

instructions to report by the 28th February, 1966."

The motion was adopted.

13.42 hrs.

MOTION RE: SEEDS BILL

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Shinde): Madam Chairman, on behalf of Shri C. Subramaniam, I beg to move:

"That the debate on the motion, that the Bill to provide for regulating the quality of certain seeds for sale, and for matters connected therewith, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration, which was adjourned on the 18th August, 1965, be resumed now."

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath (Hosangabad): May I ask; Madam Chairman, under what rule he is making this motion? There is no rule in the Rules of Procedure under which such a motion can be made, as far as I know the rules.

Shri Shinde: This is a pending Bill and I do not think for moving such a motion any specific provision is required.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: I am sorry, the Minister is not well posted.

Mr. Chairman: Let me see.

Shri Rane (Buldana): Madam Chairman, last time when this discussion was going on on this Bill, there was a demand from almost all hon. Members who participated in the debate that the Bill should be referred to a Select Committee. I have now been able to persuade the Hon. Minister of Food and Agriculture to refer the Bill to a Select Committee.

Mr. Chairman: The point here is different. Last time the House adjourned the debate on this Bill by a

motion on 18th August 1965. The motion now before the House is that that debate which the House then decided to adjourn be resumed. Therefore, there must be a resolution of the House before that discussion can take place. I shall now put the motion before the House.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Before you put the motion to the House, may I invite your attention to certain rules of procedure. It would be better if someone of the Law Ministry is also present here.

Mr. Chairman: I would request the hon. Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture to come forward. It would be better if some other members of the Treasury Benches are also present. Besides the hon. Minister himself, there should be some other members also to support him.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: This discussion was adjourned on the last occasion under Rule 109. That rule says:

"At any stage of a Bill which is under discussion in the House, a motion that the debate on the Bill be adjourned may be moved with the consent of the Speaker."

That was made, the motion was moved and, I suppose, the debate was adjourned, as far as my recollection goes. Now, unfortunately, the Rules of Procedure suffers from some sort of lacuna. I do not know whether it is due to oversight, or whether some other factor crept in at that time. For instance, please refer to rule 30. It deals with Private Members' Bills and Resolutions which may undergo a similar fate, and the debate adjourned. But there is a sub-rule (2). Sub-rule (1) is about adjournment of the debate on a bill or Resolution. Sub-rule (2) says that when the debate is adjourned:

"the member in charge of the Bill or the mover of the resolution,

[Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath]

as the case may be, may, if he wishes to proceed with such Bill or resolution on a subsequent day allotted for private members' business, give notice for resumption of the adjourned debate. . . ."

This categorical provision is there. It says that the member in charge of the Bill or Resolution shall give notice for the resumption of the debate. In this case, when an official Bill is adjourned, there is no provision and there is no rule which provides that the Minister in charge may give notice for resumption of the debate. I do not know why.

Mr. Chairman: If the hon. Member will read that particular sub-rule (2) of rule 30, he will notice that the notice is required in the case of private Members' Bills because all such Bills have to be balloted. If you read the sub-rule further, it says:

"..... and on receipt of such notice the relative precedence of such Bill or resolution shall be determined by ballot."

In the case of Government business, precedence or otherwise will be decided by Government in relation to its importance. Therefore, this will not apply in this particular case. I shall now put the motion to the vote of the House. The question is:

"That the debate on the motion, 'that the Bill to provide for regulating the quality of certain seeds for sale, and for matters connected therewith, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration', which was adjourned on the 18th August, 1965, be resumed now."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Chairman: The debate is resumed now. Does the Minister want to say something?

13.49 hrs.

SEEDS BILL—contd.

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Shinde): I would request the House to take up further consideration of the following motion moved by Shri Shah Nawaz Khan on the 11th May, 1965, namely:—

"That the Bill to provide for regulating the quality of certain seeds for sale, and for matters connected therewith, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Madam, Chairman, a demand was raised that the Bill should be referred to a Select Committee. My submission is this. This Bill is the first of its kind in India. It may not be perfect in all respects. If there are some defects or lacunae, when they come to light, amendments can be effected later on and we will not hesitate to seek the assistance of Parliament in properly remedying them. Moreover, it is open to the hon. Members to suggest any amendment at the stage of the clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill. I, therefore, submit that the further consideration of this Bill may be taken up.

