Rs. 13 a kilo, a clean margin of Rs. 4 a kilo. Per tonne they make Rs. 4,000. The capacity of the Ghaziabad factory is 5 tonnes a day. So they are earning Rs. 20,000 a day at the cost of the common people. Government are aware of it. But they do not do anything. This is a serious charge I make against the Ministry, Government and the Minister in charge, because he should have been bold enough to tell people that they cannot loot this country in this medieval fashion. Everywhere if you go out in the country, you can see long queues where men and women are standing for hours and hours whereas these people are clean making Rs. 20,000 a day and pocketing it and taking it out of our country. Why do you allow this ?

Secondly, there are certain interesting cases. One gentleman, who is the General Manager of Malwa Vanaspati, of Indore, was arrested under MISA. If you are interested, I can give the name. but I do not wish to do it. This is a subsidiary of Mohatta monopolies. He was arrested under MISA but then released overnight under pressures from Delhi. That is what people say. You can deny it. He was arrested on the charge of hoarding and profiteering and Government did not do anything, except to simply let him go scot-free.

Our country is passing through a serious economic crisis. People are fighting. Just now we were having a discussion. You are always complaining that the rightists are taking advantage of it. But you have a responsibility as Government if you deserve to wear the garb or mantle of Ministers. You have to see that monopolies are but under arrest when they hoard, blackmarket and trade in the lives of the people. You are failing there. Then, naturally, the counterrevolutionary forces will try to take the offensive. Will you now take certain action ? That is what I am more interested

in. You have made a mess of the whole thing; because of your messing it up, food is short. There is a bumper crop but food is not available. There is a bumper crop of edible oilseeds but edible oil is not seen. This is the paradox of the situation. Who is responsible for this ? You alone are responsible, as well as your bureaucrats and your advisers. You have a responsibility now as a Government. Will you now take certain deterrent action against these people ? Will you nationalise this company which is producing this dalda ? That is my first question. Then, will you make it compulsory that the distribution of the entire dalda and vanaspati is done through the public distribution system ? These are the two simple questions I want to ask this hon. Minister. If he says yes and that he will do this, then perhaps that will be a good beginning. But if you really want to increase the production of dalda vanaspati and to meet the demands of the people, then you have to nationalise the wholesale trade in edible oil.

There are reports in the press. You can deny if I am wrong. Last year you nationalised the wholesale trade in wheat and today you are perhaps thinking of denationalising it. Appalling stories are coming in the press and the Government is mum about it. This is not perhaps the subject-matter today. But what I am more interested in it, will you answer these three questions ? One is, are you aware of the fact that the big business in the country, the hoarders, the profiteers and the black-marketeers are hoarding and profiteering in edible oil ? Taking this into account, will you nationalise the wholesale trade in edible oil ? That is my first question.

My second question is this. Will you nationalise this company which is producing this vanaspati, namely, the Hindustan Lever. Ltd., which is a subsidiary of Unilever Limited, London, with 85 per cent capital from Britain ? Will you nationalise this company ?

Shri C. K. Chandrappan]

Thirdly, will you agree to distribute the entire dalda as well as vanaapati through the public distribution system or through the Government agencies ?

These are the questions which I want to ask.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, my hon. friend, Shri Chandrappan, has very ably championed the cause of those who are trying their best to see that the distribution as well as production improves. He has given certain figures, as to how this particular company called Hindustan Lever is exploiting the workers and also holding the country to ransom by producing less. The price of dalda has been increased many times because of the pressure of Hindustan Lever and other Dalda manufacturing units.

I am speaking subject to correction and I hope I am wrong : when the union started agitation—they wanted more production and at that time there was a tremendous shortage and there is a tremendous shortage of Dalda in the Ghaziabad unit—the price was increased, but at the same time, production decreased. As was very ably advocated by my hon. friend, the total capacity is 460 tonnes at Ghaziabad and they are only producing 200 tonnes, because the profit in the refined oil, the Golden Seal Margarine and Margo is more than in Dalda. Why not these people be arrested under the DIR ? I am told that in Uttar Pradesh, during the elections—I am speaking subject to correction and I hope I am wrong—this particular company has paid a very handsome donation for the Uttar Pradesh elections to the ruling party ; and they said openly and even to-day, from 12 O'clock yesterday night, hundreds of workers are on hunger-strike for 24 hours. What is their demand, increase production : pay better wages and stop victimisation. The have victimised the general secretary there and they are trying to victimise others. Your senior officers are in league with them. They want to shoot the workers and victimise the workers.

