

by the hon. Labour Minister that such a decision was taken at that meeting. He says that certain conditions were attached to that decision, but they have not been looked into.

Coming to the age limit, under the Factories Act the minimum age limit is 15. Therefore, if you want to raise the age limit here, you must change the provisions of the Factories Act also. In the context of the situation prevailing in our country, there are certain factories which engage people of the age group 15 to 17, for example, bidi workers ropemakers and even agricultural labour. Do you want to debar them from their normal trade union activities? That is the question. The answer which has been given by the Minister is not at all satisfactory. So, I would request him again to reconsider his decision....

Shri D. Sanjivayya: The clause has been adopted, after rejecting the amendment.

Shri Dinen Bhattacharya: ...and bring such a legislation which will cover workers engaged in all fields of work.

Shri K. N. Pandey: I am not at all sorry for having supported this Bill, because in my opinion the trade unions can thrive only if they are functioning at a proper level on a fair basis. People of doubtful character should not be allowed to occupy any important post in the trade unions. Therefore, I do support the Bill.

I was also present at the meeting of the Standing Labour Committee. As the hon. Member, Shri Sreekanth Nair, stated there was the suggestion that the term "moral turpitude" should be defined. But, as the hon. Minister has stated, it is very difficult to define it. Still, I think free pass should not be given to people who can misuse that power. My only fear is about the misuse of that power. Otherwise, I am hundred

per cent in favour of the proposition that only honest people should be allowed to function as office-bearers of trade unions. Because, trade union officials have to deal with cash amounting to lakhs or crores of rupees. If dishonest people are put in charge of trade unions, they will misappropriate money or commit fraud. Therefore, such people should not be allowed anywhere near trade unions. At the end I would again request the hon. Minister to bear in mind the suggestion that this clause should not be allowed to be misused. Therefore, some check should be provided in dealing with this clause and nobody should be given a free hand to misuse it.

Shri Sreekantan Nair: I am very sorry to note the attitude of the hon. Minister. In future it will make it very difficult for the tripartite bodies to take any decision. That is all what it comes to.

Shri D. Sanjivayya: What can I do? I have quoted it verbatim.

Shri Nambiar: I have also quoted it verbatim.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed".

The motion was adopted.

15.20 hrs.

***DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS (KERALA), 1964-65**

DEMAND NO. X—DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION AND MISCELLANEOUS

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 100 be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Kerala to defray the charges

[Mr. Deputy-Speaker]

which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1965, in respect of 'District Administration and Miscellaneous'."

DEMAND No. XIII—POLICE

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 100 be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Kerala to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1965, in respect of 'Police'."

DEMAND No. XVI—UNIVERSITY
EDUCATION

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 100 be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Kerala to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1965, in respect of 'University Education'."

DEMAND No. XVII—GENERAL EDUCATION

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,00,000 be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Kerala to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1965, in respect of 'General Education'."

DEMAND No. XIX—MEDICAL

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 100 be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Kerala to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1965, in respect of 'Medical'."

DEMAND No. XX—PUBLIC HEALTH

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 5,00,000 be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Kerala to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1965, in respect of 'Public Health'."

DEMAND No. XXVII—INDUSTRIES

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 5,00,000 be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Kerala to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1965, in respect of 'Industries'."

DEMAND No. XXIX—LABOUR AND
EMPLOYMENT

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 100 be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Kerala to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1965, in respect of 'Labour and Employment'."

DEMAND NO. XXXI—STATISTICS AND
MISCELLANEOUS

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

“That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 74,000 be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Kerala to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1965, in respect of ‘Statistics and Miscellaneous’.”

DEMAND NO. XLV—CAPITAL OUTLAY
ON CO-OPERATIVES AND ON INDUSTRIAL
DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

“That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 12,50,100 be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Kerala to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1965, in respect of ‘Capital Outlay on Co-operatives and on Industrial Development’.”

DEMAND NO. XLVII—CAPITAL OUTLAY
ON PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

“That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 5,000 be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Kerala to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1965, in respect of ‘Capital Outlay on Public Works’.”

DEMAND NO. LV—LOANS AND ADVANCES
BY THE GOVERNMENT

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

“That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 100 be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Kerala to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1965, in respect of ‘Loans and Advances by the Government’.”

DEMAND NO. XVI—UNIVERSITY
EDUCATION

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

“That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 100 be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Kerala to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1965, in respect of ‘University Education’.”

DEMAND NO. XVII—GENERAL EDUCATION

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

“That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 200 be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Kerala to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1965, in respect of ‘General Education’.”

DEMAND NO. XXV—ANIMAL HUS-
BANDRY

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

“That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 6,88,000 be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Kerala to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1965, in respect of ‘Animal Husbandry’.”

DEMAND NO. XXXIII—PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 100 be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Kerala to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1965, in respect of 'Public Works'."

DEMAND NO. XLVII—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 200 be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Kerala to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1965, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Public Works'."

DEMAND NO. XLVIII—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON OTHER WORKS

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 100 be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Kerala to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1965, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Other Works'."

DEMAND NO. LV—LOANS AND ADVANCES BY THE GOVERNMENT

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,50,000 be granted to the President out of the

Consolidated Fund of the State of Kerala to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1965, in respect of 'Loans and Advances by the Government'."

Shri Yashpal Singh (Kairana): I beg to move:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 100 in respect University Education be reduced by Re. 1."

[*Pay-scales of lecturers of the proposed college* (1)]

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 200 in respect of Capital Outlay on Public Works be reduced by Rs. 100."

[*Desirability of accelerating the work of Japanese Agricultural Demonstration Farm and the works relating thereto* (7)].

Shri Koya (Kozhikode): I beg to move:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 200 in respect of Capital Outlay on Public Works be reduced by Rs. 100."

[*Need to expedite anti-sea erosion works in Parappanangadi and Quilandy* (8)].

Shri Yashpal Singh: I beg to move:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,50,000 in respect of Loans and Advances by the Government be reduced by Rs. 100."

[*Desirability of increasing the loans to repatriates from Burma* (9)].

Shri Koya: I beg to move:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not

exceeding Rs. 2,50,000 in respect of Loans and Advances by the Government be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to grant loans of two thousand rupees per head to repatriates from Burma (10)].

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,50,000 in respect of Loans and Advances by the Government be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to create a separate department for the repatriates from Burma (11)].

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,50,000 in respect of Loans and Advances by the Government be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to avoid red-tapism and delay in granting relief to repatriates from Burma (12)].

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,50,000 in respect of Loans and Advances by the Government be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to absorb a number of repatriates from Burma as fair-price shopkeepers (13)].

Shri Nambiar (Tiruchirapalli): I beg to move:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 100 in respect of University Education be reduced by Re. 1."

[Need to include Marine and Fisheries Technology Courses in the Arts and Science College at Calicut (14)].

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 200 in respect of General Education be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Deterioration of teaching standard due to shortage of teachers in Kerala schools (15)].

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 6,88,000 in respect of Animal Husbandry be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Assistance to be given to small-scale Poultry Farms in rural parts (16)].

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 200 in respect of Capital Outlay on Public Works be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Inadequate anti-erosion measures in Kerala coast (18)].

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The Demands and cut motions are now before the House.

Shri Achuthan (Mavelikara): **Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the Supplementary Grants and the Demand No. 47 a token grant of Rs. 100 is asked for Japanese agricultural demonstrations farm. I need hardly say that Kerala is a chronic deficit State which has passed through a food crisis in the recent past.

Some hon. Members: There is no translation, Sir.