Mr. Chairman: You have not moved the motion for referring the Bill to a Select Committee.

Shri Shinde: We are not conceding that the Bill has to be referred to a Select Committee.

Mr. Chairman: The Government have to make up their mind. We have just now been told by the whip, by a leading Member of the ruling party, that the Bill is going to be referred to a Select Committee. I want to be very clear whether the motion given notice of by Shri C. Subramaniam is going to be moved or not. That must be clarified first. There is an official notice in the name of Shri C. Subra-

maniam, the Minister of Food and Agriculture.

Shri Shinde: I have no objection to its being moved.

Mr. Chairman: It is not a question of objection. What is the opinion of the Government? I would request you to please ask Shri Subramaniam to be present in the House.

Shri Shinde: If such a motion has been given notice of I agree that it may be referred to the Select Committee.

Mr. Chairman: You have to move it and then the House has to agree to it. As the Minister is new to his post, I may inform him that since he is moving the Bill on behalf of Shri C. Subramaniam, he should move the motion for reference of this Bill to a Select Committee by reading out the names.

Shri Shree Narayan Das (Darbhanga): That will be in the form of an amendment to the main motion. The motion is for consideration of the Bill.

Mr. Chairman: He has already moved the motion for consideration of the original Bill. So, its discussion is resumed now. I am now requesting him to move the amendment.

Shri Shinde: I am thankful to the Chair. In fact, I was not instructed on this specific point. I am extremely sorry.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath (Hoshangabad): It is a very serious matter. Not instructed by whom? That should be clarified.

Mr. Chairman: I am rather perturbed, the Chair is rather perturbed over this. I feel that the Minister should be here. I would suggest that the Minister should be here now.

An hon. Member: The Minister of State is present.

Mr. Chairman: I am talking of the Minister, not the Minister of State, who is new to his post.

Shri Shinde: I beg to move:

"That the Bill to provide for regulating the quality of certain seeds for sale, and for matters connected therewith, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of 30 members, namely; Shri R. Achuthan, Shri Maganti Ankinneedu, Shri Parashottamdas Haribhai Bheel, Shri Brij Raj Singh, Shrimati Jyotsna Chanda, Shri N. T. Das, Shri M. L. Dwivedi, Shri Gajraj Singh Rao, Shri R. Muthu Gounder, Shri Badshah Gupta, Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath, Shri Kisan Veer, Shri Jiyalal Mandal, Shrimati Shashank Manjari, Shri Mohan Nayak, Shri Sarjoo Pandey, Shri S. K. Paramasivan, Shri Man Singh P. Patel, Shri Deorao S. Patil, Shri Kishen Pattnayak, Shri Pratap Singh, Shri H. C. Linga Reddy, Shri S. C. Samanta, Dr. Sarojini Mahishi, Shri Annasaheb Shinde, Shri Ku. Sivapraghassan, Shri Sivamurthi Swami, Shri Shiva Datt Upadhyaya, Shri Manikya Lal Varma and Shri C. Subramaniam with instructions to report by the first day of the next session."

Mr. Chairman: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to provide for regulating the quality of certain seeds for sale, and for matters connected therewith, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of 30 members, namely: Shri R. Achuthan, Shri Maganti Ankinneedu, Shri Parashottamdas Haribhai Bheel, Shri Brij Raj Singh, Shrimati Jyotsna Chanda, Shri N. T. Das, Shri M. L. Dwivedi, Shri Gajraj Singh Rao, Shri R. Muthu Gounder, Shri Badshah Gupta, Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath, Shri Kisan Veer, Shri Jiyalal Mandal, Shrimati Shashank Manjari, Shri Mohan Nayak, Shri Sarjoo

[Mr. Chairman]

Pandey, Shri S. K. Paramasivan, Shri Man Sinh P. Patel, Shri Deorao S. Patil, Shri Kishen Patnayak, Shri Pratap Singh, Shri H. C. Linga Reddy, Shri S. C. Samanta, Dr. Sarojini Mahishi, Shri Amasaheb Shinde, Shri Ku. Sivapraghassan, Shri Sivamurthi Swami, Shri Shiva Datt Upadhyaya, Shri Manikya Lal Varma and Shri C. Subramaniam with instructions to report by the first day of the next session".

