

[श्री बीरन्द्र सिंह राव]

जर्ज के स्टैंड को तो हम बदल नहीं कर सकते, उसके लिए तो ग्रान्टालन हो सकते हैं, उस स्टैंड को तोड़ा जा सकता है लेकिन किम जाँचें इंग्लिश आज उसी तरह से उसी शान से यहाँ चल रही है जिस शान से इंग्लैंड के अन्दर चल रही है या अमेरिका के अन्दर चल रही है ।

MR CHAIRMAN Please resume your seat

SHRI BIRENDER SINGH RAO Sir, most of my time was taken up by others I want some more time

MR CHAIRMAN Please continue to-morrow

MOTION RE FOOD SITUATION

14.59 hrs

MR CHAIRMAN We are now taking up the motion by Shri Fatehsingh Rao Gaekwad and Dr Karni Singh, namely,—

That this House do consider the food situation in the country”

SHRI Fatehsingh Rao Gaekwad

SHRI IATLH SINGHRAO GAEKWAD (Baroda) Mr Chairman I beg to move

That this House do consider the food situation in the country”

This Government has indeed earned the gratitude of the entire nation for the most efficient manner in which it has gloriously bungled on the food front. Roughly about this time last year its spokesmen were thumping their backs proudly announcing to the world that the country had at last reached self-sufficiency and there would be no need to further rely on food imports.

We were further told that the green revolution was a success and that a buffer stock of 9 million tonnes had been created. These pronouncements were received with great joy.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी (ग्वालियर) सभापति महोदय, खाद्य मंत्री जी कहां हैं ?

क्या माननीय सदस्य वह यहाँ बठ हैं ।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी ये पूरे खाय मंत्री नहीं है—माफ कर । कैबिनेट मिनिस्टर कहा है ? शिंदे पाहब काबिल प्रादमी है लेकिन कैबिनेट मिनिस्टर क्या बनाये गये है ? आप शिंदे माहब को कैबिनेट में ले लीजिये, हमे यहाँ बाई शिवायत नहीं है । हम समय पड निश्चयन घेट है ताम उम पर डिम्कशन कर रंग है प्राय फूड मिनिस्टर गायब ।

संसदीय कार्य तथा नौवहन और परिवहन मंत्री (श्री राजबहादुर) सभापति महोदय मैं बड़े अफसोस करता चाहता हूँ—यह मिश्कान के खिलाफ बात है । जब एक मिनिस्टर तो उस मिनिस्टर या रिजर्वेट करने है, यहाँ मौजूद है तो फिर बाई आपनि नहीं उठाई जा सकती । प्राय इसके बारे में रूचि भी है तो हममें कोई आपनि नहीं हानी चाहिये ।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी हाउस के कान को प्राथमिकता मिलनी चाहिये ।

सभापति महोदय आज तक यह प्रॉब्लम रही है और यह कन्फिडेंस भी है कि कैबिनेट मिनिस्टर की सम्मेलन में स्टेट मिनिस्टर या डिप्टी मिनिस्टर यहाँ रहते हैं तो भी डिबेट हो सकती है, काम चल सकता है ।

अपे जलन बिहारी बाकसैयो : यह यहा क्रमो नही है, क्या व्यस्तता है ? हाउस में धाने से बड़ कर क्या काम है और अगर कोई काम है तो शिखे साहब को कैबिनेट में ले लीजिये, मुझे कोई आपत्ति नहीं है । लेकिन यह तरीका गलत है—मैं विरोध प्रकट करना चाहता हूँ ।

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour): On a point of order. The minorities business is a very important matter. The Prime Minister is not here; Mr. Mohsin is the Deputy Minister and he has been deputed. Now we are taking up the food situation which is getting serious and grave; we do not see the Food Minister; his *ladki ka shadhi* is not taking place; we see only Mr. Shinde. What is happening? We can adjourn the House.

SHRI G. VISWANATHAN (Wandiwash): He should write to the Chair if he wants to be absent.

MR. CHAIRMAN That is true. What Mr. Vajpayee and Mr. Jyotirmoy Bosu had said has gone on record. But this has been the convention that in the absence of a Minister the Minister of State or the Deputy Minister represents him here. . . . (Interruptions) There may be some reason, we do not know. He may not be keeping good health.

SHRI FATESINGHRAO GAEKWAD: I was saying that Government pronouncements were received with great joy by the people but little did they know that in less than a year later they would be shedding tears, not of joy but of woe.

Prices have rocketed skyhigh and are still rising. Despite securing a massive mandate in the last two elections, this Government now seems to be almost groping in the dark and in the process has created a total muddle of the food situation. The well-known cabinet policy is still being followed. On November 14th, the Minister of Agriculture informs

Parliament "The overall position is better than anticipated". Another spokesman of the Government could have let few days pass, but no, a few hours later no less a person than the hon. Finance Minister gives the country a dismal picture of the food situation and forecasts a gloomy picture, warning the Nation that "We are facing a much deeper crisis". 13 days later, the Minister for Agriculture categorically denies any intention on the part of Government to import rice and declares that the situation is "satisfactory" forgetting that only a day or two before, he himself had informed this august House that "we are likely to make some marginal imports from abroad, but this will be purely on a commercial basis".

What is the definition of marginal? All this I think proves that this is the most confused confusion ever created by this Government. The days of attempting to fool all people for all time have gone.

It is high time that the Nation be taken into complete confidence and a crystal clear picture of the food situation be presented to the country. Let the practice of taking hasty policy decisions and making grandiose pronouncements thereon be curtailed.

We are tired of hearing excuses and reasons for failure. After four good monsoons we should have known that a bad one was due. I think we also know that despite widespread rains we had two days ago, the rabi crop is going to fall short of expectations. We do not want to hear the excuse that we helped Bangladesh in their food problem. The country knows about it. In short, therefore, there is no excuse for this utter failure and magnificent muddle that this Government has got into on the food front.

The good monsoons in the preceding years followed by jubilant but premature statements have already resulted in creating a sense of complacency. The failure of the monsoon this year, I think, should not be looked upon as a calamity, for it a proper lesson is to be learned, it could

[Shri Fatehsingh Rao Gawkwad]

turn out to be a blessing in disguise. A fact which we must never lose sight of is that our economy is still greatly dependent on the monsoon and until and unless this dependence is at least partly removed, the situation that we are facing today may have to be faced by us periodically and may be for many years or centuries to come. What need to be done therefore is to immediately undertake some flood control measures in some parts of the country and to increase the land under irrigation. The fourth plan envisaged an increase of 4.77 million hectares in irrigation potential and 3.89 hectares in utilisation, raising the total to 23.3 hectares and 20.7 hectares respectively.

This achievement, I am afraid, is likely to fall short of the target. I have always voiced my concern against the policy of importing foodgrains, definitely never with strings attached and never even without strings. This has been the prime reason for the complacency prevailing in the country. A shortfall in food production has never been taken seriously either by the government or the people, for we always knew that the shortfall would be met by imports.

The import figures and the prices paid for them since 1950 make both interesting and heart-breaking reading. The average annual figure for food import during the First Plan amounted to Rs. 120 crores and during the Second Plan the figure rose to Rs. 160 crores. The Third Plan average was Rs. 216 crores. In the first 15 years of the Plan the total would be of the order of Rs. 2,450 crores. In 1966-67 the value of foodgrains imported amounted to Rs. 377 crores, which increased to Rs. 518 crores in 1967-68, perhaps the highest import since 1950. The quantum of food imports in the First Plan was 3.1 million tonnes of cereals. The figure for the Second Plan moved to 3.4 million tonnes. During the Third Plan the average annual foodgrains import showed a further increase to 5.12 million tonnes. In 1966-67 the total quantum of foodgrains imports stood at the record figure of 10.4 million tonnes.

As earlier stated, lofty pronouncements were made last year to the effect that we had now achieved self-sufficiency and that, therefore, henceforth there would now seem certain that at least some wheat will have to be imported. But where is it going to come from? The Russians have bought American wheat and we reliably learn that they have booked orders for the next two years. So far as China is concerned, it has bought from Australia and other countries. So, it seems that if have to buy what the Minister says as marginal quantities of wheat, we will have probably to turn to Canada, and that too only if a quick decision is taken. We know how red-tapism is working in the country. I would, therefore, say that if they want to import this so-called marginal quantity of wheat, they have to take a quick decision. Perhaps, a decision taken even now may be too late, even though stocks of wheat may be available in Canada, because the prices for us will be much too steep. But if we want to have wheat, we have to pay that price. Taking all factors into account, it must be accepted that the situation is indeed alarming.

I will now turn to the sharp rise in prices of essential commodities. Upto 1962-63 the rise in wholesale prices was minor but then it rose sharply during the subsequent years. The consumer price index, which was accepted as 100 in 1949, advanced to 124 in 1960-61, to 169 in 1965-66, to 213 in 1967-68 and in July of this year it stood at 244. This menace of inflationary spiral has caused widespread frustration and resentment among the common people. While it is admitted that there is no escape from inflationary trends to some extent in a developing economy, I must say that this Government has failed to hold the price line of essential commodities.

Groundnut oil which was available around Rs. 5.30 per Kg. has risen to Rs. 7 per Kg. within the last fortnight. The price of sugar has risen to Rs. 4 per Kg. an increase of about 100 per cent in the last six months. The same is the case with prices of rice, bajra, etc. etc.

एक सामूहिक सदन उनको कल सुन लेंगे ।

समापति महोदय जो सूवर है उनका रिप्लाई भी होता है । इस सब में बहुत कुछ लग जायगा । आपके यहाँ बजलसदन के अगडेड आने वाले हैं । (Interruption)

The President of Bangladesh is coming to the Central Hall So, the House has to be adjourned just at 6 00 P M The Minister will take at least half an hour The Mover will also have to reply So if the hon members keep themselves to the time allotted to their respective parties then something can be done There are many names in these lists, given by the Opposition as well as by the Congress If I do not call the Minister at 5 15 p m, then it will not be possible to get the reply from the Government If you think that without getting any reply the debate should go on I have no objection but the purpose of the Mover will not be served That is the problem before us

AN HON MEMBER Minister can reply tomorrow

MR CHAIRMAN I cannot commit myself for this It is not the convention that he should be asked to give the reply tomorrow That will not be done

Motion moved

"That this House do consider the food situation in the country"

Before I call the next hon Member to speak, I would like to mention that there is a substitute Motion in the name of two members, Dr Laxminarain Pandeya and Shri R V Bade

Is Dr Laxminarain Pandeya moving this Substitute Motion?

DR. LAXMINARAIN PANDEYA (Mandsaur) Yes, Sir.

I beg to move

That for the original motion, the following be substituted, namely:—

"This House, having considered the food situation in the country, notes with regret that the prices of food-stuffs have soared sky-high and the purchasing power of the people has been constantly declining and the Government have utterly failed to check this tendency" (1)

DR KARNI SINGH (Bikaner) rose

MR CHAIRMAN I have to call a member from this side and then I will call you

Mr P Venkatasubbaiah

SHRI P VENKATASUBBAIAH (Nandyal) Mr Chairman Sir the hon Member while moving his Motion on the food situation tried to create an impression in this House that the food situation was dismal in the country, he painted a dismal picture In that he has laboured hard to apportion the blame to the Government for all the things that have happened in this country Having an objective and dispassionate view we have to see whether the present situation, the situation as it obtains today, is due to the faulty policies pursued by the Government or whether it is due to certain unforeseen circumstances on which Government or anybody have no control

Shri Fatesingh Gokwad has given figures to show that year after year, our import bill has been rising But he did not care to mention the increase in population in this country and also the cycle that we have been experiencing once in three years, drought, floods and all these factors, he did not care to mention all these facts. Fortunately for this country except for this year, for the last three to four years we had good monsoons as well as progress in our developmental activities particularly, with regard

to minor irrigation and also in regard to some of our electricity projects that have done very much for the increase in food production

Another important factor about the green revolution My friends make a fun of it, but, perhaps they do not have the field experience or the experience that is obtaining in the rural areas With each year new strains have been introduced They have been taken up very enthusiastically by our farmers and the increase in the production of paddy as well as wheat has been phenomenal in this country The green revolution, of course we may say, has benefited only a particular section of the agriculturists, especially, the people who had the benefit of irrigation They might have benefited I agree that here is some force in this argument But that does not mean that the production has not gone up in this country, In the matter of food production Punjab Haryana and some of the States have witnessed a phenomenal increase But, to offset this food production, we had certain calamities For instance, this year, the entire Andhra Pradesh and the neighbouring States of Maharashtra and Mysore have been experiencing an unprecedented drought unheard of in the annals of history Only a century back we had such a terrible calamity in those parts and after that no such calamity took place in these three or four States.

These States especially, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Mysore have been pioneers in food production, especially in paddy and also in the coarse grains like Jowar For instance, Maharashtra and the dry Districts of Rayalseema and Mysore have been producing coarse grains in large quantities That is adversely affected. When the production of the coarse grains which is the staple diet of the people is affected, naturally, the intake of rice has increased. That has created a problem also With the failure of monsoon, our production has gone down because we could not produce as much of electricity as possible. The local Governments were

compelled to cut down electricity which has adversely affected the food production programme as well as the industrial growth in this country.

