

12.4½ hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): Sir, on behalf of Shri Satya Narayan Sinha, I rise to announce Government Business during the week commencing the 30th March, 1964:

Any part discussed item of the Government Business carried over from today's Order Paper:

Discussion and voting on demands for grants relating to the Ministries or Departments of: Irrigation and Power, Supply and Technical Development, industry, Health, Works, Housing and Rehabilitation, Community Development and Co-operation.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath (Hoshangabad): Sir, on a point of clarification, I have a two-fold request to make.

From the statement just read out, it appears that the Ministry of Works, Housing and Rehabilitation will come up next week for discussion. In this connection may I invite your attention to the report of the Ministry, presented to the House. It does not contain any material with regard to the latest communal holocaust in East Pakistan and about migrants from East Pakistan no data is given; probably it was prepared before this holocaust. So, may I request you to direct the Ministry to prepare a supplementary statement with regard to the rehabilitation plans of the Government with regard to migrants from East Pakistan.

Secondly, you were pleased to suggest last Friday, when I raised the question of the alteration of the hours of sitting of the Lok Sabha, that I should sound the other groups. I have informally sounded my colleagues here on this side and also some friends of the Congress Party, and they are agreeable to have the hours....

Mr. Speaker: He can write to me, getting their signatures.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: All that I request you is, to ask the Members of the groups, representatives of the groups and of the Congress party also to meet you in your Chamber so that the matter could be finalised by you.

Mr. Speaker: Shri Kotaki.

12.06 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS—contd.

MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE—contd.

Shri Lladhar Kotaki (Nowgong): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the subject of food and agriculture has been coming up before the House over and over again....

श्री राधेलाल व्यास : (उज्जैन) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मुझे आप से एक गुजारिश करनी है ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : माननीय सदस्य श्री कटकी बोल रहे हैं । क्या मैं उन को बन्द कर दूँ ? उन को बोल लेने दीजिये । उस के बाद वह जो कुछ कहना चाहें, कह सकते हैं ।

श्री राधेलाल व्यास : मैं बोलने के लिये नहीं खड़ा हुआ हूँ । मैं आप से एक गुजारिश करना चाहता हूँ ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : माननीय सदस्य, श्री कटकी, जरा ठहर जायें । हम माननीय सदस्य, श्री व्यास, को सुन लें कि वह क्या कहते हैं ?

श्री राधेलाल व्यास : मैं गुजारिश करना चाहता हूँ कि पिछले दिन हम ने आप से रिक्वेस्ट की थी कि आज का नान-आफिशल बिजिनेस अगले दिन पर रख दिया जाये । फूड की बहस बड़ी महत्वपूर्ण है । अभी अभी

फूड मिनिस्ट्री ने कुछ डिस्जिन लिये हैं— नये जोन्स बनाये हैं। उन के बारे में हम सब को बहुत कुछ कहना है, यद्यपि एक दिन पहले बहस हो चुकी है। इस लिये मेरी गुजारिश है कि इस बहस के महत्व को देखते हुए यदि आप नान-ऑफिशियल बिजिनेस को अगले दिन को रख दें—माननीय सदस्य, श्री कामत उस रोज एतराज कर रहे थे, लेकिन इस विषय की गम्भीरता को देखते हुए वह भी मुझ से सहमत होंगे—तो हम सब को कुछ अर्ज करने का मौका मिलेगा और शासन के सामने सब बातें आ जायेंगी, जिस से वह इम्पार्टेंट डिस्जिन ले सकेंगे।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : रेजोल्यूशन के दिन तो मैं नहीं रख सकता हूँ। बिल के दिन, जो कि पन्द्रह दिनों के बाद, उस से अगले वीक, आयेगा, इस को रखा जा सकता है। अगर मेम्बर साबान इस बात पर एग्री करें, तो मैं ऐसा करने के लिये तैयार हूँ।

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty (Bar-crackpore): We could not follow.

Mr. Speaker: He says that the non-official Bills that are coming up today might be taken up the week next, on the non-official day.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: That is, the non-official Bills day?

Mr. Speaker: Yes, the non-official Bills day.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: That means one non-official day is cut out.

Mr. Speaker: It is lost.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: We will not agree to it. Once we agree to a programme, I have always stuck to that position. I object. (Interruption)

Mr. Speaker: Well, one objection is enough. It is not possible.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath (Hoshan-gabad): Speaking for myself, and

my Group, and looking to the importance of the matter, I have no objection.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: I object very strongly. I will never allow any non-official business to be cut out.

Mr. Speaker: All right. Shri Koteki.

Shri Liladhar Koteki: I was saying that, the subject of agriculture and food has come up before this House over and over again, and in this connection, I would like to bring to the attention of the Ministry what was stated in the first Five Year Plan.

12.08 hrs.

[**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER** in the Chair]

The object laid down therein was that the imbalance caused after partition would be rectified and a sound basis for agriculture would be laid down during the First Five Year Plan so that we could go ahead with industrialisation in the second Five Year Plan. This object was not achieved. Again in the Second Five Year Plan itself, it was stated that although we would go ahead with industrialisation, whatever shortfall we had in agriculture would be rectified. Now, I would draw the attention of the Minister to page 70 of the Mid-term Appraisal of the third Five Year Plan. What do we find in Table II of this book? The target of foodgrains that was laid down to be achieved by the end of the third Plan was 100 million tons. But the increase during the last three years or the achievement made is not at all encouraging. I would request the Minister to tell the House how Government propose to achieve the target of 100 million tons during the remaining two years.

In the annual reports of both the departments of agriculture and food, we find that some serious steps are being proposed after the formation of the Agricultural Production Board. I

[Shri Liladhar Kotoki]

refer to paragraphs 4, 5 and 6 at page a and paras 31, 32 and 33 at page 10 of the Report of the Department of Agriculture, where the same subject has been repeated about the Agricultural Production Board. It is stated in these reports that similar production committees are to be constituted in various States and the process will further be continued up to the village level.

The report says that some States have already taken action. I want to know what are the States which have already taken action to implement the various programmes that this Agricultural Production Board at the Centre has worked out and what are the States that have not taken any action at all. Secondly, I want to be told when these programmes will reach the village level, so that active steps can be taken in the field for increasing our production.

I will make a few suggestions pertaining to the State of Assam, to which I belong. There is a wrong impression created that as we have too much rain, perhaps there is no need for irrigation. We do have very heavy rains for 4 months in the year and during the remaining 8 months, we do not have rain at all. The rains come in the months of June and July particularly, when we harvest the paddy and jute crops. During the last 13 or 15 years, every year the floods have created such a stagnation in the economy of the State that I will ask the Ministry and the Central Government as a whole to study the problem from that angle. I will cite some figures. Since the great earthquake of 1950 the annual average loss to crops alone has been worked out at Rs. 3 crores. The damage done by floods to roads and other public properties together with the damage done

to crops comes to an average of Rs. 5 crores every year. During 1962, it went as high as over Rs. 20 crores. Therefore, this position will have to be given very serious thought by the Government of India. I am glad that the Agricultural Production Board, under the chairmanship of the Minister of Agriculture, includes also the Minister of Irrigation and Power. Because flood has been every year damaging the crop that we grow, particularly during the harvest time, this question of flood must be tackled and tackled in a very effective way. Unless the Central Government and the Planning Commission make adequate provision, it is not possible for a State like Assam to tackle this problem.

Again, unless we control flood during the monsoons and also provide irrigation facilities enabling the farmers to grow alternative crops during the winter months, we will always face shortage of foodgrains, apart from shortage of other commercial crops like jute etc. Floods destroy both jute crop and also food crops.

Until these facilities are provided, until flood is controlled to save the crops during the monsoon months and irrigation facilities are provided enabling the farmers to raise alternative crops during the winter months, I am afraid the Centre will always have to supply food from the Centre or from other States to this area where the increase in the population as revealed in the last census has been the highest in India. Also, only recently a large number of people belonging to the minority community in Pakistan have come to Assam. We have to feed them. There are also various people coming to Assam for defence purposes. They also will have to be fed. We cannot go on feeding them by supplies from outside for the one simple reason of transport bottle-neck. Therefore, my positive suggestion is that from now on at least

serious steps should be taken to enable the growing of sufficient crop in these localities. I assure you, Sir, and the House, being a farmer myself, that when these things are there, when these facilities are provided, we will be able to grow enough food.

I will cite one example to illustrate this point. From both the report here and also the statement of the Minister of Finance in Assam we find that whenever there is a shortfall they blame the weather. Surely, the weather is there. In some places we get rains for four months as in Assam and in some other parts there are drought conditions. Therefore, both these problems have to be faced and faced squarely.

The Third Plan has stated—the report also mentions it—that no financial handicap will be allowed in implementing the programme for increasing our agricultural production, especially foodgrains. In this connection, it is very sad to find that year after year our import of foodgrains is increasing. I will refer to the Food Departments' report. On page 8 of this report some figures are given. In 1961 it was Rs. 129 crores; in 1962 Rs. 141 crores and in 1963 Rs. 183 crores. I do not know the value of the imports under PL 480 during the coming years.

Coming to irrigation, there is no major irrigation at all in this area. Though the proposal for Jamuna medium size irrigation project was mooted for the last four or five years, it has not been implemented. There is another project namely the Kopili project. The project report was finalised last year. There also the work has not started for some reason or other. I know there are some technical difficulties. But, whatever the difficulties might be, if we mean business, since the Agricultural Production Board has been formed, I want an assurance to this House from the Ministry that they are going to

achieve the targets mentioned by the end of the Third Plan.

Then, I will deal with one or two more points before I resume my seat. It is possible to increase the yield per acre and that is necessary. We will have to do it. Land does not go on expanding like rubber. Therefore, we will have to pay more attention to increasing the yield per acre. There are so many scientific ways in which we could do it. But, more than that, my own impression is, particularly in the northern region, if you stop floods from damaging crops and you provide irrigation facilities during non-monsoon months, the State will be able to sustain the present population for another five years even without taking recourse to scientific intensive cultivation. I am not arguing against adopting intensive cultivation. But, even if you have intensive cultivation, if floods come and there is no facility of irrigation, I do not know how we will grow any crops. Therefore what I urge is even though improved seeds, improved implements and fertilisers are necessary, irrigation facilities must be given top-most priority. Because, unless you do that, all the other things are not going to give you any increased yield.

I am glad to find from the Demands that provision has been made for having warehouses at 7 centres in the State. It is stated that it will be done in two phases. Already, there are some warehouses. My own feeling is that the process will have to be further extended. I have already stated why Assam, and the north-eastern region will have to be kept fully self-sufficient so that if and when the emergency which is threatening us from the north and the east materialises the population there and the defence forces might not feel any short supply in food. Therefore these warehouses are the only way we can preserve food at least for a few months to stand by till further supplies can be sent there.

[Shri Liladhar Kotoki]

With this submission I support the Demands of the Ministry.

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, as many as 14 hon. Members of this hon. House excluding the Parliamentary Secretary have so far spoken in this debate. The approach of hon. Members has been rather critical, but I must say that it has been constructive too. All the same I have to submit that many of the points that have been raised had been raised when the food situation in the country was debated on the 2nd March, that is, in the early part of this month. Having regard to the nature of the subject we cannot also expect many new points to emerge; however, that would indicate that there is nothing revolutionary to suggest as far as hon. Members are concerned apart from the steps that have already been taken by Government or that are proposed to be taken by Government.

Suggestions made range from the one that had been made by the hon. Member who initiated the debate, namely, State trading in foodgrains, to the one made by Shri Reddy, namely, that there must be free trade and that any control on trade or nationalisation or anything like that would ruin the peasantry. That was his approach. Of course, from my side of the House Shrimati Renuka Ray said that the major cities of the country had to be cordoned off. That is an aspect which has been considered by the Ministry. That would mean, we would have to have heavy commitment and our stock position may not perhaps justify the cordoning of the major cities of the country.

The rise in prices during the last season has been attributed to lower or short output in the year 1962-63. Several hon. Members have voiced the opinion that there is something wrong

on the agricultural front. I am not prepared to subscribe to that opinion.

An Hon. Member: That is your difficulty.

Shri A. M. Thomas: I would ask the hon. Member who has been rather very critical on the aspect of lower agricultural production one thing. In the year 1962-63 after the monsoon season was almost over I happened to tour some of the areas in Orissa, namely, Balasore and Mayurbhanj adjoining the State of West Bengal and I was distressed to find that the rice bowl of Orissa was practically a desert in several portions of those districts. I respectfully ask the hon. Member, Shri Dwivedy, whether the Agriculture Ministry could have done anything in the matter. In fact, it has to be realised that the irrigated land is less than 20 per cent of the total cultivable land and the climatic conditions.....

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy (Kendrapara): Have you provided any irrigation facilities in those areas during these years?

Shri A. M. Thomas: In fact, they are rainfed areas, mainly dependent on monsoon and it is very rarely that crops fail in that areas.

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy: Not a single irrigation scheme has been taken up in Mayurbhanj District.

Shri A. M. Thomas: Balasore is known as the rice bowl of Orissa. Ordinarily, crops do not fail in that area. But, last year, unfortunately, the crops failed. You would realise that the situation was one of considerable loss in production to the extent of 10 per cent all over the country. Even though it was 10 per cent all over the country, it was 33 1/3 per cent loss in States like Madhya Pradesh, and the loss was fairly sizable in the deficit States of West

Bengal, Gujarat, Bihar and some other States also. But in spite of this low production of 2·8 million tons as far as rice is concerned, and nearly 1·3 million tons as far as wheat is concerned, we have been able to bring the situation under control, although the prices shot up to disturbing levels for some period, say two or three weeks, as happened in West Bengal. But I must say that the steps that have been taken by Government have yielded results, and however critical the approach may be, the achievement of Government on the food front with such a heavy loss in production is something which can only be belittled by a disregard of truth and objectivity. Either it must be pride or prejudice on the part of the hon. Member Shri Surendranath Dwivedy, or both, which must have motivated him to belittle the achievements of Government on the food front. In Orissa itself, when the prices shot up they were brought under control. In West Bengal, the prices shot up for about two to three weeks to unprecedented levels, but they were later on brought under control.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: What is the control? Instead of Rs. 50 it is now Rs. 38. That is all.

Shri A. M. Thomas: My hon. friend who usually participates in this debate has not chosen to participate this time because the West Bengal position is quite comfortable.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: I am waiting for my chance to speak.

Shri A. M. Thomas: In fact, in West Bengal, the prices are lower than those that existed in the whole of last year. Otherwise, I am sure my hon. friend would have participated in this debate much earlier.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: I would like to know the prices during last year and now.

Shri A. M. Thomas: Let me proceed.

This is a matter which has to be borne in mind by hon. Members.

The hon. Member who initiated the debate said that Government would usually paint a rosy picture. But I might say that I am not going to paint a rosy picture, but I am going to paint a realistic picture of the situation.

The present position is that the all-India index of wholesale prices of rice has fallen from 133·1 in the third week of October, 1963 to 121·8 in the middle of March, 1964, which means a fall of about 8·5 per cent as against a decline of 4 per cent only during the corresponding period last year. In some States like West Bengal, the decline in the wholesale price has ranged between Rs. 18·50 and Rs. 50 per quintal. In Orissa, Maharashtra and Bihar, the fall has varied from Rs. 3 to Rs. 12 per quintal. In Assam, the prices have generally ruled steady. A similar trend has belatedly been visible in the southern region and Madhya Pradesh. In U.P. and Punjab, there has been some tendency to rise due to damage to the millets and wheat crops and the consequential sympathetic effect on prices. The retail prices also have shown a similar trend.

As regards the prices of wheat, they maintained very low levels, as would be seen from the figures. In August, the index number was 87·9. So, the rise has been to some extent compensatory in character. In fact, it has risen on 22nd February, 1964 to 125·1. By the middle of March, as a result of the heavy pumping in of imported wheat and other regulations, the prices have declined by 3 per cent and the index was 121·3 on 14th March, 1964. The decline has been particularly marked in the Punjab, U.P. and Delhi. Market arrivals from the new crops have already begun to influence a declining tendency in Madhya Pradesh and dependent markets while it is expected that the arrival of the new crops in U.P. and Punjab is likely to sustain the declining trend.

[Shri A. M. Thomas]

The formation of wheat zones with effect from 23rd March, 1964 is likely to promote this tendency in the producing States, and the reports from the various States that we have received now indicate that there is a declining trend, and hon. Members also would have noticed from the reports in the newspapers that a substantial fall is being registered or expected in the wheat prices. This is the tendency which is noticeable in the producing States. An improvement in the situation in the other States is also noticeable. The situation in the other States, not the main-producing States but States such as Maharashtra, Gujarat and the States in the eastern zone and the States in the southern zone would be taken care of by the distribution of imported wheat from fair price shops to the extent required.

Jowar, bajra, and other cereals including gram showed a similar tendency to rise, but during the last four or five weeks, the process of decline has been manifesting itself throughout.

The present position, therefore, is that the situation has not only been brought under control, but the reverse trend has also set in due to the various measures taken by Government from time to time. At the same time, I would like to emphasise that it is not a realistic approach to expect that the prices should go down every year, although I grant that as far as the present year is concerned, with the price level which we have begun, there is considerable scope for further reduction in it.

It has to be realised that in the present context of our economy, the demand for foodgrains tends to increase year by year with increase in population and increase in per capita incomes as well as increase in the pace of urbanisation. In this situation, if in any particular year, the production of foodgrains either falls or even remains stagnant, the pressure on prices of foodgrains tends to be built up.

The production of foodgrains during 1962-63 declined to 78.7 million tons as against 81 million tons in 1961-62. Along with this, the tempo of planned investment and the defence expenditure also has increased significantly. I would beg of this House to keep this aspect also in view.

Since September, 1963, we have distributed about 3 million tons of wheat over a period of 6½ months. During the whole of 1963, we distributed only 3.8 million tons; that was more or less the level of our distribution for the whole year. During the last 6½ months we have distributed more than 3 million tons; in January this year, we have distributed 452,000 tons, and in February 563,000 tons, and in March, it is expected that the distribution may exceed even 6 lakhs tons.

I have one purpose in mentioning these figures in regard to distribution. As far as wheat is concerned, our production of wheat is around 11 million tons, and the marketable surplus of that production would be round about 3 to 4 million tons, and we distribute about 1½ times the marketable surplus, as the level of our distribution would indicate.

So, I would say that even our index of wheat prices which may perhaps stand at 124 or 125 is in a way unrealistic, because the marketable surplus, as far as indigenous wheat is concerned, is only of the order of about 3 to 4 million tons, having regard to 11 million tons of production last year. The marketable surplus this year is even less than the wheat that we distribute, which would show that the index prices as far as wheat is concerned, is rather unrealistic. We would even suggest that perhaps, the index of wheat prices has to be revised in the light of our experience and in the context of this large-scale distribution of wheat.

Shri D. S. Patil (Yeotmal): Are Government proud of the distribution from the Government godowns?

Shri A. M. Thomas: As far as the Central Government are concerned, we are not really proud of imports and distribution of imported foodgrains. We want to increase the indigenous production. There is no doubt about it. Shri Surendranath Dwivedy said that our policy was not farmer-oriented but foreign-oriented. But I would say that it is foreign-oriented in a way, because as far as our exports to foreign countries are concerned, the exports of agricultural products or exports of products of industries based on agriculture form about 60 per cent of our exports.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Imports also?

Shri A. M. Thomas: So that we are proud of the fact that it is foreign-oriented.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: This is reminiscent of the colonial economy. Face the realities.

Shri A. M. Thomas: We have registered an increase of Rs. 104 crores in 1963 from the level of export earnings in 1962. It will be found that most of this increase has been registered on account of the increase in the export of agricultural products, so that we need not be ashamed of importing some foodgrains. At the same time, when we export agricultural products, all the same we are not happy about these imports. When the imports are considered, we have also to take note of the fact that we have accepted the suggestion of this hon. House for building up a buffer stock. Is there scope for it with a production of 11 million tons internally?

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: On a point of order. If I heard the Minister aright, he said that we are proud; later he said that we are not happy. How could these two statements be reconciled?

Shri A. M. Thomas: Proud of our exports. That shows that in spite of the apparent attention that the hon.

Member shows, he has not in fact been following what I have been saying.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: You have not followed the argument.

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy: Actually, in this matter they are shameless.

Shri A. M. Thomas: There is no point in shutting our eyes to the realities of the situation. The main problem is of bringing down the prices further and of ensuring that during the lean period they do not shoot up. From this point of view, the lessons we have to imbibe are that the undue rise in pre-harvest prices leaves a trail of high prices even in the post-harvest season; it went up to 133 points, in the case of wheat 125 points—so that we started with high prices. The high level of lean period prices must, therefore, be forestalled. Measures must be devised to deal with producer and trade resistance and to soften the rigours of consumer preference. The shortfall in production can be met only partially by vigilance on prices and regulation of trade and the really effective remedy is to pump increasing supplies into the market. The artificial stimulus to price increases due to unrealistic procurement prices must be checked.