श्री यक्षमाज सिंह (कराना) : जहाँ तक इस बिल की स्पिरिट का साल्लुक है, मैं इससे अहमत् हूँ। कुछ समय में नहीं आता है कि सरकार कहां तक इस्पैक्टर नियुक्त करेगी, किस किस बीज के ऊपर इस्पैक्टर नियुक्त किये जायेंगे। कहां तो हमने यह वादा किया हुआ है कि किसान सैल्फ-सफिमेंट होगा और कहां यह कि किसान जिस बीज को बीता है उसके ऊपर भी इस्पैक्टर नियुक्त होंगे। महात्मा गांधी ने कहा था :

"That Government is best which governs the least."

सरकार का जो काम था उसको तो सरकार ने छोड़ दिया है और किसान के काम को सरकार ने ले लिया है। राजस्थान के भन्दर लाखों एकड़ जमीन इसलिए पड़ी रह गई कि सरकार बीज सप्लाई नहीं कर सकी। उत्तर प्रदेश के भन्दर हजारों एकड़ जमीन इसलिए खाली हो गई कि इनएक्सपीरियेंस्ड इस्पैक्टर्ज ने यह कहा कि बीज के साथ आपको फटिलाइजर लेना पड़ेगा। फटिलाइजर डाला गया उस जमीन में जहाँ पानी नहीं था। नतीजा यह हुआ कि फटिलाइजर ने बीज को फूंक दिया। बीज जल गया। बीज तक भी वापिस नहीं आया। जब सरकार न तो पानी दे सकती है और न बीज दे सकती है तो फिर क्या जरूरत पड़ गई है कि किसान जिस बीज को देता है उसके ऊपर भी इस्पैक्टर सरकार नियुक्त करे। कितने हजार इस्पैक्टरों की जरूरत होगी, कितना खर्चा होगा, उसको सरकार

को देखना चाहिये। यह सब खर्चा सरकार को अपने यहाँ से तो देना नहीं पड़ता है, किसानों को ही देना पड़ता है। किसानों के ऊपर ही सारा बोझ पड़ता है, उन पर ही टैक्स लगते हैं। इस वक्त सबसे ज्यादा जो वर्ग टैक्सों के बोझ में दबा हुआ है, वह किसान वर्ग ही है। किसान के सिवा और कोई भी वर्ग इतना ज्यादा टैक्सों के बोझ में दबा हुआ नहीं है। जब इतना ज्यादा टैक्स वह देता हो, 25 परसेंट जिस तरह से किसान के ऊपर बढ़ता हो तो किसान किस तरह से ऊपर उठ सकता है। 25 परसेंट यू० पी० की गवर्नमेंट ने जिस तरह से किसान के ऊपर बढ़ा दिया है अगर उसने बिड़ला, टाटा, डालमिया के ऊपर बढ़ाया होता तो हिन्दुस्तान में गहर हो गया होता, लाखों आदमियों ने इसके खिलाफ प्रचार करना शुरू कर दिया होता। लेकिन किसान जहर की घूट भर कर बैठ गया और उसने इस प्रत्याचार को बरदाश्त कर लिया। क्या यह मुनासिब था कि इस मौके पर और ज्यादा टैक्सों का बोझ लादा जाता। इस्पैक्टर्ज की जो तनख्वाह होगी वह कहां से आएगी? वह किसान से जो टैक्स वसूल किया जाता है उस में से ही ली जाएगी।

मेरा निवेदन है कि जो काम सरकार का करने का है वह काम सरकार करे और जो काम किसान के करने का है वह काम किसान को करने का मौका दिया जाए। आपका काम यह है कि आप देश की तरहों की हिफाजत का व्यवस्था करें, देश को दुश्मनों से बचायें, देश के लिए फूड सप्लाई करें, ला एंड ग्रांडर मेनटेन करें। लेकिन यह काम तो सरकार कर नहीं रही है और किसान के काम को अपने हाथ में ले रही है। वह काम तो सरकार से होता नहीं है और किसानों के काम को सरकार अपने हाथ में लेती जा रही है। मेरी यह राय है कि यह सदन अनुरोध करे कि इस बेकार के बिल को सरकार वापिस

