

अध्यक्ष महोदय : कालिग एटेंशन के बाद मैं आप को बता दूंगा ।

श्री शिव चन्द्र भ्सा : विशेषाधिकार का प्रश्न कालिग एटेंशन के पहले आता है ।

इसमें यह लिखा हुआ है :—

“The Speaker, if he gives consent under rule 222 and holds that the matter proposed to be this discussed is in order, shall, after the questions and before the list of business is entered upon, call the member concerned, who shall rise in his place...”

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मैं आपको बता दूँ कि आपका नोटिस मेरे पास आया है । उसको मैं भेज रहा हूँ । थोड़ा बहुत फर्क है । जैसे ही जवाब आएगा, मैं देख लूँगा ।

श्री शिव चन्द्र भ्सा : इसको मुझे उठाने तो दें ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : इजाजत दूँगा तभी तो आप उठावेंगे । भेजा है, जवाब आने तो दें । आप ठहर लें थोड़ा सा ।

श्री शिव चन्द्र भ्सा : पहले उठाया जाता है । उसके बाद आप कहते हैं कि मैं अखबार वालों के पास भेजूँगा । पटना के इंडियन नेशन के सिल्लाफ यह विशेषाधिकार का प्रश्न है...

अध्यक्ष महोदय : उठाने की इजाजत दूँगा, तभी तो आप उठावेंगे । मैं सही वक्त पर आप को इजाजत दूँगा । अब आप लकप्पा साहब को बोलने दें ।

12.01 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MAT-
TER OF URGENT PUBLIC
IMPORTANCE

DROUGHT CONDITIONS IN SEVE-
RAL PARTS OF THE COUNTRY

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA (Tumkur) : Sir,
I call the attention of the Minister of the

Food and Agriculture to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:—

Reported drought conditions prevailing in Mysore, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Kashmir and other parts of the country.

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI F. A. AHMED) : As the House is aware, provision of relief due to natural calamities, including drought is a State subject. However, Central assistance is given where necessary according to an established procedure, and the House had been kept informed of the assistance given to the State in the Statements laid on the Table of this House from time to time. The last statement was laid on the Table of the Sabha on 28th April, 1970. As mentioned in that Statement, drought conditions had developed in Bihar, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Mysore, Rajasthan and West Bengal due to inadequate and/or untimely rains during 1969.

To have an on-the-spot assessment of the drought situation and to recommend the ceilings of Central assistance, Central Teams visited Bihar, Gujarat and Rajasthan during 1970; Officers of the Central Government also visited West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh during the year.

According to the reports received from the State Governments, necessary relief measures like provision of employment on relief works, grant of gratuitous relief to the aged and the infirm, arrangements for migration of an provision of fodder for cattle, supply of drinking water and grant of loans to agriculturists, have been taken.

According to the latest reports received from the State Governments, which were affected by drought in 1969-70, the situation has considerably improved because of good rains during the current monsoon season so far. The rainfall has been good in Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, which was in the

grip of drought for several years, has been fortunate in having widespread rains. This enabled the State Government to order the closure of relief works with effect from 16.8.1970. Some areas in Western Rajasthan, however, were affected by an intervening dry spell and sand storms, which caused a set back. The State Government are fully alive to the requirements of the situation, and the Central Government had assured the State Government that financial assistance will be made available if necessary, to help the agriculturists for the resumption of agricultural operations. The position in West Bengal has also improved with the arrival of the monsoon and large scale relief operations is required to be continued only in a few districts. In the case of Andhra Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir, rainfall is reported to have been inadequate in some parts of the States, but there has been widespread rain subsequently, which is expected to have a beneficial effect on the situation. In parts of Mysore, erratic rainfall, and an intervening dry spell have affected the prospects of the coming kharif crops. The State Government have issued necessary instructions to the local officers to open relief works as and when found necessary.

