

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाह (मुरेना) :

मैं आप से निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि इस समय मांगे देश के लोगों की जिज्ञाहे बीजस पर लगी हुई हैं। इसलिये इस प्रस्ताव का मैं समर्थन करता हूँ। सारा सदन चाहता है कि यह पहले ले लिया जाये।

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No discussion please (*Interruptions*)

SHRI S M BANERJEE: Only the order has to be changed....

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER: No please

SHRI S. M BANERJEE: Kindly give me only half a minute.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I have listened to you. Kindly listen to me. Your request has been heard by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs. He has heard you. Moreover, I have said your request should be conveyed to the Speaker. What else do you want now?

SHRI A P. SHARMA (Buxar) I also want to make a request. The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs has not heard his request. So, I want to make a request that this should be taken up first.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Shinde now.

SHRI S M. BANERJEE: He has not heard it.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): Mr. Sharma will certainly convey it to the Minister.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: If you have not heard, kindly consult the record.

SHRI B. V. NAIK (Kanara): Can I make a submission, Sir? We want that the Order of Business may kindly be followed.

14.08 hrs.

MOTION RE. FOOD SITUATION—  
Contd.

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Shinde.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASABH P SHINDE): I am thankful to you and all the hon. Members for showing me indulgence to continue my speech

I was touching the point that the food situation in the country is being depicted by some friends as very unsatisfactory. Mr Gaekwad went to the extent of saying that food has been bungled. I would like to humbly submit that this assessment is not correct. Therefore, I would like to make a very humble submission for the kind consideration of the hon. Members. To-day I am going to be extremely frank and I would like to take the House into confidence in regard to the food situation so that no unnecessary misunderstanding remains either in this House or in the country in regard to the facts as far as they relate to the food situation.

The food situation in this country has to be understood and appreciated in the broad context. Now, some friends have been saying that everything is wrong. Unfortunately, our friend, Shri Piloo Mbdy—he is not here now—thinks that planning is wrong, that the whole approach to agriculture is wrong and he charged my party, the ruling Party, that we are bringing politics into this. But, in all humility, I would say that he only said something which was motivated by politics and he did not really touch upon the basic aspects of the food problem. All the same, I would like to deal with some of the points raised by him also.

I was submitting that when we compare the situation of 1966-67 with that of 1972, then we shall be in a better position to understand whether the Government of India has really managed the food situation of the country in a better way or not. Now, I was making a statement that

in 1966-67, the price index—1 gave some facts—was so steep and that too when we had imported very substantial quantities of 8 1/2 and 10 1/2 million tonnes. I was referring to this aspect that the Government really deserve a word of appreciation from the hon Members irrespective of their political views, that this year, despite such a serious set-back in agriculture, this Government had managed the food situation of this country without imports so far. . . (Interruptions)

Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, is this not really something which needs a little bit of appreciation?

From the year 1966 onwards the population increase has been of the order of 14 per cent. Mr. Piloo Mody was angry with Dr. Karni Singh because Dr. Karni Singh made one observation that in this country population growth is increasing at such a fast rate that it is having some adverse impact on the food situation. It was very inconvenient for Mr. Piloo Mody. But he only mentioned facts, although he did not give the exact percentage. I am giving the exact percentage. It has been 14 per cent increase. When we take into consideration this increased growth rate, then, what would be the additional requirements of foodgrains? According to our calculations, it comes to the order of 12 to 13 million tonnes roughly. This is an important factor which must be taken into consideration. The House knows how the production potential of foodgrains has been built up by determined Governmental efforts during the last five years. This is due to the concrete and active policies pursued by the Government of India.

SHRI K. S. CHAVDA (Patna): You wanted to export foodgrains, but what is the position now?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: I am sure we would export. I have got the fullest confidence in the future of the country. I would explain to you. Please

listen to me. Despite this additional requirement of 12 to 13 million tonnes, the Government has not imported anything. This is an important factor which I request hon. Members to take into consideration. Then they will appreciate the way in which Government has faced the food situation in the country.

Certain views have been expressed to the effect that the stock figures given by the Government are not correct. I wish to say that we have not given any wrong impression or wrong figures so far as stock position is concerned. In July we had the stock position of 9.4 million tonnes, if we take into consideration the flow in the pipelines stock. Taking into account all the factors this figure was given. So, I wish to make it clear that we have given no wrong impression regarding the stock position.

Some Members said that Government was complacent. I wish to point out that Government was not at all complacent at any time about the food situation in the country.

When the Fourth Plan document was approved by this House a few years earlier, the target of buffer stock was 5 million tonnes. If Government had been complacent, why should they have increased this target during the course of the Fourth Plan itself, because this target was for the year 1973-74? We reopened the issue last year, when the food situation was relatively comfortable and we said that a year might come when we might have a setback, there might be erratic behaviour of the monsoon, and again we might have some setback to agriculture, and so the target of buffer stock which was put at 5 million tonnes in the Fourth Plan document, which was acclaimed by this House, was reopened by us even before the Fourth Plan period was complete. If Government had been complacent, this would never have been done. But we took into consideration all the pros and cons, and Government came to the conclusion that the buffer stock target should be raised. So, we raised it from 5 million tonnes to 7 million tonnes.

[Shri Anna Saheb P. Shinde]

As a result of this year's experience, we feel that even this figure is not adequate, and we shall have to increase the buffer stock still further and enlarge it still further. But the point that I was making was that Government were never complacent. For a country like India, the maintenance of buffer stock is not easy, because it is a very costly affair. Only to carry a buffer stock of 5 million tonnes, it requires almost Rs. 52 crores by way of interest, but even then, Government deliberately took a decision that the reserves of foodgrains were more valuable perhaps than even the reserves of gold. Therefore, the Government of India deliberately reopened the issue and increased the target of buffer stock. Now, in the Fifth Plan itself, we are thinking of further enlarging this figure. May I submit for the kind consideration of hon. Members that the country's agricultural situation is such that it shall be possible, and we feel confident that Government shall be in a position to augment this level of buffer stock during the Fifth Plan in the years to come from out of our own production and not by imports. So, the food position today is much better than it was six years earlier when we faced the previous drought.