In fact, we have also launched on a programme by which the trade margins and activities, particularly during lean period would be kept under control. A proper watch should have to be kept on market arrivals and trade stocks and as far as possible, differences should be met by additional supplies. Temptation to black market in imported or procured stocks released to fair price shops and sold at very cheap rates as compared to market prices should be curbed.

A new feature has manifested itself in the current year, viz. sustained producer resistance generated by the high level of prices in the immediate, pre-harvest period and the expectation

[Shri A. M. Thomas]

that the price trend may be more favourable to them. This tendency has to be met effectively particularly since to the bulk of market arrivals it is the medium and large producer who is a contributory and whose powers of resistance are larger.

The aim of controls and regulations must be, on the one side, to protect the producer against any fall in prices which might act as a disincentive to production and on the other, to limit the rise in prices during the lean period over the minimum post-harvest price, with the twin object of protecting the consumer and avoiding the tendency of the producer or the trader to hoard their stocks. The third objective should clearly be to prevent the trader from making any unreasonable profit or indulging in anti-social practices of hoarding and cornering of his stocks, without interfering with the process of building up of trade stocks in the post-harvest period for the lean period.

With a view to achieve these objectives, we have decided to raise the procurement prices, partly in order to attract the producer and partly to reduce the impact of low prices of procurement on the market prices. At the same time, it has to be realised that government cannot enter the market on equal terms with the trader, partly because it would have the result of pushing up prices unreasonably and partly because the distribution of procured rice costs a very substantial amount to Government in subsidies.

There has been a clamour from many Members that procurement prices be raised. We have, therefore, raised it by Rs. 2 per maund of rice.

Shri Shashi Ranjan (Pupri): What is the basis of increasing or decreasing the price?

Shri A. M. Thomas: It is based on the post-harvest prices in the last two or three years.

Shri Shashi Ranjan: Not based on the cost of production?

Shri A. M. Thomas: Similarly it has been decided to make regulation of trade more effective by making licensing conditions more rigid and severe. The question of strengthening the machinery for enforcement, which has left much to be desired in the past, is under the active consideration of Government and the proposals of State Governments have been invited by the 31st March at the latest. After these are received and Government are satisfied that the machinery for enforcement would be sufficiently effective, Government would decide the manner in which the costs should be shared by Central Government and the State Governments. The draft licensing order controls the trade practically at all its weak or strong points as the case may be.

It has also been decided to step up procurement by the Central and State Governments, which is likely to exceed one million tonnes. We have put a target as far as the Centre is concerned of a procurement of 750,000 tonnes. We have already procured about 500,000 tonnes. The Government have also decided to increase the pace of imports of wheat under PL-480 and enter into arrangements for further imports in order to meet abnormal situations such as in the present year and build up buffer stocks.

The question of fixing maximum prices of cereals, particularly rice and wheat, is also under active consideration, the intention being that even during the lean period prices would not be allowed to exceed a particular level over the post-harvest prices.

The Reserve Bank has already taken action to enforce credit controls with a view to preventing traders from acquiring facilities to support hoarding and profiteering.

The success of the policy and measures that the State and the Central

Governments may devise would ultimately depend on the cooperation of the press and the public. So far as the press is concerned, it is a great vehicle of canalising public opinion in favour of cultivating a public conscience against the activities of traders and profiteers and in favour of enforcement of discipline and regulations that must back enforcement efforts. It has also a duty to perform in that it does not indirectly assist anti-social elements by creating unnecessary panic and alarm. So far as the public is concerned, it has to acquire resistance to the practices of traders and take active steps to expose them in order to help government to implement these measures. It has also to apply voluntary restraints at the time of any local or general scarcity in order not to accentuate the rigours of the economic situation. Government, therefore, are laying full emphasis on an intensive drive for more production and hope that the drive will yield results.

• Whilst, therefore, the situation relating to prices is undoubtedly serious, it need not cause any undue pessimism or lack of confidence in our own ability to successfully weather the storm. Government have no doubt that the measures they have decided upon or have under consideration will enable them to deal with the situation to the farthest extent possible under the impact of monetary and fiscal policies and prevalence of other economic factors.

As regards availability in the current year, I have great pleasure to submit to the hon. House that although rice production last year fell by 2.8 million tons, this year the prospects are much better. In fact, reports from various States indicate that it will surpass the record production of 1961-62. In 1961-62, we produced about 34.8 million tons. It is estimated, on the basis of the reports we have received, that we shall reach even round about the figure of 36 million tons of rice production this year. With that availability and having re-

gard to our stock position of wheat, we hope it would be possible to keep the situation under control.

Some hon. Members referred to two or three subjects. One related to fisheries—one or two hon. Members referred to it. Usually, in the course of a debate on the food or agricultural situation, this subject is not generally dealt with because of other subjects commanding higher priority. But I would like to deal with this question in somewhat greater detail this time.

The fisheries wealth of the country is immense, whether we consider marine fisheries or inland water fisheries. There are potentialities of substantially increasing exports with a view to earning valuable foreign exchange, as also of increasing intake of fish in domestic diet with a view to increasing its richness and reducing the intake of cereals.

India has distinct advantages in promoting fisheries. India has a coast line of about 3,000 miles. Even with all the advantages that India possesses, it has to be admitted that neither in the external field, nor in the internal, has India made the progress that the position of resources of these dimensions justified. This has been due mostly to the fact that not much attention was paid either to the development of these resources or to the modernisation of our approach to that development. Our level of expenditure in the First Plan was only Rs. 2.8 crores; in the Second Plan it was only Rs. 9 crores. It was for the first time when the Third Plan was framed that the importance of both inland and marine fisheries was recognised and a multi-pronged attack on the problem was made both in inland and marine fisheries. We have provided about Rs. 29 crores in the Third Plan both in the Centre and in the States. The main object was to get out of the orthodox grooves and to make beginnings of development on modern lines. The emphasis was on mechanisation, modernisation of fishing equipment,

[Shri A. M. Thomas]

provision of refrigeration and cold storage and canning, development of inland fishing resources, development of fishing harbours, improvement of technique and technology, and education and research. As there was the cry of "industrialise or perish", the cry has been voiced by fishermen now "mechanise or perish", which is a very healthy sign.

The target set for the Third Plan was 4,000 additional mechanised fishing boats. For this target, the existing boat building capacity is adequate, but the handicap has been the provision of marine diesel engines, the import of which is dependent on the availability of foreign exchange. Because of the lack of it, only 679 modern engines have been imported so far, and orders have been placed for another 400. Only recently the difficulty of foreign exchange has somewhat eased, and about 1,000 more engines would be imported in the course of the next few months, and foreign exchange for another 1,000 engines is likely to be made available in the last year of the Plan. Thus, it would be possible to import about 3,000 engines as against the target of 4,000, so that we would be realising the target only to the extent of about 75 per cent, in spite of our best efforts. These mechanised boats are of the small type. Trawler fleet of steel is necessary to penetrate into seas much farther. Attention to that aspect also is being paid.

Progress in the field of canning has been very satisfactory, and consequently the export of dry, canned and frozen marine products has been showing an upward trend. In 1961-62 the value of such exports was nearly Rs. 4 crores, in 1962-63 it was more than Rs. 4 crores, while in 1963-64 we have exceeded the figure of 1962-63 even by December, 1963. Going by calendar years, in 1963 it was Rs. 5.59 crores, while in 1962 it was only Rs. 3.52 crores. It is a per-

formance for which we can legitimately take credit.

Progress made in fishing harbours has also been sufficiently satisfactory. The construction of the first stage of harbours at Cuddalore in Madras and Veraval in Gujarat is nearing completion, while the fishing harbours at Nagapatnam, Porbunder, Zizinjhom, landing jetties at Kandla and Mangalore are in various stages of construction. The survey of Beypore, Colachel and Royapuram has been completed. Fishing harbours are proposed to be constructed at Cannanore and Karwar. It is unfortunate however, that no progress has been made with the large fishing harbours, e.g. improvement of Sassoon Docks and the building of two other harbours. These are matters in which the Port Trusts come into the picture, with whom we are taking up the matter.

In education and research we have made considerable progress. We have the Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute, Barrackpore, the Central Marine Fisheries Institute, Mandapam Camp, and the Central Institute of Fisheries Technology, Cochin. Besides, we have the Central Institute of Fisheries Education, Bombay and the Central Institute of Fisheries Operatives in Cochin. Valuable work has been done by these institutes both in the field of research and training.

It is also proposed to set up a Fisheries Corporation with a view to seeking foreign collaboration to provide technical know-how, equipment and marketing facilities and also to direct, co-ordinate and assist the development of local enterprise in the field of fisheries. Already, collaboration with foreign countries has been started by private enterprise, which has yielded useful and valuable results. The Indo-Norwegian project in particular, has been of immense benefit to the country, and

from Kerala it has now been extended to Mysore and Madras. Already, Japanese collaboration has been secured by two Indian firms and consultations are in progress with an American firm for large scale collaboration. In the field of inland fisheries also, we are taking necessary steps, but for want of adequate time, I do not deal with these aspects.

I may take a few minutes to deal with minor irrigation, as several Members have referred to it. In the field of minor irrigation, I think we can take legitimate pride at the substantial progress that has been made.

Shri D. S. Patil: Will be made?

Shri A. M. Thomas: Has been made.

Shri Basappa (Tiptur): Mysore has been making a request for Rs. 40 crores, and you have not given.

Shri A. M. Thomas: The hon. Member who spoke last also referred to the importance of irrigation. The amount that has been provided in the Third Plan under the GMF sector for minor irrigation is Rs. 174.46 crores, with a target of 9.5 million acres to be brought under cultivation, and 3.5 million acres under the C. D. sector, making a total of 12.8 million acres. Even for this target there would be a supplementary provision amounting to Rs. 38.84 crores and an outlay of about Rs. 33 crores on the co-operative sector.

As for the achievements on this front, I may submit that the outlay under the Third Plan anticipated that expenditure for the four years ending 1964-65 would be about Rs. 180 crores. In fact, that means we will be even outstripping the target as well as the financial resources that have been provided under the Plan.

Shri K. N. Tiwary (Bagaha): How much on minor irrigation?

Shri A. M. Thomas: For the first four years we would be spending

about Rs. 180 crores at the present estimate. If some States like Mysore show better performance, we may be able to make additional resources available. So far it has been calculated that for the four years it would be Rs. 177.28 crores, or roughly Rs. 180 crores.

During the last year of the Second Plan, the annual capacity of the States to implement minor irrigation programmes was limited to about Rs. 25 crores. As a result of steps taken by the States by way of intensifying surveys and investigations, setting up unified agencies etc., the capacity would increase to about Rs. 60 to Rs. 65 crores during 1964-65. During 1965-66, the last year of the Third Plan, the tempo attained would not only be maintained, but is likely to be increased further. It is evident from this order of performance that the Third Plan provision and the physical target for minor irrigation under the GMF sector would be substantially overreached.

After taking into consideration the merits of different minor irrigation schemes, special emphasis is being laid on the following schemes: renovation of existing derelict tanks, boring of existing wells, deepening of existing wells by pneumatic equipment, installation of power pumps, particularly the electrical ones, and construction of tubewells, particularly by private parties.

One of the facts which has been frequently referred to in the course of the debate in this House, as also outside, is the high electricity rates for irrigation purposes.

13 hrs.

From the Central Government we urge that the rate for electricity supply should not, according to certain studies made by us, exceed 9 nP. per unit. Some States have already taken action to reduce the rate of electricity for agricultural consumers to below 9 nP. per unit. However the rates continue to be high in the States of

[Shri A. M. Thomas]

Bihar—23.44 nP in North Bihar and 15 nP in South Bihar, 15.35 in Gujarat, Maharashtra 12.45 nP., Madhya Pradesh—11.00 nP, Rajasthan—thermal 18.75 nP and Hydropower 10.00 nP, Uttar Pradesh—17.00 nP and West Bengal—13.00 nP.... (An Hon. Member: In Mysore?) It is comparatively less there. The extent of utilisation of electricity on irrigational pumping is hardly of the order of 5 to 6 per cent of the total power generated in the country. It should, therefore, be not at all difficult for the State Electricity Boards to so adjust their tariff for different types of loads that concessional rate not exceeding 9 nP per unit may be charged from the agricultural consumers. Electricity rates for agriculture constituted one of the subjects of discussion at the regional conferences held at New Delhi, Calcutta, Bombay and Ernakulam respectively for the northern, eastern, western, and southern regions.

On the basis of the discussions at the regional conferences the States concerned, viz., U. P., Rajasthan, West Bengal, Assam, Bihar, Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Madhya Pradesh, are expected to take some concrete steps for bringing down the rates for electricity supplied for agricultural purposes. Subsidising of consumption of electricity for agriculture by the Centre would entail heavy financial commitments. The Ministry of Irrigation and Power have estimated that on the basis of the energy sold for irrigation purposes during 1961-62 in the State in which the rate of supply is in excess of 9 nP, the total amount of subsidy to be provided for reducing the net rate payable by the consumer to 9 nP would be about Rs. 130 lakhs for the present low consumption and would increase considerably as the workload increases.

Even then, at the last meeting of the Central Agricultural Production Board, it was observed that where the high cost of production of electricity was justifiable it was reasonable

for the Central Government to bear a part of the additional cost and thus enable the supply of electricity for agricultural purposes at 9 nP per unit. That is the spirit and the States also would have to fall in line. Sir, I do not want to take more time. I thank you.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: I think he was speaking too early, when the hon. Minister said that it was an indication that prices in West Bengal were quite satisfactory as I was not speaking on the food debate. Statistics are very dangerous. He has given statistics for October and February and says that there is a decline. The skyrocketing of prices in October had reached Rs. 50. Obviously, it cannot stay at that level. But the right thing for him would have been to inform this House the price that obtained in December-January-February last year and then, this year. In December the harvest is at its height in West Bengal and it is almost finished by the end of January—a time when the prices should go down the lowest. I am quoting from *Ananda Bazar Patrika* of December 18, 1963 which says the price of rice has not gone below Rs. 37 or 35. This is something extra-ordinary. Even a Minister of West Bengal was heard to express his anxiety: if this is the price now, what will it be during the rains? On the 5th of January, the new prices were declared in West Bengal, paddy price was Rs. 14, 15 and 16 and the rice price was Rs. 25.65, 27.38 and 29.33 nP. The highest was Rs. 29.33 nP. But in West Bengal you cannot get rice below Rs. 35 generally, sometimes rarely Rs. 34 or Rs. 33. This is an extra-ordinary situation when we had a bumper crop. Even the hon. Minister stated that the rice crop was good. But prices are ruling high and there is something wrong somewhere. I am not talking of the days when we were in the midst of riots. I myself had paid Rs. 40 for rice although even in that extra-ordinary situation this

should not have been permitted to happen; but it happened. This question of State Trading in food-grains has come up again and again in this House and outside, except perhaps Shri Reddy from the Swatantra Party and probably Dr. Deshmukh feel that if we had complete and free trade things will improve... (Interruptions.) and the price of things will come down. But the majority are of the opinion that Government must go in for State trading in foodgrains. It is time that we take a proper decision and implement it in time. We must have some sort of State trading. If we keep fair price shops functioning, Government must have stocks. Time is the essence of the thing in agriculture. The other day the hon. Minister was saying: we are now thinking of taking such steps. They should not delay those steps till April or May. When it is harvest time and when paddy is in the market you have to take the decision. But it is never taken in time. Neither the floor price, nor the ceiling price for procurement or open market operations—none is stated in time. Nor have we taken a firm decision about State trading. Even in Bhubaneswar the Congress had resolution spoken about taking over through co-operatives the processing and marketing of agricultural products, especially paddy and also about progressively taking over the rice mills, so that the big profits of middlemen could be eliminated. Have any steps been taken in this regard? In this House many people say that when we say: bring down the prices, we are demanding that there should be lower prices for the producer. Our contention is that the consumer pays more and the producer does not get that price which he should get. It is the middlemen who eat it up. Therefore, there is no use saying that this is the price at which you should buy and sell. There are States where you are going to have procurement and there are States where you cannot have procurement because they may be deficit States. Why should not the open market buying done at the higher price? Have you set up

any machinery for dealing with these matters? What is it that you are doing? We have in Bengal what is called system of 'Dadan'. That is, giving of advances. Advance is given by the userer. He takes back, for one maund of paddy, three maunds of paddy at the time of the harvest when prices fall. It is worse in some places and it is a little better in some other places. I would say that the wisest thing for procurement or for being able to build up a buffer-stock is to give the small peasant credit. The credit must be given at the proper time. Again, time is the main factor. You must give it in the months of July and August, as far as rice is concerned, when the actual planting operation starts, and when the peasant is hard put to it. It is at this time when you have to give the credit. And this credit has to come from where? From the Government.

Actually, I was looking into the figures given by the Government regarding borrowings by the peasantry. I find one thing which is very interesting. If the hon. Minister had given us statistics of this nature it would be something. The other statistics, we do not believe at all, because they have compared the figures with those for October and February. How can you give such comparisons, before harvest and after harvest? The borrowing of peasants in the co-operative sector was about 1.2 per cent. The Government sources actually decreased from five per cent to two per cent; that from agricultural money-lenders increased from 18 per cent to 45 per cent. It is the agricultural money-lender—that is, the peasant has now become a major money-lender—it is no longer the ordinary *mahajan*. As a matter of fact the professional money-lenders share has come down. That figure is from 56 to 16 per cent. In other words, the figures with regard to the agricultural money-lender have

[Shrimati Renu Chakravartty]

increased. Then take the commercial banks—this is the main point—it is less than one per cent. (*Interruption*). Now, for commercial banks, it is less than one per cent. It is very, very revealing. That is why bank nationalisation is so important. Unless we are able to give credit, it is no use. We are thinking of so many things. Our peasants tell us; “give us credit and in time; give us water, and do not worry about the experts from America or from Great Britain. We ourselves will produce.” So, these two things are the most important ones.

The second point that I would urge is about irrigation. Already, we have had an answer regarding the rates of electricity. We have the DVC in West Bengal. The quarrel between the Centre and the State Government about the DVC has resulted in such a situation that as yet the tertiary and the field channels have not been dug and water is still not properly reaching out to all the fields. Something has got to be done about it. Really, the entire irrigated area seems to be utilised badly, and we must see that no burden is put on the agriculturist. In fact, I liked very much the point made by Shri K. D. Malaviya, namely, as far as the agriculturist is concerned, we should not put a burden on him. I think the agriculturist can pay back after a number of years. In fact, if Tata and Birla can take Rs. 20 crores and need not pay back any interest for a long period and the terms are ‘payable when able’ why not the poor agriculturist also have that advantage?

Then I come to one other very tricky point and that is about sugar. I am not going into the question of sugar production in detail. They say that productivity has gone up, but that is also a statistical manoeuvre. As far as foodgrains are concerned, the increase has been not

because of an increase in per acre yield but because there has been a large increase in the acreage. In my State of West Bengal, we do not worry much about sugar because that is not our staple commercial crop. Here, our Uttar Pradesh or Bihar friends always worry about this sugarcane. Even my friend Dr. Ram Subhag Singh worries about it! In my State of West Bengal, we do not grow much of sugarcane, but we do have one or two districts where we grow some sugarcane as, for example, in the district of Birbhum, which is one of the most poverty-stricken areas, and there, in Ahmedpur, we have one sugar mill to which the Government gave a loan of Rs. 75 lakhs and the Central and West Bengal Governments gave it for refugee rehabilitation. This Ahmedpur sugar mill has a crushing capacity of 20 lakh maunds of sugarcane for producing two lakh maunds of sugar. What is the situation there? Actually, the situation is that, for the last so many seasons, the sugarcane price of Rs. 1½ lakhs or Rs. 2 lakhs has not been paid yet. They say that the mill does not work well; that this year it worked for only a few months and then closed down. They have ended the crushing season. Actually, the workers have neither been paid the overtime wages, nor the outstandings of Rs. 1½ to Rs. 2 lakhs have been paid so far as the sugarcane growers are concerned. On the other hand Government has issued an order that they have to sell two-thirds of the sugarcane in this area to the mill. But there is only one mill and the mill refuses to take it. What are they to do? So, actually in the whole area the peasants are weeping. They say, “we will not grow sugarcane.”

Thirdly, I come to the licensing of the crushers. I suppose this is one of the measures that you have taken for preventing the diversion of cane to Khandsari. I do not know, But in our State, on the general understanding that we must reduce khandsari, they

have introduced a licensing fee and this licensing fee is Rs. 150 per crusher. The peasants are in great distress and deeply agitated. They say formerly they could have for a loan of Rs. 50 to Rs. 60 get the use of a crushing machine. Now, even for self-use, even for that, they have to pay a high price which they cannot afford. I can now understand a little bit, after having known the experience in my own State the feelings of certain hon. friends here who talk about the sugar cane situation. I would like the hon. Minister to tell us how he proposes to increase the acreage under sugarcane and not only increase the acreage of sugarcane but how he proposes to let us have a better type of sugarcane and a better yield. If this is the situation even in a State which does not have a glut of it—it is not one of our main products—I can understand the feelings of other in this respect.