Honourable Members will appreciate that the situation is well under control, and that there is no occasion for feeling alarmed over it. The position regarding the availability of foodgrains is also satisfactory. I assure the House that Governments, both at the Centre and in the States, will continue to watch the situation and ensure adequate and timely relief where necessary.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA : Before putting my question, I would like to submit that the statement made by the hon. Minister is not inspiring; it is also not impressive, and he has not given out the correct information regarding the drought situation prevailing in the various States, and the vagaries of nature and more so the vagaries of this Ministry. They have not controlled the drought situation for the last several years, and consistently, we are fighting with the drought situation, and every session we are

discussing the drought situation prevailing in the country.

I would like to give the background facts regarding the situation that prevails in the Mysore State. In the statement, the hon. Minister has not given the correct statistics regarding the various States. I would like to point out that in Mysore, the drought situation is prevailing consistently every year and it is almost a disease, and people are moving from one place to another in search of food and fodder for their animals. Even the National Council of Applied Economic Research has revealed in a recent survey that in Mysore State, agriculture is carried on under dry conditions, and out of 19 districts, 14 districts have been affected, and sometimes, the rainfall, is less than 7.50 m.m. and sometimes in certain areas, there is no rainfall and the people have no irrigation facilities.

Now, I would like to quote certain statistics, and give the names of the States which have chronically drought-affected areas. The names of the States are : Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Madras, Maharashtra and Mysore. The hon. Minister has stated in his statement that in Mysore only in certain parts there has been erratic rainfall. But I would like to point out the instances where even the...

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Member should not make any speeches now but should come to the question straight.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA : Before putting the question, I would like to give the facts to the House to show how Mysore State has been greatly affected. I shall give the House the district-wise and village-wise drought situation prevailing in Mysore State. It is very serious and alarming. In Kolar, the number of villages affected is 867 and the population affected is 0.72 lakhs. In Tumkur, the constituency which I represent, and which is the most affected area, 1408 villages have been affected and the population affected is 2.15 lakhs. In Chitradurga, the number of villages affected is 572 and the population affected is 2.68 lakhs. In Mandya, 1110 villages are affected...

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Member should come to his question now.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA : I am giving these figures to focus the attention of the hon. Minister on the serious situation prevailing in Mysore State, which he has not taken into account in his statement. Even in his statement, he has only attributed the situation to erratic condition of rainfall and has said that since then the situation is under control. I would say he has neglected Mysore State...

MR. SPEAKER : Kindly do not make it a habit every time. I was really led to accept this call attention notice because so many other States had been mentioned here.

SHRI RAJASEKHARAN (Kanakapura) : It is a very serious situation. You must allow him to place the full facts before the House.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA : I have received an alarming telegram from the State recently. It says :

"Drought condition severe and beyond chance of improvement in four taluks of Tumkur, four taluks in Hassan, two taluks and 9 hoblis in Chitradurga, five taluks in Bijapur, three taluks in Mysore, two taluks in Mandya and four taluks in Dharwar district'.

This is a very serious and alarming situation in the State. But no categorical statement has been made by the Minister. He has neglected the State and attributed the situation to only erratic rainfall.

Have the Government of India made any serious attempt to initiate permanent measures to relieve the chronic drought situation prevailing in the country including Mysore State? If so, what are those steps? Is it not a fact that Government have failed in their duty by Mysore State which is facing a chronic drought situation by neglecting to initiate and implement irrigation projects in the State? In view of this, would the Ministry send an expert committee to the State immediately to assess

the situation on the spot and take remedial action?...

My second question is this. According to the statement, an expert committee was sent. But it visited only Bihar, Gujarat and Rajasthan in 1970. But even in spite of a request from the State, it was sent not to the Mysore State. Does this not show a step-motherly attitude towards the State and is it because of the political differences between the Central Government and the State Government? If so, is it not the bounden duty of the Centre even now to safeguard the interest of the Mysore State which is facing a chronic drought situation? What action do Government propose in the light of this?