Some hon. Members had asked what was going to happen in the near future in regard to the food economy of this country. I am glad that my hon. friend Shri Piloo Mody has come. Some hon. Members including my hon. friend had expressed some doubts in regard to this matter. In the first week of November, our stock position was 4.1 million tonnes. In the 1st week of October, it was 5.4 million tonnes. The most difficult period, according to our past experience in our country is that....

**SHRI K. S. CHAVDA:** Now, there is confusion. The first figure given was 9.4 million tonnes in July....

**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** The hon. Member may kindly note down these figures. I shall permit him to ask a few questions later.

**SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA:** (Serampore): Yesterday, he could not give the correct figures, but today he is giving the correct figures.

**SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE:** The most difficult period in our food economy in any year, which we call the lean period, is between July and October, because during that period, neither the rabi nor the kharif crop is there and the offtake is usually very high. During these few months there was very heavy offtake. Normally during this month, there was no procurement, but now the situation has changed, and the kharif crops have started coming in, and procurement has been started. I shall obtain the latest figures, but my feeling is that by today we must have crossed about 4 lakhs tonnes of rice procurement, and by the end of a week or so, we shall be touching 1.2 million tonnes. The Chief Ministers' Conference and the Agricultural Prices Commission had recommended a procurement of 4.5 million tonnes of paddy plus coarse grains during this kharif season. Perhaps, due to setback in some of the States, hon. Members may have some doubts and they may like to know whether this target is likely to be attained. Our effort is to attain the target and to make every possible effort. In fact, we have intensified our procurement efforts in every possible way, and I feel confident that we shall be in a position to cross last year's figure, though last year's crop position was relatively a little better than during this year; still, I do feel that we shall be able to cross it, and I do feel confident that we shall be in a position to reach 3.5 million tonnes as far as the total procurement out of the kharif crop is concerned. But I am touching a little different point. I was saying that replenishment of stock had started. It was not only a question of offtake alone in the first week of November, the total foodgrains stock position is 4.1 million tonnes. By the end of January, we expect, and that is also not based on some guess work but on our past performance and present or current trends, that during the next two months, namely December and January, that is, by end of January, we shall have a total procurement of 2 million tonnes of rice.

Even now some offtake takes place. By and large, by January-end we will have 3 to 3.5 million tonnes stocks with us. Then comes April. Some members have been feeling that after April the position will get very difficult. What happens in April? In April, our rabi procurement starts. If we look into the history of the food economy of the country, it is an encouraging sign that whatever happens in kharif rabi production is very stable and is continuously going up. Wheat procurement has come to attain a very important place in our food economy. I am not a prophet, nor an astrologer, but indications are that the wheat crop is going to be much better because of excellent rainfall we received and also the intensive efforts Government in co-operation with State Governments have undertaken.

**SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA:** He is contradicting the Finance Minister.

**SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE:** As for sowing reports, in a number of States sowing has taken place according to plan. In fact, in certain States, they have even crossed the target. So I anticipate anything between 5 and 6 million tonnes procurement. It is within reach and I shall not be surprised if even this figure is crossed as far as rabi wheat procurement is concerned, which starts in April.

Therefore, the overall food economy picture—the grainwise composition is different, and there are certain matters which need closer examination in that regard—considered in terms of the total availability of foodgrains is going to be reasonably well despite the fact that we had such a terrific setback. The limited point I was making is to show that hon. members have been a little uncharitable—I am not prepared to criticise them—when they said that the food economy of the country has not been properly managed.

Reference was made to import of food-grains and it was asked why we have embarked on it when we were talking of self-sufficiency. I would refer hon. members to my speech made three months ago on

floor of the House. At that time, I made the point for the kind consideration of hon. members that to the extent possible approach is based on self-reliance not to resort to import. Five years or ten years earlier—I am not blaming anybody—when any such calamity overtook us, we were thinking only of resorting to import. This time we did not adopt that strategy. We said, since we have stock, let us try and take up food production programmes to the extent possible and whatever deficit remains, let us make it up by our own efforts. At that time, I also made another point that as far as food import is concerned, there is no ideology involved. Let it be remembered that this year we are not alone in entering the world market. As some hon. members have rightly pointed out, some countries with a much stronger economy have entered the international market. What is wrong in it? It is a realistic, pragmatic, assessment of the food situation in their own countries. Therefore, if in one of the worst years, we are also likely to make some marginal import, I do not think hon. members should think that everything has gone wrong with our food policy or food production programme. This marginal import we are going to make is only to ensure the food economy against any pressure from prices and other difficulties. I do not consider it wrong if we have to make some marginal import, if we need it in the interest of our country and in the interest of the stability of the food economy.

A question was asked why the Food Secretary had gone abroad. There seem to have been some newspaper reports that he is on a secret mission. This was flashed from Washington and on that basis hon. members have made a query. Yes, the Food Secretary is out of India. There was a Sugar Council meeting in London; there is also a Wheat Council meeting in London. He has gone to attend these on behalf of the Government. Naturally, when he is there, he has to make some enquiries because we have asked him to enquire about the position of availability in the market etc. So there is nothing secret or suspicious about his trip to UK.

[Shri Annasaheb P. Shinde]

Then, the hon. Member, Shri Piloo Mody, made an observation that this Government has no planned approach. Perhaps he has in mind that we are not catching...