I shall now make the last point and finish, and that is with regard to land reform. On this question we have had a lot of difference. I was reading a very interesting article by Shri K. N. Raj, one of the leading economists of our country. He says:

“In the rural sector, land legislation since Independence has not made much difference to concentration in land ownership in the rural areas,—

we are prone to say that after the Land Reform Acts, actually the concentration in land has been driven out. But he continues:

“...and has in the main only induced the larger holders of land to either disguise the true position (by partitioning land among members of the same family, reporting tenants as attached labourers, etc.) or, in some cases, to take a more active interest in the cultivation of land in order to prevent the accrual of occupancy rights to others.”

That is all right, but the first things is that large concentration of land

remains in disguised form. Then he goes on to say:

“The available data (such as those provided by the Planning Commission and the National Sample Survey) do not bring out adequately the extent of the concentration in land ownership. . . . They also, over-state the share of the larger units in ‘operated’ (as distinguished from ‘owned’) holding, Ownership is much more concentrated, and cultivation takes place in much smaller units, than we are led to believe by these statistics.”

This is an important thing. (*Inter-ruption*). He is an eminent economist, whose services the Government have utilised on the Steel Committee.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh (Amravati): There are so many bogus experts!

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: I cannot brush it aside. I am not an economist myself. I believe this goes entirely against the theory, against the grain, of Dr. P. S. Deshmukh. But I quite agree with Dr. Raj that this is the position. Certainly, if we are to fight against unemployment, then we have got to take to this land reform seriously. As a matter of fact, the Congress is supposed to have appointed a committee to report on the matter. I do not know what it is going to report. We know the situation in the areas. This is a matter which has to be looked into, so that our dependence on foreign imports will go down. It is a completely wrong thing to say that we have to import from abroad. It is a shame that we have to import from abroad. We know what has been done under PL 480 and how much rupee money has got tied up in the American embassy. It is a sign of a backward economy, when we depend for our foreign exchange only on exports of primary produce. We shall certainly continue to try to sell it, but that is not the sign of growth. It is a sign of a backward,

[Shrimati Renu Chakravartty]

colonial economy which we should try to change.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Sir, I was going to touch upon the points which I had thought of, but I think we have to give precedence to the point which has arisen in these speeches to which we have just listened, and that is with regard to electricity rates. I know my time is limited, and so I propose, without any preliminary or preparatory or introductory remarks, to proceed straight to the subject-matter. In the case of electricity charges, as I am going to point out and urge, it is time that the Government thought of the whole matter from the point of view of the farmer.

Shri S. K. Patil declared here in loud terms that thereafter, from the time he made the speech here, the Government policy was going to be farmer-oriented. We have had some evidence of it in the shape of certain price support. It has done good.

But what is this price support? From whose angle? In the annual report, this is called a reasonable price. But a reasonable price is not sufficient for boosting up agricultural production in this country. It must be to the producer a remunerative price. That is the essence of the whole agricultural policy. Since we know that there are crores of farmers who cannot make both ends meet, we have got to pay the same attention to them as what we pay to the workers in industries or urban workers. We have got organisations and welfare officers for labour. But we have not thought of welfare officers for farmers. We will have to do that. We will have to look at the economy of a farmer, so that he can keep his body and soul together. If he does not, how do you expect him not only to maintain the produce, but to produce more? That is impossible. It will be stupid for us to continue to look at it in the same direction, with our imports going up and our production not making much progress, in spite of the

fact that there are so many achievements to the credit of the Ministry. They have increased minor irrigation very substantially, but where is the produce? What has happened to the yield? We have had 4½ lakh tons of ammonium sulphate, but where is the produce? There are 100 million tons of composts. What is the rate at which one ton of compost produces how much foodgrains? Where is the produce? If we look at all that, ultimately, sooner the Government will realise it, the better, namely, that you have to care for the budget of the farmers, who at least produce the surplus which you want to distribute to those who do not produce. That is the crux of the problem and therefore, the sooner Government decides to subsidise agricultural operations, wherever necessary, the better.

I do not want Government to grant subsidies which are of a general nature without any proper discrimination or proper thinking. But we will have to subsidise the agricultural operations. So far as electricity is concerned, I suggest that Government can tell every State that no farmer will be permitted to pay more than 9 pies per unit and that whatever subsidy the State Government is prepared to give below 9 pies, an equal amount will be shared by the Central Government. My friend mentioned that this will require about a crore of rupees. But what is a crore to this wasteful Government of ours? Crores and crores go into the drains. I can point out many instances. I could not prevent it. A man getting Rs. 300 today is promoted to Rs. 700 because he is the most qualified man. Day in and day out the Third Plan is swallowed mostly by higher salaries aid to the same individuals rather than increasing the efficiency of the Government. This is the kind of Government we have, whether it is the States or the Centre. So, what is Rs. 1 crore for paying directly? I may tell the House that 3 pies per unit or any concession given to the farmer does

pay dividends straightway, we have not to wait for them. So, electricity should be dealt with as I have suggested.

I am wholly against state-trading in foodgrains. As a matter of fact, we have tremendous state-trading in foodgrains. Who imports all the foodgrains that come from abroad and who distributes them? It is the Government. The state-trading experiment was foolish. As I interrupted just now, there are many bogus experts going round the Government of India who mislead the Government—even the National Development Council. It was a concrete fact; it was told by somebody—some economist—that if you take to state-trading in foodgrains, you can make Rs. 100 or Rs. 200 crores of profit. But what was the experience? Madhya Pradesh tried to do it, but they could not sell and they had to share a loss of Rs. 2½ crores. To the socialists, state-trading is a joke or slogan. Nationalisation of banks is going to cure everything. That is not the kind of socialism in any case I want. So, I would suggest that state-trading should be continued where it is, namely, imports should not be handled by private traders. Distribution of the stocks also should not be handled by the private traders. But the scope of state-trading should not be expanded.

I know there are some people who do not like cooperatives, but ultimately, it is the cooperatives that will discharge the job of looking after the interests of producers and consumers; it cannot be done by state-trading.

Dr. M. S. Aney (Nagpur): Ultimately means what?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I mean it takes time, because honest people have to be available for running the cooperatives. The trouble is everybody wants to snatch whatever advantage he can.

I would like to support my hon. friend, Mrs Renu Chakravarti, when

she said that credit is a very essential thing. In this also, I want to urge the same point. In giving credit to a small farmer, Government should take the risk of not being able to recover it at all. They will have to prepare themselves for this. The farmer has been gambling with rain and monsoon all these generations and it is time that some of this gamble is shared by Government. If you give money with the expectation that he will produce more and if there is a calamity and he cannot pay, you better straightway write it off. You should be prepared to set apart a certain amount of money for that. Unless you are prepared to take a risk, there are millions of people who are not credit-worthy; you will never give them a pie, they will never be able to come out of their starving conditions, they will never produce more and you will never be able to solve the agricultural problem of this country.

Regarding sugar, I do not like the imposition of licence fees for crushers and so on. Here also very often we are on the side of protecting the mill-owners and others who have made huge profits and deprive the initiative to the farmers. We deal with this price mechanism on *apriori* considerations and do not look to the actual thing. In fact, the whole sugar policy and sugarcane cultivation has not been at any time—I am including my own period—rationally dealt with. When these poor farmers produced more, the department came down upon them. The whole House and the Government was worried as to what to do with the surplus. So, they issued an order that there should be 10 per cent less production. It shows that very often we are not prepared to learn from our own mistakes. There have been instances in the past when the traders were clamouring for an export of 2 lakh tons of sugar, but within three months, there was black market to the extent that 1 seer of sugar was not available for less than Rs. 2½. These being there, it was rather a mistake

[Dr. P. S. Deshmukh]

not to have learnt from them and to blame the farmers or the mill-owners for having produced a record quantity of sugar.

A complaint was made that the consumption has not risen. Now the consumption has risen. Although this year's production may not fall short of the peak of 3 million tons, there is said to be scarcity and Government is thinking of rationing and so on. I for one hate rationing absolutely on principle and in every way: I do not like these zones also, because they cut at the root of the farmers getting some more profit. That is my central contention that we will have to look at the whole problem from this point. Take any particular kind of farmer; if you like, take the middle one. Of course, it was very generous of the Food and Agriculture Minister to have raised the price by Rs. 1. But that is neither here nor there. These are all small charities for which the farmers are grateful, because it does contribute a little to reduce the loss and to give some profit to somebody. But this is not the way to deal with the problem. By all means do not cause any hardship to the workers and to the urban people. Give subsidies. Subsidise them, but see that you do not kill the farmer by *ad hoc* price fixation which does not give a remunerative price. A reasonable price will not do. It must be a remunerative price because he must live to work harder than he had done before. You want more agricultural production.

The work, generally, in the field of minor irrigation, compost and so on, is commendable. But, unfortunately, it is not reflected in greater production. I am glad that I still hold the record of 81 million tons which my friends have not been able to exceed so far. I wish them good luck this year, and I hope they will be able to produce more.

Unless we change our policy and look at the problem from this angle

we will not be able to do that. There are some people who are frightened by the word subsidy. I claim that there is no country in the world where agriculture is not subsidised. There is no country in the world where agriculture itself is paying. It is not a paying thing, it is a foolshman's business. It may be paying probably in the very fertile land of Uttar Pradesh and Punjab with good canal irrigation and so on. It may be profitable there. But I would like to make a present of 80 acres of my land and ask them to produce consistently even Rs. 2000 per year by way of profit. The whole operation of doing it is very difficult. In Europe agriculture is profitable because of animal husbandry, and not only because of agriculture. I hope the hon. Minister who has now come to this Ministry and brought rather a fresh mind to bear upon all these problems will really take a radical view. My hon. friend, Shri Thomas complained that there was no revolutionary suggestion. My suggestion may not look revolutionary, but it will certainly revolutionise agricultural production in the country. I assure the House and I can guarantee on this point. A few resolutions were passed by the 9th and 19th conventions of the farmers. Only a few but sensible resolutions were passed. I commend them for very detailed consideration because they are practical concrete suggestions and they come from the farmers themselves. They also say that unless you look at the whole problem from this angle you will not have given any real shape to our announcement that hereafter the policy of Government in regard to agriculture will be farmer-oriented. If the suggestions they have made here are accepted, then we will not only give the farmer some relief but we will also meet the tremendous challenge that is before us. There is no greater challenge than this. Even China is not a greater challenge than the availability of foodgrains in this country. Every Member in this House

realises that. The Prime Minister has been playing with this portfolio—I would beg his pardon for saying so. This portfolio has never been given the status that it deserves. I was functioning as the Agriculture Minister but there was somebody else on top of me and I could not do what I wanted. And, underneath also there are people in the Ministry who do not understand much about agriculture. They go on advising in ways which are detrimental to agricultural production and not at all helpful.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: It took ten years for you to realise that?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Those ten years will show that there was consistent progress. From 46 million tons it rose to 81 million tons. It is only after I left that the production has gone down. I would like hon. Members to examine my record and they will find that what they are trying to do by package deal and after spending lakhs of rupees I did without any expenditure by introducing Japanese method.

An Hon. Member: Then you must get back.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I do not want. I am very very happy where I am. I want to congratulate Shri Thomas for his elevation. He richly deserves it. He has done excellent work. I am also glad to welcome Sardar Saheb because this is his first budget. I have many expectations of him because the Prime Minister has confidence in him and so have all of us. I am sure he will justify this and really revolutionise agriculture. But he will never succeed, I tell him and I warn him, unless he looks at the whole problem from the angle of the farmer. We are rather dogmatic about it. We do not say that all that we say are absolutely correct, but here is an attitude, an approach which if adopted would solve many of the problem, remove many of the difficulties. The Government of India need not be afraid of spending

thousands of rupees by way of subsidies because this is an investment every pie of which will be returned double-fold or even three-fold if not many more. Therefore, they should not be chicken-hearted by saying what will happen to the finances of the country. If subsidies are given, if cheaper seeds are made available, if cheaper fertilisers are provided and if irrigation is provided at cheap rates the farmer will be able to produce what we expect of him.

Shrimati Yashoda Reddy (Kurnool): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, every time there is a rise in prices we have many discussions here on food. I would like to say that food is not the primary or essential thing. Agriculture is the most important thing and not food. This is an obvious thing. An obvious thing is so easily and so often forgotten that it needs reiteration. In India agriculture has suffered many handicaps, but none so insidious or ultimately so damaging as from a false transposition of priorities between food and agriculture. It has been food that has held the priority and not agriculture. Even the name of the Ministry is innocently indicative of the false priorities—it is Food and Agriculture Ministry. Agriculture and agriculturist have been pushed backward and Government and political administration has bogged itself in food controls, cordons and procurement. Perhaps it may be as a hang-over of the era of rationing when the concept of food was limited to the problem of feeding the urban population which was visible, more vocal and more troublesome. But they never thought about agriculture.

This is not a solved problem. Everytime there has been less production due to the vagaries of nature or bad seasons it has come up. The first and foremost thing is that there should be serious thinking and a re-orientation of the Government's policy. It is not enough if there is a change in policy in the Agricultural Ministry alone, the change should come in the policy of the whole Government. It

[Shrimati Yashoda Reddy]

must be agriculture-oriented and production-oriented. It should be less food-oriented.

In this connection I will say that we will be ill advised to divert our resources and efforts in food production. The continued dependence on PL 480 by which you went to put permanent crutches on the Indian agricultural policy, is not going to solve the problem. The first and foremost thing, as I have said, is that there should be a re-orientation of the policy.

The hon. Minister, Shri Thomas, was saying that we have given no new suggestions. He said that he has been hearing them over and over again. It may be that no new suggestions have been put forward and every time the same suggestions have been made. But why is it that every time the suggestions are not given effect to?

The second most important thing is, because of the low priority, agriculture has suffered in the matter of planning, administration, technical recruitment and other things. It is not that you do not know the causes, the reasons and the remedies. It is only lack of interest that is responsible. It is only because of the low priority that this has happened. Both the Central and the State Governments have from the very beginning been showing lack of interest. We know our problems. Great schemes are drawn up and targets are fixed. Planning in India, as Barbara Ward said, has been more of formulation than of implementation. We think more about how to do things, but we never think about how to get things done. Most of the theoretical solutions to low agricultural productivity have been known for ten years. It is known that irrigation, right fertiliser, improved seed, better implements and other things can double or even treble our output. We know that co-operatives can remove the middlemen. We know

that adequate credit facilities break the peasant's dependence on money-lenders. It is not that you do not know the essential core of any effective programme of agriculture. But the trouble is, bad implementation and false priorities in our policies not only in the agricultural department but in the whole Government. That has been the bane of our agricultural policy. The trouble lies in its patchy implementation and if any one reason more than any other lies behind the patchiness, it is lack of administrative concentration and technical skill.

When I say this, I would like to make myself clear. How far have you progressed on the technical side? How many agricultural universities and colleges you have opened and how many young people you have educated and trained so that they will become better farmers? Actually, there has been a fall in the number. Now the village level workers often know less than the farmers; so also the block development officer. Community Development does not help a farmer much to make money and in better production; it teaches him to lead a purer and better life. I think it is a job left to the philosophers and not to the Government of India.

You are asking the agriculturists to grow more of foodgrains. But what are the facilities that you are providing them? There is multiplicity of departments with no integration, confused thinking and overlapping of functions with the result that no progress is achieved in this front.

As Dr. P. S. Deshmukh has mentioned, how many Chief Ministers have you persuaded to become Agriculture Ministers? I think even in the Centre the Minister of Agriculture has not got the priority which he ought to have got. Preference is always given to the Ministry of Finance, or Industry or some other Ministry, but not to the Ministry of Agriculture. Of course, I am not

charging or blaming the Ministry of Agriculture; the fault is that of the Government as a whole, which is giving a sort of Cinderella-treatment to this Ministry. Government seem to think that agriculture has already been there, it has existed, it will exist, it does not need any particular attention. It is this faulty thinking of the Government which has placed agriculture in its present pitiable position.

How many entrants to the cadre of ICS are going to the Agricultural Service? Most of them are going to Finance or Industry. How many of your young Collectors have been told that unless they help increase the yield of foodgrains in their districts, the prospects of their future promotion will be marred? In how many cases have you fixed separate targets for each village, tehsil and district? Because you have not done it, the officers in charge of this subject are taking it easy. They do not have either the talent or the drive to get the desired results. The result is slackness and inefficiency.

In railways, in industry and in other fields if anybody fails you hold a court of inquiry. But what happens in agriculture? Nothing. Government is not interested in finding out why there is failure. You never hold any enquiry; you do not question anybody because you do not give the necessary priority to agriculture. Suppose a dam is to be built. Government should first ensure that cement is ready, iron is ready, the workers are available, roads are there, houses are provided to the workers etc. If there is failure in any one aspect, responsibility is fixed and charges are framed against Mohan Lal, X, Y or Z. I am sorry, I mentioned a name. I did not mean anybody in particular. In the case of irrigation, we first see that feeder channels are dug. But we do not have that integrated planning in agriculture. Each department functions in its own way. The fertilizer never comes in time. By the time the

improved seeds are supplied, they are not fit for sowing. This sort of disproportion between aims of policy and what is actually done would not occur if farming were approached with professional competence apparent, say, in building dams. The lack of professional bias is due to the low actual priority assigned to agriculture both in technical recruitment and in political interest. I fear the Government is treating the symptoms of the disease and not the disease itself.

India is an agricultural country and the whole economy, whether internal or external, is linked with agriculture. I do not know why we have neglected our agriculture when 80 per cent of our people depend directly on agriculture. In America, which is certainly a highly industrialised country, they gave first priority to agriculture and only afterwards to developing industries. But what is happening here? We are paying more attention to industries at the cost of agriculture. We seem to forget that agriculture is intimately connected with industry. Industry cannot be separated from agriculture. Because, no industry can be based on anything or any raw material which is not as a result of agriculture.

Do you know the demand of fertilizer, by agriculture? The other day when I asked a question on this subject, I was told by the Minister of Industries that he did not consult the Agriculture Ministry. Then what is the fertilizer for? Is it meant to feed men? What is the fun of the Industries Ministry functioning in such a water-tight compartment without any consultation with the Agriculture Ministry regarding its requirements of fertilizer? Of course, I am not saying that we should neglect our industries. Certainly, our industries are important. But then, there is the question of priority and I feel that the first priority should be given to agriculture and not to industry.

What is our production of nitrogen? Not even 26,000 tons when our target

[Shrimati Yashoda Reddy]

is one million tons. In Phosphate we have not reached even 25 per cent of our target. Neither would you permit the private sector to set up fertiliser factories to meet the requirements of your agriculture, nor would you set up the factories yourself. Why do you not give subsidy so that people in the private sector may come forward to produce enough of fertiliser? Why do you not spend sufficient money on this important industry? The difficulty is that Government spends money on unessential and unnecessary things in preference to things which are urgently required. It wants to do too many things at the same time with the result that it is jack of all trades and master of none. In the matter of priorities, agriculture should be given the first place because unless you become self-sufficient and feed your millions, you will have to depend on other countries. Food is the most important thing not only for your people but even for your economy.

The welfare of the people depends upon your feeding them and giving them security. You have neglected both. Until the invasion of China came, you did not think of defence. Perhaps, until some such thing arises in the food front, you will not give it the priority it deserves.

Lastly, there is no over-all policy in the matter of agriculture. We must make the best use of our lands. An hon. Member was saying that our policy should be foreign-oriented; perhaps, he meant export-oriented. I certainly do not pay so much attention only to self-sufficiency in foodgrains. The yield per acre in India is very poor. If only we make determined efforts to improve our agriculture according to scientific means, we can easily achieve self-sufficiency and feed our teeming millions. But our aim should not be mere self-sufficiency. Our lands can earn much more of foreign exchange by growing commodities like tobacco

and cotton. So, there should be proper agricultural planning.

Tobacco is grown in large areas in Andhra Pradesh for a long time. Neither the Ministry of International Trade, nor the Ministry of Agriculture took any pains to find out what kind or quality of tobacco has a good export market. So, the growers produced whatever they liked, and that tobacco has no foreign market. So, now there is a slump and the tobacco growers are suffering. This could very well have been avoided if only there had been proper co-ordination between the two Ministries so that the growers could have known what quality had a demand in the market and produced that quality in large numbers. Because, there is no point in producing a quality which has no market.

Coming to fertilisers, the private sector is trying for the last two years to set up factories but Government is not permitting them. Though Government had originally thought of setting up two factories, one at Visakhapatnam and another at Kothagudam it has not taken any interest in the matter so far. Neither is the Government prepared to grant them the necessary foreign exchange for establishing factories. There is also the question of nationalisation. Of course, I am not against nationalisation. But why do you not think of important things first instead of spending money on acquiring existing industries?