SHRI F. A. AHMED : I have already placed before the House...

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA : They are not correct. He must bring out new and correct facts.

MR. SPEAKER : He has not even stated. He has not mentioned anything. Still he says it is not correct—perhaps he has decided to say so already.

SHRI RAJASEKHARAN : The Minister mentioned only about 1969, not about the situation in 1970.

SHRI F. A. AHMED : I have already placed before the House the actual position of areas affected by drought. Only in April 1970, a detailed report was placed before the House. He must have gone through that report. Since then, there have been rains in Mysore State, but they have been inadequate and erratic. This has affected crops in eleven districts and the position is reported to be particularly difficult in the districts of Hassan, Bijapur and Tumkur. The State Government have informed us that they have released Rs. 1 crore for relief works in which about 40,000 persons are reported to be employed on 1170 relief works. Arrangements have also been made to supply drinking water by trucks in tanks in Hassan district. An emergency feeding programme covering about 3 lakh beneficiaries including children, expectant and

nursing mothers is proposed to be started in three districts from 1st September 1970. The State Government are alive to the situation and have kept it under control through suitable measures. The question of financial assistance to the State Government will be considered on receipt of a request from the State Government.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA : Have the Government of Mysore made any request for immediate assistance or not ?

SHRI F. A. AHMED : As the hon. Member is aware, in every year a certain amount of expenditure is incurred by the State Government for the purpose of providing relief of all kinds from natural calamities, and on the expenditure incurred over and above the ceiling fixed by the Finance Commission, 75 per cent is given by the Central Government—50 per cent as grant and 25 per cent as loan-- and for that purpose the officers from the Central Government go to make an assessment. So far as the current year is concerned, an assessment will be made and the assistance from the Central Government that is required will be given to the Mysore Government on the basis of that assessment.

SHRI RAJASEKHARAN : This is a very serious question.

MR. SPEAKER : Your name is not here.

SHRI RAJASEKHARAN : You can use your discretion. This is a very serious question in Mysore and in other areas also.

MR. SPEAKER : Will you please sit down and observe the procedure ?

SHRI RAJASEKHARAN : He is not informing the House properly.

SHRI F. A. AHMED : So far as the question of doing something for the chronically drought affected areas is concerned, I think the hon. Member is aware that in the present Plan period we are going to incur an expenditure of about Rs. 100 crores. Rs. 25 crores will be incurred during the current year, and for that purpose 40 districts have

been identified. Out of these 40 districts, about 23 we have already taken a decision, and with regard to the others we shall take a decision very soon. Of these 23 districts, 2 districts are in Mysore...

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA : I would like to intervene because he is not giving the correct position.

SHRI F. A. AHMED : ... Chitradurg and Bijapur have been selected.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA : Tumkur is chronically affected. They have only selected two districts atrandum and discreminated against my district.

MR. SPEAKER : I have not allowed him. These interruptions will not be recorded.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA : **

SHRI F. A. AHMED : I have already said that of these 23 districts, two have been selected from Mysore, namely Chitradurg and Bijapur.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA : My point is that the other districts which re chronically drought affected have been neglected. Tumkur, Mandya, Dharwar and Hassan have been left out.

MR. SPEAKER : You are continuously defying me. Will you please sit down or not ? What is this ? You have said what you wanted to say. Why don't you allow him to reply ? After all, there should be some decorum. You get up any time you like.

SHRI F. A. AHMED : This will leave another 17 districts to be taken all over the country. For that, representations have come from all part. of the country and they will be taken into consideration, and we shall select those 17 districts on the basis of certain principles laid down which govern the question of deciding whether a particular area is a chronically drought affected area or not.

So far as the present proposal of assistance is concerned, my information is that

[Shri F. A. Ahmed]

till now we have received no proposal from the State Government. When the proposal is received, a team will be sent from here to ascertain the amount and then that will be given.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA : I asked a specific question; he has not replied. I need your protection.

