

DEMAND NO. 4—COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE AND STATISTICS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 70,43,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1963 in respect of 'Commercial Intelligence and Statistics'."

DEMAND NO. 5—OTHER REVENUE EXPENDITURE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,84,19,00 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1963, in respect of 'Other Revenue Expenditure of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry'."

DEMAND NO. 112—CAPITAL OUTLAY OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 8,22,23,000 including the sum already voted on account for the relevant services be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1963 in respect of 'Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry'."

14.50 hrs.

MINISTRY OF FINANCE

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: We shall now take up discussion and voting on the Demands for Grants under the control of the Ministry of Finance. The time allotted for this is 9 hours.

Hon. Members who want to move cut motions may send in chits indicat-

ing the numbers of the selected cut motions at the Table within fifteen minutes.

DEMAND NO. 23—MINISTRY OF FINANCE

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,35,24,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1963, in respect of 'Ministry of Finance'."

DEMAND NO. 24—CUSTOMS

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,00,66,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1963, in respect of 'Customs'."

DEMAND NO. 25—UNION EXCISE DUTIES

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,36,62,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1963, in respect of 'Union Excise Duties'."

DEMAND NO. 26—TAXES ON INCOME INCLUDING CORPORATION TAX, ETC.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,66,75,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1963, in respect of 'Taxes on Income including Corporation Tax, etc.'."

DEMAND NO. 27—SAMPS

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,06,11,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1963, in respect of 'Stamps'."

DEMAND NO. 28—AUDIT

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 9,32,16,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1963, in respect of 'Audit'."

DEMAND NO. 29—CURRENCY AND COINAGE

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 13,37,81,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1963, in respect of 'Currency and Coinage'."

DEMAND NO. 30—MINT

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,92,29,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1963, in respect of 'Mint'."

DEMAND NO. 31—PENSIONS AND OTHER RETIREMENT BENEFITS

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,74,99,000 be granted to the

President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1963, in respect of 'Pensions and Other Retirement Benefits'."

DEMAND NO. 32—TERRITORIAL AND POLITICAL PENSIONS

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 18,57,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1963, in respect of 'Territorial and Political Pensions'."

DEMAND NO. 33—OPIUM

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 44,33,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1963, in respect of 'Opium'."

DEMAND NO. 34—OTHER REVENUE EXPENDITURE OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 41,55,96,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1963, in respect of 'Other Revenue Expenditure of the Ministry of Finance'."

DEMAND NO. 35—PLANNING COMMISSION

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 71,42,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum

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necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1963, in respect of 'Planning Commission'."

DEMAND NO. 36—GRANTS-IN-AID TO STATES

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,16,91,04,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1963, in respect of 'Grants-in-aid to States'."

DEMAND NO. 37—MISCELLANEOUS ADJUSTMENTS BETWEEN THE CENTRAL AND STATE GOVERNMENTS

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 19,09,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1963, in respect of 'Miscellaneous Adjustments between the Central and State Governments'."

DEMAND NO. 38—PRE-PARTITION PAYMENTS

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 8,66,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1963, in respect of 'Pre-Partition Payments'."

DEMAND NO. 117—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON THE INDIA SECURITY PRESS

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 31,25,000 be granted to the

President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1963, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on the India Security Press'."

DEMAND NO. 118—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON CURRENCY AND COINAGE

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,40,48,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1963, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Currency and Coinage'."

DEMAND NO. 119—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON MINTS

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,85,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1963, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Mints'."

DEMAND NO. 120—COMMUTED VALUE OF PENSIONS

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,73,39,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1963, in respect of 'Commuted Value of Pensions'."

DEMAND NO. 121—OTHER CAPITAL OUTLAY OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 50,60,62,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1963, in respect of 'Other Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Finance'."

DEMAND NO. 122—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON GRANTS TO STATES FOR DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 18,99,00,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1963, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Grants to States for Development'."

DEMAND NO. 123—LOANS AND ADVANCES BY THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 99,73,06,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1963, in respect of 'Loans and Advances by the Central Government'."

Shri Prabhat Kar: We are discussing the Demands for Grants under the control of the Ministry of Finance, at a time when we are facing a foreign exchange crisis, when we have got a very discouraging report about foreign aid on which we are mainly relying for the success of our Plan, at a time when the prices of the daily necessities of life are going up, at a time when the profits are increasing, and at a time when more and more new

taxes are being imposed by the hon. Finance Minister.

As regards the performance of this key Ministry, if I were to put it in a nut-shell, I would say that in every branch of the Finance Ministry, we shall find that there are difficulties and troubles created by the hon. Finance Minister himself, because of his own policy that he has pursued, in spite of the criticisms made here, without admitting anything about the difficulties in the matter. All the time he gets annoyed when criticisms are made.

Last time, when the question of the new taxes came up, he displayed a match-box in his hand, in a somewhat melodramatic way, to show that the prices had not gone up. I know that he has got an allergy, so far as the Opposition is concerned; particularly, from our group, if we make any criticism, he will go round the whole world to prove that he is right, instead of facing the facts here.

I am not going to say anything about the prices to which he has referred. Here is an editorial in a paper, written on the next day on the answer given by the Finance Minister. I am referring to the paper which is known as *Jugantar*, which belongs to the Congress Party, and whose proprietor is a Minister in the West Bengal Government. That paper says that after all that has been said, if the Finance Minister feels that indirect taxation has not resulted in any price increase, then he must be living in a paradise where no sane man can live. That means, that he does not want to see what is a fact. This is the whole editorial written on his reply to the general discussion on the Budget. And yet, he will not agree. Here is *The Statesman*. I am quite sure that the hon. Minister cannot say that *The Statesman* is a paper belonging to the Opposition, or that it has a soft corner for the Opposition, not to speak of the Communist Party. There, one of the reporters writes:

"I visited various markets in the city both wholesale and retail

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during the last two days, and I am convinced that the consumers' price index published by the Government which showed no increase in the prices of most of the commodities within the last few days was faked."

Then, he has said:

"But I ended with the discovery that while the consumer in Delhi is today paying 5 per cent to 10 per cent more for his needs than he did a few months ago, most of the increased price goes into the pocket of the retailer . . ."

He has gone further and said that:

"The increase in the family budget following the new taxes might not have been more than 3 per cent, but nearly all the consumers whom I interviewed agreed that in actual practice, the increase has been of the order of 10 per cent or more . . ."

But the hon. Minister will not agree.

The Deputy Minister of Finance, Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha, while addressing the income-tax employees of the Punjab and Himachal Pradesh contradicted the statement made by the Finance Minister. She admitted—and this has been published in the press—that the prices even of matches had gone up, a thing about which the hon. Finance Minister made a demonstration here and said that he had purchased it at a lower price than what we had stated.

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Finance (Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha): I specifically gave that example to show that though the prices had gone up after the budget proposals, yet, the prices were controlled again, and the prices had fallen down to the normal level. That was the specific comment which I made.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur (Jalore): The hon. Member should read the complete sentence. He should be

fair at least to the Deputy Minister of Finance.

Shri Prabhat Kar: I was just saying that when you place certain criticisms before the House contradicting the hon. Minister or suggesting certain things, then, the hon. Finance Minister gets annoyed.

It is not possible for me to deal with the aspects of the activities of the Finance Ministry, but there is the ECM about which our Finance Minister had a soft corner. On the 14th of May, even the hon. Prime Minister admitted on the floor of this House that it was going to do harm to India, that is, Britain's entry into the European Common Market. Of course, I am not going to deal with that part of the affair.

But, I would first deal with the planned economy that we are having. In a planned economy, the most important thing, and I should say, the most elementary thing that we should have is a planned budgeting. As regards planned budgeting the latest Audit Report gives us an idea of how much of planned budgeting there has been.

If we look at the revenue receipts and compare them with the revenue expectations, during the last five years, we find that each year, the actual revenue receipts have been appreciably in excess of the revenue estimates in the Budget, and the actual expenditure less than the budget estimates.

If we see the revenue increases, we find that the net result is that there has been a substantial revenue surplus although the budget presented to Parliament during all these years had expected a state of deficit financing; and it was on the basis of the revenue deficit that new taxes had been imposed during all these years. In 1956-57, the increase was 12 per cent, in 1957-58 it was 3 per cent; in 1959-60 it was 12 per cent, and in 1960-61 it was 6 per cent. Here, we get a picture of

how the revenue expectation has been less, but the actual revenue receipts have been more, and it was on the basis of the revenue deficit expected that new taxes had been imposed. I may tell you that there has been an increase of Rs. 380.62 crores in the revenue receipts over a period of five years since 1956-57, over the revenue expectations. And yet on the plea of revenue deficit, new taxes had been imposed, and the hon. Finance Minister has been saying that the prices would not go up as a result of the imposition of the taxes. Here is the Audit Report which shows, that there has been an increase of Rs. 380.62 crores in the revenue receipts over the last five years.

At the same time, if we look at the expenditure, we find that the estimated expenditure is always more than what is actually spent. In 1956-57, the difference was 9 per cent, in 1958-59 it was 4 per cent, and in 1960-61 it was 6 per cent. That means that we had provided for more amounts than could be spent, and ultimately the amount had to be surrendered. While the revenue receipts had exceeded the revenue expectations, we find that in the case of expenditure, we have actually spent less than what had been estimated in the budget. This is the type of budget that the hon. Finance Minister is placing before the House for the implementation of our Plan in this planned economy that we are having.

As regards savings, if you would kindly look at the figures, you would find that in 1956-57, the figure was of the order of Rs. 650 crores, in 1956-57 it was of the order of Rs. 221 crores, in 1958-59 of the order of Rs. 443 crores, in 1959-60 of the order of Rs. 255 crores, and in 1960-61 of the order of Rs. 500 crores. In other words, you give an idea to the country that such and such plans and such and such projects will be completed, but at the end of the year, you surrender the amount and say that you have not been able to spend the money.

In this respect, I would stress that it is essential when we are so much hard up for money, when we are asking everybody to tighten his belt, at least the Finance Minister's budget should not contain such types of things. Whatever he expects must tally with the reality; and he should not present before us something according to his own idea, resulting in our finding discrepancies ultimately. These are some of the most important things that I would like the Finance Minister to take note of.

15 hrs.

So far as the collection of taxes is concerned, it has been a subject matter of discussion all years, but arrears of taxes continue to be the same. From 1956 to 1960-61, it is roughly about Rs. 250 crores with slight variations here and there. In 1960-61, it is Rs. 253.49 crores. It was earlier Rs. 257 crores; in 1956-57, it was Rs. 267 crores. I do not know whether at any time we shall be able to collect these arrears and bring down the figure to below Rs. 100 crores. This is an important factor so far as the Finance Minister is concerned as it concerns the proper functioning of the income-tax department. Otherwise, with arrears constantly at the figure of Rs. 250, as time goes on they become unrealisable. The hon. Minister had earlier sliced Rs. 100 crores as bad and doubtful because, according to him, they could not be collected. If you delay collection, automatically it will become doubtful and you shall have then to write off to that extent. The result is that the revenue will go down. I would, therefore, request the Finance Minister to take positive steps to see that the figure of Rs. 250 crores comes down to at Rs. 100 crores not by coining a new word 'effective' arrears but by actual collection, implementing the provisions of the Income Tax Act.

On the question of income-tax receipts, there has been a downward trend. In 1958-59, it was Rs. 172.01 crores. In 1960-61, it is Rs. 127.50

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crores. What are the reasons for this? So far as the income tax department is concerned, we have all the time been saying that there are allegations about influence being exerted. We have all the time been stressing that it is essential that there should be co-operation and understanding and help from the lower grade of the staff. I have heard recently that on the question of promotion of class I and class II, there have been some difficulties. I have been told that some 40—50 cases have been sent to the court. If this be the state of affairs in the department, if this the position of the higher staff in the collecting machinery, I do not know how with this discontentment prevailing in the staff, the collecting machinery can be geared and the arrears of taxes realised. In this connection, I would also say that it is essential that there should be some sort of punishment inflicted. Uptil now, no punishment was inflicted for non-payment of arrears of taxes. It is necessary for Government to take steps in this matter.

Again, coming to the price policy, I was surprised to find in the *Economic Survey* (page 17, paragraph 51) that instead of putting more effective control on credit, a 'number of measures of selective and general credit control were progressively withdrawn or modified'. Advances made by banks constitute one of the reasons for rise in prices because the hoarders can hypothecate the stock, get money from the bank and release it only when prices are high. It was to check this practice that effective credit control was asked for, and the Reserve Bank carried out that policy for some time. But now we are told:

"The additional reserve requirements imposed in March 1960 were withdrawn in January 1961 and the selective credit controls in respect of wheat, sugar, raw jute and jute and rice were revoked in the course of the year and those against paddy and rice were modified."

At present the position is that out of about Rs. 200 crores of deposits in the banking industry, Rs. 133.73 crores are advanced against food articles—wheat, paddy, gram, sugar and vegetable oil. Against manufactured articles, the figure is Rs. 465.31 crores.

Because of this policy of Government, apart from the imposition of indirect taxation, they are helping the middlemen to earn more profit as a result of which the prices of the daily necessities of life are going up. I would like to ask why a relaxation has been made. It is not simply a question of easy flow of money. It is a question vitally concerned with checking prices. One way of checking prices is through control on bank credit. This is necessary and should be done.