Shri Y. S. Chaudhary (Mahendragarh): At least the English translation should be given.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The English translation has been given to the Chair.

Shri Achuthan: In Kerala the land-man ratio is so poor that there is hardly 30 cents of land for every person who lives there, of which further the land fit for paddy cultivation is far less. I think it is 3 cents or so. Of the land under paddy cultivation, a fairly large portion has to be drained for water and paddy cultivation has to be carried on with great difficulty. The industrious nature of the people had induced them to cons-

[Shri Achuthan]

tract bunds at very great cost and labour and then to dewater to the extent of 4' or 5' before they can sow the paddy seed. The cost and labour involved can very well be imagined. The Agriculturists of Kerala have not neglected the call to produce more as is evident from the figures published from the research studies by the National Council of Applied Economic Research. The highest output per acre in India is from the lands in Kerala.

15.23 hrs.

[SHRI KHADILKAR in the Chair.]

In my state the agriculturists have taken to the chemical manures and there is not the unwillingness to utilise the chemical manure. It is the want of chemical manures in significant quantities and in time of need that stands in the way of intensive cultivation. Therefore, the present provision for the Japanese Agricultural demonstration farms is a welcome case. The demonstration farm is estimated to cost Rs. 421600. The proposal to start a demonstration farm with 3 Japanese families residents there using better seed and better manure and better implements on Japanese methods is to my mind a good scheme. The success of this demonstration will certainly induce the agriculturists there to adopt the methods and farms of the demonstration farm and thereby increase the yield. From the note circulated residential quarters and other conveniences are liberally provided but the actual area to be cultivated or to be brought under demonstration has not been mentioned anywhere. The real crux of the matter is how far the new method of cultivation to be adopted by the Japanese families will produce is the crucial factor to be considered. At any rate, I welcome the proposal, though a little bit costly in my conception if it will help to produce more yield per acre it will be in the permanent interest of the

country. The other demand under this head is for anti-sea erosion work.

Sir, it is a well known fact that from the North of Cochin Port to Nindakera, near Quilon the sea coast is—subject to sea erosion during the winter months. Year after year a substantial portion of the sea coast is eroded in this coast. The matter was under the active consideration of the Government of India. Some anti-sea erosion work in the form of a sea wall was undertaken during the last few years. This year also there was sea erosion at the Narakkal in Ernakulam district and Thottappally in the Alleppey district.

The work to be undertaken this year is estimated to cost Rs. 4 lakhs. The supplementary grant is for a token grant of Rs. 100 and the work will be met from the Savings available within the grant.

I have only to plead that as very often occurs this work should not be left half done, but should be completed before the next rainy season. Sir, I support the supplementary grant.

Shri P. Kunhan (Palghat): Mr. Chairman I support the Supplementary Demands for Grants. While supporting these Demands I want to say something about the situation in Kerala.

In the absence of the Kerala Legislature, the Parliament has to take all the responsibility for the affairs there. After the President's rule in Kerala State the grievances of the people are mounting up high. There have been many occasions to discuss the plight of the people in that unfortunate State. In my three cut motions which are very important, I hope the Government will pay proper attention to this problem.

The administrative expenditure of the State Government has gone up substantially during recent years; however, the remuneration paid to

the State Government's employees is very low. With the steep rise in the price level the standard of living of these employees has gone down considerably. Their demand for an increase in their dearness allowance has fallen on deaf ears. On the 27th November one and a half lakh non-gazetted officers in Kerala went on one-day token hunger strike. This is, I think, a very serious thing. The Government should have settled the grievances of the Government employees in time.

What are the demands of these non-gazetted officers? They want a rise in their dearness allowance by Rs. 25 per month in view of the high cost of living. They want the appointment of a pay commission for the fixation of their wages on a rational basis. They also want payment of salary at par with the Central Government employees as an interim measure. It is a pity that today the lowest paid NGO is getting only Rs. 79 a month. Whenever a representation was made to the Government the only reply given to the employees is that the question was being considered. The prices are going up and yet the consideration continues. I hope the Government will wake up before the NGOs are forced to go on strike for their just demands.

Another cut motion of mine is about general education in Kerala.

Though literacy is highest in Kerala, serious trends are emerging which are attacking the very purpose of education in the State. A large number of schools and colleges are adversely affected due to the shortage of food supplies. I am not going through that subject; we have already discussed it on the floor of the House.

Then, Sir, the educational system is being commercialised on a wide scale. It is a common fact that a teacher usually cannot get a job unless he pays some money to the school managers. In some cases the amount to be paid exceeds Rs. 3000. All these

illegal practices are continuing unchecked for a number of years. Several hundred instances of unapproved teachers working in Malabar area without pay can be quoted but I am not doing so for want of time.

In many places you will even find shortage of teachers. Recently, reports have appeared in the press that Calicut Medical College was short of staff. In Palghat Dist., the students of Victoria College are at present agitating against worst conditions of their hostels. Many Govt. school buildings are also said to be insecure for students. In Ottapalam taluk, Valapurzha upper primary school has been closed recently due to insecure conditions of the building. However, the Government is callous towards all these complaints.

The salary of teachers is extremely low. A secondary teacher is now getting nearly Rs. 60. Recently, 85,000 teachers in Kerala went on strike demanding rise in their pay and protesting against the threat of managements of schools to suspend teachers upto a period of six months. I would request the Government to take urgent steps in the matter and see that their salaries are increased and other grievances are settled without any delay.

Another important point that I wish to bring to the notice of the Government is that the conditions in Kerala are extremely favourable for the development of fisheries and we can earn a lot of foreign exchange if we pay some attention to this question. I suggest that marine and fisheries technology courses should be started in the Arts and Science college at Calicut. With some efforts, I think, it should not be difficult for the Government to undertake this project without any delay.

Then, there is a proposal from the Rural Institute in Thavanur that they should be permitted to start such a course. However, the Government has not given any encouragement in

[Shri P. Kunhan]

this matter. Whenever people come forward with certain proposals, the Government is not giving any satisfactory reply to them. I would only request the Government to consider this question sympathetically and see that the suggestion is accepted in the interest of the national economy.

Shri Nataraja Pillai (Trivandrum): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the supplementary demand for grants for expenditure of Kerala Government is before us. Nearly Rs. 35 lakhs are being asked by the two demands.

Under demand No. 16—University education—a token grant of Rs 100 is asked for to start a new college at Calicut as a new service. On account of the large increase in the number of students seeking admission in colleges it is said, Government propose to start an Arts and Science college at Calicut now. As you know, Kerala is one of the most advanced States in the field of literacy and yet a proper examination of the educational system will reveal certain peculiarities. The predominance of the literary or general education and the lack of technical education are the twin aspects of the educational structure in that State. While the State spends 90 per cent of the education budget on general education, barely 10 per cent is spent on technical and vocational education. In 1961-62, there were 53 Arts colleges and during the last two years more than 20 Arts colleges have come into existence. There were 38,000 students in the colleges in 1961-62 and now that number exceeds 50,000. Though the State ranks very high in general education it occupies the 12th rank among the State in India as far as technical education is concerned. I submit that at this period of transition when we are trying to changeover from agrarian economy to industrial economy, the expansion of the technical education is urgently needed and it ought to get preference. Therefore, at this period

of President Rule in Kerala, when the normal functioning is suspended, I think the decision of Government there to create one more Arts college is not a well-advised one. The proposal could well have been held over for the State legislature to come into existence and to discuss the pros and cons of the question. But in spite of that, I would welcome the starting of an Arts college at Calicut at the present moment since educational institutions are the focal points which spread enlightenment, knowledge and culture among the people. As such, I will give my support to that.