They have got a double barrelled gun. With one barrel they ask for more prices and with other barrel they start shooting the workers and victimising them. Is it a fact that recently the Hindustan Lever had been granted expansion in spite of the fact that public opinion was against it ? It is a monopoly concern. It was not referred to the Monopoly Commission. It has been cleared by the Company Affairs department. Is it a fact that this particular company, which is producing dalda, is not producing to capacity ? Why is it so ? Has any enquiry been conducted into this matter by the hon. Minister or is the hon. Minister going to appoint a Commission to go into functioning of this company ? They are interested in many kinds of soaps and other things, but they do not to produce more dalda. It is because they do not want to lower their profit. The Ghaziabad unit has betrayed the confidence of the Government. At that time when more production was wanted, they did not produce. What action will be taken by the Company Affairs Ministry or by the Home Ministry or by the Minister-in-charge of Agriculture ? Will the Government have the courage to take over this unit in the interests of the country or at least appoint its own directors on the Board ? With all these shootings none of the Ministers have got the courage to have one Government representative on the Board. The reason advanced is that they have not taken any money from the financial institutions. If the hon. Minister is unable to take action against this company within one month, I have told the workers yesterday to seize the factory and they should have their flag and they should run it and distribute the product through the public distribution system. I should not be accused of something later on. They cannot hold the country to ransom. If they have paid handsome donations to the election fund, the elections are over; you can tell them that you have won. They openly say certain things. The top officers wanted to threaten me through some friend that the Ministers are in their pockets and nothing would be achieved by shouting. I do not doubt the honesty

of our Ministers. They are old Congressmen who believe in the Gandhian ideology. They should come forward and take action against Hindustan Lever. Then alone I will be satisfied. Otherwise, I am constrained to come to the conclusion that they have paid handsome donations to the party's funds and that is why, no action is being taken against them.

\*SHRI S. A. MURUGANANTHAM (Tirunelveli) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I need not emphasise the fact that Vanaspati is an essential commodity for the common people of our country. Vanaspati is the daily need of the people who cannot afford to use real ghee.

I would like to point out that from November 1972 to 1st July, 1973, in a period of seven months, the price per kilo of vanaspati was raised four times—firstly 10 paise increase, then 40 paise increase, after that 75 paise increase and again 75 paise increase. Totally the increase in the price of one kilo vanaspati came to Rs. 2. The situation assumes a graphic significance when I say that vanaspati is in the hands of foreign monopoly producers. They were not happy with this increase. In March 1974, the price per kilo of vanaspati went up by 54 paise first and again by 60 paise. It is clear that the foreign monopoly producers have been amassing profits at the cost of the common people and in that process they—I mean the poor users of vanaspati—got emaciated. The price of vanaspati per kilo was increased cumulatively by Rs. 2.50.

The reason given for increasing the price of vanaspati was the increase in the price of groundnut oil. The paradoxical situation is that the cultivators of groundnut are not getting fair and just price for their groundnut crop. Again, the monopoly and big business people like Rally Brothers procure groundnut at considerably cheaper prices from the cultivators. The groundnut oil is also cornered by vested interests in the country.

In our country the installed capacity for producing vanaspati is reported to be of the order of 10 lakh tonnes a year. But in 1973-74 only 4.45 lakh tonnes were produced. It is obvious that price spiralling of vanaspati is due to the creation of artificial scarcity of groundnut oil and under-utilisation of the installed capacity. It is also reported that 70 to 80 factories manufacturing vanaspati are lying closed for one reason or the other.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government will take over the procurement and distribution of groundnut which alone can ensure fair and just price to the cultivators of groundnut. Secondly, I would like to know whether the Government will nationalise the entire vanaspati industry to save the common people from the clutches of foreign monopolists. During the past 25 years, barring one or two consumer industries, the Government have not got in the public sector the goods of daily needs like vanaspati. I would also like to know whether the closed vanaspati manufacturing units will be taken over by the Government. For instance, in Delhi the biggest vanaspati producer, the D.C.M. Chemicals, are lying closed on the ground that the workers want more wages. I wonder whether you will be able to accept their argument that they are not in a position to pay increased wages to the workers, especially in view of huge profits they are making in vanaspati. I want to know whether the Government will take over such units manufacturing vanaspati in the interest of the common people of the country and also in the interest of cultivators of groundnut crop, who are now being denied fair and just price.

श्री रामावतार झास्ली (पटना) सरकार की मदद से डालडा और वनस्पति के बोर व्यापारी और मुनाफाखोर पूरे देश को लूट रहे हैं और सरकार टुकुर-टुकुर ताक रही है। डालडा के लिए हाहाकार मचा हुआ है। कुछ दिनों के अन्दर ही

\*The original speech was delivered in Tamil.