Because there is a good market, the Southern States of Madras, Mysore, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala were growing cash crops like cashew nut, pepper, cardamom etc. But what happened to the pepper industry? It has virtually ceased to exist because there were price fluctuations and you have not given any price support. I feel that areas which have favourable conditions for cash crops should grow them rather than foodgrains. Because,

that will bring in the badly-needed foreign exchange.

I can quote several such instances but the time at my disposal is short. I hope the Government will be more sympathetic to the agricultural sector. In every Plan and in every budget there is much of rhetoric on agriculture but nothing in action. So, I appeal to the Minister of Agriculture to assert himself. Let him not bow down to other Ministers. Let him show to them that if agriculture fails, the whole economy fails and if it survives, the whole economy survives. Otherwise, there is no hope. I feel that on the whole the approach today to agriculture can at best be called most casual and unrealistic, if not irresponsible.

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : श्री ब्रज राज सिंह ।

श्री चं० ला० चौधरी (महुआ) :

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, एक दरखास्त है । बहुत से ऐसे मेम्बर हैं जिन को आज तक निर्वाचित हो कर आने के बाद बोलने का अवसर नहीं दिया गया है । वे भी निर्वाचित हो कर आये हैं और उन को भी बोलने का अवसर मिलना चाहिये । मैं अपने निर्वाचन क्षेत्र की बात नहीं सोचता हूँ, छोटे विचार में नहीं सोचता हूँ, बल्कि तमाम हिन्दुस्तान की तरक्की हो, इस विचार से इस मसले पर सोचता हूँ, सारे हिन्दुस्तान की बात सोचता हूँ । हम भी नेशन के सिपाही हैं, और जवाहर लाल जी के सिपाही हैं । उस के बावजूद भी मैं नहीं समझता हूँ कि क्यों नहीं आपके दामन में हमारे लिये जगह है । आप की नज़रे इनायत इधर भी होनी चाहिये ।

श्री बजराम सिंह (बरेली) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, खाद्य तथा कृषि के ऊपर बोलते हुए मुझे याद आता है कि इसे जितना भी महत्व आज तक दिया गया है और जितना महत्व आज दिया जा रहा है, वह बहुत कम है । अभी इंटरनेशनल ट्रेड पर बोलते हुए श्री

मनुभाई शाह ने यह बताया कि हमारी एक्सपोर्ट्स की कमाई में एग्रीकल्चर का कितना योगदान है, कितना बढ़ा हाथ है । उन्होंने बताया था कि सत्तर प्रतिशत एक्सपोर्ट्स कृषि से हो रहे हैं, उन्हीं से हमें आमदनी हो रही है । इस दृष्टि से कृषि का महत्व और भी बढ़ जाता है । उन्होंने साथ-साथ यह भी बताया कि यदि कृषि उत्पादन केवल पांच प्रतिशत और बढ़ जाये तो एक्सपोर्ट्स से हम सौ करोड़ रुपये के करीब अपनी आमदनी बढ़ा सकते हैं । इतना महत्व इस का होने के बावजूद भी मुझे बड़ा खेद है और सचमुच यह बड़ी शर्मनाक बात है कि आप कृषि के ऊपर जो सौ करोड़ रुपया कमाने की क्षमता रखता है, सौ लाख रुपये भी खर्च करने के लिये तैयार नहीं है । ऐसा मालूम देता है कि साधारण बुद्धि जो हमारे छोटे से छोटे काश्तकार, कृषक में है, वह भी आज सरकार की नष्ट हो चुकी है । जो गाय दूध देती है, उस से जो आमदनी होती है उस की आधी तो कम से कम कोई भी काश्तकार गाय को खिलाने के लिए तैयार हो जाता है लेकिन हमारी कृषि, जो सौ करोड़ रुपये का निर्यात कर के आप को दे सकती है और उस से कुछ ही कम कर के देती है, उस के ऊपर आज आप सौ लाख रुपया भी खर्च नहीं करते हैं । आप तो उस काश्तकार की तरह करते हैं जो गाय का चारा काट कर अपने कुत्ते को डबल रोटी खिला देता है । कदाचित्त यही कारण है कि नई दिल्ली में गाय पालने की आज्ञा नहीं, कुत्ते पालने को तो प्रोत्साहन दिया जाता है ।

मैं तो यहां तक कहूंगा कि जिसे हम इंडस्ट्रियल प्रोडक्शन मानते हैं, वह प्रोडक्शन ही नहीं है । प्रोडक्शन तो केवल कृषि से ही होती है और बाक़ी के जितने भी इंडस्ट्रियल यूनिट्स हैं, ये तो ट्रान्सफार्मेशन ही कर सकते हैं । कपास को आप ले लें । उस से कपड़ा ही बन सकता है और वह बना दिया जाता है । तिलहन को आप ले लें । उस से डालडा

[श्री ब्रजराज सिंह]

बना दिया। इस प्रकार की चीजें तो आप कर सकते हैं। परन्तु जिसे सही मानों में उत्पादन कहते हैं, वह यह नहीं है। खनिज पदार्थ आप ले लें। इन के एक्सप्लोरेशन से आप को कुछ तो मिल सकता है और कुछ विदेशी मुद्रा भी आप कमा सकते हैं। लेकिन उत्पादन आप उसे भी नहीं कह सकते हैं। भूगर्भ की जो शक्ति है, जो जहां पर चीज है, जिस को हमें भगवान ने दे दिया है, उसे हम तलाश कर सकते हैं और तलाश कर के उस का पूरा उपयोग कर सकते हैं, इस से अधिक मनुष्य की शक्ति उस के ऊपर नहीं लग सकती है लेकिन खेती ऐसी चीज है कि जिस को जितना भी आप करें, जितना भी उस का विकास करें, जितनी भी तरक्की इस के बारे में करना चाहें आप करें, खेती को उपज आप को हमेशा मिलती रहेगी।

लेकिन आज हो क्या रहा है। आज इंडस्ट्रियलाइजेशन का नारा लगाया जाता है, औद्योगिककरण का नारा लगाया जाता है, औद्योगिक क्रान्ति की बात की जाती है। मैं ने सरकार को, उच्च सरकारी अफसरों को, निम्न सरकारी लोगों को भी बार-बार एक ही बात कहते हुए सुना है कि औद्योगिक क्रान्ति होनी चाहिये। परन्तु औद्योगिक क्रान्ति के दो फजीते हम इस बीच में देख चुके हैं। मैं इस का मजाक नहीं उड़ाता हूं। लेकिन मुझे एक बड़ा ताज्जुब सा मालूम देता है और सरकार की सरल बुद्धि पर तरस सा आता है। प्रधानमंत्री जी ने एक बार नहीं पचास बार कहा है कि "१७ वर्ष बीतने पर भी हम खाद्य समस्या हल नहीं कर सके इस से मेरी गर्दन शर्म से झुक जाती है" और यह कि "इंडस्ट्रियलाइजेशन किसी तरह से भी सम्भव नहीं है यदि किसी देश की कृषि उन्नत न हो।" परन्तु उस के बावजूद भी आज औद्योगिककरण का नारा लगाया जाता है। एक और मजेदार बात है। बड़ी-बड़ी मिलों से ले कर छोटे-छोटे अम्बर चरखे तक का नाम इंडस्ट्रियलाइजेशन समझा जाता है। आज

नारा औद्योगिककरण का नहीं, औद्योगिक क्रान्ति का नहीं, बल्कि कृषि क्रान्ति का लगाना होगा क्योंकि बिना कृषि क्रान्ति के औद्योगिक क्रान्ति का कोई अर्थ नहीं होगा। उस का फजीता हम देख चुके हैं रूस में। उन लोगों ने औद्योगिक क्रान्ति कर दी, उस की इतिहा कर दी, आखिरी तक उस को पहुंचा दिया, यहां तक पहुंचा दिया कि चन्द्र लोक जाने की बात वे सोच रहे हैं किन्तु यह सब कुछ होने के बावजूद भी आज उन के पास खाने को अन्न नहीं है और अन्न के लिए उन्हें अमरीका और कनाडा आदि के आगे झोली पसारनी पड़ रही है। मैं इस का मजाक नहीं उड़ाता हूं, जो सही स्थिति है उस को आपके सामने रखने का मेरा मंशा है। आज हम उसी के कदमों पर चलने का प्रयास कर रहे हैं। हम नहीं सोचते कि कृषि क्रान्ति हमारे देश में हो। हमें उस औद्योगिक क्रान्ति वाली बात को नहीं सोचना है जिस पर चल कर रूस आज इस स्थिति को पहुंच गया है, जिस पर चल कर चीन आज फेल हो चुका है। इसी को अगर हम सोचते चले गये तो हमारा भगवान ही मालिक है, पता नहीं क्या होने वाला है। इसवास्ते मैं तो कहूंगा कि हमें कृषि क्रान्ति की बात को सोचना चाहिये।

उत्पादन बढ़ाने की बात जब भी सरकार के सामने आई, जब भी यह समस्या सरकार के सामने उपस्थित हुई तो इस का एक ही हल उस के सामने आया और वह हल था कि तोड़ते चलें; अधिक से अधिक जमीनों को। जमीन कहीं बाहर से तो आने वाली थी नहीं, जो यहां पर भारत में थी, उस को सरकार तोड़ती चली गई। उस का नतीजा क्या निकला, इस को मैं आप को बतलाना चाहता हूं। मैं उत्तर प्रदेश की मिसाल आप को देता हूं। शारदा और मुतिया के बीच एक लाख एकड़ भूमि जिस में जंगल था, अच्छा जंगल था, उस को काट कर मिसमार कर दिया गया, उसको गिरा दिया गया। इसी तरह

से देश के दूसरे भागों में जंगल काट दिये गये। यह एक बहुत भारी अपव्यय था क्योंकि बड़े बड़े ट्रैक्टर, बड़े बड़े बुलडोजर, बड़े बड़े अफपर, बड़ी बड़ी दावतें, बड़ी बड़ी रील खींचना आदि तथा बड़े बड़े उद्घाटन, सब अपव्यय नहीं हैं तो क्या हैं। यह सब कुछ हुआ। नतीजा क्या निकला? आज जबकि कहा जाता है कि फारेस्ट रिसोर्सिस किसी भी देश में पचास प्रतिशत से नीचे नहीं जाने चाहिये, हमारे फारेस्ट रिसोर्सिस बीस प्रतिशत से भी नीचे चले गये हैं। हमें आज सोचना पड़ता है कि किस तरह से इन को बढ़ाया जाय। इसके लिए हम करते क्या हैं? हजारों लाखों रुपया खर्च करते हैं, लेकिन नतीजा कुछ नहीं। हमारे प्रधान मंत्री जी जाते हैं, और भी मंत्री लोग जाते हैं, पुष्पक विमान से उड़ कर और देश के दूर दराज किनारे में जा कर किसी बड़े भवन के लान में एक पेड़ रख देते हैं, केवल एक पेड़, और उसका नाम होता है "वन महोत्सव" का उद्घाटन। लाखों करोड़ों रुपया खर्च करने के बाद यह उद्घाटन समारोह सम्पन्न होता है। लेकिन जैसे ही उनकी पीठ उधर से घूमती है वह वन महोत्सव सूख जाता है। इस तरह के उलटे पुलटे तरीके करके हमारी सरकार जंगल लगाना चाहती है।

हमारे पाटिल साहब ने पिछले वर्ष इसी विषय पर बोलते हुए और उसके बाद नो-कान्फिडेंस मोशन पर बोलते हुए बड़े जोश के साथ कहा था कि आज तक हमारी कृषि नीति कंज्यूमर ओरियेंटेड रही है परन्तु अब वह फार्मर ओरियेंटेड बनेगी। आज हमारे थामस साहब ने कोई नया शब्द भी सुना दिया और वह है फारेन ओरियेंटेड, एक्सपोर्ट से शायद उन का तात्पर्य था। अब यह क्या ओरियेंटेड होने जा रही है, पता नहीं है, परन्तु मैं तो एक ही नतीजे पर पहुंचा हूँ कि यदि इस गवर्नमेंट के कारनामों को देखने के बाद इस को कोई सही संज्ञा या नाम दिया जा सकता है तो वह है एलेक्शन ओरिएण्टेड

पालिसी। कैसे वह एलेक्शन ओरिएण्टेड बनाना चाहती है इस को देखिये। अभी हमारे कुछ साथियों ने और कांग्रेसी नेताओं ने कहा . . .

14.00 hrs.

एषः माननीय सदस्य : आप की स्पीच भी तो वैसी ही है।

श्री बजर्राज सिंह : आप मुझे दुआयें दीजिये। अभी जितने कांग्रेस के बन्धुओं ने इस कृषि तथा खाद्य उत्पादन के विषय पर भाषण दिये उन्हें केवल एक ही बात की चिन्ता थी। उन्हें चिन्ता इस बात की नहीं थी कि देश में अनाज कैसे बढ़े, देश में खाद्यान्न कैसे बढ़े। उन को केवल एलेक्शन की चिन्ता थी। वे कह रहे थे कि आज तक हम ने तुम्हारी सब बात मानी। सरकार से वे कह रहे थे कि आज तक तुम्हारी बात हम ने मानी। जब कहा तब हम ने हाथ उठाया, जो कहा वैसा भाषण दिया, जो भी कहा सब मानते चले आये। लेकिन आज कैसे करें। एलेक्शन नजदीक आ रहा है। अब जनता हमें वोट कैसे देगी; कुछ तो उस के लिये करो। अर्थ केवल यह है कि सही नीति उन को आज तक सूझी ही नहीं, क्या काम करना चाहिये यह सूझा नहीं, केवल इतना सूझा कि अब एलेक्शन आ रहा है, एलेक्टोरेट को जवाब क्या देंगे, इसलिये कुछ तो किमान क लिये करो। इस लिये मैं कहता हूँ कि अगर इस नीति का नाम एलेक्शन ओरिएण्टेड रक्खा जाये तो ज्यादा अच्छा रहेगा।

अब सिचाई के साधनों के बारे में देखिये। मैं अपनी ओर से कुछ नहीं कहता। हमारे पाटिल साहब ने बड़े गर्व से कहा था कि अमरीका जैसे सम्पन्न देश भी आज सिचाई के मामले में हम से बहुत पीछे हैं, हम अमरीका से बहुत आगे हैं। आगे होने से यदि कुछ लाभ होता है, आगे होने से यदि अपनी जनता का पेट भरता है, तब तो मैं समझता हूँ कि बड़ा अच्छा है। परन्तु अमरीका, के

[श्री ब्रजराज सिंह]

आंकड़ों को तो थोड़ा सा देखिये। अमरीका को जहां ६० मिलियन टन अनाज अपने देश की आवश्यकता के लिए चाहिये वहां वह १६० मिलियन टन अनाज का उत्पादन करता है। लेकिन सरकार का कहना है कि वह हम से पीछे है। मैं उन की बात मानता हूँ क्योंकि सरकार जो है वह कार्यकुशलता में विश्वास नहीं करती। वह कार्यप्रसार में विश्वास करता है।

इरिगेशन के मामले में भी सरकार ने अपनी कुशलता बढ़ाने का चिन्ता नहीं की उन्होंने विस्तार करने की चिन्ता की है और विस्तार में वह अमरीका से बहुत आगे बढ़ गई। उन्होंने यह नहीं देखा कि इतना बड़ा जाल हम ने बिछा दिया, इतने बड़े-बड़े भाखरा और नंगल डैम हम ने बना दिये लेकिन उन में कार्यकुशलता कितनी है, उन से काश्तकार का कितना भला होता है। नहरें बना दीं, नहरों का जाल बिछा दिया लेकिन वह सूखी पड़ी रहीं, और चलीं तो उस समय चलीं जब कि बरसात का पानी भी ऊपर से बरसता हो। इस से तो काम चलने वाला नहीं है। अगर इस तरहकी को आप अमरीका से आगे जाना कहते हैं तो भगवान ही मालिक हैं आप का और इस देश का भी। नहरें बनीं। मैं फिर इस काम को एलेक्शन औरिएण्टेड कहता हूँ बड़ी हिम्मत के साथ। नहरें बनाई जाती हैं, चैनेल्स निकाली जाती हैं, परन्तु किस के खेतों को पानी पहुँचाने के लिये? नेताओं के खेतों को पानी पहुँचाने के लिये, भले ही उस से रास्ते में वाटरलागिंग हो जाये।

एक माननीय सदस्य : आप किसी जगह का नाम बतलायेंगे क्या ?

श्री ब्रजराज सिंह : मैं इन्स्टैंसेज जानता हूँ, इसलिये कह रहा हूँ। हंसने से काम नहीं चलेगा। नहर केवल ऐसी जगहों पर खोदी जाती है जहां से नेताओं के खेतों को पानी जाता है। अगर उस से वाटरलागिंग हो

जाये तो हो जाये, काश्तकार भरता है तो मर जाने दो। इस को हम कहते हैं एलेक्शन औरिएण्टेड।

एक माननीय सदस्य : जगह बतलाइये।

श्री ब्रजराज सिंह : आप ने जगह देखी नहीं, इसलिये बतला दूंगा बाद में। मैं तो केवल इतना ही निवेदन करूंगा कि मैंने पिछले साल भी कृषि पर बोलते हुए बतलाया था कि यह बड़ी-बड़ी योजनायें हमारे काम आने वाली नहीं हैं। उन में पैसा अधिक लगता है, समय अधिक लगता है, जमीन अधिक लगती है। बाहर से खुशामद कर के, फारेन एक्स्चेंज खर्च कर के आप को टेकनिकल नोहाऊ मांगना पड़ता है। आप के पास इसमें से कोई चीज नहीं। तब फिर उन के पीछे आप क्यों पड़े रहें? ऐसी चीज बनाने की आप कल्पना क्यों करते हैं जो आप के बस की नहीं है, और बनने के बाद भी उस का ६० फी सदी से अधिक पानी खेतों के काम में नहीं आता। आप ऐसा क्यों नहीं करते कि काश्तकार के स्तर पर उसे सुविधा दे दें। काश्तकार के स्तर पर छोटी-छोटी इरिगेशन प्रोजेक्ट्स बना दें और उन को बना कर आप काश्तकारों को दे दें। अगर ऐसा हो जाये तो मैं कहता हूँ कि ६६ फी सदी पानी वह इस्तेमाल में लायेगा और उस का कुछ लाभ आप को भी अवश्य होगा।

एक नारा और लगाया गया था हमारे प्रधान मंत्री की तरफ से। उस रोज बड़ी तालियां बजीं थीं इस हाउस में। उन्होंने कहा था, और लाल किले पर भी कदाचित उस को दोहराया था और रेडियं; पर जो भाषण दिया था उस में भी दोहराया था कि जो जवान हमारे फ्रंट पर लड़ रहे हैं और जो कृषक हमारे खेतों पर काम कर रहे हैं, दोनों की महत्ता में कोई अन्तर नहीं है। दोनों का महत्व एक बराबर है। मैं आप से पूछता हूँ कि इस की सत्यता आप कितनी निभा पाये

हैं। जो फ्रंट पर काम करता है मैं उस की मांग को कम नहीं करना चाहता, उस का महत्व घटाने की मेरी मंशा नहीं है। लेकिन मैं आप को कम्पेरिटिव वैल्यू बतला रहा हूँ। जो वहाँ लड़ रहे हैं उन को अच्छे यंत्र देना चाहिये और जो वहाँ लड़ रहे हैं क्या उन को अच्छे यंत्र नहीं चाहिये। उन को भी यंत्र चाहिये। अगर उन को माडर्न वेपन्स चाहिये तो क्या वहाँ बालों को कोई पुराने यंत्र चाहिये, एन्साएन्ट वेपन्स चाहिये। अगर उस को सर्दी और तुषार से बचाने के लिए कोट चाहिये तो क्या वहाँ पर खाल भी खिचवा कर खेत में काम करना चाहिये। अगर वहाँ पर एनर्जी कीप अप करने के लिए अच्छा भोजन चाहिये, मांस चाहिये, मदिरा चाहिये, तो क्या वहाँ भूखे पेट रह कर उसे इस फ्रंट पर काम करना चाहिये। क्या यही आप की बराबर की महत्ता है, क्या यही आप ने दोनों को बराबर महत्व दिया है।

फिर क्या होता है। आप देखिये कि गल्ले के दाम बढ़े। किस समय बढ़े। उस समय जब काश्तकार नंगा हो गया, काश्तकार के पास दाना नहीं रहा। अब खयाल आया सरकार को। यह कोई आज की नई बात नहीं है। हर साल बराबर इसी वक्त इस का रिपिटीशन हो रहा है। बराबर यही चीज दोहराई जा रही है। इसी प्रकार सरकार का दिभाग उस वक्त कंट्रोल की बात सोचता है जबकि किसान का गल्ला आने वाला है। आप ने देखा कि आज प्राइस बढ़ी। प्राइस बढ़ने के बाद सरकार के दिभाग में घंटी बजी। घंटी बजने के बाद योजना बनी और कंट्रोल लागू हुए। वह कंट्रोल कब लगाये जायेंगे, मालूम है क्या आप को। आने वाला है हमारा हारवेस्टिंग टाइम। हमारे खलिहान भरने वाले हैं। जिस समय कृषक के घर में गेहूँ होगा उस वक्त कंट्रोल के लिये सरकार तैयार हो जायेगी। अब तक तो कहीं कहीं लूपहोल्स रहे जिस में से कुछ निकलता रहा लेकिन अब सरकार एफिशिएन्सी गैदर कर