MR. SPEAKER : I need protection from you, not you from me.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA : I am holding the floor according to the rules of the House.

Will the Minister send a team of experts immediately to assess the situation, to-morrow, with financial assistance ?

SHRI F. A. AHMED : May I inform him that a certain procedure has to be followed. When we receive a request from the State Government we send a team.

श्री श्री खन्व गोयल (चंडीगढ़) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, श्री लकप्पा की तरह मैं इस बात की आशा तो नहीं रखता था कि मंत्री महोदय का वक्तव्य कोई स्फूर्ति देने वाला होगा, परन्तु इतनी आशा जरूर रखता था कि वर्तमान स्थिति का पूर्ण उल्लेख उस वक्तव्य में होगा; मगर इस सारे वक्तव्य को पढ़कर मुझे ऐसा लगता है, जैसे कुछ महीने पहले इस वक्तव्य को तैयार किया गया हो और धाज इस सदन में इस बात की चिन्ता किए बिना कि पिछले डेढ़ महीने से, विशेषकर आधा जून और जूलाई में जो सारे देश में वर्षा नहीं, उसके अनेकों सूखाग्रस्त क्षेत्र प्रभावित हुए हैं, उनकी जानकारी दिए बिना, इस वक्तव्य को यहाँ पेश कर दिया गया।

मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ— डेढ़ महीने से वर्षा न होने के कारण सारे देश में और विशेषकर सूखाग्रस्त क्षेत्रों में तीन बीजों पर इसका प्रभाव पड़ेगा ? पहली—फसल पर। बिहार के राजस्व मंत्री ने अभी कहा

है कि बिहार में तीन ऐसे सब-डिवीज़न्स हैं, जहाँ 90 प्रतिशत फसल जाया होने की आशंका है। इसी प्रकार की चिन्तायें अन्य राज्यों के सम्बन्ध में भी व्यक्त की गई हैं। इसलिए मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि सारे देश में ओबरग्राल इसका फसल पर कितना प्रभाव पड़ेगा ?

दूसरे अनेक स्थानों से यह सूचना आ रही है कि वहाँ पेय-जल [पीने का पानी] भी नहीं मिलता है। विशेषकर जम्मू-कश्मीर में इस प्रकार की स्थिति का निर्माण हुआ है, क्योंकि वहाँ पर बरफ के पिघलने से पानी आता था, बरफ इस दफा पड़ी नहीं, जिसके कारण अनेक ऐसे स्थान हैं जहाँ पीने के पानी की कठिनाई है। राजस्थान में मैंने स्वयं जाकर देखा, अनेक स्थानों पर जनता को पीने के पानी की कठिनाई महसूस करते हुए पाया। नमकीन पानी की पट्टी पेट पर बन्धी हुई देखी, 10—10 मील से एक घड़ा पानी लाते हुए लोगों को देखा है। मैं इसलिए जानना चाहता हूँ कि पेयजल की कठिनाई सूखे के कारण कहां कहां उत्पन्न हुई है तथा उस दिशा में सरकार क्या कार्यवाही करने जा रही है ?

तीसरे—पिछले वर्ष भी अनेक स्थानों से ऐसे समाचार आए थे कि भुखमरी के कारण, सूखे के कारण लोगों की मृत्यु हुई थी। एक तार डा० सुशीला नैयर के पास बांकुड़ा से आया है— इसमें लिखा है कि—

“Regarding starvation deaths of Bankura denied by Food Minister (Stop) Reported two cases to District Magistrate. Monsoon failed. Santhoda block, Bankura district. Distress prevails.”

