

dependent on agriculture. It is stated that little less than 50 per cent of our national wealth is derived from agriculture and the agricultural profession. Above all, revenue from agriculture forms the major part of the States exchequer. Agriculture has been the backbone of the States and of the country as a whole and failure in that sector crumbles the economic structure and jeopardises our plans. The very fact that the Finance Minister has emphasised on the package programme indicates that there is a failure in this regard. Therefore, I would like the Minister to let us know how he intends to recover these big arrears from the States.

17.00 hrs.

Before concluding I would like to draw attention to two paragraphs in the Budget Speech, particularly in reference to the emergency that has been declared. In para 4 the hon. Minister has said that there is a shortfall of Rs. 43 crores in capital expenditure in defence. When we are providing so much for defence, it is really a very serious state of affairs that defence cannot utilise whatever money is being given.

The other is in regard to the concession given to fertilisers. Concession to fertilisers alone is not enough. Pesticides and fungicides are complementary and supplementary to fertilisers. I would, therefore, request the hon. Minister to consider giving concession to these two items also.

17.01 hrs.

STATEMENT RE: CERTAIN OBSERVATIONS MADE BY SHRI SWELL ABOUT ASSAM POLICE

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Shri Nanda.

The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Nanda): On February 18,.....

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath (Hoshangabad): Without notice, what is this about?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: A clarification.

Shri Nanda: You will hear.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: About certain allegations made by Shri Swell.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: On a point of order. I had raised such an issue on a previous occasion when he tried to correct an answer given earlier in the morning, and I said that under rules he had to give notice to the Member concerned who had made that statement. I do not know what is coming.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: This is not a correction. I have got the statement before me.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Clarification on what?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Certain wild allegations were made the other day, and he is clarifying.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Something said in connection with a question here?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: If the concerned Member wants, he can raise it.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: I am sorry, under the rules you cannot do it.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is not the same point.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Please let us know if the clarification is in respect of something said in answer to a question or a speech. What is it?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Not a question.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Then, what is it?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Shri Swell wanted to move some adjournment motion or some such thing, and he made certain allegations against the

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER]

Assam Government. He is explaining the position. That is all.

Shri Kapur Singh (Ludhiana): Let the statement be made in the presence of Shri Swell. That is only fair.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I think it is but fair that a clear statement should be made, and wild allegations should not be on record.

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): There is a convention which we have developed in the House.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: If Shri Swell wants to raise anything, he can do so.

Shri Basumatari (Goalpore): Is the Government responsible for his being absent from the House?

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: On the last occasion I raised it, and you upheld that point.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That was in answer to a question.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: I do not know what this is.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: This is different.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee (Calcutta Central): May I know if Shri Swell had notice that the Minister would come and make a statement?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He is out of station.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: On a point of order.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: We cannot wait till then and allow all sorts of reckless allegations to go on record.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I rise on a point of order. He made either a statement or a speech. You will recollect and referesh my memory if I am wrong, that Shri Bagri also made a similar statement which was said

to be a wild allegation against the hon. Minister Shri Humayun Kabir. The Speaker in his wisdom gave ample opportunity to Shri Bagri to issue a correction himself and then he permitted the Minister to make a statement. Even then, the whole thing was stayed for four or five days because Shri Bagri was not present. Here I would only request you to protect the interests and privileges of the Members.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There is no point of order. Every hon. Member must be responsible for the statement he makes.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty (Barackpore): We accept that.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: When such statements are made, they should not go uncontradicted. Shri Nanda.

Shri Nanda: Sir, on February 18, 1964, in the course of the discussion over the Notices of Adjournment Motions and Calling Attention Notices about the requisitioning of troops and curfew in Shillong, Shri Swell had made the following observations:—

"The Border Security Force instead of doing its duty of defending the borders of the country, has been chasing young women as if they are so many wild animals."

Again on February 20, 1964, following your disallowance of the Motion for Adjournment tabled by Shri R. Barua and others on the security of Assam, Shri Swell had observed:—

"We have information that all these troubles in different parts of the Hill areas of and the shouting of anti-Indian slogans in Assam have been engineered by a section of the Assam Cabinet and high officials of the Government of Assam and that money has passed from the Chinese Government to the people to subvert the law and order situation in Assam."

These observations of Shri Swell have also attained publicity in the press.

These press reports had come to the notice of Assam Government who have also drawn my attention to them. The State Government have since issued a contradiction in the Press saying that they have received no complaint to warrant the allegation that a section of police behaved indecently or like 'beasts' towards local women. They have also stated that it is very unfortunate that such a statement should have been made.

As regards the other allegation concerning Chinese money, the Chief Minister of Assam has written to me expressing his shock and distress. He has categorically stated that there was no basis or justification for such an allegation. He goes on to say that the Members of the Assam Cabinet including himself and the officers holding responsible positions do not yield to any one in their loyalty and working for the safety and security of the country. He considers, and I agree with him, that any aspersion against them, when they are not in Parliament to defend themselves, is very unfair.

I thought it would be only just and fair to bring to the notice of the House the reaction of the Assam Government to Shri Swell's observations.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Now that the hon. Minister has clarified the position, may we know from him whether the Chief Minister of Assam has also cared to know that some of his colleagues in the Cabinet were actually abetting or helping Pakistan after the infiltration in Assam . . .

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: You are making another allegation.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: My point is that in the absence of Mr.

Swell, Mr. Nanda has made a statement. He has said that he associates himself with the sentiments expressed by the Chief Minister of Assam. If he had only conveyed the views of the Assam Government, it would have been all right, but as Home Minister, is it right for him to associate himself in such manner without enquiring himself, into those very serious allegations which have been mentioned by Mr. Swell and which are very widely circulating in Assam and Bengal?

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: So far as the statement by my friend, Mr. Swell is concerned, which he made some days ago, he, I am sure, must have ascertained the facts and taken full responsibility. So, I request that as soon as Mr. Swell comes to the House, he may be given an opportunity to reply to this statement. . . . (Interruptions).

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Yes. Mr. Basumatari.

Shri Basumatari: In view of the seriousness, may I know whether the Home Minister proposes to go to Assam . . . (Interruptions.)

An Hon. Member: He has to depend upon the information of the Assam Chief Minister.

Shri Kapur Singh: May I add one sentence to what has been said? The Home Minister has taken up the position of the Chief Minister of Assam as his own and he has also made no personal enquiries. What is worse, he has not even given an opportunity to Shri Swell to prove his case before he made the statement in this House.

Shri Nanda: May I clarify the position? I have said:

[Shri Nanda]

"He considers, and I agree with him, that aspersion against them, when they are not in Parliament to defend themselves, is very unfair."

Shri Jashvant Mehta (Bhavnagar):
Before making the statement did the Home Minister enquire from the Central Intelligence Agency?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The House stands adjourned till 11 A.M. tomorrow.

17.10 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, March 6, 1964/Phalguna 16, 1885 (Saka).