लेगी और सारे लूपहोल्स को खत्म कर के मजबूत कंट्रोल लगायेगी, जिस वक्त काश्तकार के पास गेहूँ होगा। आप ने जोन बना दिये हैं। अरे, नौ जोन बनाने की क्या जरूरत पड़ी, नौ जोन आप ने क्यों बनाये। केवल दो जोन बना दिये जाते। एक काश्तकार का और एक नानकाश्तकार का। काफी है। उस के बाद काश्तकार मांग लेगा अपनी कीमत। अगर आप को गेहूँ के बदले में एक एक स्वर्ण मुद्रा भी देनी पड़े तो आप मांग कर और ले कर खायेंगे। नौ जोन क्यों बना दिये हैं। नौ जोन बनने के बाद जो डेफिसिट एरियाज होंगी उन के लिए आप क्या करेंगे। आप उन को अपना इम्पोर्टेड गेहूँ देंगे। क्यों नहीं आप देते खाली २० परसेन्ट को अपना इम्पोर्टेड गेहूँ। आप मानते हैं कि देश में ८० फी सदी कृषक वर्ग गांवों में है। उस को मारने के लिए आप कमर कस कर बैठे हैं। अगर आप को उस को रिलीफ देनी है तो आप शहरों में रहने वाले और देहातों में भी जो बाकी २० परसेन्ट लोग हैं उन को अपना इम्पोर्टेड गेहूँ दीजिये। और बढ़ने दीजिये गेहूँ की कीमत को। उस को उस वक्त तक बढ़ने दीजिये जब तक काश्तकार अपना पूरा पैसा न बना ले। आप कितनी ही नई नई योजनायें बनायें, आप कितने ही नये साधन अपनायें, परन्तु जब तक काश्तकार को आमदनी नहीं होगी, जब तक उस को रेम्यूनरेटिव कम्पेन्सेशन नहीं मिलेगा अपनी मेहनत का, अपनी फसलों का, उस वक्त तक काश्तकार की तरक्की नहीं हो सकती, आप कुछ भी करते रहें।

आज आप के सेंटर में एग््रीकल्चर मिनिस्टर्स की एक फौज बैठी हुई है, आधा दर्जन से कदाचित ही कुछ कम हों। इसके बावजूद भी जब कोई कृषि का मामला आता है तो इस मंत्रालय से केवल एक ही ध्वनि आती है कि यह स्टेट सबजेक्ट है। मैं उत्तर प्रदेश से आता हूँ। मैं कहता हूँ कि धोखा देने की भी कोई इन्तिहा होती है। जिस दिन से वहाँ कांग्रेस ने राज्य संभाला है, उस

[श्री ब्रजराज सिंह]

दिन से आज तक काश्तकार ने सरकार की ओर से सदा घोषा ही शेला है। और आज तक इतने घोषे शेल चुका है कि अब नई योजना के बावजूद उसे हर समय डर लगा रहता है कि आप कहते क्या हैं और करेंगे क्या।

आपने लगान आघा करने की बात कही, लेकिन ऐसा नहीं किया और काश्तकार को घोषा दिया। आपने कहा कि लगान उस वक्त आघा किया जा सकता है जबकि यह जमींदार बीच में से हट जाय जोकि ५० परसेंट खा जाता है। आप ने जमींदारी उन्मूलन किया, जमींदार को दस गुना मुभावजा दिया और काश्तकार से कहा कि तुम्हारा लगान आघा करेंगे। लेकिन आप ने दस गुना ले कर भूमिधारी के राइट्स दे दिए। उस वक्त आप ने कसम खायी कि चालीस वर्ष तक लगान में इजाफा नहीं होगा। लेकिन फिर उसे घोषा हुआ क्योंकि पिछले दिनों लगान द्योढ़ा या दुगना कर दिया गया।

मैं कहता हूँ कि यहाँ सेंटर में मंत्रियों की इतनी बड़ी फौज बैठी है, लेकिन आप ने राज्यों को खुला छोड़ रखा है कि जितना चाहो लूटों, खामों और किसी भी तरह अपनी सत्ता कायम रखें। मैं कहता हूँ कि आप अपने हाथ में कुछ कंट्रोल लीजिए ताकि काश्तकार को जो सब तरफ से घोषे दिए जा रहे हैं उन से वह बच सके।

Shri V. G. Naidu (Tiruvallur): While rising in support of the Demands, I have to say a few words. We are now doing propaganda for doing intensive cultivation. Intensive cultivation is based on four or five things, that is, improved tools or mechanisation, improved seeds, manure and so on.

As regards improved tools, some of our top leaders think that by mechanising our farms, more unemployment

will be created and to that extent our task in giving employment to those who are unemployed will be rendered more difficult. Therefore, they do not favour mechanisation of our farms. But I should like to say that mechanisation is very essential. The reason is that everything in agriculture should be done in time, levelling, ploughing, sowing etc. Then only we will be able to increase our production. In other countries, they have 40 tractors per 1000 acres whereas here we have 0.06 tractor per 1000 acres of land we cultivate. This is a very meagre proportion. Therefore, we are not able to conduct our agricultural operations in time.

Moreover, some of the tractors that are imported are much cheaper than indigenously produced ones. This matter has to be looked into. They say in the initial stages our cost of production of tractors will be more but afterwards the cost will come down to the normal level. But I do not think we are manufacturing most of the parts here. Most of it is imported and assembled and supplied to the ryots. The cost of the assembled tractor is 1½ times more than that of the imported one. Therefore, I would request the Government to see that some tractors are imported for the time being to fulfil our present requirements quicker. When we are importing so much of foodgrains, a portion of the funds allotted for that can also be given for import of these tractors. Unless we do that, we may not be able to cultivate in time and consequently our production target may not be fulfilled.

I know in my area that some of the farmers who have adopted improved methods of cultivation are getting the maximum yield because they are able to do all the agricultural operations in time.

Here I would also submit that most of the tractors made in India are with the result that the farmer is not able to purchase it. The price with tools-

comes to Rs. 25,000—30,000 whereas an imported tractor can be had for Rs. 15,000—18,000. Hence my suggestion that some more tractors be imported to meet our requirements quicker.

Again, most of the tractors made here are used for industrial purposes. Because of its high cost, the farmer is not able to purchase it.

Now I come to improved seeds. We are in need of improved seeds. No doubt we are trying to have better varieties of seeds, but we are not able to do it. We are unable to give to the ryots the seeds that they need. I am in touch with the agriculture department for the last 30 years. Before 30 years, we had seed farm ryots everywhere. They used to be supplied with nucleus seeds and in their turn, they used to give seeds to the farmers. Now the nucleus seeds are supplied to the State seed farms, they in their turn give them to the gram sahayaks. Now, only the name is changed, but the seeds that are wanted are not supplied to the farmers. Therefore, Government should take active steps to produce more pure seeds and supply them to farmers. That will help better production.

Manure is one of the vital ingredients of agriculture. We are importing fertilisers and we are also manufacturing them here. But manure alone will not help. Before applying it to the land, the soil should be tested. The soil test will help us to use chemical manures. Not only chemical manures, but organic manure and bulk manure is also important. So their production should also be encouraged.

Of course, with the block development work going on here and there, some propaganda is being done. But it is insufficient.

If in a village where a thousand acres are under cultivation 1,000 or 500 tons of manure are produced, it is

no use, it cannot help production. Therefore, adequate steps should be taken, and more manure on a bulk scale should be supplied. The farmers should learn how to make it in bulk.

Chemical fertilisers are not supplied properly. They are dumped in places where they are not needed, and they are not within easy reach of the farmer. Thus, scarcity arises, and blackmarketing also starts. Therefore, Government should take steps to organise a committee. Already there is a committee, but it is not working in a proper manner. They must have district as well as taluk committees, see how much manure is required for each village and taluk, and distribute on that basis. There is no use dumping manure where it is not required and allowing it to lie for two or three years together.

The hon. Minister who spoke said we were spending a lot on irrigation. I agree, but is it properly utilised? That is the point. It is not properly utilised. In one village for 150 acres, they have spent about Rs. 75,000 on food production schemes. Is it necessary to spend so much? The departments have been growing. There are several departments for food production, desilting-cum-reclamation, the regular P.W.D. and then minor irrigation which is in the hands of panchayat unions. In spite of all these departments and the money we spend, even one-tenth of the work done in pre-war days in terms of rupee value is not done today. Therefore, the leakages should be plugged, and we must see that we utilise the amount properly on irrigation.

It is essential that we speed up construction of bore wells wherever possible, since a single well can irrigate 100 to 150 acres, whereas the money spent on minor irrigation schemes does not show such good results. From the bore wells we can get water whenever we want. Therefore, I ask Government to concentrate more on bore wells, as that will bring more production.

[Shri V. G. Naidu]

I do not know on what basis price fixation for foodgrains is made by Government. When we ask the State Governments, they say it is fixed by the Central Government. When we ask the Central Government, they say it is based on the State Government's recommendations, and that they are only implementing it. If they take into consideration the cost of production of the ryot, his requirements, and then fix the price, it will be proper and reasonable, but they do not do that. They simply fix the price arbitrarily. Therefore, I request them to fix the price on the basis of cost of production.

With these words, I thank you for giving me this opportunity, and I once again support the Demands of the Ministry.

Shri J. R. Mehta (Pali): I have always held that a major factor responsible for our lack of success on the food front has been lack of unitary control over all the activities connected with agriculture. From that point of view, I welcome the arrangement whereby the food and Agricultural Ministry has now over-all control over the allied Ministries of Irrigation and Power and Community Development.

In the same spirit, it is good that we have set up an Agricultural Production Board at the Centre in which all the Ministries are represented, and of which the Food and Agriculture Ministry is the head. In the States we have set up coordinating committees at the State and district levels.

This is all satisfactory so far as it goes, but with due deference, I should like to observe that I am not very much enamoured of these co-ordinating committees. Co-ordination always implies a spirit of adjustment, a spirit of compromise. What is needed in agriculture, as I have already stated, is unitary control, come one au-

thority exercising supreme powers. This is all the more necessary at the district level. If we want to achieve success in our programmes of agriculture and food production, then there is no way out except to have one authority at the district level, which is the master of all its surveys. The Collector must have the authority to enforce, to give instructions to all people who are connected with agriculture, and to demand that they fulfil the targets. He should also have the authority to spend all the sums within the Budget, once they are sanctioned.

Talking of co-ordination, I am surprised to find that in the co-ordinating committees which have been established in the States—I am speaking of Rajasthan—there is no what may be called people's participation. This is not a satisfactory state of affairs, nor in the fitness of things and it does not behove us who talk so much of panchayati raj and socialistic pattern of society.

The hon. Minister recently announced the formation of nine wheat zones. I submit that I am not enamoured of these zones. How many times in the past have we created these zones, reconstituted them and demolished them? The very fact that we have done so shows that at best they are only palliatives, and not a final solution of the problem. They inevitably lead to disparity in stocks and prices, and this disparity in its turn leads to smuggling. The result is that the producer in the surplus area suffers and the consumer in the deficit area suffers. It might very well be argued: is every citizen of India not entitled to getting food at the same price? From the point of view of the agriculturist, it might be argued: is he not entitled to the same price for his produce whether he lives in a surplus or a deficit area?

What are surplus States sometimes become deficit States and vice versa:

We are so much at the mercy of the vagaries of nature. There are always imbalances in supplies and prices which are taking place, and the trader instinctively reacts to these imbalances, but I am of opinion that the Government machinery, however efficient it may be, cannot react, or be so sensitive to these imbalances. Therefore, I am of opinion that unless we can regulate prices and have adequate buffer stocks, in the circumstances existing at present, we should allow free trade subject only to two conditions: firstly, important cities should be cordoned off and they should be the concern of the Centre and secondly, Government should regulate its purchases so as to counteract these imbalances and prevent them from happening. There should be an independent body at the Centres whose sole task should be to keep a check on prices and regulate them, to release stocks whenever necessary and to see that these imbalances are taken care of.

We have not to go very far to appreciate the difficulties about supplies and prices. Take sugar, for instance. There is disparity between State and State in stocks as well as prices. There are villages in my own State where sugar is sold at Rs. 3.50 per kg. Here again, I repeat the same argument that all the citizens of India are entitled to uniform treatment in the matter of supplies of sugar. I may be excused if I voice a grievance on behalf of the people of Rajasthan in this respect. I have a statement before me which shows the allotment of sugar per 1000 population in Rajasthan as well as in the adjoining States; it comes to 1017 kg. in Gujarat, 370.7 kg. in Madhya Pradesh, 758.5 in Maharashtra, 689.4 in Punjab and 297.7 in Rajasthan. I am unable to understand why this flagrant disparity in allotments to Rajasthan and other adjoining States. I have been told that it is based on the actual consumption of sugar in one particular year. As against this, I understand that it does not take into account the quantities of gur which Rajasthan consumes, supplies of which have been cut off

entirely because of the ban on gur export from U.P. I am also told that sugar which used to come by road has not been fully taken into account. In all earnestness I also submit that the fact that we might have had an unfair deal in the past is no reason that it should be continued. Therefore, the Ministry should reconsider Rajasthan's sugar quota. I can understand marginal adjustments or variations which can be attributed to different habits or customs but there is no reason for this flagrant disparity.

Rajasthan is in the throes of an unprecedented famine and it is impossible to face the situation unaided by Centre. I am happy to acknowledge the unstinted and spontaneous support which has been forthcoming to Rajasthan and I especially thank my friend Dr. Ram Subhag Singh for the enthusiasm which he has shown. I also take this opportunity of acknowledging the debt we owe to the Government of the United States of America for rushing grain and fodder to the famine-stricken parts of Rajasthan. While I acknowledge this, I am not very happy that even in the case of fodder we have now to depend upon foreign countries. So far we have only been getting grain. Having said what I have said, I have no heart to pick up a quarrel with Dr. Ram Subhag Singh but I do not feel happy at the news that he is trying to shift away some of the rigs which dig tubewells from Rajasthan to Gujarat.....

Shri Ranga (Chittoor): Gujarat also is in the grip of famine.

Shri J. R. Mehta: May be, but it is no use robbing Peter to pay Paul.

Shri Ranga: That is right . . .
(Interruptions.)

Shri J. R. Mehta: He promised to give us 250 tubewells in the dry areas of Rajasthan. I do not know how he can fulfil this programme if these rigs are taken away. I am sure Dr. Ram Subhag Singh who is shaking his head will respond to my appeal. He is shaking his head in the affirmative.

[Shri J. R. Mehta]

While I am on this subject of famines, I would like to make some general observations on this. Some parts of the country, especially Rajasthan as we are all aware, are subjected to recurring famines. Nobody has taken pains to calculate what it means, what drain it means in the shape of loss of human life and cattle life and other resources and ultimately loss to the economy of the areas concerned. A time has come when the Centre should think of having a master plan whereby we may be able to prevent, within a reasonable period, a recurrence of these famines. I think that no expenditure is too much if we can achieve that objective. There are too many things, big or small, necessary to fulfil our agricultural programme but I will mention only two things: provision of fertilisers and provision of workshops for repairs of implements. I see no reason why with all this stress in agriculture, we should not give all the fertilisers that are needed. Again, we show a lack of proper appreciation of priorities. There are so many things which could be cut off but whatever quantity of fertilisers are needed must be forthcoming. In the same way, we must have workshop in each district or within easy reach of each cultivator; it should be able to cater to his needs about repairing of implements.

Before I conclude, let me say in all seriousness that while we may be doing our best to prepare on what may be called the geographical front, we will be making the mistake of our life if we allow ourselves to lag behind on the food front. I think he will be a reckless prophet who can say that we may not be involved in some sort of hostilities, when we have not very friendly neighbours poised on our frontiers. We may, any time, be faced with a situation in which the import of food may be not only difficult but impossible. We cannot except our armies to fight on the front with hungry stomachs or starving people at the back. I think we should take serious-

ly to step up production and not only that, but to stock-pile, so that we may be prepared for any emergency.

One last word I would say; and that is, the job of the Food and Agriculture Ministry is a difficult one. It is easy to work to the accompaniment of trumpet but here, what is required is hard and unostentatious work. We have to reach the remotest villager in the remotest hamlet and we have to instil a new spirit and a new sense of vision in our agriculturists, and that is not an easy job. I am very happy to see so many of the Ministers on the Treasury Benches, and I think in no other Ministry and in no other debate have I seen so many stalwarts taking interest and sitting side by side,—Sardar Swaran Singhji in front with his Panchayaras in the back. I wish them all success.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Shri Rajaram, D.M.K.—Absent. Shri Yashpal Singh.

श्री यशपाल सिंह (कैराना) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, कई दिन से मैं बहस को सुन रहा हूँ। मेरी यह आशा थी कि सरकार कुछ रिज्यूनेटिव प्राइसिस किसान को देने की स्कीम रखेगी। लेकिन सरकार ने नहीं रखी। किसानों को इससे निराशा ही हुई। यह बो हो नहीं सकता है कि हमारे मंत्री जी इस जरूरत को महसूस नहीं करते हैं या उनके दिल में किसानों के प्रति समदर्दी नहीं है और न ही यह हो सकता है कि इन बातों को वह समझने नहीं हैं लेकिन एक गलत पालिसी के मातहत वह काम कर रहे हैं। जिस गेहूँ को किसान से चौदह रुपये मन में सरकार ने खरीदा था, साहूकार ने खरीदा था, और जो गेहूँ उसका चौदह रुपये मन बाजार में बिका था, जो उसको जबर्दस्ती इस भाव में बेचना पड़ा था क्योंकि उसको पैसे की जरूरत थी, आज उसी गेहूँ को किसान तीस रुपये मन से कर खा रहा है। सरकार अगर इमदाद करना चाहती तो रिज्यूनेटिव प्राइस

कायम करती। सरकार ने ऐसा नहीं किया। दूसरी तरफ सरकार कहती है कि हम किसान का हित करते हैं। किसान का हित इस तरह से नहीं हो सकता है। किसान का हित तब होगा जब सरकार यह तय कर दे कि फसल के मीके के ऊपर अनाज जिस भाव से खरीदा जायेगा, साल भर तक एक रुपया फी मन से ज्यादा उस में बढ़ोतरी नहीं होगी। जब तक ऐसा नहीं होता है तब तक किसान को किमी हालत में भी लाभ नहीं हो सकता है।

सबसे ज्यादा जरूरी यह है कि जो जबर्दस्ती चकबन्दी होती है, उसके चक्कर से उसे निकाला जाये, कंसॉलिडेशन आफ होल्डिंग्स उसकी मर्जी के खिलाफ किया जा रहा है और इससे किसान को नुकसान हो रहा है। किसान को ऐसी ट्रेनिंग दी जाये कि वह खुद भा कर कहे कि कंसॉलिडेशन आफ होल्डिंग्स हो। लेकिन सरकार समझती है कि १७वां सशोधन संविधान का जो आ रहा है उससे किसान खेती की तरक्की कर सकता है। अगर ऐसी बात है तो वह हंगिज नहीं हो सकती है। अगर हमारे किसी माननीय मंत्री जी को मालूम हो जाये कि कल को उन्हें मंत्री-पद से हटा दिया जायेगा और वह मिनिस्ट्री से बाहर कर दिये जायेंगे तो क्या वे कोई काम कर सकते हैं या करेंगे? हंगिज नहीं करेंगे। किसान को भी जब यह विश्वास होगा कि वह अपनी जमीन का खुद मालिक है तभी वह अधिक उत्पादन करके आप को दे सकेगा। एक दो बीघे के खेत को भी सरकार स्टट प्रापर्टी करने जा रही है और रियासत के नाम पर उसको बदखल करने जा रही है। यह सब से बड़ा अन्याय किसान के साथ होने जा रहा है।

हमारे देश की ३८,००० मुरब्बा मील भूमि चीन ने दबा रखी है, वहाँ पर, दुश्मन का झंडा लहराता है, उसमें से तो सरकार एक इंच भी भूमि नहीं ले सकी है और शायद न ले सकती है और न ही पाकिस्तान के

कब्जे में जो हमारी भूमि है, उसको ले सकी है लेकिन काश्तकार की दो बीघा जमीन जो है, उससे भी उसको बेदखल करने के लिए वह १७वां एमेंडमेंट ला रही है।