अध्यक्ष महोदय यह तार एक गांधी भगत की तरफ से आया है, किसी जनसंघ के कार्यकर्ता का नहीं है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सूखे के कारण देश के कुछ भागों में इस प्रकार की स्थिति की भी आशंका है कि जहाँ

पर लोगों की भूखमरी से मृत्यु होंगी ? पिछले वर्ष मंत्री महोदय ने कहा था कि सीधे तौर पर भूखमरी से कोई भी मृत्यु नहीं हुई, सीधे तौर पर होती भी नहीं है, कोई न कोई बीमारी लगती है, तब मृत्यु होती है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ—आजकल ऐसे स्थानों पर आप कुछ नए साधनों का उपयोग करते हैं, जिनके द्वारा आर-जी तौर पर वर्षा की जाती है, क्या इस प्रकार का प्रयोग आपने या प्रान्तीय सरकारों ने ऐसे स्थानों पर किया है, जसा वर्षा नहीं हुई है ?

मैं यह भी जानना चाहता हूँ कि किन किन राज्यों ने इस सम्बन्ध में आप से सहायता मांगी है, क्योंकि मैंने पढ़ा है कि मंसूर सरकार ने कहा है कि हम एक व्योरेवार रिपोर्ट केन्द्रीय सरकार को भेज रहे हैं, क्योंकि उनकी सहायता के बिना हमारी यह समस्या हल नहीं होगी। मैंने यह भी पढ़ा है कि बिहार सरकार ने उनकी दो इरिगेशन की स्कीमों को पास करने के लिए कहा है—मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इनके सम्बन्ध में आपने क्या किया है ? क्या अन्य राज्यों ने भी इस स्थिति से उत्पन्न समस्या को हल करने के लिए आप से सहायता मांगी है और अपने यहाँ की सारी स्थिति का वर्णन लिखकर आपके पास भेजा है ?

मुझे अनेक स्थानों पर ऐसा अनुभव हुआ कि जो पुराना फ़ैमीन-कोड है, जो अंग्रेजों के जमाने से चला आ रहा है, जिसके द्वारा सूखा-ग्रस्त क्षेत्रों में लोगों को सहायता पहुंचाने के लिए आप रोजगार बगैरह देते हैं, उसमें पुराने रेट ही अभी तक चले आ रहे हैं, 1 रुपया रोज, 8 आने रोज या 12 आने रोज लोगों को दिये जाते हैं, जिससे लोगों को पेट भर खाना भी नहीं मिलता। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि वर्तमान स्थिति को देखते हुए क्या सरकार इनमें संशोधन करने के लिए तैयार है ?

पिछली दफा सुखाड़िया सरकार के विरुद्ध दोषारोप हुआ था कि केन्द्र ने जो

सहायता उनको दी, उसमें बेईमानी की गई, मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या उसकी कोई जांच-पड़ताल करवाई गई, क्योंकि केन्द्र की ओर से जो सहायता दी जाती है, उसके सम्बन्ध में यदि इस प्रकार का दोषारोपण हो तो केन्द्र का यह कर्तव्य है कि उसकी ओर ध्यान दे ताकि इस प्रकार की सहायता में कोई बेईमानी या झूठाचार न हो ? क्या इस प्रकार की शिकातें आपके पास आईं ? क्या आपने कोई जांच पड़ताल करवाई, यदि करवाई तो उसका क्या नतीजा निकला—यह भी बताने की कृपा करें ?

SHRI F. A. AHMED : I would like to take the last question posed by the hon. Member, about the Famine Code. I may inform him that this matter is entirely within the jurisdiction of the State Government, but our information is that most of the State Governments have tried to bring Famine Code up-to-date. If there are any defects in any of the States and if any change is desirable, if the hon. Member can point it out to me, I will certainly draw the attention of the State Government to that aspect. Most of the State Governments have brought their Famine Code up-to-date, and...

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA : It is not up-to-date in every State. After the famine of 1964, it is not up-to-date.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Lakkappa, there is no question of debate on it now. Let us follow the rules.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA : If there is any such rule, let us change the procedure.