But, one thing I will accept with regard to the lop-sided development of the areas For instance, the green revolution has helped the areas that have been benefited by irrigation but, little has been done so far about areas that are subjected to adverse seasonal conditions So a programme has been vigorously taken up with regard to dry-farming areas in this country But even these dry farming programmes have to be taken up in a very systematic manner Unless that is done, our food production programmes so far as coarse grains are concerned and also commercial crops such as groundnut and oil seeds will be affected This also has to be borne in mind and more emphasis has to be given especially to the minor irrigation programmes Unfortunately, all these years, in these three or four Plans, we have been laying more emphasis on bigger irrigation projects which have got a long gestation period as a result of which it will not be possible to get the results immediately whereas there are a large number of tanks which have been kept out of use and which are not in operation They have to be repaired and put into action These programmes are also labour oriented Many people get engaged in these works So, these minor irrigation programmes must be taken up very systematically With regard to projects which are now in the droughtaffected areas, the Planning Commission, I am told, has taken a decision that such of those irrigation programmes that are in the drought-affected areas, must be given priority and they must be completed soon If that is pursued vigorously we will be able to get over some of these difficulties

Sir, with regard to the Hydro-electric programmes, the same emphasis should be laid about implementation of all these programmes in the drought-affected areas. In my constituency, in Rayalseema the

[Shri P. Venkatasubbiah]

Srisallam Hydro-Electric Project has been started some years back for execution but it is lagging behind and the estimates are going higher and higher day by day. From Rs. 35 crores, this has gone up to Rs. 75 crores. Before it is completed, I do not know how much it will come to and what additional amounts would be required. So, attempts should be made to complete this project in right earnest. This is my submission.

Then, Sir, I wish to point out that we have to make a radical change in our distribution system. There is an anomaly in the situation; we cannot get sugar in the fair price shop or at the retail or ration shops. But it is available in plenty in the black-market. This shows that there is something radically wrong in our distribution system.

I wish to submit that the wholesale trade in food-grains should be taken over by the Government as soon as possible.

Sir, unless this is done, the anti-social elements will take advantage. The black-marketeers and others will take advantage of the present situation in the country. So, this aspect of the problem should be kept in mind.

The distribution system in the States is not properly done. I want Mr. Shinde to use his good offices with the State Governments in order to see that the distribution system is put on a proper footing. This is very necessary. Every day we hear about the increase of the fair-price shops. But still the foodgrains do not reach the consumers. The dealers do not take them to the villages but they dispose them of in blackmarket and so an artificial scarcity is created. Therefore, this factor must be kept in mind. There is no point in quoting statistics saying that so many fair price shops have been opened. That will not satisfy the people. That will only go to satisfy the vested interests. Those who get the dealers' licence exploit the situation. This

should not happen. We must take proper steps in this regard.

About importing foodgrains we should not be hesitant for apologetic. Even advanced and progressive countries like Russia and China are going and buying foodgrains on a large scale from other countries. So, why should we be chary about that? The Minister has rightly said that we will purchase foodgrains at commercial rate. He said, we are not going with a bagging bowl; we have got to be very rational in our approach. I am glad the hon. Minister has made a statement that if necessary we will certainly go in for importing foodgrains. That has given a lot of confidence among our people.

Lastly, I would like to say that our farmers have taken up the agricultural programmes with all seriousness. They must not be disappointed. They should not get frustrated on account of lack of supply of fertilisers and other agricultural inputs. The position regarding supply of fertilisers is very deplorable. Prices are exorbitant in the black-market. Even urea or sulphate are not available. They are not able to get them at fair prices. Government are not able to supply them in time. The farmers have to remain at the mercy of unscrupulous dealers. I would like to know as to what concrete steps have been taken to create a proper infra-structure to help the farmer to produce more foodgrains.

I am not one who would say that there is terrible shortage of foodgrains in the country. Our farmers are able to produce more. The attitude of our farmers has changed radically nowadays. He is prepared to take up any new strain that comes in the market. He is taking up new varieties of I.R. 1990. By that he is able to produce 60 bags per acre. He is prepared to go in for new varieties and produce more food for the country. Supply of fertilisers, supply of insecticides, supply of water,—these are the three important things which are needed by the farmers. What happens is that

the farmers in the rural areas, even if they produce more, are not able to market their products, are not able to sell their products, in time; they are at a disadvantage compared to the farmers who are roundabout the cities. This is the present position. I would beg to submit that these imbalances should be corrected. Remedial measures should be taken. If all these measures are taken I am sure we will soon achieve self-reliance in foodgrains. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri B. V. Naik has written to me about his substitute motion. There are three grounds on which that has not been allowed. Firstly, the motion has not been given in time.

SHRI B. V. NAIK (Kanara): I gave it before time, I gave it before 10.30 a.m.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Secondly, it is not in proper form. Thirdly, it has not been on the form on which it should have been given. So, I do not allow this.

SHRI B. V. NAIK: As regards the first point, I would like to submit that it was given before 10.30 hours, and I think that it was in time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Without going into any further discussion, may I read out to him rule 345 which reads thus:

"Notice of an amendment to a motion shall be given one day before the day on which the motion is to be considered, unless the Speaker allows the amendment to be moved without such notice."?

AN HON. MEMBER: So, you may allow it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, I am not allowing it, because there are three lacunae.

SHRI S. P. BHATTACHARYYA (Uluberia): During the last session the hon. Minister Shri Ananashub P. Shinde

gave us the hope that there was sufficient food in the country and there was no need to worry about famine and other things and that sufficient food will be sent to the villages and there would be no difficulty about rice. But during this session, Shri Yeshwantrao Chavan has said that there is a calamity before us. I do not know who is responsible for having created this confusion. I think that it is Government which has been responsible for this.

As the situation stands in our country today, the consumer has to pay 13 per cent more now for cereals, 60 per cent more for pulses, and 40 per cent more for eggs and hundred per cent more for sugar, and this is over and above the 8 per cent price rise as compared with the last official figure. In Tripura, the price of rice varies from Rs 2.50 to Rs 3 per k.g. Due to drought, there has been no rain there. . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: We had discussed all these facts when we were discussing the price, situation, and, therefore, there is no need to repeat it. The hon. Member may make new points now.

SHRI S. P. BHATTACHARYYA: Let me come to the point now. 80 per cent of the crop has failed and there are no proper foodgrain supply arrangements. 1,25,000 fair price shops are there, but these are mostly in the urban and sub-urban areas. As regards villages, only one out of 10 villages has got a fair price shop, and the other 9 villages have no fair price shops. You can understand, therefore, that the villagers have to depend on blackmarket prices. Our Government have been so very generous that while giving increase of wages on account of increase in index of prices, they do not take into account the outside prices but only the prices in the fair price shops. The result is that the workers and the villagers are compelled to pay high prices. That does not come within the purview of the index calculations. These people are kept totally in the dark and in difficulty.

[Shri S. F. Bhattacharyya]

Shri Anantabhad Bhinda had told us during the last session that arrangements would be made to increase the kharif production as much as possible. But I come from West Bengal, and I went to Midnapur, and I found that there was no arrangement to reserve the river water for producing more of the IR-8 crop. No amenities have been given. The peasants are eager to produce more, but if you go and ask them you will find that nothing has been done in this regard, and the lands are remaining dry, and even the sweet water from the rivers, which could be reserved so that more production can be had, is not being reserved.

I ask you to take this matter seriously. You are in a responsible position. You are in a position to do something to solve the problem and save the situation. I went to Midnapur in Khajuria thana. The big landlords are cutting half-ripe paddy grains simply to chastise the tillers and bring them under their control. The police are helping those big landowners. This is not the situation in one district only; in most districts, this is the situation.

Then you must stop all evictions of tillers from the soil immediately. Instructions should be given to all State Governments in this regard.

Then irrigation facilities should be increased. There should be reserve water canals for the next season and for the present season also. Arrangements should be made to increase the crop to the maximum extent.

Then radical land reforms should be effected. You have already rejected it. But without that, the problem cannot be solved. Because of these and other things, you have not been able to increase production and you have to beg before other countries for foodgrains.

Then wholesale trade should be taken over by Government. You should buy directly from the producers, not through intermediaries. Now you are helping the profiteers in the name of State trading.

This should stop immediately. Take the full responsibility of buying from the producers and then distributing it to the people.

Then as regards ration and fair price shops in the villages, you must know that the people have no buying capacity. There should be irrigation arrangements, canal cutting arrangements, embankment arrangements for more production. Thus there will be work for the rural poor and with the wages thus got they could buy foodgrains. Otherwise, there will be starvation. You have gagged the press. It will not report any news about starvation. Let the people die of starvation, nothing will be said about it in the papers. Please do not rest satisfied that with that things are all right. The situation is getting very serious. I ask you to take it very seriously. What is required at the present time is maximum production and maximum procurement. Then if it is still required, you can buy from other countries. But do not place much reliance on it. Try to produce as much as possible within the country. Then the problem can be partly solved, if you are really serious and sincere about it.

SHRI P. R. SHENOY (Udipi): There is no doubt that the food situation in the country is very bad due to failure of monsoon. But it is very heartening to know that Government are taking steps to meet it. A crash programme has been undertaken to raise 14 million tonnes of foodgrains during the rabi season. The Government has also proposed to increase the number of fair price shops and strengthen the public distribution system. It has also proposed to take over the wholesale trade in foodgrains. The Government has also declared that it will not hesitate to import foodgrains if necessary.

Sir, while the Government is taking every step to improve the food situation, it is unfortunate that some of the public sector undertakings have not taken

the problem seriously. There are allegations of mismanagement in the Food Corporation of India, and these allegations are already discussed on the floor of this House. The Fertiliser Corporation of India is also not very serious in solving this food crisis. It is not taking interest in moving the fertilisers from the factories in the north to the farms in the south. The price of fertilisers is also not uniform at the farm level. It is uniform only at the factory level. The Fertiliser Corporation of India is also collecting illegally a premium of Rs 200 per tonne and over and above the control price for the sale of ammonium sulphate. I request the hon. Minister to take note of this and set things right in the Fertiliser Corporation of India.

The existing fair price shops form mostly a part of the open market shops. The fair price shops at the co-operative level also are not working well. The fair price shops should be entrusted to enthusiastic and enterprising young men who are now unemployed or under-employed.

There is power crisis in this country and this power crisis is sought to be solved always by sanctioning thermal projects which of course can be completed in a short period but these are sanctioned in preference to hydel projects. The hydel projects are comparatively very cheap whether they are compared to thermal projects or to nuclear projects. They are always cheap and are always connected with irrigation projects. I therefore request the Government to give preference to hydel projects. Though the gestation period of hydel projects is long, their utility is much, and therefore, priority should be given to hydel projects so that if some hydel projects are undertaken in the fifth Plan, they may be completed during the sixth Plan and may be useful both to the industrialists and the farmers.

Sir, I conclude.

HOUSE NOW MEMBERS 105-44

MR CHAIRMAN: If you do not mind I will give a chance to Dr Karni Singh, only five to seven minutes. Dr Karni Singh.

DR KARNI SINGH (Bikaner) Sir, I must get at least 10 minutes as a co-mover of the motion. Otherwise I will not be able to develop my theme.

The rising prices and food shortages create a very dangerous combination and they can create a very explosive situation. It would be the simplest thing for me to start hurrying abuses at the Food Minister, but I do feel that the question of food shortages in the country cannot be looked at in isolation purely in relation to the bungling of the Government but must also be taken into account with the increase in population. That is one of the major contributing factors to the food shortage in the country.

Sir, about 15 years ago when Mr. Nehru was Prime Minister he had made a statement in this House to say that India would be self-sufficient in food in a very short while and that there would be no need for food imports. We have seen in spite of all these assurances even this year we will have to make marginal imports. Sir Jeremy Raisman the Finance Member of the Viceroy's Executive Council had at one time made a profound observation that Indian budget was a gamble in rain. It seems a tragedy that even in this age of science and technology we have not been able to make a breakthrough in this direction. Green revolution has to some extent succeeded. I think it has given Indian agriculture a shot in the arm. But let us not forget the fact howsoever successful the green revolution may be, it must one day reach the law of diminishing returns. I feel that unless we look at the food and the population explosion together I do not think that anybody can get the correct picture. I have been able to get a few figures which I shall place before my colleagues here today. If we make a study of the figures of world population council, we shall understand why the

[Dr. Karam Singh]
Government is in the predicament it is in today. I always blame the Government because they do not have the courage or the guts to stand up on public platforms and over and over again speak to the public on the great menace to underdeveloped countries, namely population explosion. In 1891, India's population stood at 23.5 crores.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do not give too many figures because you have limited time

DR KARNI SINGH: Because I cannot emphasise my case without them. For the last 15 years I have been speaking on this and the Government would not have been in this predicament today had the population question been given the highest priority. For too many of us are too sacred to speak on family planning because we might lose that almighty vote. Because of that we are losing the future of India's prosperity. In 1891, as I said, India's population was 23.5 crores and in 1901 it went up by 50 lakhs. Today, in a ten-year period it is going up by 12-13 crores. Between 1901 and 1911, India's population went up by 1.45 crores and between 1911 and 1921, it actually went down in 10 years by about 19 lakhs because of world war I's influence. In other words, in sixty years between 1891 and 1951 the population of India went up by a bare 11.41 crores, but today in a period of just ten years it is going up by about 13 crores. Unless these two Ministries, the Ministry of Family Planning and the Ministry of Food sit down together, I do not think that even God can solve India's food problem.

I shall make this forecast. This year is a bad year, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Maharashtra are facing famine; you are short of food and you may have to make marginal imports. But the day is not far off when, if something definite is not done, if a breakthrough in medicine is not made to control population explosion, off when, if something definite is not done, we are to face food shortage even when we

have bumper crops. One need not have to be a great wizard; it is a matter of pure mathematics; it is a matter of adding up two and two. I think it will require a little bit of courage from our politicians to be able to stand up, like Japan did.

Japan was bombed twice by atom bombs. Yet they have today reached a stage when they are equal with America. Look at their economy and compare with our economy; we are both Asian countries. What did Japan do? They put a population control and curbed it, resulting in population trailing off at ten crores. Today Japan's economy is one of the best in the world; surely India can also achieve it. When we talk about modern technology and science, surely ways and means can be found of combating this problem. I think we have debated food over and over again in this House. The Chairman has stopped me from quoting figures in detail. Statistics show that per capita availability of foodgrains in 1965 was 471 gms per day and in 1970 it was only 445 gms; it has gone down. It almost reminds me how India since Independence has increased its expenditure on education, doubled the number of schools and teachers, but still the literacy percentage is going down because your base-people under 21—are increasing. You are facing the same problem on the food front.