Shri Koya: Malabar is backward.

Shri Nataraja Pillai: Malabar is backward as far as the number of colleges is concerned. Even in Calicut there are colleges and nearabout there are more colleges which could be expanded by appointing the required number of teachers and giving more admissions. But the point I was making was that there must be a change over to technical education.

There is a demand in the country for a change in that direction. Planning Advisory committee, made a proposal some two years ago recommending a very definite change in the education system. They said more attention must be paid to technical and vocational training than to general education. Therefore, I say that it would have been better if the Government had decided to start a pre-professional college at Calicut.

The next item is general education under demand No. 14. Two token grants of Rs. 100 each have been asked for under that Demand. One of these grants is for qualitative improvement of science education in secondary schools. In Kerala, in the Third Five Year Plan, provision was made for the conversion of high schools into higher secondary schools and to convert high schools into multipurpose schools in 1961-62. Rs. 140

lakhs was set apart for the reorganisation of secondary education during the Third Five Year Plan. In the first year, out of the 70 schools proposed to be converted under the new scheme, only 10 were so converted, and the State incurred an expenditure of Rs. 10 lakhs or so. In 1963-64 a new change is proposed to be introduced in the secondary education called the qualitative improvement of science teaching.

This kind of haphazard and occasional changes after in the system of really help real education. On the other hand, the courses so adopted often and in making a mess of the whole affair. Educational policy is not a policy which can be changed of and on to be experimented upon. If a new scheme is introduced it has to be worked for a particular number of years, that is, for the whole secondary school period, and then only the result can be assessed and then the system should be changed if necessary. But as far as Kerala is concerned somehow or the other, unfortunately, every alternate year, new proposals were framed as and when the administration changed and you know, Sir, that we have had proverbially short-lived administrations in Kerala.

Similarly, there was a proposal for multipurpose schools, and instruments and equipment worth lakhs of rupees were purchased but they were left unused. Then, there was the scheme to convert secondary schools into higher secondary schools with an increase in the course by one and a substantial amount was spent on that. Before the result could be known, the President rule has come in now with a proposal for a new change, namely a qualitative improvement in education in the science subjects. And let us see now what this proposal is, and what the grant now asked is for. From the explanatory memorandum we find that it is proposed from the savings in the Department to supply equipment costing Rs. 2000 for each school, and the

total amount set apart is Rs. 2.75 lakhs. That means that out of the 966 secondary schools now in Kerala, the amount set apart will only suffice to meet the cost of the equipment for only 112 schools. That means that it will take eight years more to furnish all the schools with this equipment. The result will be that the qualitative improvement effected in the schools where the equipment is available will be better, and those schools which have not got the equipment will lag behind. So, the standard of education itself will be affected in a way, thereby making things a little bit difficult for the students and the people. The complication that might come because of this qualitative improvement scheme for a section of the students while others are left to lag behind is not a desirable state of affairs. I hope the Administration in Kerala could very well leave the educational system to be dealt with by the legislature of the State and by the people themselves through their representatives as they wish to do it. It need not be imposed by President rule as a very urgent thing now.

One particular feature of these supplementary demands for grants is that they are said to consist of post-budget proposals. But I would submit that these proposals were all before the Government, and action was taken on them, these items were included in the budget, and provision had been made for them in the Five Year Plan and also in the budget for the year. Yet, it is said that it is a new service. It is said that the expenditure on this will be met by the savings available in the sanctioned budget. This kind of statement by the Kerala Government does not deserve support. Therefore, I would humbly submit to Government that it will be advisable for them to withdraw this demand and drop this scheme at present.

I shall make one or two observations more. There is the Demand under the head 'Animal Husbandry' for pig rearing and bacon factory. It is said that it is a new post-budget

[Shri Nataraja Pillai]

development. But I would submit that this was included in the Third Five Year Plan, and money was allotted, and some amount was spent also in 1961-62. The scheme had been started, and the report for the first year on the activities of the Third Five Year Plan published by the Kerala Government will clearly show that pig rearing and bacon factory were things which had been included in the Third Five Year Plan and had been started also. And yet it is said that it is a new scheme, and a fresh demand is being asked for. In the same way, there is the scheme for egg collecting and hatching, for which a supplementary grant of Rs. 2.80 lakhs has been asked for. This scheme was also included in the Third Plan, and some amount was also spent under this head. As such, this is also not a new scheme.

I cannot understand why these lapses should occur under President rule and under the Advisers' regime. There is, however, a welcome feature, and that is the starting of the Japanese Agricultural Demonstration farm to be established in Kerala in order to improve agricultural production. During the last three months, we have faced the problem of food scarcity in Kerala in a very acute form. Even now, in spite of the speedy arrangements made by the Central Government, as a result of which the position is a little better, scarcity conditions do prevail. The ration now distributed is inadequate, and there is a widespread feeling as to whether the present level of ration could be sustained with the stock available. The coming two months are lean months in that area. It will be very dangerous to carry on the rationing by expecting the arrivals of trains and by expecting the people to take the paddy or rice from the railway wagons to the boiling pots to cook. That will be a hand-to-mouth existence, and that cannot be a happy arrangement, if at any stage in these processes a dislocation occurs it

will be tragic. Therefore, the only possibility is to create a buffer stock. A buffer stock can be created in Kerala only when we get bulk deliveries. There is possibility and feasibility for that, since India is importing foodgrains from foreign countries and since Kerala is blessed with two or three tolerably good ports, if a few ships are diverted there and unloaded, a buffer stock of a lakh or two lakh tons of foodgrains can be created. If this is done in Kerala, it will perhaps sustain the ration scheme.

I have pleasure in saying that during the crucial, hard, starving days in October-November, the people of Kerala were unusually tolerant and peaceful. They realised the difficulty, that the present scarcity is not due to the mismanagement of anyone. You cannot lay it at the door of anybody. There was an all round shortage and the consequence of that shortage was felt in every household in Kerala. As such, the people of Kerala took it with a certain amount of calmness and in a disciplined manner faced the torment.

There is another little point. Inter-State movement of foodgrains is now prohibited. On 8th October last, the Government prohibited the transport of foodgrains from one State to another in the Southern region. In the border areas, exhibitions of political feelings were not so great in the past; it was felt that after all we are all citizens of India; even when we were a dominion that was so. People of one State used to own land in another. This was the rule in border areas. For example, in the Trivandrum district, people own land in the Kanyakumari district of Madras State. The man in Kerala (Trivandrum district) cultivates it, reaps the harvest and stores the grain. Now he is prohibited from bringing it to his place in Kerala.

Shri Kapur Singh (Ludhiana): You can have land in the Punjab, the Kerala man.

Shri Nataraja Pillai: That State may, later on prohibit transfer of the produce to another State. People might smuggle. But the difficulty of transporting or transferring the grain from Punjab to a southern State can be imagined.

I hold land which I am allowed by law to hold. I am entitled to enjoy the yield of the land I cultivate. But I am prevented from taking that even for my own domestic consumption. In the order issued by the Government of India on 8th October, there is a clear provision that permit must be issued to transport paddy of producers there, when it is for their own household consumption. But in spite of that, as reported in the papers, the final authority at present seems to be the district officers. The Governmental orders stand, but the implementation is with the district authorities. Unless that authority takes the same view as that in the government order and is prepared to follow the orders, nothing is done. This is a case which I would humbly bring to Government's notice and ask them to look into and see what can be done.