सब से ज्यादा जरूरत इस बात की है कि काश्तकार के अन्दर कान्फिडंस पैदा किया जाये, किसान को विश्वास दिलाया जाये कि कल को उसकी जमीन कोओपरेटिव में नहीं चली जायेगी, उसको बेदखल नहीं किया जायेगा, उसको बाधित नहीं किया जायेगा कि वह साक्षी खेती करे। अगर उसके मन में यह चीज रहती है, उसको इस किस्म का डर रहता है तो वह हंगिज काम नहीं कर सकेगा। सारे के सारे जो समाजवादी भाई हैं, कांग्रेस समाजवादी, लोहिया समाजवादी, हमारे कम्युनिस्ट लोग समाजवादी, हमारे काश्त साहब समाजवादी, ये सब समाजवादी जब कोओपरेटिव सरकार नहीं बना सकते हैं, मिल करके कोलिशन मिनिस्ट्री नहीं बना सकते हैं, पी० एस० पी० वाले, एस० पी० वाले, कम्युनिस्ट तथा कांग्रेस वाले तमाम लोग मिल करके एक सरकार नहीं बना सकते हैं तो क्या अनपढ़ किसान कोओपरेटिव खेती चला सकता है? उस विचरे को ट्रेनिंग नहीं है। वह हंगिज नहीं चल सकता है। सरकार लेंड रिफार्म्स लाई, बीस बार लाई—मैं नहीं कहता हूँ कि जमींदार लोग वापिस आयें, राजे महाराजे वापिस आयें—लेकिन क्या यह इसाफ था कि चौबीस बीघे वाले काश्तकार को जालिम जमींदार कह कर के मिटा दिया जाये, जिन के पास २५ बीघे जमीन थी उनको पैरासाइट कह कर मिटा दिया जाये? इसका मुकाबला आप उद्योगपतियों से करें जोकि पांच पांच लाख रोजाना बैंकों में जमा करते हैं। किसान के साथ आपको न्याय करना होगा। अगर किसान को न्याय नहीं मिलेगा तो गेहूँ का मसला हल भी नहीं होगा।

[श्री: यशपाल सिंह]

इसमें कौन सा एमरजेंसी का काम है कि गाज़ियाबाद का किसान अगर दिल्ली में अपना गुड़ बेचने के लिये ले आये तो वार एफर्ट्स में कमी पड़ती है, कौन सी रुकावट पड़ती है, चीन को पीछे हटाने में कौन सी रोक पड़ती है। जो मुनाफाखोर लोग हैं वे सरकार की इमदाद से मुनाफा कमा रहे हैं, तब उनको ऐसा करने का मौका नहीं मिल सकता था, जो प्राफिटोर सरकार की इमदाद से करोड़ों और लाखों रुपया कमा रहे थे, उनको मौका नहीं मिल सकता था। इतना बड़ा अत्याचार तो अंग्रेज के ज़माने में भी कभी नहीं हुआ कि मेरा नौकर खाने के लिए गुड़ ला रहा हो उसको पुलिस पकड़ ले और पकड़ कर जलील करे। जिस ने उसको पैदा किया वह खाने के लिए नहीं ला सकता है। लड़की के यहाँ, अपने भाई के यहाँ वह उस गुड़ को नहीं ले जा सकता है। कोओपरेटिव की आड़ ले कर लोग लाखों रुपये, करोड़ों रुपये कमायें लेकिन हिन्दुस्तान के किसान से तिजारत करने वाले से उसके हकूक को छीना जाये, यह कैसे बरदास्त किया जा सकता है।

सरकार कहती है कि चीनी की कमी है। यह हालत तब है जब कि अभी अभी चीनी की पैदावार शुरू हुई है, गन्ने की फसल चल रही है। आप एक और चीज़ को देखें। किसान का आज भी सोलह करोड़ रुपया ऐसा है जो मिल मालिकों की तरफ बकाया पड़ा हुआ है जिस को मिल मालिक अदा नहीं कर रहे हैं। अगर किसान का एक रुपया या दो रुपया बिना लगान दिये हुए रह जाता है, बाकी रह जाता है तो किसान के तो हथकड़ियां पड़ जाती हैं, उसको तो जेल में डाल दिया जाता है, हवालात में बन्द कर दिया जाता है लेकिन उसका जो सोलह करोड़ रुपया बकाया पड़ा हुआ है वह उसको नहीं मिला है। ऐसी हालत में खेती की तरक्की कैसे हो सकती है। खेती की तरक्की तभी होगी जब आप किसान को अपने पैरों पर खड़ा करने में मदद देंगे, किसान

समझेंगे कि वाकई में वह अपनी ज़मीन का मालिक है। जब वह ज़मीन का मालिक होगा तभी खेती की तरक्की वह कर सकेगा।

आज लाखों एकड़ ज़मीन हिन्दुस्तान में ऐसी है जो सीलाब की वजह से डूब जाती है। मैं जिस इलाके से आता हूँ वहाँ हजारों एकड़ ऐसी भूमि है जो तुगियानी की वजह से डबी पड़ी रहती है। लेकिन फिर भी उस ज़मीन पर इरिगेशन टैक्स लिया जाता है, आबपाशी टैक्स लिया जाता है। इतना अत्याचार किसी के साथ नहीं होता है जितना किसान के साथ होता है। पानी की वजह से, बाढ़ की वजह से ज़मीन डूब जाती है फिर भी उससे इरिगेशन टैक्स लिया जाता है। यह नहीं होना चाहिये।

अगर आप चाहते हैं कि किसान अपने पैरों पर खड़ा हो तो किसान के लिए दो अरब रुपये का आप को इंतज़ाम करना होगा। उसके बैल के लिए, उसके ट्रैक्टर के लिए, उसके ट्यूबवैल के लिए दो अरब रुपये आपको अलग रखने होंगे। आप विदेशों को अन्न मंगाने के लिए कितना ही रुपया दे रहे हैं, अमरीका को आप बीस बीस अरब देते हैं और तब गेहूँ खरीद कर लाते हैं। क्या आप किसान को दो अरब रुपया तकावी के लिए, बैलों के लिए, रहत के लिए, ट्यूबवैल के लिए नहीं दे सकते हैं? अगर आपने ऐसा किया तो किसान एक साल में गेहूँ का इतना भारी ढेर लगा सकता है कि सारा हिन्दुस्तान खा नहीं सकेगा।

आपकी बहानेबाज़ी बहुत देर तक नहीं चल सकती है। बच्चे अधिक पैदा हो गये हैं इसलिए पैदावार में कमी पड़ गई है, इस तरह की बहानेबाज़ी से काम नहीं चल सकता है। बच्चों को रोकना भी तो सरकार की जिम्मेवारी थी। सरकार दोनों कामों में फेल हुई है। न फैमिली प्लानिंग हो सका है और न पैदावार बढ़ सकी है। बर्थ कंट्रोल भी नहीं हो सका है और न ही देश की आबादी रूक सकी

है। आबादी तो केवल आत्म-संयम से, सैल्फ कंट्रोल से ही रूक सकती है। बर्ष कंट्रोल से वह नहीं रूक सकती है। देश की आबादी को बढ़ने से रोकने के लिए सब से बड़ी जरूरत है "धर्म युद्ध" छेड़ने की। करोड़ों आदमी आज अत्याचार का सामना कर रहे हैं, एक शिकस्त का सामना कर रहे हैं, एक कलंक का सामना कर रहे हैं और वह यह है कि ३८,००० मुरब्बा मील के ऊपर भूमि दुश्मन के कब्जे में है ये करोड़ों आदमी दुश्मन के मुकाबले में बड़े और चीन को पीछे हटाएँ, खुद अपनी बलि दें और चीन से अपना इलाका छीन लें। इस धर्म युद्ध से पापुलेशन का इलाज हो जायेगा। लेकिन आज इमर्जेंसी है गुड़ के ऊपर। छोटे से काश्तकार के ऊपर इमर्जेंसी है, छोटे से दूकानदार के ऊपर इमर्जेंसी है, छोटे से छोटे मजदूर पर इमर्जेंसी है, पांच नये पैसे का पान बेचने वाले के ऊपर इमर्जेंसी है। लेकिन आज करोड़ों रुपये का मुनाफा जो कमा रहे हैं उनके ऊपर कोई इमर्जेंसी नहीं है। सरकार आज भी इमर्जेंसी के सिलसिले में नहीं कह सकती कि वह सब को एक निगाह से देखती है। आज बड़े बड़े आदमियों के ऊपर कोई इमर्जेंसी नहीं है। जो कोआपरेटिव बना कर एक एक क्विन्टल पर ५७, ५७ रुपयों की मुनाफेखोरी कर रहे हैं उन के ऊपर कोई इमर्जेंसी नहीं है। सरकार का काम है इस बढ़ती हुई बाढ़ को रोकना। यह सरकार प्राफिटशरिंग और ब्लैक मार्केटिंग को रोक कर किसान को आज इस बात का विश्वास दिलाये कि रेम्यूनरेटिव प्राइसेज उसके लिये कायम होंगी। एक चीज की कीमत उसके खरीदने के बाद साल भर तक १ रु० मन से ज्यादा नहीं बढ़ेगी, तब जा कर यह काम हो सकेगा।

आज किसान से आबपाशी के ऊपर १६ न० पै० फी यूनिट बिजली के लिये ज्यादा लिये जाते हैं। जब सेठ बिड़ला लेते हैं तो उन को बिजली दी जाती है ३ न० पै० फी यूनिट, जब कोई इंडस्ट्रियलिस्ट बिजली लेता

है तो उस को दी जाती है ३ न० पै० यूनिट के हिसाब से लेकिन जब किसान गेहूं में पानी देता है तो उस से सिंचाई की बिजली का खर्च लिया जाता है १६ न० पै० फी यूनिट। किसान से १६ न० पै० फी यूनिट ज्यादा लिये जाते हैं इंडस्ट्रियलिस्ट के मुकाबले में। इस डिस्पैरटी को सरकार रोके और किसान को तरक्की का मौका दे। किसान अपने पैरों पर खड़ा हो सके और उसके लिये रेम्यूनरेटिव प्राइसेज कायम की जायें। सरकार जो आज गेहूं खरीद रही है वह कहती है कि उस ने आज कीमतें नीची की हैं। कीमतें नीची नहीं की हैं बल्कि किसान के घर में जो गेहूं आ रहा है यह उस का असर पड़ा है। आज सरकार को यह कानून बना देना चाहिये कि जिस भाव पर गल्ला किसानों से खरीदा जायेगा वह भाव साल भर में १ रु० मन से ज्यादा नहीं बढ़ेगा। जो लोग प्राफिटशरिंग करते हैं उन के हाथ कटवाये जायेंगे तभी किसान की तरक्की हो सकती है।

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh): Sir, I am very happy that most of the hon. Members emphasised the production programme of the country and they laid greater stress on increasing agricultural production. As you know, agricultural production went up by 2.8 per cent per annum during the first Plan and by 3.8 per cent during the second Plan. The over-all target fixed for the third Plan is 30 per cent. It is a fact that the production of cash crops has gone up and the production of food-grains went down a little during 1962-63. This year, as my colleague Shri Thomas pointed out, the production of rice has been the highest i.e. 36 million tons.

Dr. Deshmukh said that when he was in the Ministry, he achieved the highest production. But he failed to think about the production of jute or cotton, because at no time before 1961

[Dr. Ram Subhag Singh]

the production of jute and mesta reached near 80 lakh bales and the production of cotton about 53 to 54 lakh bales. The production of other crops like barley, etc. also had gone up. So also in the case of wheat production.

Mr. More spoke about the agricultural policy. Shri Thomas was quite correct in saying that we do not want only to maintain our population, but we also want to keep on expanding our exports of agricultural commodities. I agree with Mrs. Renu Chakravarty and I repudiate her also. I would submit that it is not our policy to export only raw agricultural commodities, because what we export in case of jute is mostly manufactured goods of jute. So also in the case of cotton also. It is a fact that we import some cotton to the tune of about 8 lakh bales, but our mill-factory requirement is not more than the cotton that we produce, because the mills consume only about 57 lakh bales and this year, despite severe cold wave, we are going to produce about 55 lakh bales, i.e. more than our total mill consumption and we export textile goods to the tune of Rs. 45—50 crores, and jute goods worth Rs. 150 by 160 crores.

Mr. More wanted to know what is going to be our agricultural policy. The policy is that we want to support our population and we want to provide increased ration to our population, not only ration in terms of grain, but also of protein food and to expand our export also, to keep all our factories going, because the factories support the industrial workers also. The method of increasing production is that we want to accept this intensive agricultural method, because we have limited acreage in our country and that acreage must be fully utilised. But there is a limitation also. When India and Pakistan were one, the area under irrigation was about 24 per cent. It went down 18 to 19 per cent after partition. During the first and

second Plan periods, a total irrigation potential of about 8.6 million acres was created—major and medium and another 18.5 million acres under minor irrigation. During the third Plan, we are going to create virtually 25.6 million acres of irrigation potential under the three sources—major, medium and minor. Though there has been a little difficulty in the full utilisation of irrigation potential, I am sure with the tempo that is being created under the aegis of the Agricultural Production Board, which is presided over by the Food and Agriculture Minister, this facility will be fully utilised.

Many Members including Mr. More, Shrimati Yashodara Reddy, Mr. Surendranath Dwivedy and particularly Mr. Naidu, spoke about the cost of production. My hon. friend Rangaji all the time endorses their policy and he feels that he is the only repository of the farmers' feelings. I want to tell him that we are going to stand by the farmer and our policy is that we do not want to liquidate, but strengthen the farmers and the price will be fixed on the basis of the cost of production. When Mr. More referred to the industrial wage, I am not sure about that, because these are things which will have to be carefully gone into. But I do not think it could be more than the minimum agricultural wage.

Virtually in all the State Governments have introduced minimum agricultural wage for agricultural labourers. At least that should be taken into consideration. Recently we appointed a committee—not in the sense that a new committee has been appointed—but under the chairmanship of the Secretary, Department of Agriculture, there is a committee going into this matter. All the sentiments expressed by hon. Members will be definitely borne in mind by that committee. We do not want to play any trick with the farmer. We want to give justice to him.

15 hrs.

Shri D. S. Patil: May I help the hon. Minister? The increase in cotton and jute production is due to the raise in the selling price of cotton and the interest-free loans that we are giving to the jute farmer. Is it not a fact?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: To some extent the hon. Member is correct. The Indian Cotton Committee has been functioning for a long time and there has been a better development in the cotton-growing areas. Cotton is grown mostly in dry areas and the per acre yield is about 112 pounds or so. In certain parts of our country, particularly Punjab, Ganganagar and other areas, where irrigation facility is available first-class cotton is being grown. In Gujarat and Maharashtra also where this irrigation facility is available first class cotton is grown. In the jute area, recently, we created a fund of Rs. 3 crores. This year we are going to advance Rs. 50 lakhs for the development of jute. Jute was mostly produced in East Bengal where the retting facility was better. In U.P., Bihar and Orissa the retting facility is not so good. So we are going to concentrate on providing this facility to the agriculturists and give interest free loans to the jute growers. To some extent we are lagging behind in jute production, in the sense of techniques and not in volume.

The other thing in regard to policy is, when I said about cost of production, we have to strengthen the peasantry. By peasantry I mean the peasant proprietors. At the same time I want suitable land reforms also. In our country more than 40 per cent of our total acreage was owned by intermediaries who were mostly absentee landlords. They have been mostly abolished.

Shri Brij Raj Singh spoke about forests. I also want to tell him that it is a fact that certain areas, particularly crop forest areas, have been brought under plough. In several

other areas crop forest areas have been brought under first class plantation. If he sees nearer his constituency, in the Terrai area, he will find a wonderful eucalyptus plantation and other plantations. There are also nurseries of various types of plants. During the Third Five Year Plan about 7,02,000 acres of new land will be brought under economic plantation.

Shri Brij Raj Singh: The same thing has happened in Dandakaranya also. Now it is found that it is not worthwhile cultivating it.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: I am coming to that. The hon. Member need not worry about Dandakaranya. Quick growing species will be planted in about 1,37,000 acres. I know about Dandakaranya also. There is one of our best sal forest area—the Seranda Forest near Dandakaranya. The top soil of Dandakaranya is not so deep. The top soil is about one foot or even less in certain parts. Therefore, it is necessary that we must provide soil conservation facility etc. We will do that. When misery comes, do you think our brothers would be ousted from India? We shall have to settle them. If you want we can remove them from Dandakaranya to Bareilly, but you should have courage for it.

Shri Brij Raj Singh: What I said was, before clearing the forest you should make sure whether the land is cultivable or not. In Dandakaranya you cleared the forest but the land is not cultivable at all.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Today our farmers are in about 5,50,000 villages. Unless and until we provide extension facilities to them we will not be able to achieve much. We have accepted this IADP method with a view to providing all facilities simultaneously according to their production plan. It may be difficult in the first season even to frame the production plan. It may also be equally difficult to rush all the supplies to a particular farmer or to provide him with credit or marketing facilities. Gradually these

[Dr. Ram Subhag Singh]

facilities are increasing. There will not be a single hon. Member in this House—I say it with some amount of knowledge—who will deny that these facilities are not increasing. The package area itself is spreading. I am not at all worried about fall in production because today the harvest season is on and all my harvest might be corn. But this goes to the credit of the agriculturist that he is prepared to accept the biggest calamity without crying. But it is those people who do not know the ABC of agriculture, those who are known as the parasitic type of people, who start crying. I was very happy when Shri Brij Raj Singh said that here the facility is to tame dogs but not cow. This type of policy is there and that must be eliminated. There I agree (Interruption).

One of my hon. friends pointed out that much is spent on agricultural research. I want to spend as much as possible there, because unless and until you study every particle of the soil, every type of your plant, every breed of your cattle and also the human instinct you would not be able to give a proper type of agriculture to our people.

Then, we must have trained people and we must have institutions. So far the trend was of a different nature. Therefore, we are setting up increasing number of agricultural colleges and universities. We are going to give all facility to our research workers because on them depends our future development programme.

In that connection, I may also point out that our idea is to create an All India Agriculture Service. Today also somebody pointed out about the difficulties which our agricultural workers experience. Unless and until we put them on an all-India basis it will not be possible for them to evoke that much of respect which our other cadres are receiving.

Shri Inder J. Malhotra (Nominated—Jammu and Kashmir): What is the hitch in doing all this?

श्री क० ना० तिवारी : रूरल यूनिवर्सिटीज की तरफ भी आपने विचार किया है ?

डा० राम सुभग सिंह : हम ने हाल ही चार रूरल कृषि विश्वविद्यालय कायम किए हैं, लुधियाना में, पन्त नगर में, उदयपुरमें, भुवनेश्वर में। आंध्र, मैसूर और मध्य प्रदेश में भी बिल पास हो चुके हैं।

In that way we are going to expand the number. We want not only to increase the number but also improve the standard and quality of our graduates so that they might put in a better type of knowledge and service in our fields.

Shri J. R. Mehta was referring to Rajasthan. I may tell some of our hon. friends, particularly Shri Dwivedy, Leader of the PSP Party, that I want to try everybody who says that nature does not matter, climatic conditions do not matter in the field of agriculture. I want to take them to Rajasthan to carry on their experiments and see whether they can do anything, because if they could create such conditions in Gurgaon, Bhivani and Mahendragarh in Punjab, they can do it elsewhere also.

The utmost that we can do is to provide water to about 20 per cent of the land. The other 80 per cent is unirrigated. About 150,000 square miles of our land are covered either by desert or by the Himalayas. We are applying our mind to the question how to provide food to people who are suffering from lack of food.

Shri Ranga: What about Saurashtra?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: I thought the leader of the Swatantra party knows that Saurashtra is in Gujarat.

In Kutch we are at present carrying on work on 50 tube wells under the Exploratory Tube-wells Organisation and they are going to be completed very soon. We are in constant touch with the Government of Gujarat in regard to fodder and food to the cattle rearers as well as the cattle. In Rajasthan we have opened relief centres for fodder in virtually all the 13 districts which have been affected by scarcity conditions; so also in the borders of neighbouring States, because more than a lakh of their cattle have gone to other areas. In response to the request of the Rajasthan Government, there was an inter-departmental meeting here and we are now considering the digging of 250 tube-wells, particularly in the areas which are going to be suggested by the State Government. Here I want to make the announcement that the Government of India have taken a decision to construct 250 tube-wells in scarcity areas of Rajasthan as an emergency measure. The Exploratory Tube-wells Organisation, which is meant for constructing irrigation wells, will undertake this work in collaboration with the State departments concerned as a special case. The expenditure incurred will be by way of central assistance; may be loans.

Then, we have provided fodder to 4 or 5 districts in the Terai area, particularly to Bhivani and the adjoining district, to which Shri Bagri, who is not present here now, made a reference. Some of the areas are having irrigation facilities. About 50 villages of Bhivani tehsil are given semi or full irrigation facilities. Every village can take advantage of it.

Then, it was suggested that farmers must be given tractors at cheaper rates. I fully endorse that idea. But, it must be remembered, that we are not self-sufficient in the manufacture of tractor. Of course, some licences have been issued for the production of more tractors, but it will take some time. The manufacture of tractors in 1963 was only about 2,000 or perhaps a little less. We are going to

import 4,000 tractors this year from various countries.