**SHRI PILOO MODY (Godhra):** Wrong priority

**SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE:** Plan priority. Perhaps he means to say that we are not giving adequate attention to agriculture in our planning. I would like to draw his attention to the fact as to what has been the plan provision during the last few years for the agricultural sector and for the crops which contribute to our food economy. The hon. Member himself can ascertain that almost 20 per cent of our allocation is going directly to agriculture, but what has to be realised today is that in the food economy, it is not only minor irrigation, not only the development of agriculture, but even the industrial backing is required for the development of modern agriculture. Today, hon. Members are aware that this country is suffering from the lack of fertilisers. How to increase the production in agriculture without adequate fertilisers? That means, without a properly developed chemical industry in this country and fertilisers in this country, we shall not be in a position to take our agriculture to a higher level.

For instance, Shri Piloo Mody put in the thesis that the Government has been spending so much on Bokaro, neglecting agriculture. This is also an absurd thesis. No theoretician is required to understand these problems. Today, in Indian agriculture, whether it is the pumping sets, or electric motors, or rural electrification, tractors, spraying machines, harvesting machines and so on—anything requires steel, and without steel, no modern agriculture is possible. Therefore, I do not know why Shri Piloo Mody is not in a position to appreciate the simple facts of life. Today, you will find that without a strong industrial support, modern agriculture will never come up. Even our productivity level will not go up.

**SHRI PILOO MODY:** Are you seriously suggesting that I do not understand that? It is the appointment of priorities, and in the appointment of priorities, steel must take a back seat to agriculture. (*Interruption*).

**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** This is another wrong priority to speak sitting.

**SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE:** These are just complementary activities. If you neglect fertilisers, if you neglect steel production, and if you neglect pesticides and the production of chemical components which are required for plant protection measures, modern agriculture in this country will never be possible. Productivity of the foodcrops can go up if these modern inputs are available. Therefore, I do not accept the criticism that the Government has no plan priority or the Government is not right in following a particular policy approach.

Shri Panda made one very valid point, and I concede that; he said that there should be a better economic co-ordination for food production. He is right, because, just now, as I made out, whether it is the question of power shortage or the question of fertiliser shortage or any other input, the other Ministries come in, and therefore, the Government of India has realised this, and in fact, we have already a committee at the Cabinet Secretary's level to co-ordinate and at the political level, the Economic Committee of the Cabinet is trying to co-ordinate all these matters, and this co-ordination, I quite concede, is essential if we have to see that these shortages of inputs do not lead to some difficulties in the production of agriculture.

Then, the two basic points about food policy were raised. Some hon. Members had doubts whether, when we are going to take over the wholesale trade, we will directly purchase from the farmers. Shri Bhattacharyya, one of our senior colleagues, pointed it out. I can see the point. As far as the Government of India is concerned, we would like to eliminate the

intermediaries and establish direct relationship with the producers. We wish to purchase directly, and in this direction also, some steps have been taken and we wish to pursue this matter.

Even in regard to wholesale trade, I would like to submit for the consideration of the House and of Mr. Piloo Mody that no ideological considerations are involved in this. He is well aware and he is a well-read man, and I would draw his attention to the fact that after the 1943 Bengal famine, the then British Government appointed one Commission to go into the food economy of this country. The Commission was appointed by the most conservative government in this country in 1943 and it made a considered report to the Government of India. It said that laissez faire should not be allowed in the food economy in this country. It says:

"In India, the problems of food supply and nutrition are fundamental and must at all times be one of the primary concerns of the Central, Provincial and State Governments. It is abundantly clear that a policy of laissez-faire in the matter of food supply and distribution can lead nowhere and would probably end in a catastrophe."

We have so much experience. Bad years do come. This is a normal feature of tropical weather conditions. So, if we allow free trade in foodgrains and essential commodities, prices will shoot up, as happened this year and in 1966-67, and our poor people will be hurt. Therefore, in major foodgrains, no private trade should be allowed. Even Japan does not allow private trade in paddy and rice.

**SHRI PILGO MODY:** They manage it well.

**SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE:** We will also manage it.

**SHRI PILOO MODY:** You first prove the management. I can prove to you that in everything you have managed as far as food and other commodities are concerned, there has been a 70 or 50 to 80 or even a

100 per cent increase to the consumer over your procurement price. Don't turn it into an ideological argument. If you want to manage it, do it efficiently.

**SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE:** That is why we want that public sector agencies like the Food Corporation should have a commanding role to play in the market. We shall pursue our policy of eliminating intermediaries and have direct contact with the producers, so that the consumers also may benefit. I am not saying that there are no weaknesses in the public sector, or everything is all right in the FCI. I only say, let us strengthen it and remove the weaknesses. Let us not make it a political issue but a national issue.

**SHRI G. VISWANATHAN (Wandiwash):** Will you persuade the Mysore Government to take over the wholesale trade? They have rejected the idea.

**SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour):** UP and West Bengal want to have State Food Corporations. What about that? You do not have a national food policy and a national food budget. You want to make politics out of food. We understand it.

**SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE:** About Mysore, it is a very uncharitable and wrong inference. As far as paddy procurement is concerned, they do not want to proceed with it right now. They have never said they would not resort to take over of wholesale trade. We have given a little discretion to the State Governments. They must first prepare themselves for the take-over. All the details must be worked out and the necessary machinery should be set up. They can use that discretion and do it right now or in the rabi. What the Mysore Government has done is not in any way inconsistent with it. I feel confident that all the State Governments will follow his line. On the 15th December, I have called a conference of all the Food Ministers and I shall pursue with them two vital aspects of the food economy. Intensive effort for

[Shri Annasaheb P. Shinde] procurement during this year would be one item for consideration and the other item would be how we can prepare ourselves for the take-over of the wholesale trade. I have no doubt that in this country all the major political parties will support the government in this major issue of the take-over of the wholesale trade, because there is general consensus on that.