The question of uneconomic holdings in this country has to be examined very carefully. 39 per cent of operational holdings are under one hectare each. In one hectare you cannot have intensive cultivation unless you go in for collective farming. I do not think the Indian farmer is ready to accept it now. The question of ceilings on agricultural land should also be examined in relation to Grow More Food. I am not opposed to ceilings, but if we go purely by theory, we would not only be hit by the population explosion but also by the fragmentation of land, which may impose uneconomic in relation to increased food production. So, Government has to find an

optimum ceiling whereby it will be available economic unit and more food can be produced and if does not reach the point of diminishing returns very soon.

Modern methods of agriculture which are being shown on television in one or two cities in India today have to reach the masses throughout the country. Grow More Food is one of the paramount battles, that mankind has to fight for survival. I say this today. Five years from now it will become far more important. Your imported visual media should like T.V. should reach the villages, not Delhi or Bombay city alone.

Government-owned tractors must be kept in pools, so that the poor people, the 39 per cent who have less than one hectare, can be given free service of tractors. That would be the biggest form of socialism. Large quantities of subsidised seeds must be made available. Free seeds must be given to those 39 per cent who have less than one hectare.

The speedy implementation of irrigation projects is very important. Whenever there is a famine we raise it in this House and plead, for God's sake, speed up your river valley projects, irrigation projects, lift channels, etc., because the most positive definite way of solving famine conditions is through irrigation. Take Rajasthan Canal and the lift channel. During the last famine 3 years ago, we raised it here and Government assured us that this would be given high priority. But the canals are not ready. The lift channel is held up because some petty contractor is not prepared to fulfil his job. Today the Government is in a position to give these matters high priority. Food is the basic necessity of the human beings and unless we grow adequate food, the country is going to face a very dark spectre.

You send teams to visit various parts of the country where there are famine conditions. One team—Malchanda team

—which visited Rajasthan has reported like this:

"The Malchanda team was reported to be unhappy over the inordinate delay on the part of the State Government in submitting a final detailed report to the Centre on the drought conditions in the State. According to knowledgeable circles, the State Government machinery was so inept and lethargic that it could not prepare its report on the drought conditions so far. Perhaps only two district Collectors had submitted their reports to the State Government."

This I think is the greatest bungling. My appeal to the Government is, wherever famine conditions prevail, whether it is Maharashtra, Gujarat and Rajasthan, Andhra or Bihar or any other State, please give it the highest priority and see that the collectors and Chief Ministers give their reports quickly so that adequate aid can be given from the Centre quickly.

Regarding the question of digging deep tubewells and electrification in villages, these are matters that require your immediate attention so that in the future years we will be able to produce more food for India's ever increasing millions.

16. hrs.

श्री नाबू राम मिर्धा : (नागौर) :

माननीय सभापति जी, हमारे देश में आजादी के बाद, जैसा मेरे पूर्व बक्ता ने कहा, देश की आजादी कुछ सालों में कम बढ़ी, लेकिन अब किस प्रकार तेजी से बढ़ रही है, मैं भी इसी बात पर जोर देना चाहता हूँ। इतने बड़े देश की आजादी के ऊपर नियंत्रण होना चाहिये और वह भी सिर्फ सरकार के जरिये नहीं, बल्कि सदन में बठने वाले सभी माननीय सदस्य इस बात पर सहजई से जोर कर

[श्री नाथू राम मिर्चा]

अपनी आवाज गावों तक और लोगों तक पहुंचावें कि हमारे देश की आशादी का नियंत्रण होना बहुत जरूरी है, इस काम को किये बिना हमें चाहे कितना फूड प्रोडक्शन बढ़ायें, उत्पादन की गति को तेज करें, हम बहुत वर्षों तक ऊंचे स्तर को प्राप्त नहीं कर सकते और हमारे देश की आर्थिक हालत को बहुत तेजी में ऊंचा उठाना सम्भव नहीं हो सकेगा। इसलिये आशादी का सवाल बहुत ग्रहण सवाल है और इस पर मैं ममज्ञता हूँ कि इस सदन के न्यूनतम माननीय सदस्यों को चाहिये कि जब कभी भी फुरमत मिले और जहाँ कहीं भी कुछ बढ़ने सुनने का मौका मिले, हम ग्राम जनता तक इस सन्देश को पहुंचावें और इस सवाल को हल करने की कोशिश करें।

हमारे देश में खाद्यान्न के उत्पादन में पिछले दिनों वैज्ञानिक तौर पर जो तरक्की हुई है, नये नये बीज आये, खाद आई और क्रेडिट की जो सुविधायें मिलीं, उसके हिसाब से किसानों ने और देश के वैज्ञानिकों ने, सब न मिल कर खाद्यान्न का उत्पादन बढ़ाया, यहाँ तक कि पिछले-से-पिछले साल हम 107 मिलियन टन अनाज पैदा कर सके। पिछले साल भी 104 मिलियन टन तक पहुंच सके और हम साल भी इतनी हालत खराब होते हुये भी, जो कुछ हमने श्रेष्ठ प्रोशम उत्पादन बढ़ाने के लिये हाथ में लिये हैं, हमारी खरीक को जो कुछ मुकामान हुआ है, उसके बावजूद भी जैसा पिछले साल ने हिसाब लगाकर बताया है, 100 मिलियन

टन के घास पास उत्पादन कर सकेंगे। मैं इस बात को तो मानता हूँ कि इसमें थोड़ी बहुत ऊंच-नीच हो सकती है, लेकिन इस बात से ऐसा ग्रहण होता है—और इस सदन के माननीय सदस्य भी जो इस का ज्ञान रखते हैं वे भी इस बात को महसूस करेंगे कि जितना उत्पादन हम करने जा रहे हैं, वह देश के लिये कोई खतरा नहीं है जिस के लिये हम बहुत ज्यादा विवक्षित होकर यह सोचें कि अब हमारा क्या होगा। यह ठीक है कि कुछ धान आदि किमी न किमी प्रकार हमको मंगाना होगा लेकिन स्थिति ऐसी नहीं है जैसी अभी जाहिर की गई है।

सभापति महोदय : भोगन यह है कि आज फूड मिचुएशन कन्टी में क्या है ?

श्री नाथू राम मिर्चा : मैं उसी के बारे में बात कर रहा हूँ। बाहर से मंगाने का सवाल भी उसी के साथ जुड़ा हुआ है और इस साल का उत्पादन भी उसी के साथ जुड़ा हुआ है अगर आप कोई चीज गलत समझते हैं तो मुझे फर्मा दें।

सभापति महोदय : मैंने याद दिलाया है।

नाथू राम मिर्चा : मैं मोशन पढ़कर ही खड़ा हुआ हूँ और बहुत गहराई के साथ सोचकर खड़ा हुआ हूँ। मुझे कितना कहना है यह भी मैं जानता हूँ क्योंकि मुझे आपके समय का भी अभाव है।

(Motn.)

मैं निवेदन कर रहा था कि हमें बहुत ज्यादा चिन्ता करके कहीं न कहीं से कुछ न कुछ प्राप्त करना है, किसी भी शर्त पर प्राप्त करना है—ऐसी स्थिति अभी नहीं है। लेकिन वृत्ति हमें सावधानी रखनी है, जो हमारा उत्पादन का लक्ष्य है, जिसको पूरा करने की हम क्षमता रखते हैं, उसके बाद भी कुछ मार्जिनल हमारे पास होना चाहिये ताकि यदि कोई मुसीबत आये तो हम अपना सामना कर सकें, इन दृष्टि से कुछ प्रयत्न अवश्य करना चाहिये और हमारी सरकार कुछ देशों के साथ समझौता कर रही है ताकि जरूरत पड़े तो कितना अनाज हम व्यापारिक तौर पर खरीद सकते हैं। . . .

श्री पीलू मोदी : कुछ नहीं कर रही है।

श्री नाथू राम मिर्चा : मेरी जानकारी है कि वह कर रही है और जिस डिग्री से इस काम को करना चाहिये, उसी तरह से सरकार के आदमी इस काम में लगे हुये हैं।

श्री पीलू मोदी : आपके सामने झूठ कहने में आया है।

श्री नाथू राम मिर्चा : झूठ क्या है और सच क्या है, इसका ज्ञान मैं रखता हूँ। इस सम्बन्ध में सरकार के जो प्रयत्न होने चाहिये, वह सरकार कर रही है। इसलिये बहुत चिन्ता करने की आवश्यकता नहीं है।

(Motn.)

फिर भी, सभापति महोदय, थोड़ी सी बरसात के बिना देश की हालत कितनी नाजुक बन सकती है—इस बात को समझ कर चलना चाहिये। खाद्यान्न को बढ़ाने के लिये तुरन्त जो भी कार्यवाही की जा सकती है उसे तुरन्त करना चाहिये। जैसा मेरे पूर्व बक्त ने कहा कि कुछ एरियाज में ट्यूब-वेलज बनाये जा सकते हैं, मैं भी चाहता हूँ कि जहाँ पानी काफी है वहाँ तेजी से ट्यूब-वेलज बनाये जायें। इसके अलावा उत्पादन के सिलसिले में जिन जिन साधनों की जरूरत है—बहुत से क्षेत्रों में तो बिजली ही चुकी है, लेकिन लेट-थैराइटीज का काम अभी भी चल रहा है, उस इलाके में जहाँ खाद अभी नहीं पहुँची है, बीज नहीं पहुँचा है, उसकी जोश्र व्यवस्था करनी चाहिये। किसानों के कुंए किसी भी कारण से बन्द न हों, उनको बिजली देकर चलाया जाय तो इससे उत्पादन में सहायता मिल सकती है। इस समय गाँवों में बिजली बहुत कम मात्रा में मिल रही है और कहीं कहीं तो छोटे-छोटे अधिकारी कुछ गड़बड़ करके जब तक पैसा न मिले, बिजली नहीं पहुँचने देते, इस अव्यवस्था को दूर करना चाहिये।

कुछ किसान बिजली की बजाय जानबूझकर औजल इंजन चला रहे हैं क्योंकि फूड कम भावों में लोगों को मिलता था। लेकिन अब वह भी ब्लैक में है। पाली जिले से कई चिट्ठियाँ मेरे पास आई हैं, वहाँ पर क्रूड आयल देने भावों में चाहे जितना लेलें, लेकिन रात को ले लें, दिन में तेल नहीं मिलेगा। यह अव्यवस्था की बात है, कोई नई बात नहीं

[श्री बाबू राम बिर्वा]

है, लेकिन आज इस भयवस्था को बहुत तेजी से ठीक करने की आवश्यकता है ताकि किसान अपने पन्ना को चला सके।

हमारी नीतियों में टिकाऊपन होना चाहिए। पिछली दफा रोह ज्यादा पैदा हो गया था, 9 मिलियन टन का स्टॉक था तो सरकार कहने लगी कि किसान के भावों में कुछ कमी है जाय तो काम चलेगा। फिर बाद में सरकार ने फैसला किया और उन का भावों की गारंटी दी। लेकिन हमारी नीतियों में थोड़ा सा टिकाऊपन न होने से किसानों पर इस का असर पड़ता है।

श्री राज कमेटी की रिपोर्ट आई है— उस का असर भी किसानों पर पड़ा है। उसने एपीकन्चरल होल्डिंग्स टैक्स बड़े काम्पलीकेटेड तरीके से लगाने की बात कही है। हर साल टैक्स तय किया जाएगा और उस की दूसरी इन्कम के साथ मिला कर लगाया जायगा जैसे किसान बहुत मालदार हो गया है। उन के ऊपर बहुत कम टैक्स हैं—इस तरह की हवा देश में फैलाने की कोशिश की गई है जिसका हमारे किसान की माइक्रोलोजी पर असर पड़ता है और उस के अन्दर उत्पादन बढ़ाने का जो जोश है उस पर भी असर पड़ता है।

मैं आप की मारफत निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि आप बहुत मोक्ष समझ कर ऐसे निर्णय करें जो टिकाऊ हों जिन से अनन्तसेसरी उद्योग का वातावरण न बने—इस बातों को ध्यान में रख कर हमारी नीतियों को ढालकर कलाने की आवश्यकता है।

सरकार ने ज्यादा से ज्यादा अनाज खरीदने का जो निर्णय लिया है वह ठीक है लेकिन बिबीलािंग हट्टे तब किसान को फायदा हो सकता है। वितरण व्यवस्था ठीक हो। हमारे गावों में बहुत से इलाकों में खाद्यान्नों की कमी है। अगर वहाँ फेयर-प्राइम गारमं ठीक हो ठीक वक्त पर अनाज पड़े उस का मही वितरण कर सके तो फिर किसी भी प्रकार की गड़बड़ी पैदा होने की जाइश नहीं है। इसी तरह से चीनी का वितरण ठीक हो। रिंग में जब वस्ता ने अभी कहा है कि कई राज्य सरकारों ने रिपोर्ट दी है कि नहीं को है जिनका वितरण उठे बना चाहिए। उनको नहीं दिया है—मैं केंद्रीय सरकार में कहना चाहता कि उन बातों पर वह लगातार वाच रखें और उन की मदद करने की प्राणिण कर ताकि काम ठीक तरह से चल सके।

मुश्किल हमारा सामने है हम उन को पार कर सकते हैं बशर्तकि सब सम्माननीय सदस्यों का हम काम के लिए मन बना हुआ हो। एक मही वितरण बनाते हुए अगर हम देश की जनता की मुसीबतों के साथ मूलने हुए चलने तो निश्चिन्त रूप से वे मुसीबतें हल हो सकेंगी और निस्कोष बिना किसी मुसीबत के हम उन को हल कर सकेंगे— ऐसा मेरा विश्वास है।

MR CHAIRMAN: Mr. D. K. Panda. Your party has only six minutes.