[श्री रामात्रतार शास्त्री]

शादी विवाह का मौका आने वाला है, तब क्या होगा मालूम नहीं। बहुत बड़े पैमाने पर लोगों के मामले कठिनाई आने वाली है। सरकार बहुत एलान करती है कि दक्षिण पक्षी और फासिस्ट ताकतों से लड़ेंगे लेकिन उन्हीं के मददगारों की मदद भी करती है। इसको ध्यान में रखकर मैं भी इसी मवाल को दोहराना चाहता हूँ कि सरकार के मामले हिन्दुस्तान लीवर लिमिटेड या दूसरे जो डालडा के कारखाने हैं उनके राष्ट्रीयकरण के मार्ग में कौन सी बाधा है जबकि सरकार की नीति राष्ट्रीयकरण की है? अगर राष्ट्रीयकरण करने की आपकी हिम्मत नहीं पड़ती है तो कम से कम क्या आप तैयार है कि डालडा के कारखानों से तमाम उत्पादन अपने कब्जे में कर लें और उसकी राशन की दूकानों के जरिये जनता के सहयोग से बटवायें?

अब तक हिन्दुस्तान लीवर लिमिटेड ने हिन्दुस्तानियों को लूट कर कितना मुनाफा इंग्लिस्तान भेजा है? क्या यह सच है कि वह डालडा के उत्पादन के बजाय अधिक मुनाफा कमाल के उद्देश्य से रिफाइनड तेल गोल्ड सील व मार्गाराइन का उत्पादन कर रहे हैं जिससे उसको प्रतिदिन चार हजार रुपये का अतिरिक्त मुनाफा होता है? यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार ने कम्पनी को ऐसा करने की आज्ञा दी है? यदि नहीं, तो आपने उसके विरुद्ध कौन सी कार्यवाही की है?

क्या यह सच है कि पहले मार्गाराइन का उत्पादन केवल इसके बम्बई स्थित कारखाने में होता था। और अब इसने इसके उत्पादन के लिये गाजियाबाद में भी मशीन बैठाई है जिसके कारण इसके मुनाफे में प्रतिदिन बीस हजार रुपये की वृद्धि हो चुकी है? यदि हां, तो इस छूट को रोकने के लिये आपने कौन सी कारवाही की है?

देश के विभिन्न राज्यों में डालडा एवं वनस्पति के वितरण की कौन सी व्यवस्था की गई है? जनता के सहयोग की व्यवस्था या जनता के सहयोग की बात का उल्लेख है या नहीं? क्या यह सच है कि दिल्ली में डालडा के वितरण के लिये कार्ड प्रणाली लागू की गई है, यदि हां, तो

उसका क्या अनुभव है और इस अनुभव का विस्तार क्या सरकार अन्य राज्यों में करने का विचार रखती है?

क्या यह सच है कि इसकी विक्री बड़े पैमाने पर और बाजार से होती है? यदि हां, तो सरकार इसे रोकने के लिये कौन सा प्रबंध किया है तथा इसके आरोप में कितने मुनाफाखोरों एवं धनासेठों के विरुद्ध कार्यवाई की गई है?

आखिरी बात पटना के बारे में है। क्या यह सच है कि कुछ महीने पहले बिहार की राजधानी पटना शहर के ही एक भाग पटना सिटी में 17,500 टिन डालडा के 26 माल गाड़ी के डिब्बे से जप्त किये थे? यदि हां, तो उसके मालिक लोग कौन थे? उनके खिलाफ क्या कार्यवाई की गई और उस जप्त डालडे की विक्री की कौनसी व्यवस्था की गई है।

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI F. A. AHMED) : Sir, I have carefully listened to the various observations made by hon. members. So far as the shortage of vanaspati including Dalda is concerned, a number of questions have been raised by hon. member and we have placed before them all the information at our level. Now the hon. member has come forward with a discussion on the simple ground that the answers given by us had no relevance to actual facts and they were more or less artificial figures given from time to time. I would like him first of all to look into these matters from the point of view of actual facts and the position with regard to availability of vanaspati including Dalda in our country and come to a certain decision.