**SHRI PILOO MODY:** If you have an intensive battle against corruption, we will support it.

**SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE:** As far as this aspect is concerned, it is a fundamental policy and there can be no compromise or change in policy.

Then a suggestion has been made that distribution should be put on a sound footing. In the food economy, while procurement and stock-piling are important, more important than them is the distribution system, making the food reach millions of consumers. What needs to be done is to strengthen the public distribution system. As I mentioned in the other House yesterday, we do not want to resort to this only as a temporary expedient because there is some set-back in the food economy. We want to make it a permanent arrangement so that all important essential commodities are distributed through the public distribution system.

**SHRI PILOO MODY:** All the distributors are clapping!

**SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE:** The trouble with Shri Mody is that he thinks that everyone in this country is wrong. I will consider it as the happiest day when I am able to convince him on fundamental problems and fundamental approaches.

**SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA (Jainagar):** It will be a bad day for you.

**SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE:** A number of valuable suggestions have been made by hon. Members, from both sides of the House. We appreciate these

suggestions. For instance, Shri Venkatasubbaiah laid great stress on dry land farms.

The tragedy in the food production of this country is that there is a lot of uncertainty in khariff production. I want to mention this here because this is an important occasion to debate this point. We have considered how to remove the uncertainty in kharif production and bring about some stability in our total volume of production. On closer examination we found that the only remedy is to increase the proportion or percentage of rabi production. Fortunately, this country happens to be blessed by god and nature, because from Amritsar to Dibrugarh we have an area which has rich potential of underground water. No other country in the world is blessed with that much abundance of underground water.

**SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:** But you are not exploiting them.

**SHRI PILOO MODY:** He is going underground.

**SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE:** We are exploiting them.

**SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU:** What is the percentage of cultivable area in the country which is irrigated?

**SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE:** I would request him to see what is happening in West Bengal.

**SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU:** We have achieved much more than what you have achieved at the all-India level.

**SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE:** Our approach is to lay emphasis on the exploitation of underground water while not neglecting medium and minor irrigation.

We have provided Rs. 150 crores for emergency production programme. The main element of this programme is to exploit underground waters or surplus

waters where it is available. Already some advance has been made.

Then, a few years earlier the share of rabi production out of the total production was 30 per cent. Then it went on increasing to 34 per cent and 35 per cent and last year it came to 40 per cent. When this is taken to 45 or 46 per cent, and we propose to do that, I am sure that the element of uncertainty in the food economy will be eliminated. The food economy of this country will be put on a sound footing. Therefore, we propose to proceed in this direction. The last thing that I would say....

SHRI PILOO MODY: Before you finish, you please tell us about the Food Corporation of India—what you plan to do about the cleaning up of the Food Corporation of India?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE. As far as the food economy of the country is concerned, I feel confident the way the rabi crop has started coming up. In 1968-69, it was 34 million tonnes; 1969-70 37 million tonnes; 1970-71—39 million tonnes, and 1971-72—42.7 million tonnes. Progressively, the graph is going up. I shall not be surprised if this year it crosses 46-47 million tonnes and wheat production crosses 30 million tonnes. Therefore, I have full faith in the food economy of the country.

As far as the future of agricultural India is concerned, I have full faith and full confidence about it. I have full faith in the farmers of the country. I would also like to appeal to all sides of the House, let us try to understand the problems of Indian agriculture and let not the politics be brought into it. We would like to have cooperation of all the parties. In the history of any country, some such set-backs do come. I think, we are mature enough as a nation and, by developing determined will and unity, we must be able to overcome temporary set-backs. We may have some imports in the difficult years. I think, this country is now in a

position to say that we need not import food in normal years. Therefore, as far as the future of this country is concerned the country's economy is going to be on a very sound footing.

SOME HON. MEMBERS rose—

SHRI PILOO MODY: What about the Food Corporation of India? He cannot be allowed to sit down without saying something about the Food Corporation of India. He must say something about it. (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Order, please. All of you kindly sit down. Allow me to regulate the proceedings of the House.

Now, I can very well appreciate the anxiety of the Members; they are very much agitated over it, excited over it.

AN HON. MEMBER: You also, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I am concerned now with regulating the proceedings of the House.

Yesterday, we had a full discussion on the food situation. The Minister has given a very elaborate reply. He has taken almost 45 minutes today. Yesterday also, he spoke. I do not know what is the total time he has taken.

SHRI VASANT SATHE (Akola). Yesterday, he was not allowed to speak.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Anyway, whether he was allowed to speak or not he has given a very elaborate reply. Even so, I find many Members are not satisfied and there are many questions which they like to be answered. I am quite open to that; I am quite responsive to that. But, at the same time, there should be a limit. I see almost the entire House is on its legs, so many Members on this side and on that side of the House. If I allow everybody, then there begins another debate again.

[Mr Deputy-Speaker]

Now I would like you to co-operate so many of you want to ask questions, first, the number could be cut down if possible only one from each party may ask I would not allow more than one member from each party

SOME HON MEMBERS No, Sir

SHRI K S CHAVDA Yesterday I was not allowed to speak (Interruptions)

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER Order please Let us not go by the number Will every member agree to this—only one question for one member? (Interruptions) If you do not agree even to this then I cannot allow Only one question to one member and he should not take more than one minute in framing the question The Minister will note down all those questions and he will give a composite reply

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU No Sir Let him reply to each question

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER That cannot not be done, then it becomes a running dialogue a running debate No I cannot do that

Since CPM is the biggest Opposition group I think I will begin from CPM I would request Mr Jyotirmoy Bosu to be as good as his word and as well arranged in his argument as he is well dressed to day He should not take more than one minute

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU This is with regard to importation of food What is this commercial dealing *vis a-vis* what you had previously as far as importation of food from America is concerned Is it a fact or not that you are required to pay 32 dollars per tonne in excess compared to the prevalent prices and other transactions that you had? We want fuller details about your importation programme—the quantity and the target

SHRI KARTIK ORAON (Lohardaga) I would like to know from the Government whether they have got some pragmatic approach to have enough food pro-

duction this year so that it can keep us going next year regardless of what production we have next year

SHRI B N REDDY (Niryalguda) The entire State of Andhra Pradesh with four crore people has been under severe drought for the last two years What assistance has the Central Government given how many tonnes of grains have been provided? Is the Central Government aware of the fact that still hundreds and thousands of people are migrating from one area to another because of severe drought and no grain is provided in thousands of villages?