ले ले और किसान को अपने पैरों पर खड़ा होने दे। आत्म-निर्भरता किसान के अन्दर आयेगी तो देश तरक्की करेगा, वरना देश तरक्की नहीं कर सकता है।

सरकार कहती है कि पचास करोड़ एकड़ जमीन अंडर कल्टीवेशन है। लेकिन आप देखें कि पैदावार कितनी हो रही है। पैदावार उतनी ही हो रही है जितनी कि पांच करोड़ एकड़ जमीन में होनी चाहिये। पांच करोड़ एकड़ जमीन इतनी पैदावार दे सकती है जितनी पचास करोड़ एकड़ में हो रही है। ऐसा क्यों है? इसका कारण यह है कि किसान को अपने पैरों पर खड़ा नहीं होने दिया जाता है। सरकार खुद यह कहती है कि सारे देश में चालीस हजार ट्रैक्टर हैं जिन में से बाईस हजार आउट ऑफ ऑर्डर पड़े रहते हैं, अंडर रिपेयर्स पड़े रहते हैं और अठारह हजार ही काम में आते हैं। अब आप देखेंगे कि अठारह हजार ट्रैक्टर इस पचास करोड़ की भूमि को परिक्रमा भी नहीं दे सकते हैं, इसके चारों तरफ घूम भी नहीं सकते हैं, पैदावार करना तो दरकिनारा। सरकार को चाहिये कि वह कुछ भी कदम उठाये, सोच समझ कर उठाये।

इस बिल के पीछे जो स्पिरिट है उसकी मैं कदर करता हूँ। लेकिन आप भूल गए हैं कि किसान को मदद कैसे की जा सकती है। आपकी नीयत साफ है लेकिन ङान की कमी है। कहा जाता है

"The way to hell is often paved with good intentions."

आपकी नीयत में मुझे शक नहीं है। लेकिन जिस तरह से इमवाद की जाती है उस तरह का जान आपके पास नहीं है। मेरा अनुरोध यह है कि इस बिल को वापिस लिया जाए और किसानों को अपने पैरों पर खड़ा होने दिया जाए। यह किसान का अपना मामला है। इंस्पेक्टर लोगों का क्या तरीका होता है? जिस ने रिजर्व दे दी उसका बिल तो मंजूर कर देंगे और जिनने रिजर्व नहीं दी, जिन ने उसकी जेब गर्म नहीं की, उनके बिलों को

मंजूर नहीं करेंगे। एक मैं मामूली सी बात आपको बतलाता हूँ। तम्बाकू की कीमत इस वक़्त पच्चीस रुपये मन है। और तम्बाकू के ऊपर आज जो टैक्स उत्तर प्रदेश के अन्धर है वह पैतालीस रुपये मन है इंस्पेक्टर लोग क्या करते हैं जिसकी तरफ से उनकी जेब में पांच सौ रुपये डाल दिये जाते हैं उसकी काग़ज़ को वे थोड़ा लिख देते हैं, उसकी पैदावार को वे थोड़ी लिख देते हैं और जो ऐसा नहीं करता है उसकी पैदावार को ज्यादा लिख देते हैं। यह जो व्यरोक्तिक सिस्टम है, इसको आप बन्द करें, इसको आप बदलें। इस को बन्द करके जैसा महात्मा गांधी ने कहा था :

"That Government is best which governs the least."

उसको आप करें। किसानों को आप मीका दें कि वे अपने पैरों पर खड़ा हों। इस बिल की स्पिरिट की मैं कदर करता हूँ। लेकिन आप जानते नहीं हैं कि कैसे किसान की मदद की जाती है, इस वास्ते यह मुनासिब होगा कि आप इस बिल को वापिस ले लें।

14 hrs.

Shri Krishnapal Singh (Jalesar): Madam Chairman, so far as the object of the Bill is concerned, it is laudable; but the Bill is rather premature. In India the average farmer is not so well advanced as to understand the entire implications of the Bill. Besides, the bureaucracy—the inspectors and the laboratories—State would, as has been said by the previous speaker, complicate matters and will probably lead to a lot of harassment. Therefore it is my personal view that this Bill should not be brought at present. We should wait till the farmers get educated and are able to understand what the different types of seeds are, what a hybrid seed is and how they are to be distributed and marketed. At present most of them are ignorant.