Then there is another point. I know the hon. Finance Minister is allergic to any suggestion of nationalisation. When I say that banks should be nationalised, it does not mean that there will be no advances made to the private sector. The State Bank was established in 1956 and it is advancing money to the private sector. The point is that by nationalisation you get control over the advances policy of the banks, which is a very very important factor influencing prices. It is in this context that I urge that banks should be nationalised.

On the question of foreign exchange, we heard a statement the other day from the Finance Minister. I am sure the matter will be debated properly at the time of the discussion of the Finance Bill. But I just want to know whether these things could not have been avoided, if not completely, at least to a great extent. One of the most important things that we see is an increase in the trading of the foreign firms and increase in their remittances without contributing anything to the national economy. I do not know why this should be allowed. The second thing—it is also an impor-

tant factor so far as our export trade is concerned—is that more than 30 per cent of the total exports are financed by means of sterling usance bills. Bills are sold by the exporter to the bank which in turn generally rediscount them in the London market when the London market rates are higher than the Indian rates, as has been the case for the last several years. When banks do not hold these bills till maturity, the country loses precious foreign exchange. In this matter, the Reserve Bank itself can give advances to the banks and avoid this. This is a matter in which the hon. Finance Minister can properly guide them in order that some of the avoidable foreign exchange drainage may be saved. It will be a good amount in view of our effort at increased export trade.

I would ask the Finance Minister how more and more reliance on foreign aid is going to help us. Today you have seen that the Indian Aid Consortium has postponed its meeting. In the newspapers you get headlines about the anxiety here. Naturally, because, if we have tied ourselves with foreign help for the development of our Plans, naturally, if they do not give us what we need, this will happen. These things have to change. We have not yet learnt from these things. Have we not heard about the recent Wall Street crash? It has at least proved what the picture of affluent society is. It is now being admitted that you cannot simply say that 1962 is not 1929. It has got its effect; it has got its repercussion on the London and on the Calcutta markets. If we link our economy with the so-called affluent society, the net result is what we saw in the recent Wall Street crash.

I will, therefore, request the hon. Finance Minister to take these things into account and then decide exactly how these things happen. I want to put another question to the Finance Minister. So far as taxation and all

these things are concerned, is it only to keep up the buoyancy of the Stock Exchange? We have seen that the Stock Exchange has shown a buoyant tendency after the Budget was presented. In order to keep up the buoyancy of the Stock Exchange we are every day putting Rs. 10 lakhs roughly into the Stock Exchange from the Life Insurance Corporation as investment. The Stock Exchange is the guiding factor of our economy. Most of the time we have seen that the Stock Exchange has created complications in our national economy as we have seen recently in the Wall Street crash.

I would only add another thing, because we are also discussing planning. I am not discussing it elaborately. I want to add only one thing. According to the Joint Stock Companies report, there is concentration of capital in the hands of 690 giants. We find that nearly 2 per cent of people control nearly 60 per cent of capital out of the Rs. 1300 crores of capital. This is according to the Joint Stock Companies report. The profits are increasing. I will just give one or two figures. In engineering industries, it has gone up from 120.7 in 1956 to 175.3; in chemicals, from 118.5 to 249.8 and in Jute, from 137 to 297.2. Here is concentration of capital in few hands and the profits are going up.

The other day the Labour Minister admitted that the working class cost of living index has gone up and that their real wages are low and that they have not come up to even the 1939 level. There is no need to say anything about the condition of agricultural labour. This is the result of the planning, when we are in the second year of the Third Five Year Plan. Unless there is radical change in outlook, it is very difficult for us to expect anything out of this planning.

I will just deal with two or three small questions. The other day, on the question of gold smuggling, the hon. Minister said that the First Secretary of the Indian Embassy at

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Vienna committed suicide. He said it had already been found, it had been enquired into and it was a case of suicide. Thereafter, a question was put, No. 1142 on 29th May, 1962; and the reply was that they were awaiting the finally result of the investigation of the Vienna Police. It was said in the Lok Sabha first that it was a case of suicide. Subsequently, in reply to another question it was said that they are still awaiting the final result of the investigation.

An Hon. Member: Another question came after that.

Shri Prabhat Kar: I do not know exactly what it is. On that day, the hon. Finance Minister after consulting the Deputy Minister of External Affairs told us...

The Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Desai): The Minister of State and not the Deputy Minister for External Affairs.

Shri Prabhat Kar: I am very sorry. After consulting the Minister of State it was said on the 29th May that this is still being inquired into. There has been a charge that because he was trying to unearth an international gang of gold smugglers he was killed. There was anxiety here in the House and the question was taken up; but it was treated in a very light manner.

I would also like to know what is happening to the agreement that we have signed under PL 480 for Rs. 256·8 crores for a project. According to reports it was said that we will have to wait for this to be agreed to by the Government of USA. I want to know whether we are in a position to utilise that loan or whether we have still to await the sanction of the USA.

In the end I have got this. Whenever reports are made by important persons of the locality about tax evasion, we find that no steps are being taken by Government. If that be the state of affairs, under no circum-

tances will we be able to find out the tax-dodger; because it is only with the help of the local people that we can find out these tax dodgers. If Government has got the real intention, then they will be able to find out who the tax dodgers are. They should take the help of local persons who come forward to help them.

On the foreign exchange crimes, I had an answer to a question that the fines that are imposed on those persons who commit some sort of foreign exchange irregularities are so small that I do not think it will dissuade them from continuing the same tactics. Recently, in one of the most important cases, I would say because of the handling of the case by the authorities here, the person involved has come out on technical grounds.

I want to get an answer from the Finance Minister. In the case of Shri Jain because the account was, I have forgotten the name which was given to it, because the account had nothing to do with S. P. Jain personally or because it was not a business account, he was exonerated. I want to know from Government whether Government have any intention of changing the law so that cases like this, where a fine was imposed to the tune of Rs. 55 lakhs but not a farthing came out, may not occur again, I want to know whether that state of affairs would be allowed to continue or whether the Finance Minister is thinking in terms of putting more restrictions so that this kind of activities may be curbed.

These are the points I want to make at this moment.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Shri Tuisidas Jadav, Shri K. C. Jena. They are not here. Shri S. K. Paramasivan.

Shri Paramasivan (Erode): Sir, I wish to speak on the excise duty levied on processed handloom cloth and yarn. Handloom industry is of vital importance to the nation, affording employment opportunities to the millions of our village population. The Govern-

ment encouraged handloom industry in several ways like the position or cess fund and other aids and afforded protection against the competition of mill made clothes by imposing excise levy on mill clothes. With a view to increase production and distribution of handloom products, the Government rendered all help for finding suitable market for them, both inland and foreign through co-operative and other organisations. In moving with the time, the mill clothes are subjected to various modern machine process and finished into attractive products to suit popular tastes. Even then, to compete with the mill cloth, handloom clothes are proposed through machine in accordance with the tastes of the people. The industry has created a market for crores of yards of handloom cloth in South India and thereby afforded employment to thousands of handloom weavers and others connected with this industry. Handloom cloth is printed and sold in retail in the villages by hawkers who carry them on their heads. In fact, the processed handloom industry is an essential and useful means of providing employment to the poor people. The new excise levy has hit hard this essential industry.

By taking the processed handloom cloth on an equal footing with the processed mill cloth, the prices of the former will rise high and will not move in the market, resulting in a death blow to handloom industry which will deprive not only thousands of handloom weavers but also others connected with the industry, of their employment. In fact the proposed new taxation will have the effect of removing all the aids and protection afforded so far by the Government to handloom industry. In the past when the Government imposed excise levy handloom clothes were exempted. There is no reason why Government should now impose excise levy on handloom clothes.

Shri Bade: When an hon. Member

from this side was reading a speech, the hon. Speaker gave instructions that he should not do so. But that is being repeated by an Hon. Member from that side of the House.

Shri Morarka : (Jhunjhunu): New Members are exempted.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He is just referring to his notes; he may speak.

Shri Paramasivan: Further, the new taxation will create untold complications and difficulties to handloom industry.

Under the new excise levy, the powerloom industries are divided into three categories. There is no taxation on units of four powerlooms and less. A compound levy is proposed from 5 to 49 powerlooms. There is another rate for over 49 powerlooms. This differentiation is only to give encouragement to small units of powerloom industry. Similarly, in oil industry, small units with two rotaries are exempted from taxation. But there is no reason why such differentiation is not made in respect of processed handloom industry. The small units in handloom industry are not able to compete with big composite mills which daily process about 70,000 yards of mill cloth. There are small units in the cottage industry which process daily about 5000 yards of handloom cloth. It is not just and proper to consider the undeveloped latter one on an equal basis with the well-developed and fully equipped composite mills.

Before the taxation, there was a duty on mill cloth at 3 nP per square metre. The effect of revised excise duty on medium grey mill cloth will be a reduction of .7nP per square metre. Accordingly the effect of the revised excise levy the duty on the processed mill cloth will be only 2 nP more than the previous duty. Due to the present taxation the handloom industry has to pay 5 nP more now before while the mill cloth has to pay only 1.3 nP more now.

[Shri Paramasivan]

The Government of India has permitted all unauthorised powerlooms all over the country and most of them in our neighbouring States are producing grey medium gada for processing. By the present Budget taxation the Government have allowed four powerlooms free of excise duty. This has created a severe competition between handloom and powerloom clothes by making the price per square metre of powerloom cloth cheaper by 9 pP than handloom cloth of the same texture. The powerloom cloth is processed by big processing factories like composite mills in Ahmedabad and Bombay which were permitted to print powerloom cloth. Handloom cloth is not at all saleable against this competition due to high price consequent on the new excise levy.

Taking into account all the facts mentioned above, the processing industry in Tamilnad will be ruined. Nearly 35,000 people are depending on the processing industry. At Erode in Coimbatore district 5,000 people are processing nearly three crores yards per year. Nearly 30,000 people are employed in manufacturing three crores yards. Naturally, all these people will have to be unemployed if their position deteriorates. So, I request the Finance Minister to consider the effects of this taxation and give relief to the handloom industry.

I want to speak then about the financing of co-operative societies. During the Second Plan period many co-operative societies were started and more members joined them. But they are not able to get loans they require and sometimes it takes three or four months to get a loan. Most of the ryots want medium term loans lasting for 3-5 years as they are indebted and they like to repay that amount in equal instalments over a period of 3-5 years. But the "district central bank" says it does not get "long-term loans" from the State Co-operative Bank, and the State Co-operative Bank in turn says that the Reserve Bank of India does not come to its rescue. So only if the

Reserve Bank gives a three-year loan to the State Co-operative Bank which in turn can finance the central bank, can the co-operative societies get some help by way of this loan. So, I want to stress that the Reserve Bank of India must come to the rescue of the co-operative societies in the matter of giving "three-years and five years medium term loans, without any reserve.

With these remarks I conclude my speech.

Shri Liladhar Kotoki (Nowgong): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the other day, on the 8th June, the hon. Finance Minister placed a statement before this House regarding the serious foreign exchange situation that our country is facing. He also in the course of the statement indicated certain steps that the Government were taking. The depletion of our foreign exchange resource started along with the second Five Year Plan. At the close of the second Five Year Plan, the sterling balances came down to Rs. 136 crores. During the two years of the third Five Year Plan it is going down very rapidly and it stands at present at about Rs. 100 crores. This is indeed a very serious situation, and as the hon. Finance Minister already emphasised, we must do something to arrest further drawal from the already depleted foreign exchange resources. I endorse the steps that the hon. Finance Minister has outlined. The first and foremost of all these steps is naturally the augmentation of our export earnings. It has also been stated that the Minister in charge of International Trade has been devoting all his attention to the best way in which we can augment our exports. In the course of the debate on the Demands for Grants under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, various suggestions had also been put forward as to how best we can augment our export earnings.

In this connection, the hon. Finance Minister has also suggested that our

imports should be cut down very drastically and, in fact, in the statement that was issued subsequent to the statement laid before the House, it was made clear that a cut to the extent of 50 per cent should be imposed in respect of imports. My only fear is that these cuts might affect the implementation of the projects in the Third Plan, although in the last paragraph of the statement, the hon. Finance Minister has assured us that the steps taken to cut down our imports will not affect the implementation of the Plan projects. He has stressed that we have only one course which is left open and that is we have to implement the schemes against which foreign assistance has been already obtained or promised as quickly as possible. I fully agree that any delay in the implementation of the projects will create wastage in foreign exchange and therefore it is necessary that the implementation of the projects should be carried out as quickly as possible. I would only urge on the hon. Finance Minister that he should see that such projects as are intended to be fulfilled in the third Five Year Plan for developing the less-developed areas should not be put into any difficulty for want of foreign exchange.

In this connection, I would invite the attention of the hon. Finance Minister to certain serious problems that some of the States like Assam are facing. There must have been something wrong with planning itself, because while going ahead with certain projects we suddenly find that some of the very essential requisites are not there. For instance, there are certain projects which are being included in the Third Plan for the purpose of industrialisation of Assam but we are told that there is not enough power for those industries. Now, we understand that the Chief Ministers have been told recently that none of the projects will be sanctioned unless power is assured. Therefore, this is a very difficult situation: when the backward States want to go ahead, when

projects are sanctioned, somehow something goes wrong and we find that the industrial projects are not implemented or augmented. I would like to invite the attention of the hon. Finance Minister to this special aspect of the problem pertaining especially to the State of Assam where the acute shortage of power has thwarted further progress in the industrialisation of the State which is already industrially backward compared to most of the other States in India.