SHRI D. K. PANDA (Bharjanagar) Mr. Chairman, Sir, the food situation in the country is very critical. Daily we are getting reports about horrible starvation

deaths, and Orissa is hit hardest. Reports of starvation deaths from all over the country, numbering about 11 to 12 States and specially from Orissa, have been pouring in. It is also well known that the situation, as far as it looks today, is not completely under our control. So; I would like, first of all, to ask the hon. Food Minister whether he is prepared to admit the universal truth about the food situation or food condition. Regarding the possibilities of improving food situation, even at the U.N.O. level there have been several discussions, and the final conclusion is that, if countries fail to provide satisfactory conditions for food production and distribution, it is usually the fault of the Government concerned. Here the Central Government is concerned about the decrease in food production. The situation has really become horrible. Who is responsible for this? The defective planning of the Agriculture Ministry and lack of co-ordinated and integrated planning between Railways, the Irrigation Ministry and the Agriculture Ministry have been responsible for this horrible situation today which is taking hundreds and thousands of lives.

Now this truth has to be admitted that it is not a natural deficiency but it is a human deficiency, it has been created by human forces. We could have overcome this difficulty, but because of our defective planning, we are not able to overcome it.

Keeping in view the rate of growth of our population which is 2.50 per cent, let us examine as to what has been the increase in food production. It is only 2.25 per cent. Therefore, how can we overcome this?

The simple point as every one has stated in this House—several times the same matter has been discussed here—is that we must lay much stress on irrigation facilities because the increase in crop yield mainly depends on irrigation. The statement which was laid on the Table by our Agriculture Minister, Mr.

F A Ahmed, has mentioned that minor irrigation projects have been taken up. Merely saying that we have taken up minor irrigation projects will not do. Suppose in a particular district one or two projects have been taken up, will that meet the requirements of the districts? What is the actual potentiality of the district for developing minor irrigation projects, at the same time what is the requirement, and to what extent we can meet the target, on these things there is absolutely no planning. That is why, no concrete things are forthcoming, but here and there Government in their statement only makes a mention that minor irrigation projects have been taken up. If, with this much, Government gets satisfaction, then the same starvation deaths will definitely continue.

I want to mention one thing in this respect. We have 323 million acres of arable land. Out of it only 19.9 per cent. are irrigated. What about the rest? All these 25 years since Independence what have we done? Are we going to fulfill the target of achieving irrigated land to the extent of 50 per cent? That must be very clear. So, irrigation has to be given much stress.

About tube-wells, several times the hon. Members of the Opposition Parties here have been giving plans and in the river basin areas where it is possible and where it does not require much effort, let there be tube-wells. But that has never been done.

As far as land reforms are concerned, that has now been kept in cold storage. Even in Orissa, the proposal of 10 acre ceiling that has come to the Centre has again been kept in the cold storage. What has happened to land reforms over which there was a lot of heated debate? If the Government is sincere, they must come forward to implement it. But this has not been implemented and that is one of the main defects as far as our planning is concerned.

[Shri D K Panda]

Thirdly I would like to say a word about the distribution system. What is the public distribution system? I will only give some facts. When we were discussing this in this very House, the same hon. Minister, Mr. Shinde, pointed out that we are ready to meet any type of contingencies and we have enough stocks, we have got a buffer stock. Now I want to put a simple question. During the month of September in Orissa after the cyclone for 15 to 20 days there was no supply of foodgrains. Absolutely no supply. But there was so much fantastic talk. But we found actually their agents and mill owners have actually no stock. When we inquired from the Government sources from the Secretaries to the Government of Orissa they said, 'No, no. That is a feature. That is the boastful feature. What about this fantastic boastful feature?' Actually for 15 to 20 days there were no stocks and people could not get even one ounce of grain. We can say what has happened. The real situation is that the FCI distribution system has failed. It is defective and we find in some States, like Tamil Nadu, the Food Department handed over the procurement system to 54 monopoly merchants by-passing the FCI but no action has been taken.

We say that there is really a food shortage. That position has to be admitted and methods have to be devised and we must face the real situation and the Government must take the people into confidence.

Now, they say there is self-sufficiency. What is self-sufficiency? We required in Ganjam, my District in Orissa, 500 tonnes of rice per month but we actually get only 200 tonnes. Is this self-sufficiency? Now, as far as paddy is concerned, our annual requirements of paddy in my District are 7,500 tonnes but the real supply has never reached beyond 700 tonnes. Is this 'self-sufficiency'?

Finally, I want to tell one thing only. 1,18,164 acres of paddy lands in Ganjam in backward and the agricultural backbone

of Orissa is completely broken. My suggestion will be that not only minor irrigation works should be taken up, but that tube wells should be sunk immediately in river basin areas and land reform measures have to be taken up and implemented immediately. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are at least 15 persons to speak. I told you that I will call the Minister at 5.15. The hon. Member has got the right of reply. Now I request hon. Members to tell me when they want the reply of the hon. Minister.

SHRI PHILOO MODY: After I speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let me have the opinion of the House whether the House wants the Government reply today or to continue the subject.

SHRI G. VISWANATHAN: The Minister has to reply.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you continue, he cannot reply. Otherwise I thought of calling him at 5.15.

SHRI K. S. CHAVDA (Patan): He must reply. We would also like to have clarifications.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Then only clarifications and nothing else. You must see our limitations also. I have to adjourn the House at 6 O'clock. Nobody is sticking to his time-limit. That is the whole trouble. Is it the opinion of the House that I can call the hon. Minister at 5.15 p.m.?

DR. KARNI SINGH: We have got the right of reply. I am prepared to waive it if it can suit the other Members.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHIB P. SHINDE): You may call at 5.30 P.M.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Philoo Mody has been getting up; he is very eager.

SHRI PLOO MODY There is a Select Committee meeting which is going on just now. The Foreign Exchange Regulations Bill Select Committee is going on and I have to go.

SHRI K. S. CHAVDA It is over now.

MR. CHAIRMAN Shri Barupal

श्री पद्मनाभल द्वारमपाल (गगानवर) सभापति महोदय आज मेरा गाना खगव हे इगलिये मैं ज्यादा समय नहीं लगा लेकिन मेरे माननीय साथी श्री गायकवाड ने मोशन गढ़ कर, जो दोषागेपण मेरी सरकार पर किया है कि उसी की व्यवस्था ठीक नहीं है, प्लैनिंग ठीक नहीं है, उस के बारे में दो शब्द कहना चाहता हूँ।

हो सकता है कि उनका कहना ठीक हो। लेकिन श्री गायकवाड भी ईश्वरवादी हैं और मैं भी ईश्वरवादी हूँ। मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि हमारी सरकार तो मनुष्यों को बनी है, देवताओं की नहीं है। मनुष्य से गलती हो सकती है। हमारी सब से बड़ी सरकार तो ईश्वर है, जिस की प्लैनिंग गलत हो सकती है, कर्ण अन्तवृष्टि है, कही प्रतिवृष्टि है। अब फिर हमारी सरकार का गलातया तो हो ही सकती है।

16 25 h 9

[**DR. SARADISH ROY** in the Chair]

फिर भी मैं तो कहता हूँ कि जब राजादो के पञ्चोस वर्ष बाद भी हमारे यहाँ खाद्य समस्या बनी हुई है तब हम को यह तो मानना ही पड़ेगा कि यहाँ कुछ न कुछ गलती है।

आज राजस्थान नहर क प्रश्न को ही नीजियुँ। उस को राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर ले कर श्रीमति-श्रीमत्र पूरा किया जायता देगा। खाद्य समस्या के सम्बन्ध में काफी गहन मित्र सबती है, लेकिन ज्यारी सरकार ने इस पर कोई विशेष ध्यान नहीं दिया। जैसे तो कुछ भी किया जाये कछ न कछ कमी आगती है लेकिन फिर भी कोशिश करनी चाहिए। हमारे पहले भी यह अकाल पर चुरे हैं लेकिन राजस्थान में तो एक नामर साल अकाल पडा करता है और साथ ही वहा की स्थिति बड़ी भयकर है। मैं ईश्वरवादी होने हुए भी भौतिक दृष्टि में मनुष्य दना चाहता हूँ कि इस धार हमारा सरकार को विशेष रूप से ध्यान देना चाहिए और समय रहते हुए इस स्थिति को सम्भालना चाहिए।

मैं समझता हूँ कि सरकार वहाँ अन्न की व्यवस्था भी करेगी और लोगों का खाना भी देगी, लेकिन वहाँ के लोगों की क्रशक्ति नहीं है। जैसे वास्तविक बात यह है कि सरकार कुछ भी कोशिश करने होता वही है जो ईश्वर चाहेगा। जैसे

मनचीती नहिं हुवे प्रभुचीनी तत्कान
मनुष्य ने मता किया था। स्वर्ग को
प्रभु भेजा दिया पतान ।

मनुष्य का कितना ही सोचें सदा उस के मन को नहीं हाँतो है, हम नहीं चाहते थे कि हमारे यहाँ लाखा गाय भरे, लेकिन भरी। इसलिए ईश्वर को इच्छा स हम सब ली सकते।

[श्री पन्नालाल ब्राह्मणाली]

हम भालिकावादी नहीं हैं हम ईश्वरवादी हैं, फिर भी हम मानें हैं कि हमारे यहाँ की जनसंख्या दिन प्रति दिन बढ़ती जाती है, लेकिन एक बात में कहना चाहना है कि हम को भगवान के भरण रक्षना चाहिए।

होथ निम्नित्त वने मत चिन्ता,

पञ्च दिही यही चन देयगा,

पाव पमार पट्टो कपो नहीं सावन,

पेन दिया मार्ल पेट भरेगो।

जीव जिने जन के थन के बह पन्थर

मे पट्टुचाय रइगो।

भूखहि भूख पुकारत हैं नर

मुन्दर न कथा भख मरेगो।

हमारे माता पिता का सगम हुआ फिर गर्भाधान हुआ। पहले एक माह फिर दो महीने, तीन महीने का हुआ, इस तरह स नौ महीने हुए। तब हम पैदा हुए। फिर मेरी माता की छालिया में त्रमश दूध साथ साथ रूधा। इतनी जबरदस्त प्लेनिंग भगवान ने की, लेकिन मनुष्य को भगवान पर भरोसा नहीं है। आज जनसंख्या के कारण कहा जाता है कि देश की बुरी स्थिति हो रही है आखिर हम को भगवान पर भी तो भरोसा रखना चाहिए।

मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि हमारी सरकार सब कुछ करना चाहती है। लेकिन उसकी प्लेनिंग ठीक नहीं है। कुछ भी हा हम को भगवान पर भरोसा करना चाहिए क्योंकि

हीनहार हिरद बसे बिसर जाय सब बुद्धि

जैसा हंसे लोगवा वैसी उपजे बुद्धि

सरकार प्लेनिंग को, कुछ भी करे जो कुछ

होता हाथ वही होगा। आज सरकार की प्लेनिंग गलत है। जैसा कहा गया देश में खाद्यान्न नहीं है। जो है भी उस को खाने मरने दामों पर खरीद करके हमारा गुआरा नहीं हो सकता। आज लोगों को 4 रुपये किलो चीनी खरीदनी पड़ती है। सरकार को शर्म आनी चाहिए कि हमारे मुक्त में चीनी नहीं है जबकि उमकी इतनी उपज हमारा यहाँ होती है। उस का कारण यह है कि सरकार की व्यवस्था ठीक नहीं है।

आज गरीब किसान के निय पानी नहीं है। वह क्या नहीं मिलता? क्याकि बाग बगीचों का पानी मिलता है जहाँ फल पैदा होते हैं। उन फलों को कौन खाता है? मेट माहकार खाते हैं। आज किसानों को बिजली नहीं मिलती। बिजली खर्च करने हैं बडबडे लाग रात रात भर उन के यहाँ बिजली जलती है, मादिबो से भी बिजली खर्च होती है, दूकाना में बिजली खर्च होती है, लेकिन ट्यूबवैल में बिजली खर्च नहीं की जाती है।

श्री बोल मोची वह देना कौन है ?

श्री परनामाल ब्राह्मण . कीई भी देता हों, आप को क्यों परेशानी है ? मैं आप से कहना चाहता हूँ कि

तुम्हो गुना उपदेश, समझ लो देत,

धर्मिक धारा,

दुनिया में कौन तुम्हारा ?

महगाई देख दिल हिलता है,

सब राशन महगा मिलता है,

सब रुपये के सिक्कों भाव से कीसे खले

गुजारा,

दुनिया में कौन तु-हारा ।

म इस प्रस्ताव का विरोध करता हूँ ।
उन्होंने जो भी बात कही है, पार्लोमेंटिकल
दृष्टि से कही है । मैं चाहता हूँ कि सरकार
का विरोध न किया जाय, समस्या का समाधान
बनवाना चाहिए ।

यह जा प्रस्ताव है मैं उस का विरोध
करता हूँ । मैं कुछ मौलिक सुझाव देने
वाला था । आप भी घंटी बजाने जा रह
हैं और ये भी सुनने को तैयार नहा ह ।
मैं मजदूर और वह भी हरिजन । पहले
तो हरिजन की बात सुनने ही नहा थे ।
अगर हम बात करते थे तो काल में जपली
झाल खेतों थे और हमारे कानों में सासा
डाल देने थे । इस लिये हमारी अच्छी
बात भी इन को बुरी लगती है ।

SHRI G. VISWANATHAN (Wandi-
wash): Before going into the grave food
situation in the country, let me remind the
Ministers of their statements before the
people and the country. In August this
year, **Shri Ammasahab P. Shinde**—let me
take him first because he takes a keener
interest in this than others—reaffirmed
that the country's food situation was
bright and the present situation did not
warrant any need for import from foreign
countries. His senior, **Shri F. A. Ahmed**,
said there was nothing to worry so far as
the food situation in the country was
concerned. **Shri Sher Singh** also con-
tributed. He said that the food situation was
not as bad as had been feared. An ex-
Minister, and now Chairman of the Food
Corporation of India, **Shri Iqbal Singh**,
came out with a glorious statement that
wheat products would be exported to the
Middle East in, he specified, July 1972.
After all these statements of Ministers, an
expert of the Agriculture Ministry came
out with a statement that India will not

only be self-sufficient in rice but will also
be surplus and would be in a position to
meet even the requirements of **Bingla
Desh**. Not only that; it was forecast that
by 1980, excess wheat would have to be
exported or destroyed to save the farmer
from losing on account of glut

After reading all these statements the
common man of India would have 'more to
the seventh heaven of delight. But what
is the truth? Government have now been
forced to disclose the naked truth to the
country. What is the reality? **Shri
Chavan**, the Finance Minister, comes with
a statement saying that the food situation
is very grave and we have to import
wheat, rice, pulses etc. The target at the
end of the Fourth Plan was 129 million
tonnes a year, which they are not going
to achieve now. According to the 5.6 per
cent stipulated in the Fourth Plan food
output for 1971-72 should have been 112
million tonnes. But what is the reality?
A shortfall of 6 million tonnes. This is the
difference between expectation and realis-
ation.