In 1969-70 the production was 39.8 thousand tonnes per month on the average, in 1970-71 it was 46.5 thousand tonnes; in 1971-72 it was 49.5 thousand tonnes; in 1972-73 it was 48.3 thousand tonnes. So, in no year the production was more than the 1971-72 figure of 49.5 thousand tonnes when the groundnut crop was very good. The hon. member himself has stated that

as compared to the shortfall of nearly 22 lakh tonnes of groundnut oil last year, the position this year is better. As a result of the fall in the production of groundnut oil, from April to September in 1973, the average production of vanaspathi was only 33.9 thousand. After the good crop, which actually recovered to a great extent but has not reached the previous figures, the production improved to 30.7 thousand tonnes in October, 45.4 thousand tonnes in November and 46.7 thousand tonnes in December. It had nearly come to normal. But, unfortunately, in the month of January it went down to 35,000 tonnes. So far as fall in production in January is concerned, I shall deal with this aspect later on. But I would like to point out that when some steps were taken by us in the month of February, it rose to 43,400 tonnes. In the first 15 days of March it has come to 21,500 tonnes and I hope it will go up to 44,000 tonnes by the end of the month. I would like the hon. Members to remember that with increased availability of groundnut and groundnut oil the production of vanaspathi, including Dalda, has also increased.

So far as this particular company, Messrs Hindustan Lever, is concerned, about which some complaints have been made by my hon. friend, I find that while their average production in the year 1972 was 5518 tonnes per month, in 1973 it dropped to 3,247. To a great extent it may be due to the fact that there was less production of groundnut and less availability of groundnut oil. The hon. Member must remember that when we are considering the production of a particular unit, we are not only concerned with the licensed capacity or the capacity to produce but also whether it was possible for them to procure groundnut oil, which is about 60 per cent constituent of this.

**SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPAN :** We raised the Half-an-Hour Discussion because the Minister gave an evasive answer to

the main question. Now when we give concrete examples of misuse of oil, he should answer those points.

**MR. CHAIRMAN :** Since he raised the specific question of Hindustan Lever, the Minister is now dealing with the production of a particular year of that firm.

**SHRI F. A. AHMED :** Sir, I can only explain the position. If the hon. Members are not prepared to understand, I cannot give them understanding.

**SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI :** That Company went in for diversification in order to earn more profits

**SHRI F. A. AHMED :** The position has to be considered in the context of what has happened in the past year, in the context of the availability of groundnut and groundnut oil in our country.

So far as the fall in production is concerned, I entirely agree that the fall in production Hindustan Lever is much more than that of other units. The question arises whether something can be done about it. Hon. Members are under the impression that we give quota of groundnut or groundnut oil to the various units which manufacture Dalda.

**SHRI S. M. BANERJEE :** Sir, we gave notice for this discussion because we were not satisfied with the answer given by the hon. Minister. It was evasive, according to us. We have put specific questions. The question was not about the total production. The fall in production of Dalda is not because of shortage of raw material; it is because of diversification. They are manufacturing other things where the profit margin is more. Our complaint against Messrs. Hindustan Lever is that they are diverting raw materials to the production of other items where the profit margin is more in preference to Dalda where the profit is much less and the Government is merrily agreeing to this.

**SHI F. A. AHMED :** That is what I was trying to explain. The hon. Member has taken it for granted that we are supplying them groundnut oil and they are not utilising the groundnut oil properly. What I want to tell him is that we are not supplying groundnut oil to any company, including Hindustan Lever. They are at liberty to purchase it from the open market and then use it for the purpose of converting it into dalda and so on.....

**SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPA :** Is there not a case for nationalisation ?

**SHRI F. A. AHMED :** The hon. Member was laying the blame on the Government that we were supplying them groundnut oil and that that was not being utilised properly. I have explained the position that Government does not supply groundnut oil to these companies. They have to purchase from the open market.

The second question is, so far as this company and also some other companies are concerned, because the price at that particular time was higher than that of vanaspati, whatever oil they had at their disposal was utilised by them for other activities and not for the purpose of production. So far as that matter is concerned, we have persuaded them... ..

**SHRI S. M. BANERJEE :** Arrest them under D.I.R.

**SHRI F. A. AHMED :** How can the question of D.I.R. come ?

**SHRI S. M. BANERJEE :** You are shooting the students. Why do you not shoot one of them ?

**SHRI F. A. AHMED :** The performance has improved during the past one or two months, as I have indicated.

Then the hon. Member said that there was the question of certain firms and so on. I can tell the hon. Member that, so far as I am concerned, none of these persons, whether Manager or Managing Director,—I do not know any one of them—has seen me.....

**SHRI S. M. BANERJEE :** They know that the Minister is helpless; they see the officials.

**SHRI F. A. AHMED :** You were saying that we had taken a big fund for election purposes. Now you are referring to officials. It is very unfortunate that the hon. Member should mention the officials....

**SHRI S. M. BANERJEE :** I have not mentioned their names.

**SHRI F. A. AHMED :** If the hon. Member has got specific information, let him give the name or names to me; I shall certainly make an inquiry and if I find that there is any such thing, I shall certainly take action.