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair (Quilon): Mr. Chairman, the situation in Kerala is so very serious that any Member from that State will feel anxiety about it. When people are suffering, we who are supposed to represent them, feel the anxiety—this feeling of anxiety comes to us who represent them. Unfortunately, the discussion about the affairs in Kerala can be taken up in this House only on very rare occasions when some such supplementary demands or some such issues are raised. The House is so busy that we do not find ample time to deal with all-India matters in their entirety. So we are short of time.

On this occasion, I want to bring to the notice of the Government and to Members of all sections in the House, that the most critical situation still continues in Kerala even today, the food situation there is as grave as it ever was. But it seems some mis-

conception about it has gained currency and the Food Minister has been making all sorts of claims and promises. The general impression is that it has been solved.

I came back from the State only two or three days ago. When I was travelling on my way to the State, I was travelling along with the entire staff of the Adviser to the Government of Kerala. They told me that 18 wagons had been moved to Trivandrum,

Early next day, that is that very night, when I was about to go to sleep, people hammered at my door in Trivandrum. When I opened the door, I found a batch of people complaining that rice rations were refused to them in 84 ration shops in the city, that the police had gathered there, and there would be a clash. So I immediately contacted the district Collector, and asked him not to send the police. Next I contacted the authorities of the Government, and the Controller and they told me that there was not sufficient stock; they said that the 18 wagons of foodgrains they had received would not suffice for a week's supply; in Trivandrum city alone, there is some deficit. In those shops, because the rations were issued last week on a Saturday, if they could skip this issue for a day, they could save one week's rations. So they advised 84 shops to do that. Out of about 500 shops, in 84 shops the people were refused even the starvation rations. So by refusing to the people who used to buy from these 84 shops, they would be able to meet the demand of the rest of the people for one week. They had 15 or 20 per cent shortage in the rice that came. So they were trying to face it by shifting one day in this manner, for 15 per cent of the citizens, that is, cheating those people of one week's rations. That was the attitude taken up by the authorities.

Hon. Members have heard what Shri Nataraja Pillai said in his speech with regard to the situation there,

[Shri N. Sreekantan Nair]

though I know that it is the authorities in Madras and Andhra who are primarily responsible for the crisis in Kerala (*Interruption*). Yes, the Chief Ministers. And the hon. Minister, Shri Subramaniam, was incompetent to move against the powers that decided these issues. I make it very plain in the House also. In spite of the earnest support of all sections of this House, the Food crisis could not be resolved and acute scarcity continues. Therefore, I struck a via media, and told these people, as they had received their rations on Saturday, they could continue to receive it every Saturday, so that there might not be any trouble, and six days' rations might be saved. This is the situation which prevailed there last week.

16 hrs.

Shri Nataraja Pillai remarked that we should have one lakh tons of rice. Actually, 1,20,000 tons would be the minimum quantity required, as has been admitted by the hon. Minister himself, for issuing rations at the rate of 6 oz. in the city and 3 oz. in the villages, for one month, and if there is nothing over and above that, there will not be enough stock. So, there should be continuous supply, and there must be an additional stock of at least 1,20,000 tons, i.e., one month's stock extra, if the situation in Kerala is to be tackled fairly.

Unfortunately, the team of administrators we have got there, with all due respect and all due admiration for the efforts put in by the great Administrator and the great trade union leader and ex-Minister of the Government of India, Shri V. V. Giri, is ineffective, and nothing is moving in the State. The Adviser's regime and the secretariat and all those sections are benumbed; it seems. Anyhow, the people there feel that they are manned by persons who are not effective.

There was a time in Kerala when the educated middle classes used to say that they would prefer President's rule instead of the rule of politicians who would never be steady and stable. That glamour of the President's rule has gone once and for all in Kerala. The administration is so ineffective, so nebulous, nothing moves.

At least in those days, such heavy problems did not crop up, and the Administrators had never to fight with the all-powerful, omnipotent Chief Ministers of very important States. Then, we had bureaucrats who had some acrobatic skill, who would dance, and create a stir among the people, and impress upon them that they were effective. Even that kind of demagogy and acrobatics in politics and administration is not there, today.

So, our civic life is almost at a stand still. That is why Shri Narayana Pillai, even though he is a Congressman, pointed out that such radical changes in the approach, in the principles, in the policies to be adopted, could only be taken up by a people's Government.

Recently, one of our Cabinet Ministers had gone to Cochin, and made a declaration that they were contemplating amending the Constitution so that elections in Kerala could be put off. Just imagine!

There is nobody to undertake responsibility. Even the Grand Old Man of India, Shri V. V. Giri, says he is fed up, and he wants to go away. So if the Centre wants to impose President's rule on Kerala for a longer period, that will only lead to riots and all sorts of upheavals. Therefore, I plead that the Government of India may be pleased to see that the misery of the people of Kerala is ended as early as possible; as long as that misery continues, let them mitigate it with whatever soothing effects, whatever concessions, they can give.

There is no meaning in opposing this Demand. It is for paltry things. Of course, some new proposals are also there. Already, we have opposed and defeated the Government in Kerala, and there is no meaning in opposing this Grant because we cannot throw out this Government. So, I support these Demands with reservations.

Shri Ravindra Varma (Thiruvella): I rise to support the Supplementary Demands presented to the House to provide for the additional expenditure that the Government of Kerala expects to incur during the current Budget Year.

Sir, the House has before it two sets of Demands, one presented in September, and the other presented more recently in November. Together, the Demands are for over Rs. 35 lakhs, of which nearly Rs. 20 lakhs are for expenditure to be incurred on revenue account, and Rs. 15 lakhs for expenditure on capital account.

Sir, these Demands include provision for a number of very urgent and significant services. Some of these are new services, others are to provide for unanticipated and increased expenditure on services from savings and reappropriations.

When this House is asked to consider these Demands, to examine the utility of these new services, or the adequacy and efficiency of the existing services, when it is called upon to evaluate needs and performances, it has to examine the Demands in some detail. I am, therefore in complete agreement with my hon. friend Shri Sreekantan Nair that it would be unfortunate if we give the impression that the pressures of parliamentary time have compelled us to content ourselves with a casual or cursory look at the needs and complicated problems of a highly sensitive State like Kerala.

To avoid this danger, and to ensure that Parliament, which has now to

exercise the functions of the State legislature in this respect, gives the attention that such budgetary approvals require, it may be useful for Parliament to think in terms of amplifying the scope and functions of the Consultative Committee on State legislation, or setting up one or more similar consultative committees that may subject such Demands to the closer scrutiny and appraisal that the House as a whole, with many demands on its time, may not be able to give.

The Demands presented in September and November include Demands to meet increased or unanticipated expenditure on land acquisition for the Parambikulam project, recruiting and training another battalion of Armed Police for the exclusive use of the Government of India, improving the quality of scientific education in secondary schools, increasing the number of arts and science colleges, providing for the rehabilitation of repatriates from Burma and unemployed goldsmiths, providing for scholarships and educational facilities for the children of unemployed goldsmiths and repatriates, the scheme for the establishment of a comprehensive polyvalent health organisation in the State, anti-sea erosion works and expenditure to subscribe to the share capital of the Cochin Oil Refinery and for other projects in connection with the oil refinery.

In view of the limited time at my disposal I shall content myself with a few observations on two or three of these Demands.