The next point that I would like to submit before this House and to which I would like to invite the special attention of the hon. Finance Minister in the difficult financial position of the State of Assam. During the last two years the State has been facing a very difficult ways and means situation. Its deficit is indeed very high. At the close of the year 1960-61, the deficit was of the order of Rs. 768 lakhs. Of course in that year there were several unprecedented natural calamities and some other situations that arose, due to which there was a heavy drain on the resources of the State. But even when that situation was tided over, the deficit still remains very high. At the end of 1961-62, this was of the order of Rs. 439 lakhs. In the meantime, the Third Finance Commission made an award. Under this award also, the State of Assam does not seem to have been given due consideration which it needed because of the special problems this border State has been facing all these years.

I will not go into details, for lack of time as to how Assam has been very unfavourably dealt with under the award of the Third Finance Commission. It will suffice to say that under all the heads of accounts coming under the recommendation of the Finance Commission, Assam will get only about Rs. 13.1 crores, as against Rs. 10.3 crores which she got during 1961-62.

On several accounts, Sir, instead of Assam getting more allocations it has got less under the formula that the Third Finance Commission has been pleased to award and which the Government of India has already accepted,

[Shri Liladhar Kotoki]

The Parliament has also enacted legislation to that effect. But I would submit that unless the Central Government comes to the special assistance of the State of Assam all our efforts for industrialisation will be very greatly hindered.

I understand that the Government of Assam has already approached the Finance Minister and the Planning Commission to look into the special difficulties faced by the State. I submit that these difficulties of the State should receive sympathetic consideration of the Central Government, and particular care should be taken to see that the tempo of industrialisation which is only in a very nebulous state in the State is not allowed to be thwarted in any way, more especially for lack of financial assistance.

Another point that I would like to submit in this connection is that the State of Assam having had a large number of peculiar problems is handicapped in very many ways whenever it wants to go ahead with the developmental projects. Something or the other comes in the way and all the resources and energy of men and money have to be diverted and, therefore, somehow the developmental projects get a great set back. The border problems are there. The hostile Naga problem is there. The floods come suddenly, and even in spite of having heavy rainfall we are faced with drought. All these peculiar problems are not to be heard of in most of the other parts of the country.

Therefore, I would specially request the hon. Finance Minister to set up some machinery to make a study of these problems, because when we from Assam say that these are our special problems we are likely to be misunderstood. More or less, some of these problems are there everywhere. But when you take all these problems together you will find that Assam really has very special problems which are not very common in other parts of the country. Taking each problem in

an isolated way it is possible that one may come to the conclusion that such problems are there in almost every part of the country. But taken together I am sure you will find that Assam stands on a different footing. Our *per capita* income is the lowest. Our *per capita* consumption of electricity is the lowest. But our miseries are the greatest. When we press our demands for special attention, as I said before, we are likely to be misunderstood. Therefore, I would very earnestly submit that a special commission or committee should be set up to study the problems and the economy of the State and to devise ways and means how best these difficulties could be removed and the economy of the State could be brought on a par with the average of India. I am not speaking of the States which are fairly advanced, but even if we take the average of the country as a whole the economy of Assam stands the lowest. I would humbly request that special attention should be given to see that this low level of economy of the State is raised at least to the average of India, as early as possible.

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy (Kendrapara): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, our Finance Minister, Shri Morarji Desai, is known to be a very strong man both in physical and mental make-up, and it is also said that he is bold, courageous and has a rigid mind. Sir, I would have congratulated him if the economic health of the country has also been as sound and strong as his physical health. But I am sorry to say that the economic policy of this country under his stewardship has been implemented in such a manner that today we are faced with the most critical situation. The economic situation and the financial position of this country are disturbing, disconcerting and, if I may put it, perhaps the weakest than ever before. And, I apprehend that in the years to come, with the way we are proceeding, probably we will have no other alternative but to surrender completely to the big business of this country because in the years past the

concentration of wealth has increased rather than decreased. I would not give any comments of my own, but in the language of such a noted economist as Professor D. R. Gadgil:

"The inequality of distribution of incomes is amongst the largest in the world and the level of national income is the lowest."

Sir, this Ministry holds a very key position in the country. In the report of the Ministry its responsibilities are defined. They say:

"The Ministry of Finance is responsible for the administration of the finances of the Central Government and for dealing with financial matters affecting the country as a whole."

We are also discussing the Planning Commission. I do not want to enter into the ideological aspects of the economic policy or any such thing. I know there is a good deal of political controversy around this Ministry of Finance. Even Members of the Congress Party accuse that the Finance Minister is not socialistic enough. There are also comments in the papers to show that in the Cabinet itself there are rightists and leftists. I do not know whether those who sit to the right of the Prime Minister are rightists and those who are behind him are leftists.

Shri Sham Lal Saraf (Jammu and Kashmir): I would like to ask my hon. friend: what sort of socialism does he want?

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy: But the very fact that the present Finance Minister is continuing and he has been given the same portfolio again—there are so many Finance Ministers who have preceded him; I do not think they have survived so long as the present Finance Minister—shows that perhaps the entire Cabinet approves what he says and what he does. Therefore, I think such propaganda is mischievous and made in a cunning manner to tell the people outside that the Government is socialist, the leader of the

Government is socialist, but there is somebody who is not socialist. So when the Congress Party is put in the docks, before the bar of the people, they find a distinction between this and that.

Shri Sham Lal Saraf: I want to ask this hon. Member what is his conception of socialism.

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy: I do not want to go into the personal aspects of the question. I would like to make my observations mainly on the question of finance and I shall confine myself to the limited objectives as are laid down by the Planning Commission.

Today it is not the question, as I have made it perfectly clear before, that we are going to enter into a controversy on socialism as to which is good and which is bad, which type I want and which type the Congress wants. But I shall try my best to point out the difficulties and the situation in which we are placed today even by not being able to direct our policies for the achievement of the socialism in which Shri Desai and his friends believe. To my mind there is no dynamism. We are not making progress; perhaps, we are stagnating. We are suddenly faced with a situation where the foreign aid is shrinking and we are apprehending that external assistance would not be forthcoming on which we have based all our Plans.

Of course, about foreign aid, I do not think there is much controversy in the country. In a developing stage we need foreign aid and that too without strings. But the present indications prove that we have friends all over the world. I would say that it is bunkum to say that help and aid is given to us because the people who are giving foreign aid feel that they want to help developing countries. There is nothing like that. Foreign aid comes only because of some selfish motives. I do not know

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whether the lurking hope that the hon. Finance Minister has indicated in his statement that the present cut would be restored would materialise or not, but this is a sufficient warning to us that we cannot depend on foreign aid to achieve the objectives of our Plan. I should think we should have anticipated this danger much before. We have been a little complacent in this matter because, as I said, we are thinking that we are friends to all and enemies to none.

There is a lot of activity now on our export front. This is all to the good. Apart from the statement of the hon. Finance Minister in which he has characterised the present difficulties and how to surmount them, there is a lot of activity regarding exports. It is good so far as it goes. But my point is that we are still not clear as to what is going to happen to this country on account of the ECM. We simply sat silent when this development took place. There is no doubt now that it will have a serious repercussion on our economy. Even the little exports that we are making today would have a great impact and it will shrink further. Even the Americans took sufficient steps in this matter. The Soviets are thinking of having their own sphere of market. But we neglected this aspect. It needs re-adjustment of our whole economic thinking and steps have to be taken immediately.

I know that to develop our export trade some more facilities are proposed to be given to the private capitalists so that we earn more from exports. I am also glad to find that the State Trading Corporation is going to be expanded but I would think that this is the moment when we should give a serious thought to the question as to whether the entire export trade should not be taken over by the State sector because new areas are to be explored and new commodities are exported. Some initiative has to be taken. This cannot be done by the private capitalists. I am told by a

good authority that even if *Basmati* rice is exported we can earn easily Rs. 10 crores to Rs. 15 crores of foreign exchange. All these things can be worked out if the State Trading Corporation's work is expanded. I would like to know from the Finance Minister whether Government is thinking on these lines.

About import restrictions, nobody would grudge them. I would suggest the slashing of luxury goods and semi-luxury goods. We cannot afford these things at the present moment. But I think even in this regard there is very little rational thinking. Perhaps we have reached a saturation point in this matter. I would only give one example. We have banned the import of air-conditioners, as also refrigerators, cars, etc. But we are allowing the manufacture of air-conditioners in this country for which components have to be imported from foreign countries, and a good deal of foreign exchange is allocated for that purpose. It is a double disadvantage so far as this country is concerned. I am told that air-conditioners which in America are available for Rs. 1,000 are sold in this country for Rs. 2,500 or even more. People have to pay more; so there is no saving. And what foreign exchange we get by imposing restrictions is offset by paying more for having them manufactured here. This shows that mere import restrictions will not lead us anywhere unless the whole policy is rationalised.

Sir, our Finance Minister in his statement after saying all these things has also said that in this critical situation he wants to plug loopholes through which foreign exchange which is being diverted to illegitimate purposes could be stopped. The other day there was a question in this House about gold smuggling. An hon. Member asked what is the amount of foreign exchange that we are losing on this account and the hon. the Finance Minister had no idea. He simply said: "We do not know how much smuggling is going on; how can I say that?" But, Sir, it is known to economists in this country that we

are losing about Rs. 50 crores of foreign exchange on account of gold smuggling. You catch hold of the persons engaged in this trade. From the comparative movement of the rupee it can be easily found out which are the centres that are engaged in this practice.

I would go a step further and say: let us also restrict the inflow of gold in this country. Let there be a ban on the possession of gold bars, excepting by the jewellers who have to submit a full account to the Ministry. If we do that we will go a long way in checking this. You know, Sir, in this House I have been pursuing a question, not today, but from the 4th of September 1961. There has been a violation of foreign exchange by a Chief Minister of a State. I wrote about it to the Finance Minister on the 4th September 1961. I wrote to the Prime Minister. I asked a question to which the Finance Minister replied; This is all false. Here is a letter of the Prime Minister in the course of which he says:

"I do not think that he has kept any large amount in foreign banks in contravention of Foreign Exchange Regulations. The question of one particular payment arose, but this was cleared up after enquiry."

The Finance Minister said the enquiry is going on. I am very glad. But what is the simple matter that was enquired into, the public has a right to know. If men in authority who are supposed to scrupulously carry out the laws of this country, violate it, and yet go scot-free, then there is no future for this country. Therefore, I would respectfully submit to the Finance Minister that he must go into the question very thoroughly and give an impression to the people that so far as the administration is concerned, it is impartial, independent and will not in any way give way to other influences.

992 (Ai) LSD—7.

16 hrs.

About internal resources, I would not like to go into the question of taxes which may be discussed when the Finance Bill is taken up. But I will suggest to the Finance Minister: instead of levying more taxes on the people, is it not time that he should think of certain other measures, such as nationalisation of the film industry which may earn us a good amount of foreign exchange and which may be necessary from other points of view also?

On the internal resources front, we are failing in many respects. This has been admitted in this *Economic Survey* itself. Savings this year are not likely to come up to the level of Rs. 105 crores for which credit was taken in the Budget. It has also been said that deficit financing would be resorted to in a larger measure both in the States and at the Centre.

About tax evasion I do not think I would say much, but the main question today is the public sector earnings. Here it has been stated in this *Economic Survey*, at page 16:

"The new public sector projects which are expected to make a sizable contribution to the financing of the Plan had not by and large reached a stage when they could earn a significant profit; and here again, the basic task of making past investments pay for further investments will have to be tackled during the rest of the plan period by making an efficient and expeditious use of the capacity already built as well as by rational pricing policies."

In the report itself it is mentioned that there is an organisation called Projects Co-ordination Organisation. This organisation is entrusted with the task of scrutinising the different schemes and also preparation of the annual report, seeing about the financing, etc. I would like to know into which projects this organisation has

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gone into and what have been its findings.

About the question of profit, many Members have referred to it and I do not want to go into it. But at the same time I beg to point out that it is not merely a question of gaining profit. We have invested about Rs. 700 crores in these public sector industries. Now we are not following any target or time-schedule for production. Production is delayed as a result of which the cost increases. Increase of cost would give room to further increase in investment. It is a vicious circle. Therefore I submit that instead of saying "we shall try to find out", the time has come when project to project we should assign responsibility on persons who are manning them. The time schedule and the production target should be fixed, so that the real man concerned is taken into account and is published, or is rewarded if he really does the work efficiently.

If some such thing is not done, I think the private sector in this country will come forward and say, "You are failing, the public sector is no good". We do not want that impression to go around in this country where we have deliberately taken to the socialist planning of this land.

I am told that a Minister has been appointed, because in this *Economic Survey* it has been said that the production has been delayed on account of certain bottlenecks. What kind of bottlenecks are they? Coal, transport—these bottlenecks are there. A Minister is being appointed to look after and remove the bottlenecks. Instead of examining where the bottleneck lies at the lower level, there is a top-level bottleneck. I do not know whether this arrangement is going to result in the removal of the bottleneck or whether the bottleneck is really going to be introduced in the Cabinet itself, and there will be further bottlenecks.

I think the Finance Minister should

seriously—you have rung the bell. I will take some more time.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He has taken 20 minutes.