The question of distribution has been raised by my hon. friend. I may tell him that so far as vanaspati is concerned whatever is produced the industry is committed to place it at the disposal of the State Governments and it is the State Government which make arrangements for the purpose of distributing it through fair price shops, cooperatives and so on. This applies to the entire quantity and it is the State Governments which make arrangements for the purpose of distribution.

So far as the question of price is concerned, that is fixed. If there are cases where in the black market the price is higher and so on, certainly action can be taken.....

**SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI :** What action have you taken ?

**SHRI F. A. AHMED :** I may inform the hon. members that a large number of persons have been arrested in various States....

**SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI :** How many ?

**SHRI F. A. AHMED :** In the case of Haryana, 41 persons have been arrested and the security of one has been forfeited. The other cases are pending in the court. In the case of Punjab, 45 persons have been

arrested; five persons have been punished and the other cases are pending. So far as U.P. is concerned, about the number of persons arrested, the information is being collected. Chandigarh—2 from 1-1-73 to 28-2-74, Delhi—30 persons have been arrested and 20 cases have been registered from 1-1-73 to 28-2-74.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The hon Member wanted information on state-wise action taken and he is giving it.

**SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN:** What is the using of his reading all these things?

A sort of an allegation has been raised about the arrest of the Managing Director of Malwa & Indore Mills, monopoly concern under MISA and exerting pressure from here he got released ... (Interruption.)

**SHRI F. A. AHMED:** I am coming to that but the hon Member has no patience whatsoever.

**MR CHAIRMAN:** If after his speech, you have any specific point to be clarified, you can raise it at that time.

**SHRI F. A. AHMED:** The Member wanted to know what action was taken. So I have been reading.

So far as this particular case is concerned, the hon. Member must realise that this is a matter which comes within the jurisdiction of the Madhya Pradesh Government and I can assure him that as far as we are concerned, we have issued no such instructions to set him free. We will find out as to what are the circumstances under which this person has been released. At present the information is not available here with me. I can tell him that no instructions were sent from here to the Madhya Pradesh Government.

**SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI:** What about the distribution machinery in Delhi?

**SHRI F. A. AHMED:** I have said that so far as the distribution machinery in Delhi is concerned, whatever is produced

by the DCM as also by the Ganesh Flour Mills, the requisite quantity is placed at the disposal of the Delhi Administration and it is the Delhi Administration which makes the distribution through fair-price shops and co-operative societies, the balance is made available to other concerned State Governments. So far as the DCM is concerned, the entire House is aware that there has been a lock out for the last few days as a result of which there is no production...

**SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI:** Why who is responsible?

**SHRI F. A. AHMED:** Because on the Holi day there was some dispute between the management and the workers as a result of which a large number of officers and the management were assaulted and this has resulted in a lock-out. But, fortunately, after the intervention by us they have lifted the lock-out but even now it is not functioning because the workers are not allowing others to go and work in the factory.

I must inform the hon House that so far as Delhi is concerned, it is one of the main supply points in the northern region so far as Vanaspati is concerned. If production is interfered with surely there will be a shortfall in the availability of Vanaspati and there will be difficulty. We are doing our best with the help and co-operation of other Ministries also to see that there is a settlement between the Management and the workers so that this factory may work.

Some hon. Members have suggested that in this case the question is whether there is a case for taking over the production of Vanaspati in the public sector and so on. May I say that there is a thinking of setting up a corporation not only with one aspect of the production but also there is the question of taking over the procurement of cotton seed oil and oil-seeds and so on and this matter is under consideration and I hope when a decision is taken, to a great extent the feeling which the hon. Members have expressed will be redressed.



SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN : In the last portion of his reply the Minister said that the Government is considering setting up a corporation for all oil seeds. If he could give us a little more detail, it will be helpful.

MR CHAIRMAN : The hon. Member may please confine himself to any point that has not been made clear.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN : This was not clear. I asked a specific question.

MR CHAIRMAN : No please. I am deviating from the normal convention and rules. Only clarification please.

SHRI F. A. AHMED : I had given replies to all his three questions. He asked

as to whether we are aware of hoarding. Then he asked what action has been taken and how many persons were arrested. Action has been taken against so many persons. He raised the question of nationalisation of Hindustan Lever; this is a matter which cannot be replied here. But we are thinking in terms of having one corporation where the question of production of groundnut and processing of groundnut oil and other allied matters are to be taken into consideration. And, so far as the distribution aspect is concerned, I have already said about this. I have done.

18.46 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, March 26, 1974/ Chitra 5, 1896 (Saka).*