First of all, Sir, I would like to refer to the Demands for the oil refinery project. When the Union Government decided to set up an oil refinery in Kerala, and announced that a Government company was being set up for the construction and operation of the oil refinery, the decision was received with great satisfaction in Kerala. It was universally welcomed. We know that it was after much hesitation, much uncertainty,—first, second and third thoughts perhaps—that the decision

[Shri Ravindra Varma]

was taken to locate the refinery in Cochin. Though the decision to set up the refinery and allot 25 per cent of the share capital to the State has allayed apprehensions in the State, it cannot be said that all doubts about the implementation of the project have been set at rest.

The experience of Kerala with the Union projects allotted to the State has not been extremely encouraging or reassuring in the past. We have learnt to our cost in many cases that there are too many slips between the cup and the lip. The phyto-chemical project at Neriya-mangalam and the security press at Koratti—and now one may refer to the rumblings about the possibility or otherwise of the second shipyard—are only recent instances that have left us wondering about the attention given to projects that are allotted for location in the State. It is in the light of this experience and prevalent apprehensions that we have to examine the Demands for the oil refinery project.

One of the Demands is for Rs. 12.5 lakhs for subscribing to the State's shares of the capital of the Cochin Refineries Ltd. The other is for Rs. 5 lakhs for expenditure to be incurred on the construction of roads necessary for the project site, and for the provision of facilities like water supply, power supply and the like.

The work on the refinery has started. Plant and machinery will soon be set up, and the refinery is expected to go into production by 1965. But, what is the position of power that the State has agreed to supply to the refinery? Is there any provision for the generation or supply of power in this Demand that has been presented to the House?

It is well known that the State of Kerala though it is one of the richest in India in hydro-electric potential, is suffering from acute shortage of electricity. During the last year, the supply of electricity to industrial estab-

lishments was cut initially by 40 per cent, and subsequently the cut was raised to 50 per cent in some areas. Even in the case of a well established industrial concern or installation like the FACT, as my hon. friend will bear me out, the initial cut of 40 per cent was later raised to 50 per cent, and subsequently the entire production in some sections had to be closed down. The result is that the FACT has never been able to reach its full production capacity, and the loss during the last year is estimated to be of the tune of nearly Rs. 2.5 crores. When this is the way industry is suffering in the State, because of the inadequacy of power supply, what provision has been made to ensure that after the commissioning of the refinery and the production schedules of the Refinery are not held up for lack of power supply?

The refinery will require about 2.5 MWs by November 1965 and by the end of the year or the beginning of 1966, the requirement is expected to go up to 7 or 8 MWs. If the State Government is not able to assure uninterrupted power supply to the refinery, is there any proposal to set up a captive power plant along with the refinery? The Barauni refinery has a captive thermal station that generates 24 MWs. The Nunmati Refinery, with a refining capacity just under one million tons, has a captive plant that generates 6 MWs. The Cochin refinery, with its expected refining capacity of 2 million tons, will require eight MWs by the beginning of 1966. Where is this to come from?

This failure to anticipate and provide for the power requirements of the refinery may have other adverse effects on the industrial development of the State. I am not suggesting that there may be second thoughts about the refinery as about the phyto-chemicals. But we in Kerala look upon the refinery itself as a centre round which many other ancillary and subsidiary industries will grow, opening up new avenues of employment and produc-

tion. We are aware that one of the five new fertiliser plants that the Government proposes to set up in pursuance of the BECHTEL report may be located in the vicinity of the Cochin refinery to utilise naphtha from the refinery to manufacture nitrogenous fertilisers. We are also aware that the possibility of some elements of a petrochemical complex for the manufacture of synthetic fibres and plastics and the like being set up in Kerala will depend upon the growth of the refinery itself. It is, therefore, essential for the economic development of the State to ensure that the project of the refinery does not drift into the doldrums due to faulty planning and inadequate appreciation of the indispensability of an uninterrupted supply of power.

I wish now to say a few words about the industrial estates for which a demand has been included in these supplementaries. The industrial estate at Kollakadavu is only an example. Many of these estates raised high hopes when they were established, hopes that they would provide the kind of training that will help our youngmen to combat unemployment and set up units of light industry. But it must be said that many of these industrial estates are today in a state of desrepair and under utilisation. Costly machinery is lying idle; training courses are not run as planned. Very few trainees are provided with training. Scarcity of raw materials, under utilisation of facilities and general lack of attention have contributed to the disappointing state of affairs in these industrial estates. I hope that the Government will review the working in these estates and make them the cradles of a new generation trained to hasten the industrial development that the State so badly requires.

In conclusion, I wish to refer to the need to increase agricultural productivity in the State. There can be no doubt that this is one of the paramount requirements of our State. The State produces only 1.2 million tons out of

its total requirements of 2.2 million tons of foodgrains. The additional area that can be brought under cultivation of foodcrops is severely limited. Nor can it be argued that it is in the interests of the country to suggest to the agriculturists of Kerala to give up the cultivation of rubber, tea and other commercial crops and take to the cultivation of foodcrops.

So, two things are necessary: one is to increase the yield per acre. I am very glad that the hon. Member for Gurdaspur is in complete agreement with me in this. The second is that the deficit that remains must be made up by imports from other States or other countries. To ensure that the uncertainties and difficulties of procurement in other States or from abroad, the bottlenecks of transport, delays in handling and re-channelling do not throw the machinery of food supply out of gear, an adequate bufferstock must be built up in the State, as my hon. friend the Member for Quilon said a few moments ago. But when a State that is deficit in food production is cordoned off, when the movement of foodgrains from other States is taken over by the State, and the Government fixes prices and introduces rationing,—formal or informal,—without stocks to pump into the market and control prices, and without stocks to supply the rations for which the State assumes responsibility, there can certainly be a crisis of confidence. But, if bureaucratic bungling in food is inexcusable, if creating artificial scarcity and profiteering in scarce foodstuffs is criminal and anti-social, political profiteering in hunger and human misery is also vile, cynical and subversive of human values and undeniably anti-social.

With these words, I support the demands for grants.

Shri Koya: Mr. Chairman, I would like to speak about the demands for the rehabilitation of Indian citizens who have come from Burma. Because of the nationalisation and unilateral

[Shri Koya]

confiscation of business and properties of Indian citizens in Burma, hundreds of people are coming to the States of Madras and Kerala, and the Government have allotted a sum for the rehabilitation of those repatriates from Burma. I am, however, very sorry to say that because of the red-tapism in the administration, nothing has so far been given to the refugees who have come without a penny in their pockets. In regard to the refugees who have come from Pakistan to Bengal and other places, the problem was handled on a war-footing, but I am sorry to find that the problem of refugees from Burma is being handled only at snail's pace. The sum allotted for the people to start a trade is only Rs. 250 each. I wonder how a petty trade can be started with just Rs. 250. The people of Kerala are really suffering because of food scarcity and unemployment and under-employment. The people who till yesterday were earning hundreds of rupees in Burma, who were maintaining their families, are now coming with their families without a pie in their pockets. If the Government had handled this problem of Burmese refugees properly, we could have avoided much of the hardships caused to the refugees. If we had been strong in dealing with this matter and if we had cared to know the feelings of our people in Burma, we could have avoided many of the troubles. Many of the Indian nationals are under detention there. Our Embassy has taken no action for their release or deportation. No compensation has been paid to the refugees. If the Burmese Government is persuaded to pay compensation at the market rate or at least at a reasonable rate, many of the problems could have been avoided.