Besides this, most of the seeds are sold by cultivators. They are sold in the market, in *mandis*, at the time of sowing or are lent to farmers on a *rate*

[Shri Krishnapal Singh]

of interest. It will be very difficult for all the cultivators to obtain quality seeds from a number of growers or producers of seeds. In the case of nurseries, I quite realise, it may be possible to exercise some kind of supervision. If this Bill were restricted to horticulture alone, I would have gladly supported it; but in the case of agriculture I know that it will be absolutely impossible to exercise supervision over all the people who store seed or who sell the seed either in the market or at home or who advance seeds on special rates of interest like 25 per cent or 50 per cent.

Therefore so far as agriculture is concerned, I think it will be a great mistake and it will lead to a good deal of hardship if it is applied to agriculture. I think, I have been in close touch with cultivators and I have done some farming myself. It is my considered opinion that it will lead to a good deal of hardship if this Bill is applied to agricultural seed. Therefore, either the Government should withdraw this Bill or restrict it to horticultural nurseries. That is my opinion. I hope, Government will kindly accept it.

श्री सरजू पाण्डेय (रसड़ा) : सभापति महोदय, मैं आप की आज्ञा से कुछ कहना चाहता हूँ।

Mr. Chairman: Shri Pandey is a member of the Select Committee and it is not very proper that he should participate in the debate just now.

Shri Warior (Trichur): With special permission.

Mr. Chairman: It is true and I know it very well that in very special circumstances, permission may be given; but the fact remains that, if I am not mistaken, Shri Pandey has already participated in the discussion.

Shri G. N. Dixit (Etawah): On a point of order. Can an hon. Member stand while the Chairman is standing?

Mr. Chairman: Unfortunately, this is the tradition which is being followed on many occasions here.

Shri Gajraj Singh Rao (Gurgaon): I also wish to say a word on this.

Mr. Chairman: Does he want to speak on the motion or intervene on this question of permitting Shri Pandey to speak? Does he want to speak?

Shri Gajraj Singh Rao: Yes.

Mr. Chairman: All right. I would request Shri Pandey that since he is a member of the Committee and has also already had a chance to speak earlier, he should take the opportunity in the Select Committee and not insist on having a special chance to speak now.

Shri Gajraj Singh Rao: I am also a member of the Select Committee but I want to say a word only about the last line of the motion. This is an important Bill and it was contemplated in the last session that the report of the Committee should be presented by the first day of the next session; that means, this session. The next session now means October and the importance of the Bill would go away.

Mr. Chairman: The first day of the next session does not mean October; it means August. In any case, his desire is to move an amendment to the motion that is before the House to the effect that instead of "the first day of the next session", "1st April" should be substituted.

Shri Gajraj Singh Rao: Yes. I want that the report should be submitted during this session so that this may be effective for the kharif crop. It is perhaps just by oversight that the words "next session" have been repeated as it was in the last session. Considering the importance of good seeds for more production, the report should be submitted in this session so that it may be regulated. I would submit to the hon. Minister that

it is just by oversight that this has been put down like this.

Mr. Chairman: This motion was circulated to Members on the 14th morning itself, that is, yesterday morning; therefore, the hon. Member should have given notice of his amendment by yesterday. I am afraid, I cannot waive the rule with regard to the time required for notice of amendments.

Shri Warior: Mr. Chairman, I wish to oppose this motion.

Shri Shinkre (Marmagoa): When he is opposing it, at least let there be quorum in the House.

Mr. Chairman: The bell is being rung. . . Now there is quorum. Shri Warior may resume his speech.

Shri Warior: I am opposing this Bill for many reasons. The first reason is this. Why should the Central Government make inroads into the autonomy of the States like this? This is a State subject. Particularly now when agriculture has become so important, the implementation of all these restrictions on seeds should be left to the States. Why should the Central Government take upon itself to have a corporation like this? We know the result of the first corporation, the Food Corporation. Now there is going to be the Seeds Corporation. When the Food Corporation came into being, food disappeared from the country. Now, the Seeds Corporation is coming into being and the seeds will also disappear from the country. As soon as these Corporations are set up, there is the failure of the Government in this field, that is, the agricultural field.