SHRI R S PANDEY (Rajnandgaon) Taking into consideration the land that is available for cultivation in the whole world we have got only 2 per cent of the land where cultivation is done and we have 14 per cent of the population I want to know whether the Government is seriously thinking of having a separate Five Year Plan only for agriculture because this Ministry is a very comprehensive one unless fertilisers, water, hybrid seeds, pesticides etc are available, they cannot introduce modern cultivation I want to know whether the Food and Agriculture Ministry is going to approach the Planning Commission provide a separate fund for Five Year Plan separately

SHRI K S CHAVDA The hon Minister, while replying said that the buffer stock on 1st of July was 9.4 million tonnes

SHRI ANNASAHEB P SHINDE That is stocks

SHRI K S CHAVDA Then, he said that, as on 1st November, it was 4.1 million tonnes Now, I am submitting that this is a wrong figure. According to him the stock was 9.4 million tonnes as on 1st July, and, if you deduct 2.8 million

tonnes moved during the four months of July, August, September and October 1972, then the stocks as on 1st November should be 6.6 million tonnes. So, the Government is confused over the actual figure. Will he clarify the position?

SHRI D. D. DESAI (Kaira): Now, it has been established beyond doubt that the Communist system has failed the world over in regard to agricultural production and my recent visit has also shown me that practically all the Communist countries are not doing well in regard to food production. Would the Government now not yield to pressure of the Communists and move away from that system to some other system by which the food production can be increased?

SHRI PILOO MODY: The only other system is the Swatantra way.

श्री हुकूम चम्ब कछुवाय (मुरेना) :  
उपाध्यक्ष जी, मैं आप के माध्यम से जानना चाहता हूँ कि श्री मंत्री जी ने अपने बक्तव्य में बताया कि 60 लाख टन अनाज की वसूली करेंगे और यह वसूली हर स्थान पर करेंगे। लेकिन आप को पता होगा कि पिछले साल की वसूली को ठीक प्रकार से रखने की व्यवस्था नहीं थी, न आप के पास बाहन थे जो ठीक स्थान पर अनाज की पहुंचा सकते जिस के कारण काफ़ी अनाज वर्षों से खराब हुआ है। तो क्या आप ने इस साल अनाज को रखने की उचित व्यवस्था कर ली है ?

आप ने वह भी कहा कि हम जमीन के नीचे से पानी निकालने के लिये तैयार हैं जिस से अक्टू दो, तीन साल तक वर्षा न भी हो तो भी हम कृषि से पानी निकाल कर ऐसे स्थानों में सिंचाई की व्यवस्था कर सकें। क्या इस योजना को काम लागू करने आ रहे हैं ?

कल मंत्री जी ने इस बात से भी इन्कार किया था कि भूख से कीड़े भी

व्यक्ति नहीं मरा। इस के लिये क्या कोई भ्रम सब्सो की समिति बनाने के लिये तैयार हैं जो सारे देश का भ्रमण को और देख सके कि कितने लोग भूख से मरे हैं।

आप की एक योजना अभी है जिस के अधीन सस्ते अनाज की दुकानें सारे देश में खोलने जा रहे हैं जिस की व्यवस्था कांग्रेस पार्टी के कार्यकर्ता करेंगे। क्या यह उचित होगा ? क्या आप इस बात से इन्कार करते हैं ?

SHRI CHAPALENDU BHATTACHARYYA (Giridih): Through you I would like to know whether it is a fact that at long last, three hilly regions of Chota Nagpur, Ladakh and a portion of Himachal Pradesh have been identified as backward areas in agriculture and if so, what plans have the Ministry of Agriculture prepared to put into effect a crash programme?

SHRI G. VISWANATHAN: I would like to know from the Minister whether the demand for tractors is going down in the country and what steps are they going to take to see that, while fixing the ceiling on land-holdings, the Government also will consider fragmentation and un-economic holdings?

SHRI AMRIT NAHATA (Barmer). In order to ensure efficient, prompt and clean administration in the matter of procurement and public distribution of food-grains, will the Minister devise ways and means by which statutory popular committees of the people at all levels are actively associated in this process?

श्री सरजू चौड़े (गाजीपुर) : उपाध्यक्ष, जी, उत्तर प्रदेश में लोग अकाल से बहुत परेशान हैं। मैं वह जानना चाहता हूँ कि हमारे सूबों की सरकार ने कैं से कितना फूड ग्रेन मंगवा है ? क्योंकि जिसनी भी दुकानें खुली हैं किसी पर गल्ला नहीं पहुंच रहा है और खास तौर से श्रीमती की

(श्री सरजू पांडे)

स्केयर्सिटी है जिस से मिठाई की दुकानें बन्द हो रही हैं। तो हमारे देश को खास तौर से भ्राय क्या सहायता देने जा रहे हैं ?

श्री मूल चन्द डागा (पाली) उपाध्यक्ष जी, राजस्थान में 32,000 गाबो में से 25,000 गाबो में प्रकाल की स्थिति है। उस स्थिति में कितना भनाज राजस्थान को पहुंचा है ? और क्या राजस्थान कानाल पूरी की जा सकती है ताकि हजारों, लाखों एकड़ जमीन की मिचाई की जा सके ?