I understand that the Burmese Government is paying scrap iron prices for motor spare-parts—so many rupees per ton. That too is not paid there immediately. They only give Rs. 50 or Rs. 100. Even their belongings are taken by Burmese Government. Even

their clothes and other things are confiscated. The Government of India must take up this matter with the Burmese Government and see that proper compensation is given. Also, whatever Burma is going to give must be expedited. Some of the people there cannot take home anything. They are not allowed to leave. They are asked to stay there till all their money in the bank which they had brought from India is spent there. In the end, they are asked to go to India.

As far as their rehabilitation is concerned, I have suggested in one of my cut-motions that these refugees can be absorbed in the cooperative societies as managers of ration shops. Now the whole food distribution is in Government hands. Most of them were petty traders in Burma and if they could be given licences to run the fair-price shops hundreds of refugees can be absorbed in that way.

If the Government can think of having a separate department for the repatriates from Burma, their rehabilitation can be expedited. Now in certain areas in Malabar—in Cannanore and Calicut districts—there are hundreds of refugees from Burma. The Government has not even got statistics or census of the people and there is no arrangement in the collectorate to have statistics about them. Even in the note supplied to us, Government has given some approximate estimate, which I think is far from the real figures. So I would request the Government to see that all the refugees from Burma are registered and some special arrangement is made in the collectorate for their registration. Otherwise, even the Government would have no idea about the number of refugees and the actual money needed for their rehabilitation.

I am glad that the Government has sanctioned some money for the education of the children of the repatriates. I do not know whether this education is only upto the high school level or

whether they will be giving assistance to college students also. The latter must be included.

There is one demand asking money for the Japanese method of cultivation. Three Japanese families have been asked to come to Kerala and teach the Japanese method of cultivation to the people there.

Shri Nambiar (Tiruchirapalli): Improved rations will have to wait till then.

Shri Koya: I do not think things can be improved by adopting the Japanese method of cultivation. If you put in sufficient manure and cultivate properly even with the present method of cultivation we can increase our production. But the question is whether we can make Kerala self-sufficient in the matter of food.

As many previous speakers have pointed out, Kerala is producing precious cash crops like coconut, arecanut, cardamom, pepper, ginger, cashew, rubber, tea, coffee etc. We are earning a lot of foreign exchange through some of these cash crops. India is one and will always remain one. We talk about emotional integration and national unity. Therefore, it is the duty of the Government of India to feed the people of Kerala who are earning for the country so much precious foreign exchange. There is no use saying that India is one, we must divide the poverty and we must divide the hunger and Kerala can only get 3½ oz. of rice per head per day. The Government must find the foreign exchange for importing the necessary food. It is as important as our defence. The Defence Minister went to foreign countries to purchase arms and ammunitions. Feeding the people is as important as that. The Finance Minister must somehow find the money to feed the people. We must have at least 12 ounces of rice. Without that I do not know how anybody can live. I do not think the people in any other State will be satisfied with 3½ ounces of rice. India is one

and, therefore, let us have only 3½ ounces all over India. Nobody will agree to that proposition. Simply because Kerala is far away from Delhi it is being treated like this.

I am very much surprised to see the wonderful pamphlets issued by the Public Relations Department of the Government. They are asking the people of Kerala to eat mango nuts, jack fruit nuts and tamarind seeds. If the wonderful brain of these officers had been used in scientific research I feel the country would have been richer. The jack fruit season is over and the new season is yet to begin. Whatever jack fruit nuts are available the people are already using them even without the advice of these officers. Where are the tamarind seeds? They are not available at all. I do not know what all things this Government will ask us to eat.

Also, the quality of rice that is distributed in our State is hopeless. The meals served in hotels contain whole paddy and stones. But even then we do not have any digestive troubles because when we see the bills even this sort of food gets digested. The prices of things are very high. The cost of foodgrains, gram and other things has risen to such an extent that without Rs. 10 a day a poor family of an NGO or a labourer cannot make both ends meet. What is the pay that he gets? If the Government cannot check the rise in prices they must be prepared to face the agitation of the salaried class who find it very difficult to pull on.

Therefore, it is the duty of the Government to find out the required money and see that we get a buffer-stock of rice through imports. Without this the food situation in Kerala is not going to improve. Whatever the experts on food or dietary habits may say, the food problem of Kerala should be tackled immediately and the people of Kerala should be assured of at least a minimum of 12 ounces of rice per day, per head.

Shri Nambiar: Mr. Chairman, in the preamble to the Demands it has been clearly stated that due to the proclamation of the President of India under article 356, we have to decide so many issues about Kerala. First and foremost, I want to know from the Government benches whether they want to continue this agony of rule by the President for two more years, or are they going to conduct the election in February-March, as was promised earlier. We have a lurking doubt because today's papers carried the news that Shri S. K. Patil, one of the Cabinet Ministers, while speaking in Kerala has stated that there is a move to see that an amendment of the Constitution is made so that the mid-term elections could be postponed. We want to know that clearly. We hope the hon. Finance Minister will tell us what the real position is. It will be most unfair on the part of the Government to say that the nebulous state of affairs in Kerala will be prolonged for another two more years. The people of India, particularly the people of Kerala, will never like such a situation. If the Government of India want to have a postponement of the elections in India, independently of Kerala, for whatever reason, it is up to them to decide it separately. But they have given a promise on the floor of the House in answer to a supplementary question asked by me that under no circumstances will the elections be postponed beyond February-March. We want to know whether they are thinking of going back on that promise and create a situation in which the unrest in Kerala will continue for another two years.

Today the position in Kerala is such that the common man is not at all satisfied; rather, satisfied is not the correct word; he is so much frustrated that he feels that his life is not safe under the present Government of the President, conducted from far away.

An Hon. Member: Question.

Shri Nambiar: If the hon. Member, or any member of his party wants to question my statement, let him first go to Kerala and see and satisfy himself whether it is not a fact that the people of Kerala are dying inch by inch under the present ration of three and a half ounces of rice per day. That is the situation prevailing in Kerala. How can you expect an adult or even a lad to live on 3½ ounces of rice a day? And yet that ration of 3-1½ ounces has become the order of the day. I have got letters from my mother, aged 75, that she is not getting sufficient rice. I have received similar letters from my brother and sister. Many a day they carry on without a grain of rice. That is the real position. Could any of the hon. Members on the other side, the Congress Benches coming from that area dare contradict me on this issue? I am challenging them here and now. If they want to contradict me, let them do so here and now. I know that they cannot contradict me, because what I am saying is the simple truth. We cannot tolerate this situation any longer.

We are told by some that there is no rice and by some others that there is enough rice in the country. On the one side, we are told that there is no rice available; on the other side, Shri S. K. Patil has stated in Kerala the other day that the tendency of hoarding rice by consumers has created this situation. I ask; is it the consumers of Kerala or outside Kerala? Then he says that the difficulty is due to bottleneck in transport. Does he mean transport bottleneck inside Kerala or outside Kerala? If it is due to bottleneck in railway transport, what is preventing him from removing that bottleneck?

Therefore, there is no use of giving any cock and bull story about this. There is no use of postponing the elections; there is no use of talking and making all kinds of statements. The need of the hour is to give food to the people. Are the Government going

to do that? That is the first question. I know that rice is available in plenty outside Kerala, which can easily be taken to Kerala. That rice is hoarded by some people. The policy of the Government is such that if rice is hoarded now, after some time it will fetch a better price. That is the incentive offered by Government to the hoarders. The Government of the area where rice is hoarded can understand me well when I say that,

Therefore the question of food is a very important point which has to be tackled squarely. There is no gain-saying that. There is no meaning in avoiding the issue. They should not think that since they are unable to give food to the people of Kerala they are not going to elect the Congress and therefore postpone the elections thereby imposing upon them this rule which continues today for another two years under the guise of avoiding mid-term elections. These tricks of the trade are known to the people of Kerala and they are not going to allow these tricks to continue. Therefore I feel that this position should be made clear here.