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy: Ten minutes more.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: No, no; about 5 minutes. His party has taken more time than is due.

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy: I do not think on any Budget demand, we have taken.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He can take another five minutes.

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy: I will try to finish within that time.

I shall now examine economic situation in this country as they are given in the *Economic Review* itself. The Finance Minister rightly said that we can get over these difficulties if there is enough food production. If words have any meaning, if food production can be increased by brave announcements, then he has got it from his colleague the Food Minister. But, what is the situation? In this *Economic Review*, if you see Table 1.5 it is like this. Our population during the years 1954 to 1961 has increased by about 60 millions. The per capita net availability of cereals during these years, including imports, has increased from 13.4 to 13.8 ounces, pulses from 2.3 to 2.4 ounces. This includes imports and releases from government stocks. Where is the availability for emergencies? In this jugglery of figures, it has been shown in the *Economic Review* as if production of food has increased. It is stated that over 1959-60, production has increased by plus 6.1. But, it has to be seen from 1958 to 1961. The real increase is only 6.1. That means, we have only a 2 per cent increase in production whereas the increase in population is also 2 per cent. From 75 million tons, we are going to have 100 million tons, in the course of the rest of the four years. Unless there is a miracle,

there is magic, I do not know how we are going to achieve it. Even in the case of industrial production, it has been admitted that the rate of progress this year has been less than what it was before. In this matter also, it has to be observed significantly that there has been enormous increase in the matter of consumer goods such as sewing machines, electric lamps, electric fans, radio receivers—enormous increase. But, so far as the necessities of the people are concerned, things are not available. It only helps the high income group and not the common man. This aspect has to be taken into account.

About prices, whatever the Finance Minister may be saying, I am afraid, the price increase has almost become a serious problem with the common man in this country. It has been admitted even in this *Economic Review* that there has been some rise and even in 1961, in the earlier period, it has been higher. It is said that food articles as a whole registered a small increase in prices whereas prices of remained virtually stable. That means that the people who are to purchase manufacture articles have had to pay more whereas the prices of food articles fluctuated. It would be more interesting reading if you look at Table 5:2 in which the wholesale working class consumer price is given. I am not talking of All India index which has increased. Even in Delhi, in 1955, it was 99; today it is 127. In Madras, it was 99; it is 148. There is an increase to the tune of 50. If this increase goes on, how can you say that the working classes in this country will be enthused to work for the success of the Plan? What you give in increase in wages with the right hand, you take away with the left hand by this price spiral. So, for the common man today in this country, whether the Government is imperliarist, or socialist or capitalist or anything else does not make any difference. His miseries go on as before.

Even regarding employment opportunity, I would not go into the Plan,

but I would just point out what has been mentioned in the *Economic Review* itself about how the administration is working. Regarding employment, the number of persons registered in 1961 has increased by about three times as compared with that in 1950. As for vacancies notified, we find that while in 1950, the figure was 4,49,307, it was 7,08,376 in 1961. But in spite of having many more employment exchanges, what has been the record of placement? Whereas in 1950, when the machinery was not so widespread and so perfect, they had given employment to 3,31,193 in 1961, they have been able to provide employment for only 4,04,077. So, mere opening of more offices would not enable us to reach the desired goal. If this is the position, then how do you expect that the people of the country will feel enthusiastic enough to work for the Plan?

Lastly, since we are discussing the activities of the Planning Commission also, I would ask the Finance Minister to make one thing perfectly clear to this House regarding the State plans. There have been States which have a genuine grievance about very quick period, and therefore, they want schemes of such a nature as would give them good income in a very quick period, and, therefore, they want to draw up new schemes. I would like to know from the hon. Finance Minister what the policy of Government is in regard to those schemes. If they are allowed to go forward with them, it is well and good. But if it is considered that from the national point of view, schemes such as the development of Paradip port, which will afford greater opportunity for the export of iron ore, are necessary, then it would not be left to the States to implement those schemes, but the Centre itself should take charge of the entire scheme and finance it and embody it also in the Third Plan.

Shri Hanumanthaiya (Bangalore City): The debate of the day was opened by an hon. Member of the

[Shri Hanumanthaiya]
 Communist Party. He began with a personal note that the hon. Finance Minister was many a time annoyed. So far as my public life goes for more than a quarter of a century, nobody in India is so much annoyed by the leftist elements, as they say, than Shri Morarji Desai, our Finance Minister. Whether it is justified or not, continuously, day in and day out, in press and in platform and in private talks, whispering campaigns go on to such an extent that I hardly find a parallel to it in the political controversies of the world. It is a great thing that in spite of it Shri Morarji Desai, our Finance Minister, has been able to maintain his stature, equanimity and sobriety.

The hon. Member from the Communist Party frightened us with a foreign exchange crisis. It is a fashion nowadays to speak of crisis. We suffer from an inferiority complex that we may not be emphasising a point of view sufficiently strongly. I and so we speak of crisis. It may be that people will accuse us that we are not so patriotic unless every time we hold up the spectre of crisis before the country. May be that is a process of vote-catching. This foreign exchange crisis, really analysed, is no crisis at all. It represents a measure of our developing economy. Whatever we want from abroad in order to instal our machinery, power houses, industries and so on, we purchase many articles, goods, machines and things of that kind. All these are meant for increasing the tempo of our production and increasing the variety of our production. If, therefore, we are short of foreign exchange, it does not indicate a crisis. It shows the throb and tempo with which we are progressing in our economic sphere.

Therefore, it has come about many a time, especially in Delhi, that some catch-phrases are let loose and they go on reverberating from Cape Comerin to the Himalayas. It is no crisis at all. An economist, theoretician, without presupposition this way or that, will say that this so-

called crisis represents, as they say, the birth pangs of a new era of economic progress. Nothing is easier than to resolve this foreign exchange crisis by stopping our purchases from abroad.

Shri Nath Pai (Rajapur): Our complaint is that we have been having only too many pangs and nothing is coming out.

Shri Tyagi: Wait for 9 months.

Shri Hanumanthaiya: So far as the allegation of my hon. friend to my right that nothing is coming out is concerned, he need not take my evidence or the evidence of the Finance Minister. But let him consider the opinion of experts, not merely from one bloc, but both from the Soviet side and the US side. Nobody has said that our economic progress is floundering. On the other hand, India is not only the biggest of democracies, but it is the one country that is making the biggest progress in the world after the second world war. No discussion is necessary on that. No analysis is necessary to prove it. Any impartial mind will say that we are making that amount of progress. To say that nothing is coming out of plans is what is called the exaggerated discharge of duty by the Opposition.

Dr. M. S. Aney: The Report of the Ministry itself uses the word 'crisis' in regard to foreign exchange.

Shri Nath Pai: The Finance Minister himself says that.

Shri Hanumanthaiya: Even the Finance Ministry often works in a routine-minded way. Words are used in the technical sense and the Opposition take them up in the literal sense. That is the difficulty.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Saha:
 Wonderful!

Shri Prabhat Kar: The Finance Minister is blushing at his remarks.

Shri Hanumanthaiya: I am equally glad that my hon. friend opposite is

blushing more than the Finance Minister.

Shri Morarji Desai: That is what is happening.

Shri Hanumanthaiya: They were speaking of prices, the stock exchanges and the crash in Wall Street. I am glad the hon. Member from the Communist Group referred to the crash. How did the Wall Street crash comes about? President Kennedy wanted a few months ago to see that the price of steel did not rise as per the wish of the owners of the steel plants. He did not allow an increase in the price, as it would otherwise cause an inflationary spiral. He took the extraordinary decision for an American President to put down the tendency of prices to rise, especially in the steel sector. Steel forms one of the biggest consumer items in the American industrial market, e.g. manufacture of cars, armaments etc. And this unusual step on the part of the President Kennedy led to a kind of feeling among the industrialists in American that hereafter the prices of commodities may not be allowed to go higher and higher as the industrialists wanted or as they used to have, what is called free scope up till then. This want of confidence in the future price increase made the people to sell their shares indiscriminately in the market. It is this *bona fide* attempt on the part of President Kennedy to control the prices that brought about the crash of the market in Wall Street.

Therefore, when we talk of prices rising high, if we are responsible we cannot bring them down all of a sudden. It will end in not only crash in the Stock Exchange but crash in every factory and shop. That is the law of economic. Therefore, when people say that prices are going high and they should be brought down, it is not an easy matter. It cannot be done by a jugglery of words.

I have travelled widely—in Russia also. I would put it to my hon. friend

on the right side to prove to me that prices of article and foodstuffs in Russia are cheaper than in India. That would be convincing enough than all the accusations and arguments that they advance in season and out of season.

Shri Prabhat Kar: Price is not an absolute term; it has got a relative meaning; it is linked with the earnings.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order. Let him go on.

Shri Hanumanthaiya: I would be very happy with interruptions. I am capable of answering them all and I would be too happy to listen to whatever my hon. friends say. Either now or on some other occasion I would be able to reply.

One defect in our mental make-up, so far as I see, is hankering after pleasing what is called the organised section of our voters. That has been partly responsible for rise in prices. My friends on this side, all the time champion the cause of the workers in factories and mills. I am not less sympathetic towards their demand. But I stand firmly on the principle enunciated by the Prime Minister in his message to the Trade Union Congress day before yesterday. He has done the greatest service to our friends on the right as well as on the left in showing what is the correct attitude that we have got to adopt. He says that labour, no doubt, should protect its interests. But that is not sufficient excuse for it to encroach upon the income or the earnings or the profits of the other sections of society. While caring for whatever is due to them, they must not think only of their emoluments and nothing else.

Political parties—I do not exempt my political party also; I want to be as non-partisan as possible, in spite of my being a Congressman—are anxious to please organised sections of

[Shri Hanumanthaiya.]
opinion, especially in the labour field; and it has been greatly responsible for this spiral of prices.

Recently, we granted about Rs. 25 crores to labour in railways as well as to general employees in the service of Government of India. We linked what is called the dearness allowance to the cost of living index. We profess in the Constitution, to which all of us have taken the oath of allegiance, that there must be social justice and that there must be equality of treatment before law and some such principles. Have we guaranteed to every Indian income and allowances related to the cost of living? Only one sector of society is so protected while the rest of India has to pay through the nose all the time. The same friends who advocate continuous payment of emoluments to the labour sector complain of high prices also. When you pump in Rs. 25 crores every year do you think that any miracle works....

Shri Nath Pai: Sir, on a point of order. With due respect to the hon. speaker who perhaps is not realising he is making an original contribution to economic thinking I may suggest that such a book as our Constitution should not be so casually banged like that though in a rhetorical flourish.

An Hon. Member: What a point of order!

Shri Hanumanthaiya: I am not accustomed to banging; that is not my argument. If we want to safeguard the interests of everyone in this country and do justice, economic and social, to every citizen in the State we have to see that this rise in salaries and emoluments is not confined to one sector of society.

I had occasion to discuss this very question with members of the Soviet Planning Commission in Moscow: how they determined the structure of pay scales to the various professions and trades. They pay the highest salary to the scientists who invent and discover and thereby enrich national life. In India we pay the

the highest salaries to High Court and Supreme Court Judges. That shows what amount of importance we attach to our quarrels, private communal or statewise. The next highest scales of pay are to the underground workers who literally work in the face of death every day. But here we pay the highest scale of salaries to the secretariat officials who sit in air conditioned rooms. Some of these things have to be re-arranged in order to give content to what is called socialist society, to make these words true. I am suggesting this to the hon. House and to the Finance Minister and his colleagues for serious consideration. There should be social and economic justice to every one. At the same time the prices should not go on rising. Even as there are wage boards for each sector of labour, there must be a supreme authority in India to determine the relative pay scale from top to bottom. If there is a request from one sector, say, labour or government servants or agricultural labour it should not be granted straightaway. The repercussions which it will have on other sectors of society must be taken into consideration. The total perspective ought to go to determine the relative structure of salaries and wages and allowances, as I said, from the President of India, to the lowest man, say, a sweeper or a peon, as the case may be. Only when we take a comprehensive view, a comprehensive hold upon this knotty question, can we solve this twin question which is related to each other and is inseparable, namely, this raising of salaries and emoluments and, at the same time, the cost of living going up and the spiral of inflation going on indefinitely. This can be tackled only by such a high authority. It may be that this Commission is part of the Planning Commission; I do not mind; may be it is a Commission under the Finance Ministry; I do not mind. But the essence of the matter is that such a Commission must begin to work, preventing each sector from running away with its demand for allowances and emoluments. It must be tied

down to the whole structure as it were. It is only then that social Justice can be had as we mean it and as we embedded it in the Constitution. Such a Commission, a Commission which determines the structure of salary in every sector, ought to be appointed forthwith.