SHRI PILOO MODY: Why is it that the Food Minister has not made any reference to the 'condemnation' that I made of the Food Corporation of India and the corrupt practices indulged in by the Food Corporation of India, the absurd prices at which products have been bought and sold, and the fact that there is tremendous labour unrest within the Corporation for which the management is solely and directly responsible? Why is it that he has not made any reference to these at all?

SHRI P. M MEHTA (Bhavnagar): Is the Government aware that immediately after the AICC Resolution on take-over of wholesale trade of wheat and rice, 85 per cent of the foodgrain stock disappeared from the food market of the major cities of Gujarat? Is the Government wanting to employ the same traders who are now engaged in wholesale trade as commission agents at the commission rate of 7½ per cent?

SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATTIA (Amritsar): Is it a fact that we have got more than 4 million tonnes of foodgrains and more are being augmented through the arrival of new crops? May I know whether the foodgrains which we are going to import will be acting as buffer stock for our future food needs?

श्री मूल चन्द बर्मा (उज्जैन) : उपाध्यक्ष जी, मध्य प्रदेश के लिये यहाँ से 20,000 क्विंटल गेहूँ और 20,000 क्विंटल चावल

प्रलाट हुआ था। लेकिन अभी हमारे प्रदेश के मुंबय मंत्री, श्री पी० सी० सेठी का एक स्टेटमेंट प्रबन्धन में निकला है जिस में उन्होंने बताया है कि प्रनाट किये हुए प्रनाज में से 10,000 क्विंटल चावल केवल पहुंचा है और 15,000 क्विंटल गेहूँ पहुंचा है और गेहूँ न पहुंचने की वजह से हमारे यहां चार भाँ के मिले बन्द हो चुकी है, साथ ही चावल खाने वाला जो क्षेत्र है, जैसे रायपुर, वहाँ के लोग भी काफी परेशान हैं। तो मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि जो कंट्रोल की दुकानें खुली है जहाँ पर राशन नहीं पहुंच रहा है, यह जो बाकी बचा हुआ कोटा है वह कब तक मध्य प्रदेश को रिलीज कर दें ?

SHRI RANABAHADUR SINGH (Sidhi): In considering the food policy, the millet crops are acutely disregarded by the Government. A vast majority of the population of the adivasis are entirely dependent upon the millet crops for their total requirements of food. So, I want to know this from the Government. Will this aspect be taken into consideration by the Government while formulating the food policy?

15.00 hrs.

श्री राजबहादुर शास्त्री (पटना) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या यह बात सच है कि बिहार में फटिलाइजर की बहू न कमी हो गई है जिस की वजह से रबी के उत्पादन में कठिनाई हो रही है, और क्या यह बात भी सच है कि बिहार सरकार के सप्लाय डिपार्टमेंट के अफसरों ने 9,000 टन गन्ने का गोलमाल किया है, जैसा अखबारों में प्रकाशित हो चुका है ?

SHRI VASANT SATHI: In view of the national emergency, will Government consider a proposal to declare this day, namely Thursday, as a national fast day for all so as to conserve food?

SHRIMATI M. GODFREY Nominated—Anglo-Indians: I would like to know

from the hon. Minister what steps Government propose to take to bring down the prices of foodstuffs so that the poor man can get enough food to eat.

**SHRI C. D. GAUTAM (Balaghat):** May I know the names of the districts in Madhya Pradesh which have been declared as famine-affected?

**SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO (Mahendragarh):** I would like the hon Minister to inform us what the average consumption of fertilisers per acre in India is, and how it compares with the position in other advanced countries like the U.S.A., Japan, Canada and Australia, and what concrete steps Government have taken or are taking to improve the position

**श्रीमती सहोदराबाई राय (सागर) :** सरकार की तरफ से जो राहत कार्य चलाये गये है उन में मजदूरों को 2 रुपये रोज मजदूरी मिलती है। यह मजदूरी कम से कम 3 रुपये होनी चाहिये। दूसरी बात में यह कहना चाहती हूँ कि आप जो भी गल्ले की दूकानें खोलते हैं वह हरिजनो के मोहल्लो मे खुनी चाहिये क्योंकि हरिजन लोगों को बाहर ठीक मे राशन वगैरह नहीं मिलता है।

**SHRI D. K. PANDA (Bhanjanagar):** I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the fact that though it has been stated that enough buffer stock is there to meet any contingency in the country, yet in the Ganjam district of Orissa, whereas according to the district collector of Ganjam.....

**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** Now, he is going into details.

**SHRI D. K. PANDA:** My question has remained unanswered.

While in Ganjam district 7500 tonnes of rice are required every month, so far only 2000 tonnes have been given. In view of this and also in view of the fact that the prices are still going up, may I know what concrete measures Government

are going to take to reach enough rice to the scarcity areas in order to meet their requirements?

**SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN (Badagara):** May I know whether a deficit State like Kerala is going to get less food-grains this year than earlier as a result of a new scheme of distribution and also whether the IDA and the World Bank are going to interfere or have already interfered with our scheme of nationalisation of the foodgrains trade?

**डा० लक्ष्मीनारायण पांडेय (मदसौर) :** उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं ने कल मंत्री महोदय से राजस्थान के फड कारपोरेशन के बारे मे सवाल किया था और कहा था कि उस में कम दामों पर ज्वार और मक्का खरीद कर भारी मुनाफा कमाया, जब कि लोग भूख मे मर रहे हैं। यह जो अण्टाचार उस ने किया है उस के बारे मे मंत्री महोदय ने कोई उत्तर नहीं दिया। हम को इस का उत्तर दिया जाये कि आप एक० सी० आई० के बारे में क्या कार्यवाही करने जा रहे है ?

**SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR (Ahmedabad):** In view of the worsening food situation and several months ahead of dangers and difficulties, also perhaps leading to violence, does the Minister plan to utilise this opportunity to take some long-term projects....

**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** He has replied to that.

**SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR:** ....and not merely go on the basis of making *ad hoc* arrangements?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS rose—**

**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** I have allowed 27 members. Shri Piloo Mody wants a second chance. The Minister

**SHRI PILOO MODY:** What about the movement of maize to Gujarat?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: If he has replied to some points raised, he need reply only to the other points.

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: Thank you.

A question was asked about nature of imports; naturally anxiety was expressed whether, when we are going to import, we would agree to certain conditions of those countries from which we might purchase. As I made clear, we are going to purchase purely on a commercial basis. That is, we are not going to agree to any conditions, such as those under PL 480. On this there need be no misapprehensions.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: 32 per tonne extra. The more we are specific, the more evasive he is.

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: There is the limitation of time, but I would answer it. I am sorry our friend only bases his questions on some news items emanating from Washington.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Yes, I do, from every country.

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: Only when we take the decision to import, we can say whether we are likely to pay a higher price. I have also carefully looked into the news item which is the basis of his question.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA: Is that Washington or some other news?

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU: Billy Graham news.

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: It has been said that Soviet Union and China have entered the international market in August and in July itself we should have decided to import. I could not know the prospects of the kharif season then. We had expected a very comfortable stock position. So to say that at that time, we should have decided to import is

something with which I do not agree at all. Naturally, the price will depend on demand and supply. When there has been large-scale purchases by some big countries, prices have gone up. Purchases are always at the market price.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY, BOSU: How much higher?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: I do not think the Government of India have erred in any way. In fact, we have taken a decision which should be taken.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Be precise. How much higher are you paying per tonne? If you had bought in July-August what would be the price? What did China and Russia pay?

SHRI AMRIT NAHATA: And what price would have had to be paid if you had bought it before the birth of Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: Purchases have still to be effected. I shall not be in a position to indicate with arithmetical precision.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: You are evading. On a point of order.

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER: There is no point of order. You may not be satisfied with the reply.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: How much higher price will he pay? I say he will pay \$ 32 per tonne extra.

AN HON. MEMBER: How much did China pay?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: Questions have been asked about Andhra supply, Rajasthan supply and even U.P. supply. It will be very difficult to give state-wise figures. I can furnish them to the concerned hon. members.

As far as Andhra Pradesh is concerned, though Andhra Pradesh is normally a surplus State, during the course of the

last few months, we have supplied 27,000 tonnes of rice, 1,27,000 tonnes of wheat and about 28,000 tonnes of other grains. In all, 1,82,000 tonnes have been supplied to Andhra Pradesh. Similarly, about 1,11,000 tonnes have been supplied to Rajasthan from January to October.

Then there was a suggestion about a separate plan for food production. We will pass on this suggestion to the Planning Ministry. For the information of Shri Pandey, I would say that when we finalise the Plan, the allocations for the Ministry of Agriculture are always separate and identified.

SHRI R. S. PANDEY: No co-operation with the other Ministries.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Order please.

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: Anyway, I note your suggestion. Then, my hon. friend had some doubts about the stock figures. I do not know. I have never said something different. (*Interruptions*) I would only say that at the beginning of July, the actual stock was nine million tonnes. On the 1st November, it was 4.1. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI K. S. CHAVDA: It is 6.1 according to the statement. Either the statement is correct or he is correct. Both cannot be correct. (*Interruptions*). On the 14th November, the statement made by the Minister shows that the stock was 5 million tonnes.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Order, please. If heckling goes on all the time like this, nothing can come out.

SHRI K. S. CHAVDA: It is on record.

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: One of the questions that has been asked was—

SHRI PILOO MODY: You have sidestepped the issue without making the clarification. Very clever!

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: I think the hon. Member Mr. Bhatia put this question whether the imports proposed would augment our stock position. He is right. These imports should augment flour mills are closed for want of food-grains. There also, a decision has been taken. The allotment of flour mills is not made by the Centre. We make the allotment to the State Governments and the State Governments in turn allot to the flour mills. In this particular case, what is the cause of the closing down of the flour mills, I do not know. I will find out from the Rajasthan Government. If I get the information, I shall pass it on to the House.

Then, a question has been asked by Shri Ranabhadur Singh. He said millets should be given adequate importance in our food strategy. I entirely agree with him, and if he is good enough to look into some of the pronouncements, he will find that the Government of India is giving considerable importance to millets because they are mainly grown and consumed by our Adivasis and some of the people in the drought-prone areas. Then, it was mentioned that the fertiliser supplies in respect of Bihar were less. Mr. Shastri put this question. It is true that this year, because the rabi production programme has been taken up and there were some constraints; because it is beyond the control of my Ministry, there has been some shortfall in production from domestic factories and the availability in the international market has also been limited. Even on this, we have taken care to see that as compared to last year, for the rabi programme, 22 per cent more has been ensured in respect of the State Governments including the Bihar Government. If there is anything specific like bungling or misappropriation, if the hon. Member is good enough to write to me, I will specifically take up that case with the Bihar Government.

Mr. Piloo Mody put one question about the Food Corporation. I would submit that some of the cases and some of the

[Shri Annasaheb P. Shinde]

enquiries to which reference was made earlier on the floor of this House are being carried on by the C.B.I. The C.B.I. have been informing us from time to time of the progress of the investigation.

They are very much seized of it. Since they have to look into very voluminous records and examine a number of witnesses, they are naturally taking some time. I would underline that we are seized of the matter and we shall come to a very quick decision about the management of the Food Corporation.