16.36 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

The other day I had the opportunity of putting a question with regard to the law and order situation there and I was told by the Home Minister that the police used the minimum force required for the situation. That the Kerala people did not create violence is a fact that is known; otherwise, do you think that with 3½ ounces of ration people will be so non-violent, except in Kerala? They are so pessimistic and so good at their hearts that they will not create a violent situation in Kerala. But I do not know how long this will continue. Despite the fact that the people are so non-violent, shooting was resorted to. It was a matter for shame that students were

beaten by the mounted police in Trivandrum and in Quilon for the reason that they asked for better rationing and better food. Can they deny that they are still resorting to this terror regime?

But I submit that that terror regime cannot substitute the supply of food. They must forget the idea that by terror they can cow down the people of Kerala and bring them to such an extent that they can be forced to vote Congress. The more terror they use, the less votes they get; the less ration they give, the less seats they get and ultimately the Congress will have to forget ruling Kerala eternally. This is going to happen. Mark my words and after the elections put a question to me. This is the situation there.

Therefore the Government must at least learn from experience and behave properly. The police should be told what they should not do. There is no use in letting loose the police and asking the mounted police and the Malabar Police to run riot over the common man who wants ration to be given to him.

Coming to the question of NGOs and their dearness allowance and living conditions, a word is due because the other day the entire NGO staff of Kerala went on one-day hunger-strike throughout to focus attention on the appalling condition under which they are now living. Prices have gone up. There is no comparison of the prices with the salaries they get. Prices have gone up so much that it is humanly impossible for any family or wage-earner to live in Kerala today. I will request the Finance Minister to apply his mind to the situation particularly in Kerala.

He said the other day that the situation is grim; but it is grimmer there, if I may say so, and I would request him to apply his mind to it and see that something is done to the NGOs and the teachers. There are hundreds

[Shri Nambiar]

of teachers who are known as unapproved teachers in Kerala. Whenever teachers are required for institutions, primary, upper-primary or university institutions, teachers are not allowed. No approval is given. Then, to make the classes go the management appoints unapproved teachers. There are unapproved teachers for months together, for one or two for months together, for one or two years, working without wages and still approval is not granted. This is the state of affairs that is going on in Kerala.

Once we said that Kerala was leading in education in this country. Today, I can say.....

Shri K. N. Tiwary (Bagaha): Can the hon. Member say how much rice has reached Kerala by now?

Shri Nambiar: In the rural areas the rice ration is 3½ ounces, the quantity which Shri Bagri had the honour to show to the House the other day.

Shri K. N. Tiwary: Has it increased to ten ounces including wheat?

Shri Nambiar: No. The ration in urban areas is six ounces of rice and six ounces of wheat. In the rural areas it is 3½ ounces of rice and sometimes they are given 3 ounces of wheat also, but that is not uniform. This is the position.

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri D. R. Chavan): It is 4 ounces of rice and 6 ounces of wheat.

Shri Nambiar: From this morning or yesterday morning? From which date is it? The other day Mr. Gopalan was on a hunger-strike and he was promised that within one week something will be done. Perhaps, there has been an increase of half an ounce during the course of one week.

With regard to the shortage of teachers, I have already made a mention

and I have also mentioned about the unapproved teachers that are there. I would request the hon. Finance Minister to see that these teachers are properly appointed, their salaries paid and their service regularised.

Then, I come to the last point, that is, about the phyto-chemical project. This is completely given up in Kerala. To a Starred Q. No. 144, on 19-11-1964, put in the Rajya Sabha the answer was given that the actual expenditure incurred by Government on phyto-chemical project is Rs. 12,91,815. Now, after spending Rs. 12 lakhs and odd, that project is given up. This is a sort of wastage and it shows the loss that the Government is incurring in the name of certain projects. I have my own doubt as to whether the same fate is awaiting the second shipyard in Cochin. Recently, the question was raised here and it was said that the agreement with the Japanese firm is under way and as soon as that agreement is completed, the shipyard will be taken up. We have our own doubts as to whether this is feasible because there is also a move from Britain to get another agreement signed with regard to the shipyard and to see that the Japanese team does not come into the picture. In this controversy, we have our own anxious moments and we do not know whether this shipyard will come up at all. Or, will it have the same fate as that of the phyto-chemical project? This is a point which has also to be answered so that we may know whether the money that we are spending in Kerala will bring us any result or whether the whole thing will go into the Arabian sea as the so-called wall that is being erected on the coast to protect the sea erosion is meeting its fate. Recently, I had an opportunity of travelling through the coastal area where these so-called walls are being erected or rather stones are being deposited on the shores near Alleppy where there is sea erosion and I found it to my surprise that while only one year

back when I was travelling through the same area I found the sea about a furlong away, now the sea has come just to the road. We are spending lakhs of rupees in the name of undertaking these sea-erosion measures. They have started dumping sand so that the sea could adjust itself towards the normal shore of the sandy area. Whatever it is—I do not want to go into the technicalities of it; whether sand is good or rock is good; it is all left to the experts—but my humble submission is that enough measures are not being taken to see that this sea-erosion is stopped. There is a provision of a token demand in this respect and I would request the Central Government must effectively come into the picture and do help the people of Kerala—only till February/March, 1965 and not beyond it. The people of Kerala must have their own legislature and they must have their own Government. The President's Rule should not be extended beyond that under the plea of an impending constitutional change which is going to be brought about in the name of evading the mid-term elections. This is a thing which can never be accepted. The Government should not think in terms of such a move in order to see that the rule of Delhi is made permanent over Kerala for another two years which the people will not at all tolerate. I want a categorical reply to all the points which I have made from the Finance Minister.

Shri Ranga (Chittoor): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, whichever party may come into power in Kerala and whether there is people's Government or the Presidential Rule, there are certain problems which face Kerala for which it would not be possible for Kerala alone to find solution. Everyone knows through what misery the people of Kerala are going in regard to food. If this kind of thing had happened either in UP or in Bihar or even in West Bengal, the North Indian daily press in Hindi as well as in English would have voiced the sufferings

and grievances of the people and their thoughts so effectively that even this Parliament would have been obliged to devote more time for the consideration of such sufferings and such experiences. But, unfortunately, Kerala is so far away, and I am afraid that the present Government of India is looking at this terrible crisis in a not more humane manner than Lord Linlithgow's Government had looked at the Bengal famine.

Terrible things are happening, and we are getting reports from Kerala about them. People are suffering for months, and they have not been given any hope of any improvement in the food situation in the months to come. Government themselves, by their own accounts, plead inability to make available anything more than four ounces for adults in the rural areas, even judging from the latest correction made by the Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture, whereas our rural workers need, according to scientists and nutrition experts not less than 20 ounces for males and 18 ounces for women. With four ounces how is it possible for such workers to be able to put in their very best in the work that they have to carry on on land and also on the sea when they go out for fishing?

Just now, this House has been informed by some of our Members that even the local Government is advising the peasants as well as the workers to try and supplement whatever is being given by Government by way of rice and wheat by getting tamarind seed, mango seed and various other things and grinding them into powder and making something out of that.

Shri K. N. Tiwary: May I know whether this is the statement of the local Government or the hon. Member is himself saying this?