अध्यक्ष महोदय : इस तरह से जब मजबूत हो आप खड़े होकर इन्टरप्ट करें—यह कोई अच्छी बात नहीं है। इस तरह से आप बहुत इफेक्टिव मेंबर नहीं समझे जायेंगे। जिनका सवाल है, उनका जवाब शांति से देने दीजिए।

श्री राम सेवक यादव (बाराबंकी) : मंत्री महोदय इतना बता दें कि कौन-कौन सी तब-दीलियां हुई हैं—उससे लोगों का सन्तोष हो जाएगा।

SHRI F. A. AHMED : I have already said that most of the States have undertaken the revision of their Famine Codes. If in any State that modification has not taken place, if the hon. Member would point it out to me, I shall draw their attention to that aspect of the question (*Interruption*).

So far as the allegation of starvation deaths is concerned, particularly relating to Rajasthan and West Bengal, these allegations have been made from time to time, and all these allegations were referred to the State Government concerned, and on enquiry, no case of such starvation deaths has been established so far. (*Interruption*) The hon. Member has read out a telegram. If he sends a copy of the telegram to me, I shall again enquire into it and ascertain how far the facts as alleged are correct. In the statement which was placed before the House, in April the detailed position was given. After that, there has been the south-west monsoon which started very well. But there was a dry spell in July. But in August the monsoon has been fairly widespread all over the country, except in the southern part of Bihar and some portion of Mysore. From the indications before us, during the last four years, this year's monsoon is perhaps the best. I have map from which hon. members will be able to compare the monsoon this year and during the last four years.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA : He is reading all incorrect statistics.

SHRI F. A. AHMED : I have to read this record which has been carefully prepared. (*Interruptions*).

So far as demand for help from States is concerned, for the current year 1970-71, we have not till now received any demand from any State. When it comes, we shall look into it.

SHRI RAJASEKHARAN : We would request you to allow a discussion on this and fix some time for it.

MR. SPEAKER : You never send any motion and you stand up like this !

12.31 hrs.

RE. FLAG HOISTING CEREMONY AT THE RED FORT

SHRI R. K. AMIN (Dhandhuka) : I seek your permission, Sir, to raise an important matter. On the 15th August, during the flag hoisting ceremony at the Red Fort, one grave mistake was committed by the Prime Minister. She did not unfurl the flag. In stead of her, an Air official unfurled the flag. (*Interruptions*) This demands an explanation from the Prime Minister. She must express regret to the House.

SHRI RANGA (Srikakulam) : THE Prime Minister has no right to perform this function. It is the privilege of the President. I protested against it ten years ago and ever since that time I have been boycotting this function.

SHRI R. K. AMIN : when there was some mistake in the introduction of the Finance Bill, we were all summoned to meet at 10 o'clock in the night. Similarly, are you going to have that ceremony again ? (*Interruptions*).

श्री अटलबिहारी वाजपेयी : (बलरामपुर)
अध्यक्ष महोदय, यह बड़ा गम्भीर मामला है। मुझे ताज्जुब है समाचार-पत्रों में खबर आने के बाद भी त तो इसका खण्डन किया गया और न इससे जो देश में बेचैनी पैदा हुई है उसको दूर करने का प्रयत्न किया गया। यदि यह सत्य है कि प्रधान मंत्री के पहुंचने में देर हुई थी तो सरकार की तरफ से खेद प्रकट किया जाना चाहिए। मैं समझता हूँ सुरक्षा मंत्री यहाँ पर हैं, वे कुछ कहना चाहेंगे। (व्यवधान)

श्री कंबर लाल गुप्त (दिल्ली सदर) : मैं भी कुछ बताना चाहता हूँ, मैंने वह देखा है। ... (व्यवस्था) ...

प्रतिरक्षा मंत्री (श्री जगजीवन राम) : मैं जो हालत हुई थी, उसको सदन के सामने रख