श्री गहमरी (गाजीपुर) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं उस इलाके से आता हूँ जोकि सब से पिछड़ा हुआ इलाका है। गाजीपुर, बलिया और आजमगढ़ का इलाका सब से गरीब इलाका है। इस को सभी लोग जानते हैं कि वहाँ पर न कोई इंडस्ट्री है और न कोई जमीन है जिस जमीन पर कि खेतीबाड़ी कर के लोग गुजर कर सकें। वहाँ की आबादी भी बहुत ज्यादा है और अत्यधिक आबादी होने के कारण वहाँ पर लोग भूखों मर रहे हैं। वहाँ पर आज भी लैंडलेस लेबरर्स की हालत ऐसी है जोकि देश में अन्यत्र किसी प्रदेश में नहीं है। आप को यह मुन कर आश्चर्य होगा कि वहाँ आज भी दो आने मजदूरी पर लोग काम करते हैं। शहरी मजदूरी की हालत कुछ अच्छी है लेकिन देहाती मजदूर जिन की कि गुजर खेती-बाड़ी पर मजदूरी कर के होती है उन की हालत आम तौर से खराब है। इस में भी गाजीपुर, बलिया और आजमगढ़ के मजदूरों की हालत एक कलंक की बात है। प्लानिंग कमिशन ने भी उधर ध्यान नहीं दिया है। उस ने यह जरूर कहा था कि गरीब तबकों की तरफ ध्यान दिया जाय। वहाँ पर न कोई आबपाशी का इंतजाम है और न ही वहाँ कोई फॅक्टरी खोली गई है। वहाँ के आदमी रोजी की तलाश में जा कर कलकत्ता और बम्बई में मजदूरी करते हैं। पहले से करते आये हैं और आज भी वहाँ जा कर करते हैं। वह अपने हलाके में रह कर गुजर नहीं कर सकते और उन को लाचार रोजी की तलाश में बाहर जा कर मजदूरी करनी पड़ती है। लैंडलेस लेबरर्स को जो पहले मजदूरी मिलती थी वही आज भी मिल रही है और उस में कोई इजाफा नहीं हुआ है। अलबत्ता शहरी मजदूरों की आय में वृद्धि हुई है। शहरों का विकास किया गया है और भारी कल व

कारखाने खोले गये और वहाँ के निवासियों ने काफी प्रगति की है और उन का स्टैण्डर्ड ऊंचा हुआ है लेकिन दुर्भाग्यवश देहातों की ओर कोई ध्यान नहीं दिया गया है और वह पहले की तरह पिछड़ी अवस्था में पड़े हुए हैं। खास तौर पर हमारा गाजीपुर, बलिया और आजमगढ़ का इलाका तो बहुत ही पिछड़ा और गिरी हुई हालत में है। वहाँ की हालत अत्यन्त शोचनीय है और बेकारी काफी है और यही कारण है कि वहाँ से कम्युनिस्ट पार्टी और सोशलिस्ट पार्टी के उम्मीदवार भारी तादाद में कामयाब होते हैं क्योंकि जनता में बेकारी और गरीबी के कारण काफी असन्तोष रहता है।

यह गाजीपुर, बलिया और आजमगढ़ का इलाका बड़ा बहादुर इलाका है और सन् १८५७ के भारतीय स्वाधीनता संग्राम में वहाँ के निवासियों ने अंग्रेजों के विरुद्ध लड़े जाने वाले संग्राम में भारी हिस्सा लिया था। अंग्रेजी हुकूमत ने उस खित्ते को हमेशा नेगलेक्टेड रक्खा। आबपाशी का कोई इंतजाम नहीं हुआ और कोई फॅक्टरी वहाँ पर नहीं खोली गई। सन् १९४२ के भारतीय स्वातंत्र्य आन्दोलन में भी गाजीपुर, बलिया और आजमगढ़ के लोगों ने सराहनीय पार्ट अदा किया और जितनी कुर्बानी उन्होंने दी उतनी उत्तरप्रदेश के किसी अन्य भाग ने नहीं दी। लेकिन उस इलाके की हालत अत्यन्त शोचनीय है और लोगों को दो जून रोटी नसीब नहीं हो पाती है। मैं तो कहूँगा कि वहाँ पर आये साल हैजा और चेचक आदि संक्रामक बीमारियाँ आती हैं, उन की रोकथाम आखिर क्यों की जाती है? अब रोज घुल घुल कर मरने से तो एक दम मर जाना बेहतर है। वहाँ इंसान को रोज फाका करना पड़ता है। वह इलाका ऐसा है जहाँ कि एक वक्त खाना खा कर लोग गुजारा करते हैं। देश में स्वराज्य आया है और देश को विदेशी गुलामी से छुटकारा मिला है और हम देखते हैं कि शहरों का पिछले कुछ वर्षों में काफी विकास हुआ है।

[श्री गहमरी]

इसी दिल्ली को ले लीजिये। जहां पहले जंगल और पहाड़ ही पहाड़ थे वहां बड़ी बड़ी आली-शान इमारतें खड़ी दिखाई देती हैं। हर एक शहर में तरक्की दिखाई देती है लेकिन गांवों में अभी तक कोई तरक्की नहीं दिखाई देती है। मैं प्लानिंग कमिशन और नंदा साहव से प्रार्थना करना चाहता हूँ कि उस इलाके में एक दिन जायें और देखें कि वहां पर गरीबी कैसा नंगा नाच नाच रही है? सारे हिन्दुस्तान में कोई दूसरा इलाका ऐसा नहीं है जॉकि गाजीपुर, बलिया और आजमगढ़ की गरीबी का मुकाबला कर सके।

श्री नाथपाई : एक और है रत्नागिरी।

श्री गहमरी : यह कांग्रेस गवर्नमेंट के लिए एक कलंक की बात है कि लोगों को एक वक्त ही खाना मिले और दिन भर मेहनत कर के एक लैंडलेस लेबरर दिन में दो आने पैसे और एक लोटा रस पाये। देहातों को सरसब्ज नहीं किया गया और उन को इंसान की मानिद जीवन बिताने लायक नहीं बनाया गया। हमारे गांधी जी ने भी गांवों की दशा मुधारने पर बल दिया था। उन का कहना था कि देहातों से लोग जो शहरों में भाग कर आते हैं और शहरी आवादी तरक्की करती हैं वह इसलिये करती है कि देहातों में आप के कोई भी अफसर नहीं जाते हैं और उन को बिल्कुल उपेक्षित छोड़ दिया जाता है। आप का चिराग जो जलता है वह शहरों में ही जलता है। मजदूरों की लड़ाई जो हमारे कम्युनिस्ट पार्टी या सोशलिस्ट पार्टी के लोग लड़ते हैं वह शहरी मजदूरों के वास्ते ही लड़ते हैं। खेतिहर मजदूरों को कोई पूछने वाला नहीं है। उन की कोई तरक्की नहीं हो रही है। उन की मजदूरी में कोई बरकत नहीं है। इस बारे में आप आज भी जा कर पता लगा सकते हैं कि उन की क्या हालत है? कोई भी कमिशन जा कर इस बात का पता लगाये कि दिन भर काम कर के दो आने मजदूरी में आखिर कोई इंसान कैसे जिंदा रह सकता है? दो आने मजदूरी भी भला कोई चीज है?

आठ घंटे खेतों में काम करता है और उस को दो आने मजदूरी दी जाती है और हल जोतने वाले को ढाई सेर (कच्चा-सवा सेर) अनाज मिलता है। सारा ध्यान आप लोगों का शहरों की तरक्की करने की ओर जाता है और देहातों की ओर किसी का ध्यान नहीं जाता है। वहां न कोई रोजगार है और न कोई धंधा है?

श्रीमती सहोवराबाई राय (दमोह) : ऐसा कोई प्रांत नहीं है जहां पर कि दो आने मजदूरी मिलती हो।

श्री गहमरी : मैं इस सदन में शपथ खा कर कहता हूँ कि कोई भी आदमी जा कर पता लगा ले कि यह बात सही है या नहीं। मैं तो इस सदन में शपथ खा कर कहता हूँ कि वहां तो दो आने से भी कम मजदूरों लोगों को मिलती है। मैं जानता हूँ कि यह दो आने वाली बात मुन कर लोगों को आश्चर्य होगा और जब हम अन्य लोगों से इस के बारे में चर्चा करते हैं तो वह कहते हैं कि ऐसी गरीबी होना नामुमकिन सा मालूम पड़ता है लेकिन है यह हकीकत जोकि मैं ने आप के सामने बयान की . . .

बित्त मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री ब० रा० भगत) : माननीय सदस्य ने जो यह कहा कि उन को दो आने मजदूरी मिलती है तो क्या यह ढाई सेर अनाज उस दो आने के अलावा है जोकि उस को मिलता है?

श्री त्यागी : जिस को अनाज मिलता है उस को मजदूरी नहीं मिलती है।

श्री गहमरी : जो मजदूरी करता है और जमीन तोड़ता है उस को दो आने मजदूरी और एक लोटा रस मिलता है। ढाई सेर अनाज कच्चा—सवा सेर हल जोतने वाले को मिलता है। इस की जांच कर के देख सकते हैं कि अधिकतर लोग वहां केवल एक वक्त ही खाना खाते हैं। दोनों वक्त खाना आज तक किसी को मुयत्सर नहीं होता है। उस इलाके में फेली हुई भुयंकर गरीबी और भुलमरी के

कारण ही हम देखते हैं कि वहां पर कम्युनिस्ट्स, सोशलिस्ट्स और अन्य विरोधी पार्टियों के उम्मीदवार चुनावों में जीत जाते हैं और कायेस पार्टी हार जाती है। अब मुसीबत यह है कि हम से लोग कहते हैं कि आप आखिर निराश क्यों होते हैं। इस समय हिन्दुस्तान का भालिक तो नेहरू है और नेहरू उत्तरप्रदेश का रहने वाला है तो फिर आप सीधे उन तक ही अपनी बात क्यों नहीं पहुंचाते हैं? अब नेहरू जी से जब हम इसके बारे में कहते हैं तो वह कहते हैं कि सूबे की बात मत करो, छोटी छोटी बात मत करिये। हकीकत यह है कि हमारी बात कोई सुनने वाला नहीं है। हम कहते हैं कि नेहरू जी चल कर देखें कि हमारी बात में सच्चाई है कि नहीं। वहां पर एक सड़क नहीं, एक रास्ता नहीं और एक पुल नहीं। एक वक्त खाना खाकर लोग गुजारा करते हैं। दोनों वक्त खाना सब आदमियों को नसीब नहीं है। ८० परसेंट लोग एक वक्त खाना खाते हैं। आज देश को आजादी मिले करीब १५, १६ वर्ष हो गये और ऐसी हालत हमारे मुल्क की हो यह वास्तव में कलंक की बात है।

माननीय मन्त्री, श्री नन्दा, कहते हैं कि हम पिछड़े इलाकों की तरफ ज्यादा ध्यान देते हैं, लेकिन हम देखते हैं कि जब कोई फेक्ट्री खुलने को होती है, तो झट से बनारस को चली जाती है और बलिया, गाजीपुर तथा आजमगढ़ जाली रहते हैं। एक भी फेक्ट्री बलिया आजमगढ़, और गाजीपुर में नहीं खोली गई है। वहां अन्न कम पैदा होता है। दुर्भाग्य की बात है कि वहां बड़े नेता भी कम होते हैं। वहां कोई ऐसा नेता नहीं है, जो कि मिनिस्ट्रों के तबक्के तक पहुंच सके। हम देखते हैं कि जहां-जहां प्रभावशाली नेता नहीं होता है, वहां का इलाका पिछड़ा रहता है। इस स्थिति में हम क्या करें?

गाजीपुर में एक पुल बनना था। माननीय मन्त्री श्री बमल बहादुर शास्त्री, ने इस बारे में कुछ वादा किया था। इसी तरह मान-

नीय मन्त्री, श्री जगजीवन राम, ने भी कुछ वादा किया था। फिर उस पर कई हजार रुपया भी गवर्नमेंट का खर्च हुआ, मगर यह कह कर उस को खारिज कर दिया गया कि यह करोड़ों रुपयों का बात है।

गाजीपुर शहर को जाकर देखिये। वह वीरान है। वहां तो एक खण्डहरों का मुल्क है, खण्डहरों का शहर है। वह गाजीपुर जिला का हैडक्वार्टर है, लेकिन खण्डहर है। जाकर कोई भा उम्रे देख ले। कोई मिनिस्टर साहब जाकर उम्रे देख लें। वे उम्रे देख कर गवाक और आश्चर्यचकित हो जायेंगे। आज को दुनिया में, हिन्दुस्तान में, उत्तर प्रदेश में पूर्वी जिलों की हालत माननीय मन्त्री देख लें और उससे वाद उसका सुधार करें।

मैं निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि वह सब काम सिर्फ सूबे का सरकार के द्वारा नहीं किया जा सकता है, जब तक कि सेंटर में खास तौर से मदद न करे। हम तो यह कहेंगे कि सरकार वहां पर एपिडेमिक्स का फलन दे, वह उनको रोक-थाम न करे, लेकिन वह उन लोगों को पुला धुला कर न मारे। बीमारी से लोग मर जायें, तो अच्छा है, बनिबत इसके कि वे जिनदा रहे और एक वक्त खाना खायें।

श्री लहरी सिंह (रोहताक): डिप्टी स्पीकर साहब, पहले तो मैं अन्न करना चाहता हूं कि स्टेट्स और सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट में टैक्स के बारे में एक रेश चल रही है, घुड़ दौड़ चल रही है। यहां भी और स्टेट्स में भी टैक्स लगाए जा रहे हैं। मैं पताब स्टेट के बारे में बताना चाहता हूं कि वहां पर बहुत ज्यादा टैक्स लगाए जा रहे हैं। फिनांस मिनिस्टर साहब से मेरी दरखास्त है कि ये सब स्टेट्स इण्डिपेंडेंट स्टेट्स नहीं हैं। सेंटर की तरफ से उन को थोड़े अस्तियारात दिये हुए हैं। इसलिये वह स्टेट्स पर अपना कंट्रोल बढ़ायें और उन पर नजर रखें, वना हालत यह है कि बहुत मुसीबत:

और बे-इज्जती हो रही है। गरीबों पर टैक्स लगाया जा रहा है।

मिसाल के तौर पर मैं आपको बताना चाहता हूँ कि मकान पर हाउस टैक्स और प्रापर्टी टैक्स के अलावा एक नया टैक्स और लगा दिया गया है, जिस को मरला टैक्स कहते हैं। क्या मकान पर कहीं मालगुजारी लगती है? इसका नतीजा यह है कि अगर एक गरीब आदमी के पास एक मकान है, तो उसको ये तीनों टैक्स देने पड़ेंगे। इस के साथ ही पंजाब में एक नया टैक्स, प्रॉफ़िशन टैक्स भी लगा दिया गया है। गरीब आदमियों पर, गरीब जमींदारों पर जो भू-वे नंगे हैं, टैक्स लगाने के लिये एक टेम्पोररी टैक्सेशन एक्ट पास कर दिया गया है। उन को कहा गया है कि तुम गवर्नमेंट को टैक्स दो, उस से हम दूसरों की मदद करना चाहते हैं। मैं कोई नुकता-चीनी नहीं करना चाहता हूँ, लेकिन मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि गरीबों पर ज्यादा टैक्स नहीं लगाना चाहिये। सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट अपने टैक्स लगाए, लेकिन साथ ही वह स्टेट्स को भी गाइड करे। स्टेट्स तो समझने लगी हैं कि हम चाहे कितने भी टैक्स लगायें, टैक्सपेयर्स में देने की हिम्मत हो या न हो। जैसा कि मैंने अभी आप की खिदमत में अर्ज किया है, इस बारे में मैं आप को पंजाब की हालत बताना चाहता हूँ कि वहाँ पर गरीबों पर टैक्स बढ़ता जा रहा है, जिस को वे देने के काबिल नहीं हैं।

जहाँ तक सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट के टैक्सिज हैं, वे भी आम आदमियों के काम की चीजों, जैसे तम्बाकू, बरतैन, माचिस वगैरह, पर लगाये गए हैं और इस लिये गरीब आदमियों पर उनका बोझ पड़ता है। लेकिन इस को अगर थोड़ी देर के लिये भूल भी जायें तो भी हैंडलूम इण्डस्ट्री पर इतना टैक्स लगा देने का क्या जस्टिफिकेशन है? जिस को कांग्रेस गवर्नमेंट ने बहुत ज्यादा प्रोटेक्शन दिया है, जिस को प्रोटेक्शन देने के बारे में लेक्चर

दिये जाते रहे हैं और जिसके लिये हम लड़ने रहे हैं, उस हैंडलूम इण्डस्ट्री पर पहली बार इतना टैक्स लगा दिया गया है। पहले एक पावरलूम पर टैक्स न था, लेकिन अब उस पर भी लगा दिया गया है, जबकि मिल वालों के रेट्स को कम कर दिया गया है। यहाँ पर अमृतसर वाले आए थे। वे फिनांस मिनिस्टर साहब के पास गए, जिन्होंने उन को सेक्रेटरी साहब के पास भेजा। सेक्रेटरी साहब ने जवाब दिया, "बताओ, बेचने के लिये तैयार हो या नहीं?" वे सहम गए कि हम कहाँ आए गए। वे समझते थे कि फिनांस मिनिस्टर साहब ने उन को सेक्रेटरी साहब के पास भेजा है और वह उन की बात को सुनेंगे, लेकिन उनसे यह सवाल किया गया, "क्या बेचने के लिये तैयार हो?" उन्होंने कहा, "हम इस लिये नहीं आए हैं। हम गरीब हैं, इसलिये आए हैं। हम आप के मुल्क में रह कर गुजारा कर रहे हैं और इज्जत के साथ रहना चाहते हैं। मेहरबानी फ़रमा कर इन टैक्सिज को हटाया जाये।"

मैं फिनांस मिनिस्टर साहब से अदब से अर्ज करना चाहता हूँ कि वह इधर उधर चाहे और टैक्स लगा दें, लेकिन हैंडलूम पर टैक्स नहीं लगाना चाहिये। वह वन-पावरलूम की हालत को देखें। बहुत से लोग कहते हैं कि बहुत लोग तोड़ तोड़ कर दो का एक कर देते हैं। मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि जो एक पावरलूम करे, उस को एग्ज़ेम्प्ट कर देना चाहिए। ये टैक्सिज बहुत पिच करते हैं और हैंडलूम इण्डस्ट्री इस बोझ को बर्दाश्त नहीं कर सकती है।

उन लोगों ने एक पैम्फ्लेट छपा है :
1962 Taxation Proposals—Adverse effects on handloom industry,
इस पैम्फ्लेट में उन्होंने लिखा है :—

"The Handloom Industry was hoping that in the current year's Budget, levy of duty on counts above 40s will be taken away, but to its great concern and deep dis-

oppointment, not only have duties been levied on certain counts which formerly were duty free but also duties enhanced in respect of certain other counts....

यह पैम्फलेट फिनांस मिनिस्टर साहब के पास भी गया होगा । इस के साथ ही रिडक्शन आफ ड्यूटी आन मिल-मेड फ्रैंचिस्स का भी सवाल है । उन को ज्यादा हैल्प दी जा रही है । ज्यादा नुक्ता-चीनी न करते हुए मैं अर्ज करूंगा कि इन बातों पर ज्यादा ध्यान दिया जाये । तम्बाकू, यूटेन्सिलज और माचिस वगैरह पर टैक्स लगाने से लोगों में बहुत बेचैनी है । कम से कम गरीब लोगों को परेशानी और तकलीफ में नही डालना चाहिए ।

आज यह कहा जा रहा है कि रिच रिचर हों गए हैं, जब कि हमारा स्लोगन है, हमारी फर्म पालिसी है सोशलिस्टिक पैटर्न आफ सोसायटी । मैं आपके सामने एक एग्जाम्पल रखना चाहता हूँ । जहाँ तक इण्डस्ट्रीज का ताल्लुक है, गवर्नमेंट उनका डेवेलपमेंट करे, क्योंकि यह बात मुल्क के लिये बहुत अच्छी है । गवर्नमेंट इस सिलसिले में इण्डस्ट्रियलिस्ट्स को फिनांशल एड देती है, रा मैटीरियल देती है और सब चीजें देती है, जिसकी वजह से इण्डस्ट्रीज बहुत तरक्की कर रही हैं, लेकिन सवाल यह है कि उन इण्डस्ट्रीज में जो मजदूर काम करते हैं, उन के लिये गवर्नमेंट ने क्या किया है । आज कारखानों में काम करने वाले मजदूरों के सामने सिवाये फ्रास्टिंग के और कोई रास्ता नहीं है । उन को बोनस भी नहीं मिल रहा है । अभी सोनीपत का किस्सा है । आठ रोज तक फ्राका करके एक मामूली सी कनसेशन उन लोगों को मिली है । उन को मैनेजमेंट में भी हिस्सा नहीं दिया जाता है । उन को कोई सहूलियत या मदद नहीं दी जाती है । इसी तरह हम जमींदारों की जमीनों पर तीस एकड़ की सीलिंग लगा दी गई है । हम इससे नाराज नहीं हैं, लेकिन जब सरकार बड़े बड़े कैपिटलिस्ट्स को फिनांशल एड दे रही

है, उन के लिए अमरीका और ईजिप्ट से काटन मंगा रही है, उन की हर तरह से मदद कर रही है, तो उन के कारखानों में काम करने वाले मजदूरों के लिये कोई ला बनाना चाहिये । उन कैपिटलिस्ट्स पर हैवी टैक्स लगाना चाहिए । मजदूरों को बोनस देने का इन्तजाम करना चाहिये ।

मैं आप को जापान की मिसाल देता हूँ । वहाँ पर फौकरी का इनचार्ज मजदूरों को अपने साथ बिठा कर वही खाना देता है और सब एक जगह बैठ कर खाते हैं । मजाल नहीं कि उनको ठण्डा पानी न मिले । यहाँ पर तो मजदूर खुशक चपातियाँ खाते हैं और रोते-पीटते हैं । यह कैसा सोशलिस्टिक पैटर्न है, जिसमें बड़े बड़े कैपिटलिस्ट्स को तो फिनांशल एड दी जाये और सब तरह की सहूलियतें दी जायें, लेकिन मजदूरों के लिये कोई भी इन्तजाम न हो ।

जहाँ तक हम जमींदारों का ताल्लुक है, कभी हम डिप्टी कमिश्नर के दरवाजे खटखटाते हैं और कभी रिजर्व बैंक के ऊपर निर्भर करते हैं । रिजर्व बैंक भी एपेक्स बैंक की मार्फत शार्ट-टर्म या मीडियम टर्म लोन लेता है । वह लोन ढाई परसेंट होता है, लेकिन आते आते वह पांच छः परसेंट पर हम को मिलता है । रिजर्व बैंक जो लोन गरीबों को, जमींदारों को देता है, उस पर इटिरेस्ट ज्यादा पड़ता है और लोन हमें बहुत महंगा पड़ता है । रिजर्व बैंक की तरफ से जो शार्ट टर्म और मीडियम टर्म लोन दिये जाते हैं, वे बराये नाम ही दिये जाते हैं । मीडियम टर्म लॉज के लिए ज्यादा रकम नहीं रखी गई है, केवल दस करोड़ ही रखी गई है । इतना बड़ा हमारा देश है और आप अंदाजा लगा सकते हैं कि जो लोगों की जरूरतें हैं, उनको देखते हुए क्या यह रकम काफी है । यह बहुत ही कम पड़ती है । दस करोड़ को आपको सारे सुबों में बांटना

[श्री लहरी सिंह]

होता है। मैं पंजाब का हाल जानता हूँ। वहाँ पर ७५ लाख रुपया ही दिया जाता है और इतना ही रुपया पंजाब के लिए रखा गया है। इस ७५ लाख से क्या हो सकता है। मंत्री महादय से मैं विवेक तौर पर अर्ज करना चाहता हूँ कि वह एक एग्रीकलचर डिवेलपमेंट फाइनेंस कारपोरेशन बनाये। जिस तरह से आपने इंडस्ट्रियल फाइनेंस कारपोरेशन बनाई है, उसी तरह से आप एग्रीकलचर के लिए भी एक कारपोरेशन बनायें। एग्रीकलचर की जो जरूरतें हैं, उनको पूरा करने की कांशिया करें ताकि एग्रीकलचर हमारे देश की तरक्की करे। आप आज करोड़ों रुपये का अनाज, अरबों रुपये का अनाज अमरीका तथा दूसरे देशों में मंगाते हैं और अनाज जैसे देशों के सामने अनाज देने के लिए हाथ जोड़ते फिरते हैं। जब कि आप लैंड पर सीलिंग लगा चुके हैं तथा दूसरी चीजें कर चुके हैं और इस सब को किसान ने चुनचाप सहन कर लिया है, चूं तक नहीं को है तो क्या आपका यह फर्ज नहीं है कि किसान को जो जरूरियात हैं, उनको आप देखें और उनको पूरा करें। आपने गांवों के लोगों को जमीनों पर तो सीलिंग लगा दी लेकिन शहर वालों को, दूकानदारों को छोड़कर नहीं है लेकिन फिर भी किसान चुप हैं। अब आपका यह फर्ज है कि आप एग्रीकलचर के लिए एक डिवेलपमेंट फाइनेंस कारपोरेशन की स्थापना करें। भिखारियों की तरह कभी हमें डॉ० सी० के दरवाजे खटखटाने पड़ते हैं और कभी कहीं जाना पड़ता है और परेशानी मुक्त में मोल लेनी पड़ती है। इस परेशानी से आपको चाहिये कि आप हमें बचायें। यह जो कारपोरेशन एग्रीकलचर के लिए बनाने का मैंने सुझाव दिया है, इसकी बांचें मैं चाहता हूँ कि आप हर स्टेट में खोलें, हर एक डिस्ट्रिक्ट में खोलें ताकि बादरेशन लोगों का न हो। अगर ऐसा आपने किया तो बहुत ज्यादा डिवेलपमेंट से सकेगा और एग्रीकलचर बहुत ज्यादा तरक्की कर सकेगी।