Shri Ranga: It has been said by the present Government and their officers. This is what we have been told just now. My hon. friend Shri K. N. Tiwary for whom I have very great respect and who has made such great sacrifices in the service of the country has not been able to go to Kerala and get any first-hand information. Here are our Keralite Members of Parliament who are as responsible as my hon. friend opposite, sitting here in the House, and who have risen in their seats and made this statement.

Shri K. N. Tiwary: I wanted to know whether my hon. friend has got direct information.

Shri Ranga: So, why should he go out of the way to contradict those statements which could not be contradicted by the Food Minister himself?

For the matter of that, even the other day, the Finance Minister was himself saying, when we were asking him for information, that they were not dependent on rice and wheat alone but they were having so many other things like tapioca and so on to supplement their diet. I would only mention the two articles which have been already referred to here.

Malayalees are expert cooks, and more than any other section of our people in our country, they have developed a genius for getting some tasteful things out of almost anything which other people would have thrown away and would have considered as not being good enough for being eaten. Consider the different items that they could make, and delectable ones too, out of just one item and see how they have been able to achieve this. For a long time, they have developed this culinary art. In every home, every mother, every daughter, every sister is able to prepare all these things. They have been doing it and that is how they have been able to live, and that is why there are not such mass-scale deaths of people in Kerala in spite of this terrible, continued and

prolonged shortage of food supplies whereas in Bengal during that famine in the last war, so many people had to die. I wish to congratulate the people of Kerala on the effort they have made to save this country from the ignominy of mass deaths due to starvation, which would have otherwise been inevitable under such conditions of continued and prolonged shortage of food.

In these circumstances, it is but meet that the whole of the nation should concern itself with, and express its concern for, the sufferings of the people of Kerala. In these conditions, is it not the duty of the Government, especially now when there is President's *raj* there, to reach whichever nation would be willing to come to our aid for the supply on an emergency scale of their ships in order to transport Andhra rice to Kerala? Should they not have done it? Is it not also the duty of this Government to have given first priority, indeed if necessary to the exclusion of other less important transport, for the transport of rice from Andhra on the railways? Instead of doing that, they go on telling us that they are sending special trains with foodgrains. How much quantity has been sent in this way? Not even one-sixth of the total need of the rationed section of the people there. Surely this does not do any credit to the Government of India. They must realise that there is a crisis there now in Kerala and it has got to be tackled on a war footing. They have not done it so far. It is true that the representative Government also of Kerala, which came to be defeated, was failing in its duty in this regard, and in various other regards also. Therefore, I cannot be quite confident that even if, as Shri Nambiar would ask us to do, Parliament were to insist on elections in February and March and there is elected there a representative Assembly, they would be able to tackle this crisis satisfactorily until and unless not only the Kerala people and the Kerala Govern-

ment but also the Government realise the gravity of the situation and shoulder the responsibility so far as the food supplies are concerned.

Secondly, there are a number of problems of equal importance which also cry for solution. I am afraid no one government in Kerala run by a party majority can possibly tackle them. Take, for instance, the population problem and the chronic unemployment. There is the threat of a refugee rehabilitation problem also coming up there; what with troubles our people are having—large numbers of them are there in Burma, in Ceylon and various other countries also. If the Indo-Ceylon agreement were to be accepted by Parliament and were to be implemented at all, the stream of these returning refugees would simply be swamping not only Tamil Nad and Andhra but Kerala also. This will be a precedent, with the result that from various other countries, wherever there are Indian settlers, quite a large number of them would be sent back, and a stream of them would be going into Kerala. That problem has to be tackled too.

Then, they have religious rivalries in a more accentuated form in Kerala, in that small area, than in the rest of India.

There is the question of education also, over which, I dare say Parliament remembers, there was so much of trouble when the Communists were in power, because these various religious denominational schools go on rivalling with each other and create their own difficult problems.

Who is going to solve these problems? Would any party government be able to solve these problems?

Shri D. C. Sharma (Gurdaspur): The Congress Government.

Shri Ranga: I have already suggested once before that even if you

cannot make that kind of experiment in the rest of India, it is high time that Parliament thinks of making an experiment here in Kerala, more especially because this is the second time that there has come to be this President's rule, and because of the admitted, accepted failure of the so-called parliamentary system of government in Kerala.

The Communists have had their opportunity to rule, they made a mess. The PSP also had it, they also came to grief. The Congress had it several times, they also failed.

Shri D. C. Sharma: But you will never have an opportunity.

Shri Ranga: My hon. friend never had the opportunity in Punjab even to go into that Assembly, and what is the earthly use of my friend saying that I would not have an opportunity to go to Kerala.

Shri D. C. Sharma: Your party, not you.

Shri Ranga: I want to go to Kerala, like everybody else, in order to discharge in the name of Parliament, our responsibility towards Kerala, and I tell you that Parliament has failed in that responsibility. That is what I have been telling you. If my hon. friend has any sense of honour at all, he should hasten to go there, come back again with a first-hand report, true report, correct report, about the sufferings of those people.

Shri D. C. Sharma: I am not talking about you, I am saying that your party will never come into power there.

Shri Ranga: Therefore, every party has had its chance. Combinations of parties have also had their chances. There were minority governments, the so-called majority governments were there, and what was even worse was this. The ruling party, because of its traditions, because of the weight of

[Shri Ranga]

responsibility that has been placed on its shoulders by the electorate in the rest of the country, should have set an example in party loyalties and public probity. What did they do? When they were in a minority, they sought the co-operation of the Socialists in a coalition. When they had the opportunity, they dismissed them, and they began to run the Government themselves. There were independents, who were politically illegitimate people, born out of the Congress, the Socialists and various other groups. They did not scruple to rally those people by offering them all sorts of baits, and in that way manufacture a kind of name-sake majority and run the show.

They had won power last time in the name of a coalition, they had ended up having their own Government, and in conclusion they came to grief. Their own people turned against them. Now, nemesis has overtaken them.

All these things, all these experiences, came to the lot of the Kerala people. Now, what would be the best possible thing to do?

The Congress President went there some time ago and in a brave fashion he said they were going to run the government by themselves, they were not going to have any more coalition with anybody else. Maybe, because no other party is willing to trust the Congress Party for a coalition.

Shri D. C. Sharma: No, no.

Shri Ranga: We do not know. Anyhow, one thing is clear. Even supposing the Congress were to make use, by backdoor methods, of the present political dispensation in order to somehow or other manufacture or manage to get a majority, that majority would not be stable as has been shown recently by the defection of their own members, and Kerala cannot be sure of a stable Government. Though both the sections of the Communists have suddenly come together again in their

usual fashion in Kerala, I sincerely hope, they would not be able to win a majority.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He can continue tomorrow. Shri Shree Narayan Das.

17 hrs.

OPINIONS ON BILL

Constitution (Amendment) Bill
(Amendment of Articles 136, 226 etc.)

Shri Shree Narayan Das (Darbhangha): Sir, I lay on the Table Paper No. III to the Bill further to amend the Constitution of India, which was circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the direction of the House on the 22nd November, 1963.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He was absent when called earlier, in the morning.

We shall now take up the calling attention notice.

17.02 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE —contd.

(ii) STAY-IN STRIKE BY THE WORKERS OF HATTI GOLD MINES, MYSORE.

Shri Sivamurthi Swamy (Koppal): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Labour and Employment to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:—

"More than 600 workers being below ground in the Hatti Gold Mines in Mysore."

The Minister of Labour and Employment (Shri D. Sanjivayya): Reports