There is a steep shortfall in coarse
grains. The fall in acreage is 17.1 per
cent for Bajra, 11 per cent for pulses, 7.4
per cent for millets. Not only that. The
daily per capita availability of foodgrains
is going down from year to year. It has
declined from 16.8 oz in 1965 to 15.7 oz
in 1970.

SHRI PILLOO MODY: And 14.6 oz
now.

SHRI G. VASWANATHAN: I do not
have the latest figure. **Shri Pilloo Mody**
may give it.

The Government, particularly the Food
and Agriculture Ministry, should take the
entire blame for lulling this country into
an unjustified complacency by such state-
ments. The Government let themselves
carried away by some kind of euphoria,
and now we are faced with this grave
situation.

[Shri G. Viswanathan]

As for the green revolution, though I cannot say it has been an utter failure, Government cannot claim that they have achieved complete success. Food production should be increased. This cannot be done by a few States like Punjab, Haryana, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh only. All the States should take the responsibility to see that the production goes up. Tamil Nadu can claim that it has achieved tremendous success in high yielding varieties, in doubling the crop, in increasing the acreage. Not only that. I would like to tell the House, particularly my friend, Shri Pilloo Mody, that the highest per acre yield has been in Tamil Nadu. 1,794 kg. have been achieved, and I think the other States also will emulate this.

What are the reasons for the failure of food production, that we cannot achieve what we expected to? The failure of the monsoon is the main reason, but apart from this, land ceiling is also contributing to it. Not that I do not want the land ceiling, but whatever you fix, the Damocles' sword should not be hanging over the heads of the farmer. Whatever we fix should be a permanent one, and should not go down day by day.

Then, uneconomic holding is another reason, and one should not forget that that has also contributed to shortage. Then there is a shortage of fertilisers.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member's time is up.

SHRI G. VISWANATHAN: I shall finish in two minutes. We have to mechanise agriculture, and that is the main thing which I want the Government to take up. We understand that the demand for tractors is going down. I want the Ministry to find out the reason and give more and more tractors to the farmers.

Then, in 1971-72, the damage caused by floods was of the order of Rs. 626 crores as estimated. I want the Government to take immediate and effective measures for food control.

Again, so much grain is wasted. 15 per cent is wasted during harvesting, 10 per cent is wasted during processing, and five to seven per cent during storage. Hence, I want the Government to provide enough storage facilities in the rural areas. Again, the farmer in this country cannot always depend upon the vagaries of Nature. Apart from taking up the Ganga-Cauvery link project, I want the Government to take up the groundwater development programme which is going to be the only solution for the farmer for lift irrigation.

Then, there is not enough fertiliser in this country. I want the Minister to make a statement as to what steps are the Government taking to give enough fertilisers to the farmers.

Government must intensify the procurement drive, and they must take stringent measures against the blackmarketers and hoarders. Still I remember Nehru saying that the blackmarketer will be hanged on the nearest lamp-post. I want to know from the Minister whether they could not identify a blackmarketer or they could not get a lamp-post to hang him. (*Interruption*).

These are the main problems. I also suggest that all the States should try to implement the family planning programme.

SHRI SAKTI KUMAR SARKAR (Jayanagar): Sir, let me express my sentiments in Bengali so that I can do justice to the sentiments which I want to express. I request the Minister concerned to listen to the translation. *Sir, this discussion on the food situation in the country that is going on in the House today is a very timely one. Being able to participate in this discussion I want to place my views on the food situation prevailing in the country in general and in West Bengal in particular. It is undoubtedly true that

*The original speech was delivered in Bengali.

the country is today in the midst of a critical food situation and the crisis is getting deeper every day. From the picture that I have witnessed in Bengal, I can say without any exaggeration that thousands upon thousands of men, women and children have migrated from the villages to the city of Calcutta and are living in sub-human conditions under tin roofs, in Shanties under the trees and even on foot paths. This will be borne out from the issue of the Ananda Bazar Patrika dated the 11th October, 1972. These people are pinning for a morsel of food. West Bengal had been in the grip of unprecedented floods for two years and this was followed by terrible drought. At long last when in the month of September the rains came, we heaved a sigh of relief and thought that perhaps our fortune is turning for the better. But I am grieved to say that after the paddy crop had grown only a few inches, they all dried up for want of water. All the fields became perched and cracked up due to severe drought again. I cannot say about the whole of India, but being the son of a farmer I am intimately acquainted with the condition in West Bengal. There is terrible poverty, scarcity and the shadow of impending calamity is looming large. If we do not face the situation squarely and take immediate measures, then we will not only be unable to prevent famine but will also be unable to prevent the death of lakhs of people. Farmers are migrating to the cities *en masse*. It has also been reported in the news item mentioned by me earlier that the villagers are giving poison to their own children and abandoning their wives, being unable to feed them. What a terrible picture! In the first stages of this crisis they resorted to begging and to keep alive for sometime on the alms they received. But soon alms also were not to be found. I will recall, Mr. Chairman, the writings of Shri Bankim Chandra Chatterjee in his famous work 'Ananda Math'. There, while describing the terrible famine of Bengal of 1776, the author says, "The people went out begging for a while, but very soon alms also could not be had." This is the situation which is called famine and this famine conditions have appeared in West Bengal today.

There is no use blaming the Government for this critical situation today. Because this is not man-made. There may be some faults in our planning but in my living memory there has not been such total failure of monsoon at any other time. This crisis today is more due to natural calamities. To meet this critical situation the Central Government has taken steps to raise a good Rabi crop. Funds have been made available to the States for this purpose. But how can a bumper Rabi crop be raised without adequate water? I will place before you the conditions in West Bengal. I have read only in yesterday's newspaper that in my unfortunate State of West Bengal, the water of the 'Mayurakshi' reservoir of the D.V.C. will not be made available for irrigation purposes because that water is needed for generating power. How is it possible then, to raise a good crop? To meet the crisis created by this terrible drought. Sir, I feel that we will all have to unite together and devise means in co-operation with each other. It is true that stress must be laid on rationing of food-grains with a view to equitable distribution. But I regret to say that the Centre is not supplying enough foodgrains to West Bengal to meet the demand in ration shops. The Food Minister of West Bengal, Shri Kashi Kanta Maitra has said that the Centre is not supplying even 50 per cent of the requirement of rice in Bengal. The Chief Minister of West Bengal came here yesterday and I understand that the purpose of his visit was to acquaint the Central Government with the dreadful food situation in Bengal. I will therefore, request the Central Government and the hon. Minister Shri Shinde to do justice to West Bengal. This State has been the victim of terrible calamities in the past years like floods, droughts and the Indo-Pak war. These have completely shattered the economy of West Bengal and they are crippled to regain economic self-sufficiency. Therefore, I feel that the entire agro-economic planning in West Bengal needs to be recast. There is acute shortage of water in West Bengal. The only solution to my mind lies in resort to dry farming. Dry farming alone can solve the agricultural problems of Bengal as well as of

[Shri Sakti Kumar Sarkar]

India Therefore, I will request the Central Government to develop dry farming in its agricultural projects

I will again request Shri Shinde with folded hands to reconsider the case of West Bengal To consider the plight of the villagers of Sunderbans who are leaving their hearth and home in thousands and crowding the Streets of Calcutta in miserable conditions due to poverty and scarcity This is the panorama we see after 25 years of freedom I again stress that the food situation is very grave and needs immediate and serious tackling With this Sir I conclude my speech

डा० लक्ष्मीनारायण पांडेय (मदमीर)

सभापति महोदय खाद्य स्थिति के बारे में सदन में विभिन्न विचार व्यक्त किये गए हैं। सरकार इस बात से इन्कार नहीं कर सकती है कि उस की अदूरदर्शी नीति के कारण, उम की बीजनाशों के सही आकलन न होने के कारण और बीजनाशों की असफलता के कारण आज इस प्रकार की स्थिति उत्पन्न हुई है। श्री शिन्दे ने गत असेम्बली की 20 नारीख का बजटोर् में भाषण देने हुए कहा था कि हमारे पास पर्याप्त अनाज का भंडार है और हम किसी भी स्थिति का सामना करने के लिये तैयार हैं। इसी तरह श्री फख्रुद्दीन अहमद ने भी उन्ही महीने की 26 नारीख को हैशराबाद में एक भाषण में कहा कि हमारे पास 9 मिलियन अनाज का स्टॉक है और हमें किसी प्रकार का आयात करने की आवश्यकता नहीं है।

लेकिन आज हम देखने हैं कि विल मशी, श्री बड्ढाण, कहते हैं कि हमें गेहूँ, चावल और दालों का आयात करना पड़ सकता है और उन्होंने इस बारे में निश्चित आकड़े भी दिये हैं। सरकार सूखे और बाढ़ की

स्थिति की आड़ ले सकती है। मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि सूखे और बाढ़ की स्थिति को कभी न कभी उत्पन्न हानी ही रहती है। प्रश्न यह है कि सरकार ने ऐसे कौन से प्रभावी कदम उठाये हैं कि भविष्य में सूखे और बाढ़ की स्थिति होने पर हम सफलतापूर्वक उम का सामना करने में समर्थ हो सकें। मैं मंत्री महोदय का याद दिलाना चाहता हूँ कि उन्होंने गेहूँ और चावल के प्राक्यर-मेट के तदर्थ में इस सदन में उम आश्चर्य की घोषणा की थी कि हमें चिन्ता करने की आवश्यकता नहीं है और हमारी खाद्य स्थिति काफी अच्छी और दृढ़ है। किन्तु स्थिति बिपरीत है, खाद्यान्न का दाम प्रति दिन बढ़ते जा रहे हैं सरकार उनको रोकने में असफल है। दूसरी ओर मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि सरकार ने किसानों को विचार्ड और विद्युत की आवश्यकताओं को पूरा करने के लिये क्या कदम उठाये हैं? मैं ने पहले भी कहा है कि आवश्यकता इस बात की है कि किसान को उम की उपज का प्रोत्साहन-मूल्य दिया जायें। आज किसान निरुत्साहित हो रहा है। आप गेहूँ और गन्ने का उदाहरण ले सकते हैं। किसान को इन का पर्याप्त मूल्य नहीं मिल रहा है, इस लिए वह निरुत्साहित ही रहा है। दूसरी तरफ बाढ़ और सूखे के कारण भी देश में अनाज का संकट है।

अगर सरकार विदेशों से लगभग 20 लाख टन गेहूँ और डार्ई लाख चावल का आयात करने जा रही है। सरकार गेहूँ के आयात पर दो अरब पचास करोड़ डॉलर के आवाज पर अनाज अंतरव्यय कर करे

जा रही है। इस तरह सरकार का पूर्वानुमान सही न होने के कारण वर्तमान में उस को चान्सीम प्रतिशत कीमत अधिक देनी पड़ेगी। यदि उस ने पहले से ठीक अनुमान लगाया होता, तो आज वह थार्डिंग बर्मा जातान, रंगा और अमेरिका से 40 प्रतिशत कम दाम पर आयात करने की स्थिति में होंगे। तब उस ने कहा था कि अन्न का आयात करने की आवश्यकता नहीं है। अब सरकार जो सवा तीन करोड़ पैसे की विदेशी मुद्रा खर्च करेगी, वह उस देश की जनता पर एक बोझ पड़ेगा। यह स्थिति सरकार का अनुमान ठीक न होने के कारण उत्पन्न हुई है। सरकार की दायपूर्ण खाद्यनीति के कारण किसी भी राज्य में स्थिति अच्छी नहीं है। उस का मध्य प्रदेश और उत्तर प्रदेश को दोषपूर्ण नीति है। मध्य प्रदेश के मुख्य मंत्री ने, जो कि मन्मथ दल में सम्बन्धित है, यह घोषणा की है कि हमें केन्द्र से पर्याप्त अनाज नहीं मिल रहा है, हमारे आटा मिले बन्द हो रही है, भोजपुर में इन्डियन रोटी गायब हो गई है और खानिपुर में होने जा रही है, अन्य क्षेत्रों में भी स्थिति खराब है। श्री मेठी ने कहा है कि अगर यही स्थिति रही, तो मन्ते अनाज की दुकानों पर भी ठीक से वितरण नहीं हो पायेगा। यह ठीक है कि सरकार ने मन्ते अनाज की दुकानों की संख्या 1,25,000 से बढ़ा कर 1,58,000 कर दी है। किन्तु वहाँ पर जो 11.8 लाख टन अनाज भेजा जा रहा है, वह पर्याप्त नहीं हो रहा है। गाँवों में भी अनाज नहीं पहुँच रहा है। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ

कि सरकार ने गाँवों में अनाज पहुँचाने के लिये क्या व्यवस्था की है।

क्या केन्द्रीय सरकार को इस बात की जानकारी है कि अनाज और तेल चोरी-छिपे बंगलादेश के रस्ते नेपाल और चीन जा रहा है? सरकार अनाज के साथ साथ लाखों टन तेल मगाने की बात भी करती है। मैं इस में तटस्थ जानना चाहता हूँ कि दो महीनों में चावल के मगाने की मात्रा कितनी बढ़े है और गेहूँ के दाम भी बढ़े हैं। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि उस मामले में एक लाख टन अनाज की क्या भूमिका रही है? राजस्थान में एक लाख टन अनाज के बाजार 45 रुपये से 48 रुपये प्रति क्विंटल और मक्का 15 रुपये से 16 रुपये प्रति क्विंटल के हिसाब से खरीदा। आज राजस्थान में अनाज है और लोग भूख में मर रहे हैं। राजस्थान, उत्तर प्रदेश मध्य प्रदेश और महाराष्ट्र में भूख में मर चुके हैं। श्री शिन्दे के निर्वचन-क्षेत्र में भी भूख में मर चुके हैं। वह इस बात में पना लगाये।

मध्य प्रदेश के अन्तर प्रदेश बिहार के अन्तर तथा गुजरात के कुछ भागों में मृत्यु हुई है और मृत्यु होने के समाचार मिल रहे हैं। मध्य प्रदेश के जसपुर क्षेत्र में 12 लोग मरे हैं और राजस्थान में तो यह दशा है कि लोग अपने अपने घरों की, गाँवों को छोड़ कर बने जा रहे हैं और घाम खा रहे हैं। गुजरात के अन्तर तो और भी दयनीय स्थिति हो गई है। एक लाख टन अनाज के बारे में यह

[श्री लक्ष्मीनारायण पांडेय]

कहता हूँ कि उसने वहाँ 45 रुपये से 56 रुपये प्रति क्विंटल मक्का खरीदी और अब लोगों को आवश्यकता पड़ी तो नहीं दिया। राज्य सरकार ने मांगा तब नहीं दिया। लेकिन प्राइवेट ट्रेडर्स को वहाँ 80—85 रुपये प्रति क्विंटल पर वह आप ने बेचा। लोग भूखों मर रहे हैं लेकिन आप का जो खाद्या निगम है वह अष्टाचार पर तुला हुआ है। मध्य प्रदेश में भी खाद्य निगम अपने काम करने में असमर्थ है। इसलिए वहाँ के मुख्य मंत्री ने कहा है कि हम अपने यहाँ खाद्य निगम को काम नहीं करने देंगे। स्वतन्त्र व्यापारियों को काम करने देंगे। व्यापारी अपने हाथ में यह काम ले कर लोगों को सुविधा पहुंचायेंगे। लेकिन आपकी घोषणा है कि सरकार अनाज का काम अपने हाथ में लेगी तो मैं जानना चाहता हूँ अखिर आपकी नीति क्या है ?

अन्त में मुझे यही निवेदन करना है कि इस सारे संकट को दूर करना है तो आपके जो कृषि वैज्ञानिकों द्वारा किए कृषि संबंधी अन्वेषण हैं उन्हें गांव गांव तक पहुंचायें, किसानों तक पहुंचाएं। किसानों को प्रोत्साहित मूल्य मिले, उन को छोटी छोटी सिंचाई की सुविधाएं मिल। आज आप की छोटी छोटी सिंचाई की योजनाएं उन को उपलब्ध नहीं हैं, वह उन्हें उपलब्ध कराएं। आप कभी बिजली के सप्लस की बात करते हैं, कभी बिजली की कमी की बात करते हैं। लेकिन स्थिति यह है कि किसानों को बिजली नहीं मिलती

है। तो बिजली किसानों को मिले, नहीं तो आप की सारी हरित क्रान्ति की योजना अधूरी रह जायेगी और आप खाद्य संकट का सामना नहीं कर सकेंगे।

एफ० सी० आई० भी खाद्य संकट के मामले में दोषी है। पर्याप्त उत्पादन है। मैं उन मामलों को दोहराना चाहता हूँ जो यहाँ सदन के सामने आये हैं। मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि एफ० सी० आई० आज भारी मुनाफा करके और इस बोटले के अन्दर शामिल हो कर के एक नया संकट खड़ा करने जा रहा है। आप उस के बारे में क्या करने जा रहे हैं ? मेरा निवेदन है कि आप ने यदि इन बातों पर ध्यान दिया और जो मैंने सुझाव रखे हैं उन पर अमल करेंगे तो आप इस खाद्या संकट को ठीक करने में समर्थ हो सकेंगे अन्यथा स्थिति और ज्यादा बिगड़ेगी और देश के सामने जनवरी और फरवरी के अंदर खाद्या संकट आ सकता है जिससे निपटने में सरकार असमर्थ सिद्ध हो सकती है। सरकार उससे बचे और जनता को भी बचाए, मंत्री महोदय इस के लिये क्या करने जा रहे हैं वह हमें बताएं ?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Pilloo Mody.

SHRI K. S. CHAVDA: Sir, you have to call members according to party.

You should have called me before calling Shri Mody.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You will get your chance.

SHRI K. S. CHAVDA: You should call me first. This is not fair. As a protest, I will not speak on this motion.

SHRI PILOO MODY (Godhra): Mr. Chairman, in order to appease my light-headed colleagues over here, I am willing to accept that anybody who looks at me would not believe that there is a food problem in this country and if they look at the Minister they will believe that there is a very grave food problem in this country. Therefore, the only solution can be switching places between us.

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: Are you really interested in coming over to this side?

SHRI PILOO MODY: It is just to appease my light-headed comrades here.

We have heard nothing but political propaganda for the last so many years, and the government and the country have become a victim of this propaganda. We have had the Members of the ruling party get up and defend what I cannot understand how they can possibly defend, and that is the failure of the Government. We have had a very worthy colleague like Mr. P. Venkatsubbiah blaming the mover of the Motion and saying that he was apportioning the blame as if that was the greatest crime he could commit at this particular moment, and, finally, ended up by apportioning all the blame on God who is not here in the House to defend himself.

Then, my hon. friend, Dr. Karni Singh added another dimension and provided the Ministry with another excuse by saying that it was all due to the increase in population. I strongly recommend to my hon. friend here, by all means you do whatever you want to control population but don't provide the Government with all manner of lame excuses. Sooner or later, the Government will have to develop the character to accept the blame for its own failures. But since it is not prepared to do so, today I am prepared to take the whole blame for the famine that is going to occur in this country. I am not ashamed of it. I take the blame

because I blame myself for not having worked hard enough to throw this Government out of power lock, stock and barrel. That is why I am quite prepared to take the blame for the misery that is being faced or is going to be faced by the people of this country.

So many people have get up and said, "I congratulate the Government for having said that they will make marginal imports this year." Several people have congratulated the Government for having made a great announcement that they will make marginal imports this year. I question the mentality of those people who think that a decision like that needs congratulating but a famine such as we are facing requires no condemnation.

It is the prime responsibility of the Government to feed its people. We have appealed on many occasions and we have asked so many times that they should change their policies so that when droughts do occur as they will with the frequency of once every seven years at least, their effect is mitigated. Historical experience has shown that there is one bad year every seven years, one good year, and five years which are neither good nor bad. All this that Government knows. But it takes no action during six years to do anything that will mitigate the effect of famine when it does occur.

I am absolutely shocked at the pusillanimous manner in which we accept lame excuses. The Prime Minister boldly got up the nerve and said, it is the duty of all developed countries to help underdeveloped countries—developed countries must help developing countries. This was a very noble sentiment. But the Prime Minister can do nothing when one State which is slightly better off stops the flow of food to another State in which there is famine. We cannot organise our own affairs as one country. And the Prime Minister is so brash as to lecture to the rest of the world as to how they should behave and help developing nations.

[Shri Piloo Modj]

Take the example of the Food Corporation of India. I think, it has been amply proved that there is nothing but the worst type of corruption in the Food Corporation. The Chairman of the Corporation who is responsible for it still continues to occupy his chair. The Government has not even moved in the matter. I have written letters to the Prime Minister, assurances have been made, an inquiry has been ordered. And yet no action is taken in a vital year such as this when we must continue to play politics.

What has happened about the 'Labour union'? The Chairman brings about a Labour union a bogus labour union which does not enjoy any popular support and the Government does nothing to stop that with the result that the workers are agitated. Even the depleted resources of the Food Corporation will not be adequately available to the country when it needs it that most.

17 hrs.

We have said so many times that it is basically the Plan priorities which are wrong. The Second Plan was wrong, the Third Plan was wrong, the Fourth Plan was wrong still, and the Fifth Plan which they have projected is absurd. And yet they continue and persist in this sort of ridiculous planning which has absolutely no bearing to the requirements of the country. At the time of the Second Plan many of us saw very clearly what the condition of this country was going to be 15 years hence. Even our wildest expectations have been belied. It is much worse than even what I expected it to be. And the main reason for it is the priorities set in the plan—a total disregard for minor irrigation, a total disregard for infrastructure activity, no adequate and serious programme for afforestation, no decision on important projects like the Narmada and the Rajasthan Canal. What can you possibly expect where every decision of the Government is taken purely for political considerations, where every act is purely for political reasons, without any concern for the country? Look at the atten-

dance in this House. We are going to face a serious famine this year. I really do not know how you are going to feed this country from the month of March. Look at the interest that is evinced by the so-called representatives of the people. Sir, I think, the situation is much too tragic to comment upon, and the sooner the Government wakes up and delineates very clearly what its policy is going to be 1, 2, 3 and 4, the better it will be.

17 02 hrs.

[SHRI K. N. TIWARY in the Chair]

The other day Mr. Chavan made a heroic speech, I do not know from where he captured his heroism. He made a heroic speech the other day saying 'We will do something.' And what did he ultimately promise? He said that we must accept the responsibility for feeding 50 per cent of the people. The other 50 per cent can die.

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: You are very unfair, you are distorting facts.

SHRI PILOO MODY: I have absolutely no intention of being fair or reasonable.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You were in the House when Mr. Chavan was speaking.

That is on record. You should not mislead the House.

SHRI PILOO MODY: I am not. (Interruption) I have to clarify the situation. Mr. Chavan, I know, did not mean what he said, but he did say this because he was trying to make brave sounds.

SHRI NIMBALKAR (Kolhapur): He did not mean what you understood.

SHRI PILOO MODY: I will compare my understanding with his and yours at some other time.

He did say in an attempt to be heroic, in an attempt to speak to the gallery instead of speaking to the House that

[Shri B V Naik]

I wonder whether this urge to get upto power can get the better of our common sense so much so that we find that this is being made into a political issue. I do not want to elongate the argument on this point, but, I would like to state at this juncture itself that one of the main and principal ingredients of food production is water. We have got very reliable sources of information that in this country in the course, not of the Fifth but in the course of the Sixth Five Year Plan (*Interruptions*) I stand by it. In the Course of the Sixth Five Year Plan when most of us who are sitting here will still be given the good option to live

SHRI PILOO MODY But outside the House

SHRI B V NAIK Why outside? Even inside the House also (*Interruptions*) Sir, I am trying to remove the sense of diffidence

MR CHAIRMAN Mr Naik, it is all part of the game. Don't get yourself entangled in that

SHRI B V NAIK If we do not have the confidence of solving this food problem then definitely I am joining hands with Mr Piloo Mody that we will be out of this House. If we are going to solve the food problem in the foreseeable future I think there is every reason for us to come back here (*Interruptions*)

With regard to the irrigation resources, it is reliably learnt that in the course of the Sixth Five Year Plan, starting in the year 1977, in the course of these river waters disputes, whether it be Narmada, or whether it be Krishna or whether it be of any other river, there will be no major irrigation project possible. I think, Sir, it is time that we solve these inter-State political problems in our country. I would suggest that as far as these cases are concerned whether it is Kaveri or whether it is Krishna or whether it is Narmada or whether it is Chambal, all these problems of river waters must be solved and if the concerned States cannot come to an amicable settlement, it is for

the Ministry here, it is for the Centre to plan and see that the entire food production programme of a long-term nature is not scuttled on grounds not at all economical but purely political

श्री भागीरथ शंकर (साबुद्रा) माननीय सभापति जी, यह बात स्पष्ट हो गई है कि देश में खाद्यान्न की समस्या प्रबल रूप धारण करती जा रही है। मैं इस बात को नहीं दोहराऊंगा कि यह समस्या कैसे पैदा हुई और किमते पैदा की। इस सब में माननीय सदस्यों ने अलग अलग प्रकाश डाला है। मैं कहना चाहूंगा कि मंत्री जी ने अभी तक अलग अलग स्टेटमेंट दिए हैं। पिछले कुछ समय में उठने कहा कि देश में इतना अनाज है कि हम कई सालों तक जनता को खिना सकने हैं और अब वह रहे हैं कि अनाज बाहर ले जाएंगे। आज भी वस्तुस्थिति को रिपोर्ट उनके पास नहीं है। जो रिपोर्ट उनके पास है या जो उनके पास आने वाली रिपोर्ट है अनाज के सबंध में वह भोगलत होती है। जहां पर चार आने फसल होने को होती है वहां से उनके पास 8 आने की रिपोर्ट आ जाती है। ऐसी स्थिति में मैं कहना चाहूंगा कि यदि अभी भी वे घोखे में रहे तो स्थिति बहुत गम्भीर बन जाएगी। यहाँ पर बैठकर हम दिल्ली या बड़े बड़े शहरों की बात कर सकते हैं लेकिन देहातो की आज वास्तविक हालत यह है कि वहाँ पर अनाज नहीं मिल रहा है। जहाँ पर कुछ अनाज मिल भी रहा है उसके साथ इतने बट चुके हैं कि किसान और साधारण मजदूर खरीद नहीं सकता है। अगर कहीं पर अनाज पहुँच भी गया तो लोगों के पास उसको खरीदने के लिए पैसा नहीं है। यदि खाद्य नियंत्रण का अनाज मिलता भी है तो