An allegation was made that fair price shops were given only to some Congress workers; I strongly refute it.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA : These are facts.

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: Our advice to the State Government is that preference should be given to corporate bodies like village panchayats and co-operatives for running shops if they are in a position to do so; otherwise it must be given to private parties, but not on the basis of political affiliations;

The demand for tractors has gone down and we have also noticed it. Perhaps one of the reasons was the very high level of prices of tractors in our country. We are examining the problem. Another hon. Member said that since fragmentation and the emergency of a large number of un-economic holdings are affecting the country I sound agricultural planning might not be possible. I entirely share his views.

A very important question has been raised by Shri Nahataji: to associate popular committees both at the procurement and distribution level. It is a very important suggestion and we would like to proceed in that direction because such association will eliminate some malpractices and to the extent possible it should strengthen the system of procurement and distribution.

श्रीमती सहोदराबाई राव : मंत्री

महोदय ने मेरे प्रश्न का जवाब नहीं दिया।

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : Shrimati Sahodrabai Rai said fair price shops should be in the Harijan colonies. It is a good suggestion. Fair price shops are mainly run to cater to the needs of vulnerable sections of the society and it is a suggestion worth considering ... (Interruptions). \* \*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Order, please. Nothing will go on record.

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: An hon. Member said that foodgrains had disappeared after the Ahmedabad AICC resolution. If it has happened in any part of the country, it should be condemned because these are anti-social elements. They should be jailed, I agree.. (Interruptions) Some elements which are very well entrenched in the food trade are likely to create some difficulties in the implementation of Government's policies. We have taken due note of it. But we should like to seek the co-operation of all of you so that the anti-social elements are not allowed to exploit the situation.. (Interruptions). Figures of per-capita consumption of fertilisers have, I think, been furnished on the floor of the House and if the hon. Member wants it I shall furnish him statement showing fertiliser consumption per acre. An hon Member made a suggestion about austerity. I welcome it. Whatever the other problems of management of food economy, Keral supplies will be maintained at the same level. Recently, due to the mukti agitation, some supplies have been disrupted because most of the movement was through Andhra. Now we have taken the abnormal step of even resorting to transport by sea and we are taking care of Kerala supplies.

Mavalankarji said that violence may erupt. He is one of the valuable new entrants to this House. I appeal to his good sense and that of other members

that nothing should be done in this country which would create a feeling of scare and put difficulties in the way of Government and the interests of the millions of our people. I seek the cooperation of all the hon. members in this endeavour of ours.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Jatesingrao Gaekwad to reply. He is not here. I will now put to the House the substitute motion No. 1 that was moved yesterday. The question is—

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 foodstuffs 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"

*The motion was negatived.*

15.23 hrs.

MOTION RE TWELFTH REPORT OF COMMISSIONER FOR LINGUISTIC MINORITIES—contd.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: We now take up further consideration of the Report of the Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities.

Shri Rao Birender Singh may continue.

श्री बीरेन्द्र सिंह राव (महेन्द्रगढ़) डिप्टी स्पीकर साहब, मैं कल अर्ज कर रहा था कि कम संख्या में भाषा बोलने वालों के लिये जो तहफ़क़ुज कर दिया गया है—हमारे कांस्टीचूशन में, वह एक खास स्कीम के तहत है और वह स्कीम कांस्टीट्यूशन के पार्ट 17 के अन्दर रखी गई है। आर्टीकल 350 (ए) और (बी) में सिर्फ़ इतना तहफ़क़ुज दिया गया है कि लिग्विस्टिक माइनॉरिटिज के बच्चों को उनकी अपनी

भाषा में प्राइमरी स्कूल की एज़ुकेशन देने का बन्वोबन्धन किया जायगा। यह तहफ़क़ुज आखरी और चौथे चैप्टर में दिया गया है जो पार्ट 17 के अन्दर है।

डिप्टी स्पीकर साहब, मुझे इस बात का अरुपाम है कि जो स्कीम कांस्टीट्यूशन में आफिशियल लैंग्वेज के मुतल्लिक अपनाई गई है, उस की तरफ़ देश ने ध्यान नहीं दिया, उस में हम सब बराबर के कुसूरवार है और इस हाउस में भी उस पर ध्यान नहीं दिया गया राष्ट्रपति जी ने भी ध्यान नहीं दिया। साथ ही मैं उन का भी कुसूर समझना हूँ जो लिग्विस्टिक माइनॉरिटीज है जो प्रोटेक्शन चाहती है, लेकिन राष्ट्रभाषा के बिनाफ़ आवाज उठाती है, देश की एक भाषा बनाने के बँ ख़िलाफ़ है। चैप्टर 1, पार्ट 17 में यह प्रोवाइड किया गया है कि इस देश की आफिशियल लैंग्वेज हिन्दी होगी—देवनागरी स्क्रिप्ट में और 15 वर्ष तक अंग्रेज़ी में काम चलाया जा सकता है। कांस्टीचूशन लागू होने के 5 वर्ष बाद एक कमीशन बनाया जायगा, दूसरा कमीशन 10 वर्ष के बाद बनाया जायगा और ये कमीशन देखेंगे कि 15 वर्ष में देश में राष्ट्रभाषा हिन्दी लागू हो जाय। लेकिन अफ़सोस की बात है कि न पहले कमीशन की रिपोर्ट हमारे सामने आई, न पार्लियामेन्ट की कमेटी के सामने—जो इस मिलसिले में बनी थी, वह रिपोर्ट गई। उस कमेटी ने क्या रिक्मेंडेशन की हैं वह रिपोर्ट भी पार्लियामेन्ट के सामने नहीं आई और जहा तक मेरा ख़याल है कांस्टीचूशन के एक खास आर्टिकल के इम्प्लीमेंट को