Mr. Chairman: The Food Corporation has also disappeared.

Shri Warior: That is still there. But the food has disappeared.

Mr. Chairman: The Food Corporation also.

14.11 hrs.

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

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: You should not disappear also.

Shri Warior: Now, the Seeds Corporation comes and the seeds will disappear mainly because the State Governments do not like the Central Government to interfere in their spheres of activity. That is the first reason why I am opposing this Bill.

Secondly, the Government is creating a big machinery . . .

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I think you have spoken at an earlier stage.

Shri Warior: I have not spoken on this.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Let me see the list.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: This is a new motion. So, he can speak even if he has already spoken.

Shri Warior: I have not spoken at all.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I am sorry; he has not spoken. Does he oppose the motion of reference to the Select Committee?

Shri Warior: I oppose the Bill itself.

Secondly, the Government is creating a big machinery which in turn, I am quite sure, will result in harassment of the agriculturists. Everything is controlled under this legislation. The production of seed, the distribution of seed, the sale of seed and the reproduction of seed is all controlled by the Central Government and the State Governments. I think, most of the provisions will be implemented by the State Governments because the Central Government will not be able to do that. Agriculture is such a wide field and it comes directly under the

[Shri Warrior]

State Government. Even now there is an amount of harassment to the agriculturists in this country. That is one of the main reasons why our agriculturist is not advancing in the way in which we like him to advance. I know of particular cases where the seeds are given to agriculturists and some of the State inspectors go to them and harass them to get back the seeds which were given to the agriculturists. Where they are not produced to that much extent, the agriculturist is left with nothing after paying back the Government.

Then, there are other things also. If the cultivator is not able to give back the seeds according to the quality prescribed by the Department or by the Inspectorate, he is harassed by the Inspector. They are taken to task. How can the cultivator be responsible for it? He sows the seed; he uses the fertiliser and he uses the water if that is also available to him for cultivation. That is only his responsibility. But he does not undertake the responsibility to sprout every seed. How can the cultivator know that every seed will sprout and have a good harvest? How can he be sure of it? It is left to the nature; it is left to so many other factors. But the final result is that these inspectors will not leave the agriculturist; they will harass him. And that also breeds corruption. Where the cultivator cannot satisfy the inspector or the concerned Government officials, naturally some offering is necessary . . .

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Greasing the palm.

Shri Warrior: Greasing the palm or lining the pockets. They will do whatever is possible. Whenever we think of any such legislation creating a new machinery to operate on the poor agriculturists who are mostly illiterate in our country, we must be doubly careful to see that it must not result in any harassment to the poor agriculturists.

I entirely agree that our agriculture must advance, that new techniques must be adopted, that development must be on the proper and scientific lines and all that. Everybody will agree to that. But I ask: Will the provisions contained in this Bill, the ideas enshrined in those provisions, be able to contribute so much for the development of our agriculture in a proper and scientific way?

I know of many friends who have done research in this field. For instance, my friend, Shri Karuthiruman who is looking at me is an agriculturist and he knows such things . . .

Shri Karuthiruman (Goupichettipalayam): But I do not oppose this Bill.

Shri Warrior: He cannot oppose the Bill because he sits there. If he sits here, the position will be otherwise. I think it is quite premature to have such a Corporation in our country. It will not be in the interest of the development of agriculture to set up such a machinery. It will not encourage the cultivators. I say, proper encouragement and incentives must be given to the cultivators. First of all, the Government must have a concrete plan for that. But when the cultivator is producing all these things, the Government comes and fixes the prices. The prices are fixed not from the angle of the agriculturist but from the angle of the consumer. What is the prevailing price for rice or for paddy that the agriculturist is getting and what is the actual price prevailing in the market? The middle-man is sucking these agriculturists. Why should that be allowed? The Government has got so many things to do instead of coming forward with this Bill for creating a new machinery which will only result in the harassment of the cultivator. Instead of that, I say, the Ministry can think of many ways of giving incentives to the agriculturists and by and by the agriculturists themselves will take to good variety of seed and they will also multiply the

seed and will adopt new techniques. They will adopt all scientific methods. All this will come provided the Government's basic policy is changed and the entire system is oriented in favour of the cultivators. This is why, I say, this is premature and unnecessary. This will only result in more corruption and harassment to the agriculturists. That is why I oppose this Bill in toto.