15.14 hrs.

[SHRI KHADILKAR in the Chair]

We want to standardise them because we do not want to have too many types. All the same, we should have a dozen or 15 varieties, because we have different types of climate and soil in our country.

Then, the hon. Member, Shrimati Yashoda Reddy, referred to tobacco cultivation in Andhra Pradesh. I know the difficulties of tobacco-growers. I was in Hyderabad recently and I learnt their difficulties. We have requested the Government of Andhra Pradesh to look into this question. It is very keen to help them. I hope very soon it will have a resolution adopted by the State Legislature so that we might extend the central warehousing facilities and credit facilities to the tobacco growers. That Government has assured us that it is going to do it very soon. That will help the tobacco growers.

I dispute her view that the present position is due to want of correct planning. A little more of production does not mean lack of planning. The production of tobacco in Andhra Pradesh was to the tune of 1.29 lakh tons in 1961-62. In 1962-63 it has reached 1.34 lakh tons. This year the difficulty has arisen because the foreign buyers did not want the best type of tobacco that we are producing and, unfortunately, our production is mainly meant for export.

Coming to hilly areas, last year we had a conference of representatives, including Members of Parliament, in regard to the development of hilly and border areas. We are going to act on the advice of that conference. Almost all the State Governments have named their representatives to serve on that committee. We hope it will meet within a month or two and come to a final decision.

Shri Inder J. Malhotra: What would be the composition of this committee?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: We are yet to finalise it. As soon as it is finalised it will be announced. Anyhow, it will be according to the idea given by the Seminar at Simla.

Shri K. C. Pant (Naini Tal): Are you referring to the Hill Development Board?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Yes, though the name will differ a little. It will deal with the development of communications between contiguous hill areas lying in different States, between hills and planes, markets so that production from the hills can be easily moved to the markets, location of livestock and horticultural research centres in different areas for the hilly people, soil conservation programme—because that is one of the biggest headaches for them—the pattern of financial assistance etc.

When we are talking of hill development, we are also thinking of desert development by forming a desert development authority. We will finalise that very soon. We want to do the two things simultaneously, because our borders are either seas, deserts or hills. So, the most hardy agriculturists should inhabit those areas. Our best cattle and best fruits come from the hilly areas. So, it is very necessary that we pay our utmost attention to those areas.

Shri K. C. Pant: Another recommendation of that seminar was with regard to the constitution of a special technical service for hill areas. Has the Government considered that also?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: We are having that also in mind and we might extend certain facilities. That has not been finalised. It is in the stage of consideration that agricultural workers, research workers and others who work there should have some facilities. I have myself noticed that people working in NEFA, Manipur, even in Ladakh, are maintaining two

establishments—one in Delhi, Patna or Shillong and another there. So, they are not in a position to give their full attention to their work. That also will have to be borne in mind and we would certainly not neglect that.

A point was made out here that whenever any rail accident or something of that sort happens an inquiry is instituted but no inquiry is instituted in case of failure of agriculture. I would very much welcome that an inquiry is instituted. Shri Jha is nodding his head. But at the same time the facilities that you are giving to all the workers, industrial workers as well as Government employees, that is, insurance facility, gratuity, annuity, good wage, school facility—every type of facility—the agriculturists lack all these. I want that we should at least try to bring them on a par with other workers. But I do not want to advance this as an argument against any inquiry; but I would like that this matter also should be borne in mind because they do not get any facility. I pay them a special tribute that despite the fact that the nation's attention has not gone towards the agriculturists to the extent that they deserve, they have maintained their production. Production has not gone down and I say again that it has been maintained at the level of 70 to 80 million tons. At no time India produced more than 50 million tons of grain even during the British period. When India and Pakistan were one then also both combined produced less than 50 million tons.

An Hon. Member: What a comparison!

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: But today they have produced that much despite lesser facilities and some negligent attitude. Shri Ram Sewakji might be knowing the conditions under which the farmers work. In courts and other places it is not very easy for a farmer to get anything done. I would, therefore, want that he should first be

provided with full facilities, not any mercy, but only what is his due.

An Hon. Member: Who will provide?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: I am including myself.

An Hon. Member: That is the charge against you.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: I am accepting that charge. That is the difference between....

Shri Ranga: I hope, his senior colleague will use his influence with the Cabinet.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: There is no question of that. Shri Ranga has never pointed out this thing despite the fact that he is in the Opposition. He always shouts about the Seventeenth Amendment and something like that.... (Interruption).

Shri Ranga: Do not go beyond your books..... (Interruption).

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: This is the basic point that has to be attended to.... (Interruption).

Shri Ranga: You have not given him the opportunity of knowing what I was saying. He has misunderstood me and goes on the wrong track. He seems to think that he is an agitator. We want this Government and his Cabinet Minister to support him in every manner. Why does he think that we are not supporting him?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: There is no question of your not supporting me... (Interruption).

Shri Ranga: Just because you happen to be a Minister now..... (Interruption). So many other Ministers have come and gone. You will also go.... (Interruption).

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: I do not want to give the field to you so that

you may reap a big harvest of the ignorant farmer.... (Interruption).

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy: Government has so far neglected the agricultural sector..... (Interruption).

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: If I say this, why do you get agitated? You did not tell this thing.... (Interruption). Why should you feel that I should not say this? (Interruption).

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy: The whole theme of my speech was that you are not providing facilities to the agriculturist to the extent that you give attention even to the industrialist.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: You listen to me first and then analyse.

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy: But it is your duty to provide that.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: That I realise. Therefore I am saying that to that extent the Government must see that agriculturists also get the facilities. There comes the farmer-oriented policy.

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy: Where is the indication of that?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: That must be done and we are acting on that line. When I said about the agricultural university, expansion of extension services to every village, provision of expanded credit and linking of credit with production and processing I mean all those things. I want to eliminate all the ills that exist and all the ills which are not noticeable to Shri Ranga and Shri Dwivedy.... (Interruption). After that you see what is going to be the production in our country.

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy: We will be happy.

Mr. Chairman: Shrimati Sahodrabai Rai.

Shri Radhelal Vyas: On a point of order. The rule says that the Chair should call only those who rise in their seats.

An hon. Member: It is a valid point.

Mr. Chairman: I am afraid, the hon. Member was not perhaps watching Shrimati Sahodrabai's movement. She was about to get up.

Shri Radhelal Vyas: About to get up does not mean that she had got up. If the Lok Sabha does not abide by the rules, who is expected to abide by the rule? This point has been raised a number of times. We find that even the names of those hon. Members are called who are not present here at that time.

Shri K. N. Tiwary: As several speakers are desirous to speak and this is a very important subject, I move for extension of this debate by three hours more.

Shri Inder J. Malhotra: We all agree.

Mr. Chairman: I shall convey the request to the proper authority.

Shri Inder J. Malhotra: A motion has been placed before the House and the House has agreed. There is no question of conveying the request.

Mr. Chairman: If it is a formal motion, you will have to give notice. That is the usual procedure. I take it that it is the sense of the House. Already an extension has been granted and if further extension is to be granted, other factors have got to be taken into consideration. I will request all hon. Members of the House that they need not get agitated. I also realise the feelings of hon. Members. Let the debate continue. As it is, the hon. Minister is not going to reply today. There is ample opportunity for pressing this demand.

Shri Ranga: We have no objection to extension of time for this Demand

provided that the House sits longer whenever it wants to. We do not want this time to be taken out of the time given to other Demands.

श्रीमती सहोदराबाई राय (दमोह) : चेयरमैन साहब, मैं कृषि मंत्रालय की मांगों का समर्थन करती हूँ। इस के साथ ही मैं यह भी कहना चाहती हूँ कि हाउस के मेम्बरों को बोलने में बहुत तकलीफ़ होती है। कई माननीय सदस्य चार दफ़ा बोल चुके हैं। अब अगर किसी महिला को मौका मिला है, तो उन को तो हमदर्दी होनी चाहिये।

मैं कहना चाहती हूँ कि मैं काश्तकार की लड़की हूँ और काश्तकारी करने वाले घर में महिलायें बहुत काम करती हैं इसलिये उन को काश्तकारी का अच्छा अनुभव होता है। हमारे देश में कम से कम वही होना चाहिये। कम खेती करने वाले घरों में महिलायें ज्यादा काम करती हैं। उनको हर सुविधा होनी चाहिये। हमारे मध्य प्रदेश में इस साल पानी बहुत कम बरसा है, वर्षा बहुत कम हुई है। सागर दमोह, बांदा, विन्ध्य प्रदेश, छत्रपुर आदि में वर्षा कम होने की वजह से फसल बहुत कम हुई है। इसलिये मेरी प्रार्थना है कि किसानों का इस साल का लगान माफ़ कर दिया जाना चाहिये। उन से इस साल लगान बिल्कुल नहीं लिया जाना चाहिये। वहाँ पर किसान ने अगर पांच मन बीज डाला था तो मुश्किल से दस मन गेहूँ ही हुआ होगा। किसान रो रहे हैं। उनको कोई सुविधा नहीं है। इस वास्ते लगान इस साल का उनका माफ़ कर दिया जाना चाहिये।

आपको चाहिये कि आप गेहूँ के दाम निर्धारित कर दें। किसान की खलिहान में जब गल्ला आता है और उसको जब वह बाजार में ले जाता है तो वहाँ पर व्यापारी लोग उसको कम दाम में खरीद लेते हैं और खरीद करके अपने घर भर लेते हैं। बाद में जब जनवरी-फरवरी का महीना आता है उस वक्त उसको दुगुने या उससे भी अधिक दामों पर

बेचते हैं। जनवरी-फरवरी से पहले वे गल्ला घरों से निकालते ही नहीं हैं। किसानों को व्यापारी लोग कम दाम दे कर चूसते हैं। किसानों के घर में कुछ नहीं बचता है। इसवास्ते हमारे कृषि मंत्री जी को सोचना चाहिये कि फ़सल आने के पहले वह दाम निर्धारित कर दें, फरवरी, मार्च में दाम निर्धारित कर दें ताकि किसान का गल्ला कम दाम में न बिकने पाये।

अन्न की समस्या आज बहुत विकट है। आज लोगों को बहुत कष्टों का सामना करना पड़ रहा है। बीकानेर में जब कामराज साहब गए थे तो मैं भी गयी थी। राजस्थान में जनता को बड़ी तकलीफ़ है। वहां सूखा पड़ा हुआ है, मवेशी मर रहे हैं। ऐसे जो स्थान हैं, वहां आपको रुदम उठाने चाहियें, वहां लोगों को तथा मवेशियों को खाने के लिये देना चाहिये, उनकी मदद करनी चाहिये।

अगर आपने शहरों का ही ध्यान रखा, और देहातों की समस्या व किसान की समस्याओं को हल नहीं किया तो भविष्य में बड़ा खतरा पैदा हो सकता है। जब मैं अपने क्षेत्र में कार्य करने के लिये जाती हूं तो जिन लोगों ने वोट दिया होता है, और जिन्होंने नहीं भी दिया होता है, वे भी शिकायत करते हैं कि जब वोट का समय आता है तब तो आप कहती हैं कि लगान माफ़ होगा, गल्ला सस्ता होगा, गाय भंस के लिये चरागाह का प्रबन्ध होगा, लेकिन हो तो कुछ भी नहीं रहा है। अंग्रेजों से जब हमने राज्य प्राप्त किया था उस वक्त नारा लगाते थे कि लगान माफ़ होगा, नहरें खोदी जायेंगी, गाय भंस के लिये चरागाह का इंतजाम किया जायगा, लेकिन कुछ नहीं हुआ है। लगान भी दुगुना या ड्योढ़ा बढ़ गया है। जनता में इन सब बातों को ले कर बड़ा असन्तोष है।

हमारे मंत्री महोदय जब जिले का या प्रांत का दौर करने जाते हैं तो रैस्ट हाउस

में जा कर ठहरते हैं। देहातों में जायें तो उनको असली हालत का पता चले। लेकिन वे तो रैस्ट हाउस में जा कर ठहरते हैं ताकि कहीं उनको लू न लग जाय। इसलिये मैं प्रार्थना करती हूं कि उनको गांव में जाना चाहिये, वहां जा कर उनको किसानों की तकलीफ़ को समझना चाहिये, उनकी तकलीफ़ों को दूर करना चाहिये। किसान इस वक्त बड़े भयभीत हैं। उनकी तरफ बहुत सा रुपया बकाया पड़ा हुआ है, तकावी का, बीज का, बघिया का, बैल का इत्यादि। कलैक्टर या तहसीलदार उनको आज बहुत परेशान कर रहे हैं। उसके बैल नीलाम किये जा रहे हैं, जमीन नीलाम की जा रही है। उसको कचहरी में ले जाते हैं और पटवारी, तसहसीलदार किसान को जिस तरह से परेशान करते हैं उसका लेखा मैं नहीं दे सकती हूं, उसको मैं बयान नहीं कर सकती हूं। आज भ्रष्टाचारी का ही बोलबाला है। जब तक सौ रुपया या पचास रुपया या पच्चीस रुपया लेखपाल को या पटवारी को न मिले तब तक खाते में से नम्बर वे लोग नहीं निकालते हैं। कचहरी में उनको परेशान किया जाता है। कहीं-कहीं आदिवासियों को या हरिजनों को या भूमिहीन किसानों को जमीन दी भी गई है तो जो नाम-पट्टा है वह उसको भी दे दिया जाता है और फिर पहले को कंसिल कर किसी दूसरे को भी दे दिया जाता है। जिस ने सौ, दो सौ रुपये पटवारी को दे दिये उसी को पट्टा मिल जाता है। आप को ऐसे काम करने चाहियें जिन से भूमिहीनों को जमीन दी जा सके और वे सुरक्षित रह कर उस पर काश्तकारी कर सकें। जो भी काम आप करें, सोच विचार करके करें।

तकावी का जब बटवारा होता है तो जो बड़े-बड़े किसान होते हैं उनको तो वह मिल जाती है लेकिन जो चार या पांच एकड़ वाला किसान होता है, उसको नहीं मिलती है। अगर वह पांच एकड़ में अच्छी फ़सल पैदा करता है तो क्या कारण है कि उसको नहीं

[श्रीमती सहोदरा बाई राय]

दी जाती है। उसको आप दीजिए। उसके पीछे दलाल लगे रहते हैं, बड़े-बड़े काश्तकार छोटे-छोटे काश्तकारों को पनपने नहीं देते हैं। मैं सुझाव देना चाहती हूँ कि आप ऐसे कदम उठावें जिन से काश्तकारी को बढ़ावा मिले।

मध्य प्रदेश में सागर, दमोह आदि में कोई नहर नहीं है। भगवान पर ही वहाँ के लोग भरोसा करते हैं। अगर समय पर वर्षा हो जाती है तब तो उनकी फसल ठीक हो जाती है, नहीं तो वह नष्ट हो जाती है। आपको चाहिये कि ऐसे इलाकों के अन्दर भी आप नहरें खोदें जहाँ की भूमि उपजाऊ है और जहाँ और भी अधिक अच्छी फसल हो सकती है। इससे किसानों को भी सुविधा मिलेगी, उनकी आर्थिक दशा भी सुधरेगी। नर्वेदा में आपने एक भीला बांध सागर बंडा तहसील में बनाया है, लेकिन उससे सागर दमोह, जबलपुर आदि को कोई लाभ नहीं पहुंच सकता है क्योंकि वे इलाके तो बहुत दूर हैं। सागर में भी आप नहरों का प्रबन्ध करें जहाँ फसल अच्छी पैदा होती है ताकि गवर्नमेंट को भी आमदनी हो और किसानों को भी सहूलियत हो। इससे हमारे जो जवान फौज में अड़े हुए हैं, फौज में काम कर रहे हैं, देश के रक्षा प्रयत्नों में अपना योगदान कर रहे हैं, उनको अच्छी फसल गेहूँ की खाने को मिलेगी और हमारे देश की रक्षा भी अच्छी तरह से हो सकेगी।

कहीं-कहीं पर तो आपने स्वर्ग लाकर खड़ा कर दिया है। हमारे जो मन्त्री लोग हैं उन्होंने तो भविष्य अपना क्षेत्र सुरक्षित कर लिया है, अच्छा काम अपने लिये कर लिया है ताकि भविष्य में वे हार न सकें। लेकिन उन एरियाज या क्षेत्रों की तरफ बहुत कम ध्यान दिया गया है जहाँ से एम० पी० लोग आते हैं, जो ज्यादा बोलते नहीं हैं, जो अंग्रेजी जानते नहीं हैं। अगर आपको किसी ने अंग्रेजी में "थैंक यू वैंरी मच" कह दिया तो उसके लिए

तो आपने अच्छा काम कर दिया लेकिन जो हिन्दी में बोला उसका कुछ काम नहीं हुआ। पेपर वाले भी, कभी कभी अगर हिन्दी वाले बोलते हैं तो उसको लिखते ही नहीं हैं, लिखते लिखते उनकी कलम ही रुक जाती है और अगर अंग्रेजी वाले बोलते हैं तो बड़ा लम्बा चौड़ा लिख कर अपने आप छाप देते हैं।

मैं आपको कहना चाहती हूँ कि आप शहरों को छोड़ कर देहातों में जायें जहाँ किसान रहते हैं। अगर किसान को आपने सहूलियत नहीं दी और किसान की काश्तकारी को आपने बढ़ावा नहीं दिया, वहाँ उद्योग धंधे स्थापित नहीं किये तो यह न आपके लिए और न ही हमारे लिये अच्छा होगा। आज काश्तकार के पास वर्ष में छः महीने करने के लिए कोई काम नहीं होता है। वहाँ पानी की नहरें नहीं हैं जिससे वे दुगुनी फसल पैदा करके आपको दे सकें। इसलिए आप उनके लिये उद्योग धंधे चालू करें ताकि छः महीने जो वे खाली रहते हैं, उनमें इन उद्योग धंधों में काम करके कुछ कमाई कर सकें ताकि बाद में वह पैसा वे काश्तकारी में लगा सकें और देश का उत्पादन बढ़ा सकें।

अब मैं खाद के बारे में कुछ कहना चाहती हूँ। खाद जो दिया जाता है वह बड़े-बड़े लोगों को दे दिया जाता है, छोटे लोगों को नहीं दिया जाता है। छोटे किसानों को भी खाद मिलना चाहिये। जब आप तकावी और बीज का वितरण करते हैं, उस वक्त भी आपको छोटे लोगों का ध्यान रखना चाहिये।

15.36 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

डिस्ट्रिक्टस में बुला कर उनको रुपया नहीं दिया जाना चाहिये। आप ऐसी योजना बनायें कि कस्बे, बस्ती में जाकर दस, बीस आदमियों को इकट्ठा करके उनको तकावी, बीज आदि दें। बीज भी उनको समय पर मिलना चाहिये। आषाकल बीज उनको

उस वक्त मिलता है जब फसल बीई जा चुकती है। नवम्बर, दिसम्बर में उनको बीज दिया जाता है, जबकि फसल अक्तूबर में बो दी जाती है। इस बीज को बेच कर गहने इत्यादि बनवा लेते हैं, जेवर इत्यादि बनवा लेते हैं। आप ऐसी योजना बनायें कि उनको तकावी का रुपया अक्तूबर में मिल जाये। आजकल उनको रुपया मार्च में आप देते हैं, जब ३१ मार्च सिर पर होता है, तब देते हैं। तब न कुआं बनता है, न तालाब और न ही नहरें। इसलिए जो कार्य है, वह सही नहीं होता है। देहात के लोगों के लिए आप नलरूप बनायें, कुयें खुदवायें, तालाब बनवायें ताकि सिंचाई की व्यवस्था हो सके। हर तरह की सहूलियत आप काश्तकार को दें ताकि उत्पादन बढ़ सके।

खलिहानों से गल्ला जब मण्डी में आता है तो जो कर्मचारी लोग हैं वे अपने फायदे की बात तो करते होंगे लेकिन गरीब जनता की, किसान की फायदे की बात नहीं करते हैं, उसको सही दाम नहीं दिलाते हैं। आपको देखना चाहिये कि जो गवर्नमेंट आफिसर हैं उनकी जब में तो पैस नहीं चले जाते हैं, दूसरों को भी सही दाम मिलते हैं या नहीं मिलते हैं। उन पर आपको निगाह रखनी चाहिये। भ्रष्टाचारी व्यक्ति के खिलाफ आपको कड़ी कार्रवाई करनी चाहिये, जो व्यक्ति काश्तकार के साथ भ्रष्टाचार करता है, चाहे वह पटवारी हो या तहसीलदार हो या लेखपाल हो, उस पर कड़ी निगाह रखनी चाहिये। इन लोगों ने अगर सही किस्म का काम नहीं किया तो भविष्य में क्रान्ति उठेगी। इनसे किसान बड़े परेशान हैं। काश्तकार को वह नक़्शा दे दिया जाना चाहिये जो पटवारी बनाये ताकि वह उसके पास रहे और पटवारी के पास जाने की उसको जरूरत न पड़े। हर एक चीज के लिए नम्बर लेने के लिए जब पटवारी के पास बह जाता है तो उसको बहुत परेशान किया जाता है। कितना उसको