अब मैं प्लानिंग के बारे में कुछ अर्ज

करना चाहता हूँ। प्लानिंग के वजीर यहां नहीं हैं। लेकिन मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि माइनर इरिगेशन पर आपको विशेष रूप से ध्यान देना चाहिये। आप बड़े बड़े डैम बना चुके हैं, रिवरज को कंट्रोल कर चुके हैं। लेकिन इतना होने पर भी आपको मैं बतलाना चाहता हूँ कि ७५ मिलियन जमीन ऐसी पड़ी है जो कि माइनर इरिगेशन में ही सैराब हो सकती है, जो कि सिर्फ माइनर इरिगेशन पर ही निर्भर करती है। आप अनाज बाहर में मंगाते हैं लेकिन अगर इस जमीन को माइनर इरिगेशन में पानी मिल जाए तो काफी आपकी पैदावार बढ़ सकती है और अनाज आपको बाहर में कम मंगाना पड़ेगा। आपने फाइव सीअर प्लान में माइनर इरिगेशन पर खर्च करने के लिए २७५ करोड़ रुपया रखा है। लेकिन मैं आपको बतलाना चाहता हूँ कि आप किसी भी स्टेट के वजट को देख लीजिये, किसी भी स्टेट में जा कर देख लीजिये, आप कहीं भी माइनर इरिगेशन के बारे में जो स्कीम्ज हैं, उनको इम्प्लेमेंट होता हुआ नहीं पायेंगे। आपका दूसरा प्लान क्या फेल हुआ और क्यों आपके प्लान फेल होते हैं, इस पर आपको चाहिये कि आप विचार करें। आपके प्लान प्रिंसिपलज के लिहाज से, और सेंटर के मदद देने के लिहाज से तो बिल्कुल ठीक प्लान हैं, लेकिन जो स्कीम्ज हैं, उनको एनफोर्स करना, उनको इम्प्लेमेंट करना स्टेट गवर्नमेंट्स का काम है और वे उनको इम्प्लेमेंट नहीं कर रही हैं। इस काम के लिए न तो उनके पास परसनल है और न ही वे इस चीज की तरफ ध्यान देती हैं। जो महत्व इस चीज को दिया जाना चाहिये वह महत्व नहीं दिया जाता है। आपने २७५ करोड़ रुपया तो दे दिया है और इससे कुछ डैम ट्यूब वेल, एक्सप्लोरेटरी ट्यूब वेल भी लग गए हैं लेकिन बहुत सा हिन्दुस्तान का हिस्सा ऐसा है जहां इरिगेशन का कोई इंतजाम नहीं हो पाया है। जहां पर डीप ट्यूब वेलज नहीं हो सकते हैं, जहां पर नहरें नहीं जा सकती हैं, जहां पर इरिगेशन ट्यूब वेलज नहीं हो सकते हैं, वहां पर आप एक्सप्लोरेटरी ट्यूबवेलज दें।

अमरीका में ऐसा ही किया गया है। आप यहां पर ऐसा कर देश का पैदावार को बहुत ज्यादा बढ़ा सकते हैं। हमारा मुल्क बहुत बड़ा है और यहां की ८० प्रतिशत जनसंख्या खेती पर निर्भर करती है। हम आज अनाज के लिए भोज्य मांगते फिरते हैं। लेकिन मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि अगर इन माइनर इरिगेशन पर ध्यान दिया जाए तो यह हमारा भोज्य मांगना हो सकता है कि बन्द हो जाए। इस माइनर इरिगेशन के मामले को प्लानिंग मिनिस्टर साहय्य जोर में एन्फोर्स करे और कमेटी बना कर देखें कि क्या क्या होने को बाकी पड़ा है और क्या कुछ हुआ है। मैं चाहता हूँ कि हमें बताया जाए कि कितनी ये स्कीम्स हैं, उन में से कितनी पर काम हुआ है और कितनी पर नहीं हुआ है और हर साल इसको रिपोर्ट आपके पास और हमारे पास आनी चाहियें। अगर ऐसा किया गया तो पता चल सकेगा कि किस किस प्राइम पर काम हुआ है। यह जो ७५ मिलियन जमीन है, इसको अगर सैराब कर दिया जाए तो जो लॉग भूखे मरते हैं और जो धरती प्यासी है, उसको पानी मिल सकता है और उन लोगों को भूख से नजात मिल सकती है और साथ ही साथ आपका प्रोडक्शन बढ़ सकता है। यह कितनी बेइज्जती की बात है कि जो ८० प्रतिशत हमारे देश की जनता है, उसकी तरफ कोई ध्यान नहीं दिया जाता है।

अब मैं गर्लज् एजुकेशन के बारे में कुछ कहना चाहता हूँ। प्लान में दिया हुआ है कि इतना करोड़ रुपया लड़कों पर खर्च कर दिया और इतना लड़कियों पर खर्च कर दिया, उनकी एजुकेशन पर खर्च कर दिया। आप देखें मेरे सूबे के ही नहीं बल्कि सभी सूबों के देहातों में लड़कियों की एजुकेशन पर बहुत ही कम ध्यान दिया जा रहा है। फैक्ट्स एंड फिगरज् को उठा कर आप देख लें आपको पता चलेगा कि इन के लिए कहीं कहीं प्राइमरी स्कूल खोल दिये गए हैं, चौबीस जमीन तक के स्कूल खोल दिये गए हैं लेकिन मिडिल और हाई

स्कूल नहीं खोले गए हैं। हमारी देहातों की लड़कियां जब शहरों में पढ़ने के लिए जाती हैं तो बड़ी दिक्कत का सामना करना पड़ता है और बोर्डिंग हाउस की सहूलियत उनके लिए नहीं है। इस कारण से वे उन में जा कर दाखिल भी नहीं हो सकती है। प्लानिंग वालों से मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि आपने बड़ी खूबसूरत किताबें तो लिख दी हैं और उन को पढ़ने के बाद तो ऐसा महसूस होता है कि सारा काम ठीक हो गया है, हिन्दुस्तान ऊपर उठ गया है, लेकिन हुआ कुछ भी नहीं है। लड़कियों के स्कूल खोलने का जो प्रोग्राम है इसको भी स्टेट गवर्नमेंट्स इम्प्लेमेंट नहीं कर रही हैं। मैं चाहता हूँ कि प्लानिंग कमिशन की कोई एक बाडी जा कर देखे और इस काम को सुपरवाइज करे। उसको देखना चाहिये कि क्या कुछ हो रहा है और क्या कुछ किया जाना चाहिये। आपने कह तो दिया कि लड़कियों की एजुकेशन के लिए आप १७५ करोड़ रुपया देंगे, हाई स्कूल खोल देंगे, डिग्री कालेजिज् खोल देंगे। लेकिन किसी भी स्टेट के गांवों में जा कर आप देखें ग्राम तौर पर देहातों में लड़कियों के लिए एक भी मिडिल स्कूल या एक भी हाई स्कूल अच्छा नहीं है। जो हमारा डिस्ट्रिक्ट है वहां पर प्राइमरी स्कूल तो हैं लेकिन हाई स्कूल नहीं है और अगर बोर्डिंग हाउस में जाकर दाखिल होना चाहती हैं और आगे पढ़ना चाहती हैं तो बोर्डिंग हाउस में जगह नहीं मिलती है। यहां पर बैठ कर आप प्लानिंग कर देते हैं। आपको चाहिये कि दो चार देहात वालों को भी आप उस कमेटी में रखें और इस तरह से सारे अक्लमन्द लोग मिल बैठ कर कुछ प्रोग्राम तय कर लें और फिर उस पर अमल करें। लेकिन आज तो ऐसा मालूम होता है कि न सोचने वाले कोई हैं, न रिपोर्ट करने वाले हैं और न ही देखने वाले हैं। ऐसी हालत में देहात में रहने वाला गरीब उन्नति कैसे कर सकेगा। आज हम देख रहे हैं कि लड़कियां पुलिस इन्स्पेक्टर हो रही हैं, रजिस्ट्रार हो रही हैं, डिप्टी मिनिस्टर हो रही हैं, मिनिस्टर

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हो रही हैं और बड़े बड़े ओहदों पर काम कर रही हैं। जब यह सब कुछ हो रहा है तो देहातों की लड़कियों के क्या दिमाग नहीं हैं जो वे इन पदों तक नहीं पहुँच सकती हैं। वे चाहती हैं कि वे पढ़ें लेकिन उनको अवसर नहीं मिलता है, उनको सहुलियतें नहीं हैं। इस वास्ते मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि जो प्लानिंग आप करें, सही मानों में करें। आज बारह साल हो गए हैं, एक ही तरह की रिपोर्ट हमारे सामने पेश कर दी जाती है। रिपोर्ट में यह लिखा रहता है कि देहातों में लोगों को समझाओ कि लड़कियों को वे पढ़ायें। मैं कहना हूँ कि आप मेरे साथ चलें और देखें कि कौन आज उनको पढ़ाना नहीं चाहता है, जो भी जमींदार हैं वे सब अपनी लड़कियों को पढ़ाना चाहते हैं। लेकिन वे कैसे पढ़ सकती हैं जब उनको इसकी सुविधायें न हों। चौदह पंद्रह बरस तक उनको प्रोटेक्शन चाहिये। उनके लिए बोर्डिंग हाउस की व्यवस्था होनी चाहिये तथा दूसरी और कई प्रकार की सहुलियतें होनी चाहियें। लेकिन आज लड़कियों के लिए बिल्कुल कोई भी किसी प्रकार का इंतजाम नहीं है और वे पढ़ नहीं सकती हैं। मैं चाहता हूँ कि इस और आपका विशेष ध्यान जाए।

अन्त में मैं इतना ही कहना चाहता हूँ कि एग्रीकलचर के लिए एक कारपोरेशन आप बनायें। अगर ऐसा किया गया तो जमींदारों को, खेती करने वालों को नजात मिल सकती है।

श्रीमती सहोदराबाई राय : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, हमें भी वक्त मिलना चाहिये।

श्री रामेश्वरानन्द (करनाल) : हमें भी वक्त दिया जाना चाहिये।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आप देर से आये हैं, मैं क्या करूँ। अब कल मिलेगा।

श्री रामेश्वरानन्द : आज ही मिल जाए तो कृपा होगी।

Dr. K. L. Rao (Vijayawada): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, I will confine my observations to the activities of the Planning Commission. Planning in India has got many unique features, quite different from many others in the world. In a totalitarian State, like China, planning employs compulsion. But, in democratic countries, planning is adopted only in emergency conditions and even then, it tries to preserve freedom of choice. For example, in Britain, at the end of the last war, when it lost all its wealth, when it found that its technical superiority was lagging behind and there was inflation, it resorted to planning and in less than ten years, it regained prosperity. In India, we have a plan which combined at once effective and balanced utilisation of the country's resources in material, capital and men, the eradication of social evils and the establishment of a socialistic pattern of society. Really we have a plan which has three objects. It, therefore, becomes more difficult of accomplishment. We have got to be on the guard to ensure that this Plan will not remain only as a prayer, as a hope or aspiration of the nation, but is translated into action.

In the beginning of the Third Plan itself, we find there are shortages in coal, power and cement. We find that even the construction of factories is not going on any prepared schedule. For example, at Macherla, we have a 600-ton cement factory, a very large one, completely erected but not able to go into production because there is no power. Similarly, at Ranchi, we find the completion of Heavy engineering and casting factories will be in the reverse direction. The casting factory has been built up earlier, but it is scheduled to come later so that we may be put to unnecessary expenditure in importing castings from outside. This shows that the plans are drawn by pure economists. To put our plan through, it is really necessary to assess the practicability of the Plan, whether the plan can be accomplished or not and ensure the even outflow of

materials in time and in the right quantity. The plan should have been put through the crucible of engineering. In other words, it should have an engineering approach.

The Planning Commission has taken up, in addition to its legitimate function of formulation and co-ordination, implementation also. Implementation means immediately keeping in touch with the progress and with the day-to-day activities of the numerous projects, and this involves the setting up of a cell in the Planning Commission corresponding to each of these Ministries, in fact, corresponding even to every activity of the Ministries.

17 hrs.

For example, in the Ministry of Irrigation and Power, we have got the Flood Control projects. These project designs are very well done by the States. They are checked and completely gone over in the Central Water and Power Commission. But still, we find that in the Planning Commission, there is a technical committee which goes over these projects and undertakes a technical examination, which is absolutely superfluous and unnecessary.

Similarly, the discussions on the Plans with the States can take place once in five years. Instead of that, they have discussions with the States every year, which means a huge number of the State officers coming here, as many as fifty for each State. Instead of these people being employed on the active implementation of the projects they are merely engaged in the discussions here, which involve both waste of time and waste of finance. Big committees involve lot of debates with inconclusiveness and at best result in minimum amount of work with the maximum amount of friction

I, therefore, submit that the Planning Commission must confine itself

and must devote more attention to the important stage of formulation and co-ordination.

I want to say briefly about the committee on plan projects on which we are spending quite a lot. It is very necessary for us to go back and see how far these are justified in the contingencies of today. For example, in the Ministry of Health, last year, that is, during 1960-61 a committee on the national water supply and sanitation was appointed, and that committee toured round the entire country and submitted a report. We find that in the same year, another committee appointed by the committee on plan projects also covered the same ground, which was absolutely superfluous.

Similarly, in the irrigation sector, we find that quite a number of projects were gone over by the committee on plan projects like Lakkavalli, Nagarjunasagar, Rihand and Chambal, and these investigations did not lead to any useful contribution. All this could be avoided. If you want evaluation of the project it must be done by a committee of experts. I, therefore, submit that at least in the technical sphere, at least in subjects dealing with the technical aspects it is not necessary to have committees on plan projects. It is useful to do some re-thinking and see how far we can save on the committee on plan projects.

In all modern developments, cement is absolutely essential, and it must be made available as freely as possible. But what do we find in our country? Cement is a material which can be easily manufactured. It requires only clay which is to be found everywhere; and every ton of cement requires a quarter ton of coal and about 125 k.w.h. of energy; these are small quantities. Further, the cement plants can be manufactured in this country. But, in spite of all this, we find cement scarcity in this country, and also that the cost of cement is Rs. 138 per ton in India, whereas in a country like England with its high standard of liv-

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ing, the cost is only about Rs. 74 per ton. What I mean to say is that this material of cement which is required for everyone of the developmental activities, whether it be in housing, or in projects or in aerodromes or any kind of constructions, has been made scarce unnecessarily.