बहु अनाज इतना खराब पहुँच रहा है कि आने वाले समय से मैं समझता हूँ लोहा को काफी परेशानी उठानी पड़ेगी। उससे श्रीमारिया पैदा होने की सम्भावना है। तो इसकी श्रौं भी शासन को ध्यान देना चाहिए।

हरित क्रान्ति के नाम पर जो नारा लगाया जाता रहा है, मैं समझता हूँ उसको हल क्रान्ति कहना चाहिए था। उस हरित क्रान्ति को यदि हल के रूप में कार्यान्वित किया जाता तो मैं समझता हूँ आज यह समस्या हमारे सामने इस देश में नहीं होती। जितना भी पैसा खर्च किया जाता है सका आधा हिस्सा सरकारी अधिकारियों की जेब में चला जाता है तथा समय पर उस पैसे का उपयोग न होने की वजह से आज खाद्य समस्या इस देश में प्रबल रूप धारण करती जा रही है। मैं शासन का ध्यान इस ओर दिलाना चाहूँगा कि यदि हमने भूमि सुधार के लिए पहाड़ी परियाज और बजर भूमि के लिए खाद, बीज, ट्रैक्टर आदि आधुनिक औजार नहीं दिए तो यह समस्या श्रौं भी गम्भीर रूप धारण करेगी और उसका नतीजा क्या होगा वह आप और हम सभी जानते हैं।

मैं मध्य प्रदेश से आता हूँ, मेरा क्षेत्र बहुत ही पिछड़ा हुआ है। एक हफ्ते पहले वहाँ पर देहाड़ों में हालात यह थी कि अनाज नहीं मिल रहा था। लोग खरीदना भी चाहते हैं तो अनाज नहीं है। ऐसी स्थिति में वहाँ के लोग आखिर क्या करेंगे? ऋषि प्रोषाम के नाम पर राहत कार्य चलाए गए हैं, ऐसा कहा जाता है। केंद्रीय सरकार भी कोषणा करती है और

राज्य सरकार भी कहती है लेकिन यदि मीके पर जाकर आप देखें तो लोगों के पास कोई काम नहीं है, कोई धधा नहीं है, उनके पास अनाज नहीं है। स्थिति बहुत ही गम्भीर रूप धारण कर चुकी है। यदि समय रहते शासन नहीं चेता तो स्थिति श्रौं भी गंभीर हो जायेगी।

SHRI BIRENDER SINGH RAO
(Mahendragarh) Mr Chairman, Sir,
we are all very happy that Shri Fate-singhrao Gaekwad and Dr Karni Singh have raised a very important issue before the House, namely the food problem that the country is facing

All sections of the House have agreed that there is a really serious situation. Some have attributed the blame to the vagaries of weather, some to God and some to increase in population and Members from the Treasury Benches have thus tried to defend the Government. But when they say that there is really a bad situation in the country, I think that it is agreed that Government is responsible for all this.

We have to briefly look at the record of the performance of Government during the 25 years after Independence. We had about 50 million tons of foodgrains produced in the country when we became independent. During the past 25 years, the production has gone up to something between 90 and 100 million tons. It would have increased at a much faster rate, if only Government had followed correct policies.

We would like to know from Shri Annasaheb P Shinde when he replies what is the additional acreage that has been brought under irrigation after Independence. Our irrigation today is for hardly 20 per cent of the total cultivated area which is insignificant for a country like India with so many rivers. We can only be proud of two things in this country, namely our peasantry and our agri-culture. The peasantry has been ruined

[Shri Brender Singh Rao]
and agriculture has been destroyed. That is what we have come to after 25 years.

There are people who would say that this is all because lands have not been nationalised, and there is no collective farming. I would like to ask those friends: If collectivisation of land could help, why are Russia and China begging for food in outside countries today? Why is Russia purchasing wheat from America? If Government could do better without the efforts of the peasants or peasant proprietors, why did the Communist Party allow the peasants to return their lands for over 20 years after the Russian revolution, that is, the people who are called kulaks? I would suggest that Government should look into all this seriously.

The situation is going to be worse. The Raj Committee's report is there before us, and the situation will be so bad, I am sure, after one or two years, that peasants would be bribing the officials to get their names struck off from the proprietary rights register because they would not be able to pay these taxes. The ceilings are also unreal. I would suggest that if Government want to improve the food situation in this country, then let them send all their advisers out. Let them be given the permissible area of land, and let them live on this. Let them educate their children on this. Government should have advisers who can really give them practical farmers' advice.

We tried it in Haryana when the UF Government was formed in 1967. The food production in that State in the previous year was 21 lakhs tonnes, but because of the programmes, policies and incentives provided by Government, it went up by 100 per cent to about 42 lakhs tonnes in one year. I am sure that the production in the country can be doubled if only Government would look after the interests of the farmers, if they would only run water in the canals, if only they would run the factories at night to provide electricity to the farmers in the villages during the day.

There is no fertiliser available in this country except nitrogen. There is no potash or phosphates. There is only urea which they use for everything, and that is going to damage our lands.

The policies pursued in the past should now change. Incentives should be provided to the farmers. Their confidence should be restored. Vast areas are without irrigation. Take the case of my own constituency. In two districts there is no Government irrigation at all. How much of irrigation have Government provided there so far?

MR CHAIRMAN: Now the hon. Member should conclude and give a chance to others. He is the third person from his party to speak.

SHRI BIRENDER SINGH RAO: I am the only spokesman from my party. I would request Government to see that cheap electricity is provided to the farmers.

Prof. Chher Singh made a statement about sugar. During the past five years, the minimum price of sugarcane fixed by Government was Rs 7.90. Five years ago the sugarcane price was Rs 7.50 a quintal when sugar was selling at Rs 1.50 per kg. Now the minimum price of sugarcane is Rs 8. There is no appreciable increase. But Government finds an excuse for increasing the price of sugar which is now available in the open market at Rs 4.50 a kg. The farmers are not getting any benefit.

Since my time is up, I conclude with this.

SHRI VASANT SATHE (Akola): We are today discussing a very serious subject. I wish to thank Shri Fatehsingh Rao Gokwad for inviting the attention of the House to such a serious situation in the country. As the Finance Minister said the other day, we are really going to face the worst drought situation in this country that we have seen not only since independence but probably for the last

50 years. In Maharashtra particularly, the situation is going to be very bad. We had drought consecutively for three years now. There are regions particularly in Poona district which have been hit. In one place, out of 30 years, for 27 years there had been drought. This is the serious condition. We will be short of even drinking waters this may be the seriousness of the situation in March or so.

Therefore, it is not a question of trying to find fault with this party or that party or Government. Supposing the Opposition were in power, if they put the entire blame on Government, now would they have got over the problem? This is a situation which must be met on a war footing. This is the responsibility of the entire country. Therefore, we must all rise to the occasion and face the situation. Can we take up this challenge not as a party but as a nation and meet it?

There are certain long-term measures and long-term aspects of the problem. As was rightly pointed out by Dr. Karni Singh, the population increase has been a major source of difficulty. In the last 25 years, we have added 22 crores to our population, the population of USA. Every year we add an Australia to the population of the country. Although we have doubled the food production since 1950, we are not able to meet our requirements. Hence there have to be long-term measures. One of them will be population control. Another will be river valley projects like the Ganga-Cauvery link. Floods will have to be controlled. The effects of shortage of water will have to be mitigated.

Therefore, we have to take up this problem not as a party issue, finding fault with a particular party or Government, but as a nation. Let us rise to the occasion and tackle it. There is no use making an issue of it for exploitation on party lines. Taking people out into the streets and burning buses is not going to solve the problem. We will have to take the responsibility as a nation.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are not giving any solution. You are only giving a lecture. That will lead us nowhere. Conclude now.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: As far as Government are concerned, we must concentrate all our effort on the small farmer. They must help him in this rabi season, particularly to produce maximum food. That can be done by helping him with seeds, fertilisers, pesticides and other means or wherewithal. They must be rushed to him immediately.

The last but not the least that we must do is to control our system of distribution. Even today, whatever food we have in this country, if we can distribute it properly, I am sure we will be able to meet the challenge, and we may not be required to import food, even at this critical juncture and critical situation.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour): The latest Government report says that in view of the marked improvement and availability in food-grains in 1971-72 and in accordance with the decision taken five years ago, concessional imports of foodgrains under PL 480 have been stopped from January, 1972 with the expectation of yet another good crop in 1971-72; I hope it is an expectation. It is expected that the good food position in the country will remain comfortable in 1972.

The Economic Survey—it is the latest one, 1971-72—says that the other important aspect of increasing production of foodgrains impinges upon the monetary sector of the economy inasmuch as the demand for funds for procurement operations have increased sharply. The outstanding advance against the foodgrains reached the level of Rs. 431 crores towards the end of July, 1971. What sort of drum-beating operations, you understand.

Dr. Ashoka Methta, once the principal economic adviser to the Government of India and also the Chairman of the Agricultural Prices Commission said recently that the sustained increase in food production has just seen 15 million tonnes between 1964 and 1965 and 1972 and

[Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu]

1973, and is almost entirely made up of rice and the output of wheat. Equally noteworthy is the other fact that the average annual rate of growth of food production at 1.8 per cent during these eight years is less than a half of what was attained in the period between 1950-51 and 1964-65. Mr. Shinde, you are very brilliant.

I say there is an unprecedented food situation in recent years. The prices have risen. There is unemployment. *Garibi Hatao* is a complete myth. There is near-famine in the true sense. I know if West Bengal does not get adequate quantity of cereals and rice, the rationing system will come to a collapse. I have been enquiring from various people who say that the flour mills in the country are working at a capacity of 25 per cent. That is your litmus test of attainment and efficiency. (Interruption)

The public distribution itself says that in 1968-69, in million tonnes, it was 10.1. In 1969-70 it has come down, because of socialism, to 9.5. In 1970-71—again socialism—it came down to 8.8. And in 1971-72—*Garibi Hatao* done—it came down to 7.7.

According to the Reserve Bank's report, currency and finance, the most authentic document that one can lay one's hand on, the stock position in 1971-72 is 7.9 million tonnes, although the Government had been quite wrongly and incorrectly and deliberately claiming it was 9.5 million tonnes. I do not wish to say much about what the procurement target was. Mr. Shinde said nice things: that the market price is higher than the grain procurement price, and that the grain procurement is likely to fall short of 4.5 million tonnes by one million tonnes or more. Mr. Shinde told the Rajya Sabha today like that. I congratulate him for speaking out what the actual position is.

The *Rain God's* kindness is the only capital that they have got. This green revolution is a myth. The Agricultural Prices Commission, in its report on price policy for wheat cereal for 1971-72 season, made it clear that the bumper

harvesting in 1970-71 was due to the fact that it happened to be a good year monsoon. The significant fact was that out of the increase of 8.3 million tonnes in that year as much as four million tonnes had come from Rajasthan alone and would seem to be almost entirely the result of favourable weather. Please note it, Mr. Subramanian and Mr. Shinde.

I say that about the *rabi* season, drive, your performance is again very gloomy. There is nothing before us to look forward to. Precious foreign exchange and scarce capital reserves have to be spent now. Once they boasted that they have done the green revolution, food problem was solved and they had started exporting. Where is the green revolution, Mr. Shinde? And why this hush-hush? This paper comes out; Food Secretary reported to be on a secret mission abroad. We know Mr. B. K. Nehru has rushed from Shillong down to New York and Washington for begging food. I know they will again go for Nixon vandana; there is no other alternative. That is why Billy Graham, C.I.A. agent has been allowed to function for seven days-in border areas. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: It has no relevance.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Hon'ble Prime Minister said to us that the Baptist Mission which is hosting Billy Graham is a CIA agent. Therefore, this Government will politically enslave the country once again to the Yankees for their malpractices. They talked about nationalisation of wholesale foodgrains. What has happened? Now another resolution has come; it may be postponed for the time being. What a wonderful mutual admiration society they have between the Government and the Congress Party. This Government should be condemned utterly; otherwise the whole country and the people will die of starvation.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE): The resolution moved by Shri Gaekwad—unfortunately he is not here—has given a good opportunity to this House to discuss a very important problem in our economy which concerns millions of our people. There

were many constructive speeches, for instance that of Dr. Karni Singh. Mr. Piloo Mody was very angry with him for making a constructive speech. Dr. Karni Singh, Mirdhaji and a number of our colleagues, even Mr. Viswanathan though he made some political charges because otherwise he could not justify his existence here—made some very constructive suggestions in the debate. Even one of Mr Jyotirmoy Bosu's colleagues, Battacharjee, a very senior Member, made one statement charging my party, but he too made some constructive suggestions in his speech.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: This is his first House. Senior Member!

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE. I am not allergic to criticism. Sometimes even Members from this side criticise the Government and I welcome the criticism, it helps us to understand the issue. The Opposition have a right to criticise; I never misunderstand it. But what I object to is distortion of facts. For instance Mr. Piloo Mody said that Mr. Chavan stated on the floor of the House: we will feed only fifty per cent of the population I take serious objection to such distortion of facts. Mr. Mody might criticise us and say our policies are wrong; but he cannot distort facts.

Similarly Mr. Pande—unfortunately he is not also here—made a statement that there were no stocks in Orissa for a few weeks; he also said that a number of starvation deaths took place. What are the facts? On 1st August, 1972 there were 1.29 lakh tonnes of rice in Orissa and on 1st September, 1972, 70,000 tonnes. Even then during that month 33,000 tonnes wheat and rice in addition were sent from the Centre to Orissa. To say that Orissa was without food, people starved, not even an ounce was available—such statements are better avoided. Therefore I say: if you have to criticise, you may criticise policies and other things, but never distort facts...