परेशान होना पड़ता है, मैं ब्यान नहीं कर सकती हूं।

कई बार देखा गया है कि जो एम० ए०, बी० ए० करके आता है उसको मन्त्री नियुक्त कर दिया जाता है, उसको खेती का अनुभव नहीं होता है। मन्त्री जब तक काश्तकार नहीं होगा, खेत से निक्ला नहीं होगा, तब तक देश का सुधार नहीं हो सकता है, खेती का सुधार नहीं हो सकता है। काश्तकारी जो करता है उसको बहुत अनुभव होना है। मैं आपके ऊपर लांछन नहीं लगती हूं। आपको अनुभव है। सरदार साहब पंजाब से आये हैं, उनको भी बहुत अनुभव है।

मैं यह भी जरूर कहना चाहती हूं कि महिलायें जो खेती का बहुत सा काम करती हैं, उन को हर सुविधा मिलनी चाहिये। जिस का पति मर गया है, जो विधवा है, जिस के छंटे-छंटे बच्चे हैं उसको तकावी नहीं मिलती है, उसको बीज नहीं मिलता है, पटवारी उसको परेशान करता है, लेखपाल उसको परेशान करता है, तहसीलदार उसको परेशान करता है। विधवाओं का आप को ख्याल रखना चाहिए। अगर उनको इस तरह से परेशान किया जाएगा तो काश्तकारी में बाधा पड़ेगी। आपको देखना चाहिये कि उसको पैसा मिल रहा है या नहीं, उसको प्रोत्साहन मिल रहा है या नहीं। यहां से तो कोई चीज पास हो जाती है लेकिन वहां जो अफसर हैं उन अफसरों के गलत कामों से किसानों व जनता का काम नहीं बन पाता है। अफसरों के ऊपर निगाह रखी जाये। सब अफसर बेईमान नहीं हैं लेकिन दस, पांच ऐसे जरूर हैं जिन को तनख्वाह तो मिलती है १२५ ६० मासिक लेकिन वह साल भर में १०,००० रुपये की बार खरीदते हैं। बतलाइये कि यह रुपया वहां से आया। अगर हम एम० पी० जायें और वहाँ कि साहब यह कमी है, वह कमी है इस ठीक कर दो, तो कहते हैं कि हां,

[श्रीमती सहोदर.बाई राय]

बाई साहब, ठीक है कर देंगे लेकिन करेंगे कुछ नहीं। कांग्रेस वाला ज.येगा तो कुछ नहीं करेंगे लेकिन अगर कोई जनसंघ वाला जायेगा तो झट उस काम को कर देंगे। उन लोगों का काम जल्दी हो जाता है। हमारे कांग्रेस वाले कहा करते हैं लेकिन उनकी बात कोई ठीक तरह से नहीं सुनता। इसलिये उन लोगों के ऊपर जो कि अफसर हैं उन पर निगाह रखनी चाहिए। अष्टाचार इतना उन में है जिसका ठिकाना नहीं है वह लोग ईमानदार आदमियों के मामले में सही तौर पर काम नहीं करते बहुत सी चीजें तो हमारे भाइयों ने वह दी हैं लेकिन फिर भी बहुत सी चीजें हैं जिन को मैं यहां पर कहना चाहती हूं। देहात में आज कल पुग्ने हल चलते हैं, वहां पर लोह के हल दिवें जाने चाहियें, वहां ट्रैक्टर दिए जाने चाहियें। अभी एक ट्रैक्टर शायद २,००० ६० का है जिस को एक पुरुष चलाता है। एक एक गांव को ऐसे ट्रैक्टर दिये जायें वहां पर लोगों को अच्छे बीज दिये जायें, और समय पर दिये जायें। वहां के लोगों के लिये कुएं खोदवाये जायें, मलकूप बनाये जायें।

आज जो लोग किसानों के लाभ की बातें करते हैं उनको उनके पास जाना चाहिये। आज बंगलों में सोने का समय नहीं है। आज काश्तकारों के पास उनकी जगह है। इस समय गल्ले के भाव बहुत बढ़ रहे हैं। और भी जनता में बहुत सी बातें कहीं जाती हैं जिन को मैं यहां नहीं कह सकती। उनको आश्वासन दिया जाये कि सही तरह से काम होगा और काश्तकार का उत्पादन बढ़ेगा।

हमारे इलाके में बिजली लगवानी चाहिये जिस में कि बिजली के जोर से काश्तकारी बढ़े। आज हम देखते हैं कि शहरों में घर घर में बिजली लगाई गई है। वहां पर घर घर में बिजली लगाने की क्या जरूरत है। आज बिजली देहातों की तरफ क्यों नहीं जाती। वह काश्तकारों की तरफ क्यों नहीं

जाती जो कि गेहूं पैदा करते हैं, धालू पैदा करते हैं, टमाटर पैदा करते हैं, दूसरी सब्जियां पैदा करते हैं और देश के विकास में मदद करते हैं। लेकिन हमारी सरकार को इसका ध्यान नहीं है। आज गवर्नमेंट भारत सेवक समाज जैसी संस्था खोल कर इतना पैसा क्यों खर्च करती है यह मेरी समझ में नहीं आता। उसको ऐसी संस्थाएँ बन्द कर देनी चाहियें। देहातों में जितने ग्राम सेवक मिलें उनको भरती करना चाहिये। अगर दूसरे लोग जो शहरों में रहते हैं गांवों में जाते हैं तो कहते हैं कि उनको लू लगी है और इसलिए वे वहां नहीं जायेंगे। वे घर में बैठे रहते हैं और पूरी हल्ला खाते रहते हैं। ग्राम सेवक ऐं होंने चाहिये जो कि वहां पर ठीक से काम कर सकें। पटवारा ऐसे होंने चाहियें जो कि जनता को परेशान न करें किसानों को वाश्तकारी के लिये समय पर चांजे मिलनी चाहिये। लकड़ा मिलनी चाहिये। घर बनाने के लिए सीमेंट मिलनी चाहिए। इस की परवाह नहीं कि देहातों में शक्कर नहीं मिलती। वह नहीं मिलती तो न मिले लेकिन और चीजे त मिलें। आज शहरों के लिये सब कुछ है देहात के लिये कुछ नहीं जैसे कि गांवों में रहने वालों के लिये किसी चीज की जरूरत नहीं है।

मेरी प्रार्थना है कि अगर तीन सालों के अन्दर हमारे क्षेत्र में या डिस्ट्रिक्ट या तहसील में काश्तकार की हालत अच्छी नहीं होती तो हम देहात में मूह नहीं दिखा सकते। काश्तकार हम को लानत देता है कि बाई, कुआं नहीं खुदवाया, तकावी नहीं मिली। कभी उनको तहमीलदार मारता है कभी उनके बैल ले जाता है। डकैत एरिया में काश्तकार को बड़ी परेशानी है। अने काश्तकार डकैत एरिया में रह नहीं सकते इसलिये वह शहर की तरफ भागते हैं। सरकार ऐसे कदम उठाये कि उनको हथियार दिये जायें, जिस से कि वे गांवों की रक्षा करें, खेतों की रक्षा करें और अच्छी तरह से

कास्त कर सकें और हर समय वे आप अपनी रक्षा कर सकें ।

Shri Balakrishnan (Koilpatti): I thank you for giving me a chance to speak on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture. I assure you I shall not take more than five minutes.

I only want to emphasise one point, that is the need for a thorough change-over from the old types of implements to new scientific agricultural implements. If we want to increase production, we must effect this change-over. In this connection, I wish to draw attention to the report of the National Council of Applied Economic Research which states in the context of the need to increase food production that there must be a changeover from the old method of cultivation to modern methods employing scientific and technical implements.

There is no possibility of extending the area under cultivation very much. Even if we bring all the suitable waste land into cultivation, it will amount to only a few million acres. So for a population of 460 millions, if we have to produce the food we require from an acreage of 330 millions, only intensive cultivation is the answer. We have to consider in what way we can increase production in the areas already under cultivation. There are two ways. One is the introduction of gigantic tractors and big machines. The other is to use small, scientific modern types of implements and appliances. I think it will not be useful to employ the big machines because they can be profitably used only in tilling big holdings. In our country, 90 per cent of the holdings are of less than 5 acres. For cultivating these small holdings, what we need is the modern type of yokes and other implements, small tractors of 5 or 10 HP etc. '

Are we supplying these small implements to our farmers? Wherever Ministers go, they ask farmers to give

up the old type of wooden yokes and other implements, and take to the modern type of yokes and other implements. But I want to ask: when they ask farmers to use modern implements, have they supplied them these implements? Have sufficient fertilisers been supplied to them? When I approached the Minister of Agriculture, Dr. Ram Subhag Singh, for a small tractor, he was kind enough to tell me 'I have given licences to four private companies to manufacture tractors'. This was last year. When I approached him this year, he said, 'Now only the companies are arranging production'. I do not know when the companies will go into production. But what about my immediate need? That does not satisfy my hunger.

It is a matter of gratification that our Ministry of Steel, Mines and Heavy Engineering has a very big achievement to its credit in the matter of steel production. It has achieved the miracle of producing steel from ore and stone. But at the same time, it has not taken keen interest in producing agricultural implements which are needed by our farmers. It is my earnest request to that Ministry and the Ministry of Food and Agriculture to see that this vital need of farmers is fulfilled.

I am glad the Ministry of Food and Agriculture has placed orders in Japan for the import of 4,000 small tractors. But I would also request them to see that these modern implements, small tractors etc. are produced indigenously so that we can supply them in sufficient numbers to our farmers.

As regards price policy, I have no objection to Government fixing prices of foodgrains and effecting control over them. But in doing so, they must also fix prices of other articles that the farmer has to buy. This has to be done; otherwise, he has to spend more money on other commodities he needs while the price of his own produce is controlled.

[Shri Balakrishnan]

I am very glad that Government has expressed its intention of taking over the rice mills. I welcome it. All of a sudden it cannot be introduced; only through a slow process, step by step, it can be introduced. This taking over of rice mills is one of the steps to introduce socialism. But I want to tell the Government that after all it is a petty industry, where the investment is from Rs. 4,000 to Rs. 10,000. So, if you take over all the rice mills all of a sudden, there will be a lot of administrative trouble and expense, and Government will have to spend money on it. So, if Government wants to take them over, I humbly submit to them that they should do it in a few selected areas, and do it on a trial basis. After finding the result and some experience, they can take over the whole thing.

श्री विद्यनाथ राय (देवरिय) :

माननीय उपाध्यक्ष जी, धन्यवाद है कि कई बार प्रयत्न करने के बाद आज मुझे ऐसे विषय पर बोलने का अवसर मिला है जिससे मेरा बड़ा सम्बन्ध है। मैं ऐसे इलाके से आता हूँ जहाँ अन्न की समस्यायें खेती की समस्यायें प्रायः हर साल रहती हैं और उसकी गूँज इस सदन में भी कर्मियों की आ जाती है।

बहरहाल इस समय मैं आप का ध्यान और आप के द्वारा सरकार का ध्यान इस बात की तरफ दिलाना चाहता हूँ कि जैसा कि विरोधी पार्टियों की तरफ से कहा जा रहा है, वैसी संकटपूर्ण स्थिति तो नहीं है। लेकिन जैसा कि सरकारी रिपोर्ट में भी कहा गया है, स्थिति संतोषजनक नहीं है। इसके लिए हम जिम्मेदार केवल सरकार को ही नहीं कह सकते, बल्कि उनको भी जिम्मेदार ठहराएंगे जो सदन के अन्दर समय-समय पर ऐसी बातें पैदा करते हैं जिनसे बाहर के लोगों पर यह प्रभाव पड़ता है कि देश के अन्दर अन्न का संकट उत्पन्न हो गया है और अन्न बहुत ही कम हुआ है। इसका लाभ इसी तरह के लोग उठाते

हैं, जिनका सम्बन्ध न तो कांग्रेस से है और न विरोधी पार्टियों से है। ये लोग न तो कृषक हैं और न वे हैं जो बहार से अनाज मंगा कर जनता को देते हैं, यानी सरकार। ये वे लोग हैं जो फसल के समय सस्ता अनाज ले कर एका कर लेते हैं और जिस समय भी सदन के अन्दर ऐसी बात होती है या मसूमा खराब होने की वजह से फसल खराब होती है, तो जो रूपयः इन्होंने लगा रखा है उस से नाजायज फायदा उठाते हैं और इस तरह रूपयः इनके घर जाते हैं।

चाहे विरोधी पार्टियाँ इस समय कुछ भी कहें, लेकिन मैं उनका विशेष रूप से ध्यान अर्कषित करते हुए कहना चाहता हूँ कि जिस समय तृतीय पंचवर्षीय योजना के मसविदे पर यहाँ बहस हो रही थी तो पी० एस० पी० के नेता ने इस सदन में कहा था कि पिछले दस वर्षों में यानि; पहली और दूसरी योजना में, देश के अन्दर ४० प्रतिशत अन्न की पैदावार बढ़ी है। लेकिन अब सरकार को दोष दिया जा रहा है। मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि प्रकृति पर तो न सरकार का जोर है और न विरोधी पार्टियों का। जब पी० एस० पी० के वह नेता यह बात मान चुके हैं कि देश में अन्न का पैदावार ४० प्रतिशत बढ़े, तो हम सरकार को यह दावा नहीं दे सकते कि उसने कुछ नहीं किया। उसने प्रकृति से लड़ने की पूरी कोशिश की, लेकिन सूखा और पाले से अनाज की पैदावार में कमी तो हो ही जाती है। इसके लिए कोई सरकार या कोई सदस्य या कोई नागरिक दावा नहीं ठहराया जा सकता।

लेकिन दूसरी तरफ मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि प्लानिंग कमिशन जो योजना बनाती है और जो इस बारे में सदन का प्रतिनिधित्व करती है, उसको किसान की आर्थिक हालत को देख कर उत्पादन बढ़ाने की योजनायें बनानी चाहिए। हमको एक तरफ तो इस बात का दुख है कि सरकार या कर्मियों

किसान को प्रकृति से होने वाले नुकसान से बचाने में असमर्थ होते और दूसरी ओर जब यह कहा जाता है कि अन्न का संकट उत्पन्न हो गया है तो मुनाफ़ाखोर नाजायज फ़ायदा उठाते हैं। और इसके लिए कुछ हद तक विरोधी पार्टी के लोग जिम्मेदार हैं।

अब मैं कुछ पालिसी के सम्बन्ध में कहना चाहता हूँ, चाहे वह योजना की बात हो या हमारी सरकार की बात या संसद की बात हो। आज देश में ८० प्रतिशत आदमी कृषि से सम्बन्धित हैं। इन में से ७० प्रतिशत तो कृषि में लगे हुए हैं और दस प्रतिशत कृषि से सम्बन्धित कामों में लगे हैं। आज देश की राष्ट्रीय आय का आधे से अधिक भाग कृषि से आता है लेकिन फिर भी कृषि पर उतना ध्यान नहीं दिया जाता जितना उद्योग धंधों पर। मैं सरकार से अनुरोध करूँगा कि हर प्रदेश के आंकड़े मंगा कर देखे और खास कर प्लानिंग कमिशन को आदेश दे कि वह देखे कि प्रति व्यक्ति कितना रुपया कृषि के लिये खर्च किया गया है और कितना रुपया इंडस्ट्री के लिये खर्च किया गया है। मैं उत्तर प्रदेश की बात जानता हूँ। वहाँ कृषि पर बहुत कम ध्यान दिया गया है और उद्योग पर बहुत अधिक खर्च किया गया है। ऐसे ऐसे उद्योगपति हैं जिन पर सरकार का एक एक करोड़ रुपया बाकी है। मैं किसी खास व्यक्ति की बात नहीं कहता। लेकिन मैं इतना ही कहना चाहता हूँ कि जिस कृषि पर देश के ८० प्रतिशत नागरिक निर्भर करते हैं और जो उद्योग राष्ट्र की अन्न समस्या को हल कर सकता है उसकी ओर जितना ध्यान देना चाहिए उतना नहीं दिया जाता है।

हमने देखा कि पहली और दूसरी योजनाएं इंडस्ट्री आरिण्टेड थीं, और तृतीय योजना की भी वही दशा है। इसलिए, चौथी योजना प्रारम्भ होने से पहले मैं कृषि मंत्री से कहना

चाहता हूँ कि वह कृषि पर जोर दें ताकि राष्ट्रीय आय में से कृषि पर अधिक खर्च किया जाए, केवल इंडस्ट्री पर ही विशेष ध्यान न दिया जाए। अगर इस तरफ ध्यान नहीं दिया जाएगा तो देश की खाद्य समस्या हल नहीं हो सकेगी। हम देख रहे हैं कि सन् १९४८ से औसतन हर साल लगभग एक अरब रुपया का गल्ला बाहर से मंगाना पड़ रहा है, जब तक सरकार कृषि पर विशेष ध्यान नहीं देगी यह बराबर आता रहेगा, और अन्न की समस्या हल नहीं हो सकेगी। हमारी ओर चर्चों का एक्सपेंडेंट चाहे भले ही बढ़ जाये, लेकिन कृषि पर ध्यान दिए बिना कृषि की उन्नति नहीं हो सकती। कुछ उद्योग धंधों का तो आधार ही कृषि है जैसे जूट उद्योग है या कपड़ा उद्योग है। इस कच्चे माल के बारे में भी हम तब तक आत्म निर्भर नहीं हो सकते जब तक कि कृषि पर पूरी तरह ध्यान न दिया जाए।

मैंने कहा कि उद्योग को अधिक प्रोत्साहन दिया जा रहा है और खेती की ओर कम ध्यान दिया जाता है, इसका एक प्रमाण यह है कि सारे देश में उद्योग धंधों के लिए बिजली का भाव कुछ है और खेती की सिंचाई के लिए बिजली का भाव महंगा है। जब दोनों कामों के लिए बिजली पैदा करने की लागत समान है तो भावों में अन्तर क्यों है। ऐसा क्यों किया जाता है इसकी उपयोगिता सरकार सिद्ध नहीं कर सकती। जिस उद्योग पर देश के ८० प्रतिशत लोग निर्भर करते हैं उसके लिए बिजली महंगी होने से लोगों में बड़ा असन्तोष है। इस अन्तर को दूर करना चाहिए।

आप खेती के लिए फरटीलाइज़र का, नहर का और ट्रयब वैल का प्रबन्ध करते हैं, लेकिन एक छोटी सी बात है जिसका महत्व भी कम नहीं है, उस ओर अधिक ध्यान देने की जरूरत है। वह है खेती की चकबन्दी। जिस चाल से इस काम को हम कर रहे हैं उससे तो इसको पूरा करने में १५ या २० साल का समय लगेगा। प्लानिंग कमिशन

[श्री विश्वन.थ राय]

ने इस काम के लिए बहुत कम रकमा रखा है। चक्रबन्दी के बिना किसानों को खेती करने में बड़ा दिक्कत होती है, उसका अनुभव हम उनके प्रतिनिधि होते हुए भी पूरी तरह नहीं कर पाते हैं। एक किसान के लिए दूर दूर के खेतों में जाकर काम करना बड़ी समस्या होती है। इसलिए मेरा निवेदन है कि जहाँ पैदावार बढ़ाने के लिए फाटीलाइजर और सिंचाई आवश्यक है वहाँ खेतों की चक्रबन्दी भी अति आवश्यक है। इस समस्या को हल करने से किसान का बड़ा लाभ हो सकता है।

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He can finish his speech on Monday.

16 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS AND RESOLUTIONS

THIRTY-EIGHTH REPORT

श्री रामसेनक यादव (बाराबंकी) : उप.ध्यक्षा महोदय, मैं ३८वें गैर सरकारी समिति के प्रतिवेदन को प्रस्तुत करता हूँ और च.ह.त. हूँ कि सदन इसे स्वीकार करें।

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That this House agrees with the Thirty-eighth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 25th March, 1964."

The motion was adopted.

16.0½ hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL*

(Amendment of article 217) by Shri Abdul Ghani Goni.

Shri Abdul Ghani Goni (Nominat-ed—Jammu and Kashmir): Sir, I beg

to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

Shri Abdul Ghani Goni: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

16.01 hrs.

PAYMENT OF WAGES (AMENDMENT) BILL*

(Amendment of sections 1 and 15, etc.) by Shri P. R. Chakraverti:

Shri P. R. Chakraverti (Dhanbad): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Payment of Wages Act, 1936.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Payment of Wages Act, 1936."

The motion was adopted.

Shri P. R. Chakraverti: Sir, I beg to introduce the Bill.

16.01½ hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL

(Amendment of articles 84 and 173) by Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath (Hosh-angabad): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I rise to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Constitution of India be taken into consideration."

*Published in Gazette of India, dated 28-3-64.