Similarly, housing is a big scare for us. We find today that most of the difficulties in our proceeding with our housing projects arise from scarcity of cement. If we can make cement available cheap and more freely, then our housing projects can go ahead. I would also say that wood is also another material which is equally important. I submit that Government must take over the supply of wood for the building industry. Then, we shall find that the housing problem would be solved, and it will get a great impetus and it will not be any more a problem for us.

17.04 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

It is very necessary that Government should do this in regard to housing, because, unless they do that, the cost of houses would go up, and that will result in increased rents, and increased demands of dearness allowance and so on, which again spring back on Government. It is something like the story of a wild cat chasing its own tail.

Similarly, we find that since we are mining only one quarter of what is being mined in England, that is, about 54 million tons of coal, we find that we are unable to supply coal. Both in respect of mining coal and in respect of transport, we are far behind. This again requires consideration. It is well known all over the world that the coal industry is considered as a sick industry. Even in foreign countries, it is one of the most difficult industries. That being the case, it is all the more necessary for the Planning Commission to pay particular attention to see that coal is mined and transported as required. Otherwise, it

will lead to a great set back in the developmental activities.

There is one other item on which I want to lay a particular emphasis. We find in this country that we are far behind in respect of electrical power. We find that the demand for electricity is far more than what we have. We also find that the cost of electricity per kilowatt installed is much higher, nearly twice that in foreign countries, that is to say, for a kilowatt installed we spend about Rs. 1500 to 2000 whereas we need spend only half in England or any other European country. We also find that some States are highly deficit in power and the Tariffs are not uniform. We also require an inter-State grid in order to achieve economics. All these can be overcome by actual generating agency.

In England, for example, they have got the Central Generating Electricity Board in charge of generation of electricity. I would suggest that the Planning Commission should go in for a Central Generating Electricity Board with Zonal Area Boards. Of course, transmission and distribution of electricity can be done by the respective States.

It is very necessary to ensure that our plans sail through financial straits safely. For that, we have to effect considerable economy. As examples, I just want to mention one or two things. We are now seeking loans from the World Bank, DLF and so on. There is a certain process for obtaining loans. Technical experts from the lending agency come to this country, they examine the project for which the loan is sought very thoroughly and report. When almost everything is finalised and only formal signature is to be appended to the agreement, we find a number of officers going abroad, which is unnecessary. There must be a method by which it should be possible to avoid this spending on deputation of officers at that stage. Many times the loan is a repeat of an earlier one, as for example DVC, Koyna and so on.

Then again, we find, in respect of payments to contractors for the work done, there is a considerable delay. We follow a financial system which has come down to us from the British days. For example, in an irrigation sector the expenditure in the entire country used to be one crore rupees per year. Now we are spending Rs. 100 crores a year. Therefore, the system obviously has to be modified. Otherwise, what is happening is that the payments are so delayed that the contractor tries to recover interest. Therefore, he is charging 10—15 per cent more. We can easily reduce this if we arrange prompt payments.

In the present system for the work done, the engineer measures the work. There is a check-measure. Then the bill is sent for payment to the finance. The Finance people, unfortunately, go over this again minutely, because they want to watch and see that there is no loss of money to Government. Therefore, they go very minutely in detail into each item, even into the composition of cement and sand used in the mortars and they find some objection and the whole bill is returned and payment not made. This is exactly what is happening all over the country.

Everybody is agreed that there must not be a financial loss to the Government and there must be prompt and quick payment. The present system cannot be imposed by mere tinkering. If we adopt what is being done in the western countries we can very well avoid the delayed payments. For example, what they do in America is this. When the work is measured and the bill certified by the engineer, it goes to the paying officer. The paying officer does not take more than a week to make payment because the officer who measures and certifies is a senior officer and what they call a 'bonded officer', that is to say, an insurance company stands a guarantee as regards honesty and performance, and any carelessness is paid for by the insurance company. For the 'bonded

officer', the payment for this is very little, something like Rs. 50 for a crore of rupees. Therefore, Government is assured that it is insured against any kind of malpractice or any kind of dishonesty; they will have no loss on account of dishonesty or carelessness of the officer. That assurance being there, the paying officer does not take more than one or two days to pass on the bill. I think some such system can be easily adopted here in this country also. The LIC or some other insurance companies can take this. To protect the workers and to protect against the payment for labour and material by the contractor, we may have some bonds executed from the insurance companies.

Take some of the modern methods that are prevalent in other countries. By adopting these you can easily save on this item about 10 to 15 per cent of the cost of the project. It must be done earlier.

There is also another aspect. We all know that economy must be achieved. There is progressive approach on scientific and engineering aspects. Economy cannot be achieved by simply saying that. It has to come through progressively in the scientific and technological fields.

In order to solve this problem, they are establishing a large number of engineering colleges. Those who come out of these engineering colleges would be useful only after 15 to 20 years, after a generation. I am afraid, we are over-doing a little bit. We have established a number of technological institutes of higher technology. Each of them involves about Rs. 8 crores and an annual maintenance cost of something like Rs. 1 crore, whereas an engineering college can be run on one-fourth of this at the maximum. In reality there is not much difference in the products of these. These higher institutes are merely for what we call higher research. Higher research cannot be purchased like this. We should have been satisfied with one;

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but we have set up 4 of them. What I am submitting is that we have got to be very careful and minutely examine every item. In every item economy must be achieved.

Apart from that, I say that merely establishing engineering colleges and institutes will not solve our problems. The Planning Commission must take stock, for the next 15 years, what our requirements will be—our technological requirements. They must furnish the necessary training and experience for the engineering personnel so that they may become proficient.

For example, take the foundation engineering. In our country for the foundations of the Barauni refinery, or the Gauhati refinery or for the steel plant or heavy engineering, for every one of these things we are asking foreigners to come and aid us. We have spent huge sums on these consultants. Not a single Indian engineer or other person has been brought into the picture.

With great regret I read the other day that for the second Howrah Bridge they have already entered into a contract with a foreign firm for engineering investigation of the foundations. This is not really the way to build up the country. Definitely not. What is the answer? The Planning Commission must examine the various schemes or special items required.

For example, in the foundation structural engineering, they should not go in repeatedly for outside people. They must train people. Others can be built up. That is what exactly the Planning Commission should do. It is not merely by establishing colleges that we can solve our immediate needs. We must specialise. We must collect some officers and give them specialised training and put them in various projects which are of immediate application and useful.

There is one other thing which I would like to submit. There is a very erroneous impression that funda-

mentals can be got over. It is very necessary that the fundamentals must be assimilated. You cannot avoid that stage. They may be assimilated quickly.

For example, in Naharkatiya in Assam we have got a plant, a gas plant of 3 units of 24,000 kws. I would have suggested this, Do not do it. Go on with one. You do not exactly know when the gas will stop, how much of it is there. We do not have a clear impression. Somewhere in America it was said it is doubtful area. So, unless you are thorough with the fundamentals of technology you cannot go on.

I would now refer to the manpower in this country. We always talk very easily of man-power and the utilisation of man-power. What is it that we are doing in this respect in this country? We have got 440 millions. The economically active population is about 40 per cent. and that is about 180 million. Of the 180 million, the service, Central & State and railway consume about 3½ million. An equal number, 3½ million, is engaged in industry; and in plantations and mining. 2 millions more. That is, the salaried people come to something like 9 millions. In all, about 15 million people are in occupations out of a total active population of 180 million. Maybe, the Third Plan may create employment opportunities for another ten million, bringing the total to 25 million. Still, you will find that there is a great reservoir of 155 million people, active and able-bodied but who are inert and act as a drag and deterrent on the progress of the nation. Unless we scientifically study how we can employ them and utilise their services, we cannot progress.

I would like to quote the example of lake Baikal of Siberia. It is a big lake, 15,000 square miles equal to the area of Kerala State. That is situated at a high place and it was a curse to Siberia because the surplus water

could not stay there and all the plains became marshy lands and Siberia became to be called as 'nature's coffin'. Science has changed all that; they put a dam across the spill cause so that the entire water is now contained and regulated and flown in river Yenisei and a vast amount of power is generated. Today, it is considered the most precious treasure house of electrical energy and it is giving a vast amount of energy. Similarly, we have a vast store of human energy in India and unless we find ways of utilising it, progress is very difficult.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: Any suggestions on that?

Shri Morarji Desai: The hon. Member has forgotten the millions who are engaged in agriculture.

Dr. K. L. Rao: I am coming to that. Perhaps about 60 million may be engaged in agriculture; then the total will go to about 85 million and again the agricultural labour are engaged roughly only for 110 days a year.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member's time is up.

Dr. K. L. Rao: I would like to take five minutes more. The hon. Minister interrupted me.

Mr. Speaker: Interruptions are also part of the game.

Shri Morarji Desai: I hardly took a quarter of a minute.

Dr. K. L. Rao: Besides, the hon. Member asked for my suggestions, and I shall have to give some. We are living in times of emergency and we are going to get 187 million more mouths to be fed in the next fifteen years and they will invade our economy. That is an emergency and in such an emergency planning can employ a certain amount of restriction or compulsion or whatever we call it. For instance, in England during the war time—I had to live the whole of wartime in England we had a night fire-watching system. Three or four

people were assigned and we were to go to a big building as soon as the sun went down and we were to watch whether there was any fire anywhere nearby as a result of an air attack and in that case we have to go into action. This duty was given for one night in a week and at that time they used some bread but not butter because butter was not available. They also gave some jam.] So, they were using compulsion: all were compelled to go into fire-watching duty. We can do like-wise here and use our people for national construction service and ask people to work one day a week or 30 days in a year or one week in a year. When we multiply it by the millions of people available, we can realise the vast energy of labour available and this can be utilised in villages. We have 23,000 electrified villages and that number is going up to 43,000 in a few years. There is work in the villages in connection with the supply of electricity and the setting up of huge industries. In the other way, we have got constructive work like road-laying, well-digging or contour-bundling or work connected with the prevention of soil erosion and with afforestation and so on. All these works will produce better results in the matter of construction. All this could be done or reduced or at any rate concessional wages. If we do like this, if you will do this, any number of people coming here and any amount of growth in population need not worry us. But when you are in a bad stage, before we come to this kind of stage, we should see that we should have a certain amount of mobilisation and have a national construction service. Of course, this is a bold, daring step which requires a certain amount of propaganda and a certain amount of willingness on the part of the people. I am sure that the nation will do that; and I want it to do that. Otherwise, we are not recognising the importance and the emergency that we face.

The other point is about the excavations of canals in irrigation projects. For instance, for a canal less than 20

feet deep, why should we get labour from outside? The people who are there locally must be able to do such jobs. We should insist that the project work of such a kind must be done by the people in the locality. It should be very easy. In fact, it should be done very easily and the people will be convinced about that.

Now, one of the mistakes that the Planning Commission did was this. There was a delay in excavation of field bothies in Hirakud. All of a sudden, it was found that there was no utilisation of the project, and there was a stampede. You were forced to take hasty action. There was a stampede with the result that you want to finance the excavation of the field bothies at Hirakud. That was a blunder. It should not have been done like that. That was one of the biggest blunders. It should not have been done like that. That takes away the self-reliance of the people. Excavation for field bothies has been done for centuries by the people. But we have not done that.

I submit that if we act with a certain amount of daring spirit and with a certain sense of urgency, I am sure it will be possible for the Planning Commission, a very high and intelligent body like the Planning Commission, to take proper measures for utilising the vast reservoir of people for the Constructive work.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member should conclude now.

Dr. K. L. Rao: I am concluding. I am very thankful to you for giving me a little more time. I would say that the Planning Commission, if it devotes itself to the formulation and the co-ordination work, which is most important and essential, can be of inestimable value and serve as a ladder by which we can mount up to the dizzy heights of the glorious days that were once India's.

17-26 hrs.

CHANGE IN DATE OF SITTING

Mr. Speaker: I have to inform the House that Muharram will be observed as a closed holiday on Thursday, the 14th June, instead of Wednesday, the 13th June, 1962, the sitting of the House presently fixed for the 14th June has been cancelled and a sitting has been fixed in lieu thereof on the 13th June, 1962.

Notices of question tabled for the 14th June will be treated as having been given for the 13th June, 1962.

17-27 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS—contd.

Ministry of Finance—contd.

Mr. Speaker: Any hon. Member from the Opposition that has not been represented in this debate?

श्रीमती सहोदराबाई राय : अध्यक्ष महोदय, इस तीन महीने के सेसन में मुझे अभी तक बोलने का कोई मौका नहीं मिला है . . .

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आप ने लिख कर भेज दिया होता। इस तरह मे खड़े होकर कहना कुछ ठीक नहीं जंचता है।

श्री रामेश्वरानन्द : श्रीमान्, मैं बोलना चाहता हूँ। मैं एक मिनट के लिये पीछे चला गया था।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आपके ग्रुप का एक आदमी बोल चुका है।

श्री रामेश्वरानन्द : वह तो केवल ५, ७ मिनट ही बोले थे।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आप अभी तो बठ जाये।

मैं अपोजीशन ग्रुप्स से इस वक्त दर-स्वास्त कर रहा हूँ कि वे इस समय बोलें