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: They are learning from you,

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: I am coming to Mr. Bosu a little later. My time is limited; I shall appeal to all sides to permit me to make a few observations because the Bangla Desh President is coming and we have to go and welcome him. I request Mr. Bosu to help a little. I was submitting that charges of starvation deaths are very lightly made. I am not denying that in certain areas, the situation is difficult. For instance, I come from an area where I have not seen such a difficult situation in the past. But to say that starvation deaths are taking place is completely misrepresenting and giving a wrong picture to the country. I challenge the hon. Members to give the names of these persons.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: On a point of order.

कुछ माननीय सदस्य : सभापति
महोदय

सभापति महोदय : यह कोई तरीका नहीं है। चार चार सदस्य खड़े हो रहे हैं। उन्होंने प्वाइंट ऑफ ऑर्डर उठाया है और आप बीच में कूद पड़े हैं.....

श्री ठाकुर चन्द्र कश्यप (मुरेना) :
मंत्री महोदय कह रहे हैं कि नाम बताएं।
नाम बनाए जा चुके हैं। (इंटरप्लानज)

सभापति महोदय : ऐसा आप करेंगे तो रिकार्ड पर नहीं जाएगा। एक से ज्यादा सदस्य प्रगर एक साथ बोलेंगे तो मैं हाउस को एडजर्न कर दूंगा। रिप्लाय नहीं होगा।

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: On a point of order. I did not expect that he would mislead the House. In the last session, I

[Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu]
have given a list of 30 starvation deaths in Malda I was permitted to lay it on the Table It is in the library Government has not contradicted it in these three months He must withdraw his remarks

SHRI ANNASAHLE P SHINDE We take these allegations very seriously when ever they are made by anybody We refer specific names to the State Governments Full enquiries are made Even the list given here was referred to the State Government The State Government has said that nobody has died of starvation If hon Members have any other names I am prepared to refer those names to the State Governments About every single name serious enquiry will be held These are not light matters

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : ये मदन को गुमराह कर रहे हैं। नाम दिए हुए हैं। मंत्री जो ने कहा है नाम बताए जाए। वे बताए जा चुके हैं। जानबूझ कर वह मदन को गुमराह कर रहे हैं। वह गलत बयानी कर रहे हैं।

MR CHAIRMAN He has not misled the House A point of order was raised by Mr Bosu and he has replied to it If he has misled the House you can bring a motion according to the rules

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री (पटना)
इनकवायरी कमेटी आप बिठाए।

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय बिहार की विधान सभा में जोगी के नाम पेश किए गए हैं। वे रिकार्ड पर हैं। उसके बाद भी कहते हैं कि कोई मौत नहीं हुई है।

सभापति महोदय उन्होंने कहा है कि स्टेट गवर्नमेन्ट को मीटर रेफर किया गया था। वहाँ से जवाब आया है कि कोई डैथ्स नहीं हुई हैं।

एक माननीय सदस्य पार्लियामेंटरी कमेटी क्यों नहीं बिठाते हैं।

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री सभापति महोदय, उन्होंने हाउस को बिलेज किया है। या तो वह उम को विद्वह करे नहीं तो हम उनके बिलेज को मन्जूर करने हैं। (व्यवधान)

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय हम उनके बिलेज को चुनौती देते हैं। (व्यवधान) मंत्री महोदय मारे देश को गुमराह कर रहे हैं। (व्यवधान) वह पार्लियामेंट के मेम्बरो की एक कमेटी बनाएँ, जो इस बारे में जांच करे। हमें राज्य सरकार पर भरोसा नहीं है। (व्यवधान) उन्होंने गलत जानकारी दी है। (व्यवधान)

सभापति महोदय माननीय सदस्य बैठ जायें। (व्यवधान)

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय सभापति महोदय, इस सदन के बहुत से माननीय सदस्यो ने इन और उस धार से तथ्य दिये हैं कि उन के क्षेत्रों या राज्यों में लोटा भूक से मरे हैं। मंत्री महोदय ने यह कह कर सदन को गुमराह किया है कि हम ने राज्य सरकार से जानकारी मगवाई है। उनकी इस बात में दम नहीं है। इन सदन के सदस्यों की एक समिति बनाई जाए, जो इस विषय में जांच करें। (व्यवधान)

सभापति महोदय छ बजे बफनादेश के प्रेसिडेंट आ रहे हैं। माननीय सदस्य उमसे पहले मिनिस्टर का जवाब ही जाने दें। (व्यवधान)

श्री कलकत्ता वर्मा (उज्जैन): सभा-
पति महोदय, आप मंत्री महोदय से विवक्षा
कराएँ। (व्यवधान)

सभापति महोदय : मैं नहीं कराऊंगा।
(व्यवधान)

श्री कलकत्ता वर्मा : तो हम उनको
नहीं सुनगे। (व्यवधान)

सभापति महोदय : माननीय सदस्य
बैठ जायें। अगर वे इस तरह शोर करते
होगे, तो मुझे उनको नेम करना पड़ेगा।
(व्यवधान)

डा० लक्ष्मीनारायण पाण्डेय : सभापति
महोदय, मेरा व्यवस्था का प्रश्न है।

मैंने प्रश्न उठाया था कि कई राज्यों से भ्रष्ट
से मृत्युएँ हुई हैं। मंत्री महोदय ने बिना
जांच किये कहा है कि यह ठीक नहीं है।
मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि मंत्री महोदय इस
की जांच करने के लिए सदन की एक समिति
बनायें। अगर तब मेरा चार्ज गलत साबित
हो, तब तो वह कह सकते थे, लेकिन बिना
जांच कराये उन का यह कहना ठीक नहीं है।
मंत्री महोदय ने सदन को गुमराह करने का
प्रयत्न किया है। (व्यवधान)

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री सभापति महोदय,
अगर मैं स्टार्वेशन डेप्ट के चार्ज को
सम्बन्धित न कर सकूँ, तब आई विल रिजाइन
फॉर माई सीट। (व्यवधान)

सभापति महोदय : माननीय सदस्य
बैठ जायें। (व्यवधान)

श्री हुकम चन्द कश्वाय : लोग भ्रष्ट
से मर रहे हैं। (व्यवधान)

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur):
Sir, my submission is only this. During
the previous discussion also, a list was
provided by Shri D. K. Panda, a Member
from my group and another list was pro-
vided by Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu. We gave
a certain list which was published in the
New Age that there have been certain
deaths. The Minister said that deaths
might have taken place the State Gov-
ernment had said that it was due to mal-
nutrition or gastro-enteritic, something of
that sort. They never denied about the
deaths. But this time, when people have
died in Bihar and in other places—the
people have migrated to other places....
(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Kachwai has
said it; you are repeating the same thing.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: When there
is a dispute, when the Minister disputes
the whole thing, I would request you or
the Speaker of the Lok Sabha to appoint a
Committee. There are Members who are
prepared to resign on this issue. Let us
appoint a Committee of this House to find
out whether the people have died or not.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is no point
of order. What appeared in the *New Age*
or any other paper is no point of order.
(Interruptions).

The hon. Minister.

SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE: I
appeal to the good sense of the hon.
Member....

SHRI P. M. MEHTA (BHAV-
NAGAR): On a point of order, Sir, The
Minister challenges the statement made by
the hon. Member of this House.... (Inter-
ruptions). This is a very serious
matter.... (Interruptions)

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN (MAYATTU-
PUZHA): We will not yield to this. I am
asking: Is this with your permission?
(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, please; I am not allowing him. Mr. Mehta, why are you agitated? Please sit down. There are so many things that appear in the papers. There is no point of order. Some points have been raised and the Minister is replying to them.

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: I appeal to the good sense of the hon Member. If hon members have allegations, we are prepared to go into them; serious enquiries will be made into them. Therefore, the hon members need not have any fear that anything will be suppressed. (Interruption)

SHRI P. M. MEHTA: I have a submission to make. It is a serious matter.

सभापति महोदय आप सब लोग बैठ जाइए। अगर आप लोगो का यह ख्याल है कि मिनिस्टर ने कोई गलत-बयामी की है.....

एक सदस्य : मिनिस्टर ने खैलज किया है कि कोई मरा ही नहीं भूख से....

सभापति महोदय आप तो भ्रम ब्रादमी हैं। यह मेरी लास्ट वार्निंग है। अगर आप लोगो ने मिनिस्टर का जवाब नहीं सुना और इस तरह से किया तो मैं हाउस को एडजर्न कर दूंगा।

SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI: Is it that the Minister is responsible and we are not responsible? We are also responsible. (Interruption)

सभापति महोदय 'आप लोगो ने जो सवाल उठाये हैं उन का जवाब सुनने के लिए ही तो उठाये हैं।..... (व्यवधान)
.....आप फिर क्यों उठते हैं
क्या आप सब सीख ली है आप ने? आप

तो ब्रच्छे ब्रादमी बे, कौसी लोसाइटी में हुए गये आप ? मैं यह कह रहा हूँ कि आप ने सवाल उठाये हैं तो ऐसा करिये कि उसका जवाब सुन लीजिए। अगर उससे भी सन्तुष्ट नहीं हैं, आप यह समझते हैं, कि मिनिस्टर ने मिस गाइड किया है तो आप स्पीकर को लिखिए..... (व्यवधान). आप एक तरफ कोआपरेट करते हैं गवर्नमेंट को और दूसरी तरफ डिस्टर्बेन्स करते है, हमारी समझ में ही नहीं आती है यह बात।..... (व्यवधान) उस का प्रोसीजर है। उस प्रोसीजर के मुताबिक आप स्पीकर साहब को लिख सकते हैं।

SHRI P M MEHTA: He has not misguided the House; he has challenged the House and the members.

सभापति महोदय आप तो वीनिजर ब्रादमी हैं। आप बैठिए।

SHRI P. M. MEHTA: He challenged the members.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You also challenged the Government that the Government has to give a reply. You have challenged that so many deaths have taken place and Government is concealing the facts. You have also challenged the Government. So, he is replying to you.

Now the hon. Minister. (Interruption)

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN: I want to make a submission. A very important question is being discussed. The House and the country is anxious to know what the Government has to say on this matter. The time allowed to him is already very limited, but about 20 minutes have already been wasted like this. If he cannot finish his speech by 6.00 p.m., then my submission is that an opportunity must be given

to him to make a complete statement before this House. (Interruption)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you interested in this debate or not? (Interruption)

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Let the Minister not give unmixed untruth here.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय, मंत्री महोदय के खुद के शंभ मे मरे है। उन की वास्ती-द्यूएँसी में पांच ब्रादरी मरे हैं।

SHRI D. K. PANDA: To enable the hon. Minister to give an answer ...

MR. CHAIRMAN: There was so much discussion. You have also spoken, yet, you want to speak. You were all along outside. Now you come and want to say something.

The hon. Minister.

SHRI D. K. PANDA: Whether the *Praja Tantra* has come out that ten ...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No please. I am not allowing it.

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: Some hon. Members have said that everything is wrong with regard to the agricultural situation in the country and the food policy of the Government. I think it would not be desirable and in the interests of the country for this impression to go outside. Therefore, I would appeal to the good sense of the hon. Members to at least listen to my argument. You may not accept all I say, but be kind enough ... (Interruptions). As far as the word 'challenge' is concerned, I withdraw that word 'challenge', but I have a right to say that as far as the starvation deaths are concerned, as also the Government's view point is concerned, as I said earlier, if any name is given to us, we will inquire into it and we will also refer it to the State Governments. But, to my knowledge, no starvation deaths have taken place in this country ... (Interruptions)

SHRI D. K. PANDA: *

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am not allowing the question. It is not going on record. Please hear the Minister.

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: Shri Fatesmghrao Gaekwad said that the Government has not managed the food economy of this country well. Now, I would just humbly submit for his consideration one thing. In this country there was a drought in the year 1966-67. Now, we have also a similar drought situation in the country in 1972. What is the position? When we compare the facts of the case, you yourself will be convinced that there has been a considerable progress. You may not be satisfied with that. That is a different matter. You can have your suggestions as to what improvements can be made in the present situation. But, I would just submit for the information of the hon. Members some statistics. For instance, in 1966-67, when a drought was on, the price increase that took place is: the price index for rice in 1965 was 129 and in 1967 the price index has gone up to 197 and wheat index was 115 in 1965 and it went up to 204. The total food-grains price index has gone up from 152 to 225. Now, despite this, we imported 8.5 million tonnes in one year and 10.5 million tonnes in another year. Now, when we compare this price rise, when we compare the imports and when we compare the present situation, you yourself will be convinced that this year a word of appreciation ...

MR. CHAIRMAN: How much more time will the hon. Minister take?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: I will take about 15—20 minutes more.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, whatever you have to say, you place it in the form of a statement on the Table of the House.

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: I have not prepared.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You prepare one and place it.

*Not recorded.

18 hrs.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: We would like to hear the Minister. This is not fair. Let him continue tomorrow

SHRI ANNASAHIB P. SHINDE: I would like to speak tomorrow if you permit me.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. That will be decided by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs.

SHRI G. VISWANATHAN: Why, Sir? The House is supreme. The entire House wants a reply. Why should it be decided by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs?

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN: The whole purpose of the discussion is to elicit a reply from the Government. We want to know what the Government has to say in the matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN: How can I say whether there will be time for discussion tomorrow or day-after-tomorrow? We have to see what are the subjects which have to come up before the House tomorrow for discussion, the papers are printed.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Papers are printed in the night. We know everything.

SHRI ANNASHIB P. SHINDE: I would appeal to you. This is such an important subject that I feel that the Government should be allowed to submit its say and reply to the points raised by hon. Members.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I want to know whether the House wants the statement by the Minister tomorrow or day after?

SOME HON MEMBERS: Tomorrow.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right, this is the wish of the Minister and also of the House. So, I bow before the decision of the House.

SHRI G. VISWANATHAN: You are a good democrat, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House now stands adjourned to meet tomorrow at 11 A.M.

1801 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, November 1972/Agrahayana 9, 1894 (Saka).