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Govinda Menon): Mr. Warrior raised a point that this is not a matter for the Centre . . .

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: We are not concerned with it here.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty (Barrackpore): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I do not want to take much time of the House. I want to urge only one particular point. I have been very much perturbed by a particular speech of Shri Subramaniam made at the Andhra Pradesh Agricultural University with regard to the seed business. What he says over there is that he pleads for introducing modern techniques. I think nobody in this House will have any quarrel with him on that. But what we have been saying is that these modern techniques and all the credit facilities should be made available to the agriculturists.

Shri Shinde: To which speech are you referring?

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: Mr. Menon knows about it. It is dated 5th February and it was made at Hyderabad.

The report says:

"he spoke for the need of 'introducing modern techniques of management in the field of seed distribution' and favoured the idea of joint stock companies participating in the seed business."

This is where the cat is out of the bag. I want that the Select Committee

should very clearly put its foot down that no clause in this Bill will be permitted to be used in in way that will by the back-door bring in the joint stock companies participating in the seed business. Not only that; while this House and, as has been stated on many occasions, Government itself is in favour of strengthening the co-operative sector in order to fight big business, here is Mr. Subramaniam, our great Food Minister, who says:

"Unfortunately in many parts of the country, the movement for democratic decentralisation had generated into opportunities for factions. In some areas, village democracy has meant a return of power to the feudal forces. In some places, the landowner has muscled his way into agencies of democratic decentralisation and co-operation."

Instead of fighting those feudal elements and raising the level of consciousness and organisation of the poorer sections of the peasantry, what he is saying is, "hand it over to Tatas and Birlas, who are in joint stock companies". If this is going to be the real intention behind the Seeds Bill, then I should say that this House should immediately tell Mr. Subramaniam and the Government that it will have nothing to do with it and will throw out this Bill.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Twenty people have already spoken. Let it now go to the Select Committee.

Shri Warrior: Now the significance of the Bill is coming up more and more.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: This was said, I think, even earlier. The Minister may reply now.

Shri Shinde: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, there seems to be considerable misunderstanding amongst the hon. members about the purpose of this Bill.

[Shri Shinde]

Hon. Member Shri Yashpal Singh raised a point that perhaps the agriculturists would be taxed as a result of enactment of this Bill. I think, Shri Yashpal Singh has failed to understand the purpose of the Bill. In fact, it would go a long way in helping the agriculturists of India if this Seeds Bill is enacted and actually put into effect. Shri Yashpal Singh, in fact, has admitted that the spirit of the Bill is all right and he welcomes it. I think all the leading countries of the world have such enactments and it has been proved beyond doubt that similar legislations have been extremely useful all over the world.

Shri Krishnapal Singh has raised a point that the conditions in the country are premature and are not favourable to enact such a legislation. I do not know what he implies thereby. As far as I can understand, in Indian conditions, the most urgent necessity today in order to raise agricultural production is to make available good quality seeds to farmers. Our own experience during the last 30 or 40 years has shown that, unless good quality seeds are made available to agriculturists, it is not possible to make popular really good quality seeds. So the difficulty as it appears today is not that seeds are unpopular or the conditions are not favourable; but so far we could not make good quality seeds available to the farmers. If the present Bill goes through the various processes and is enacted into law, I am quite sure that it will be very helpful for raising agricultural production. He also raised a point that hardship would be involved and agriculturists would be harassed. I do not know what he means thereby. Scientific regulations, in order to make good quality seeds available, will not cause any hardship. From what little experience I have in this field, I can say that, wherever good quality seeds have been produced, the agriculturists themselves are enthusiastically coming

forward and they are prepared to become growers of foundation seed or seed multipliers.

Shri Warior is opposed to the Bill on the ground that there will be a compulsory procurement. I do not know what he means by compulsory procurement.

Shri Warior: The seeds loaned to the cultivators have to be returned and there are certain regulations by the State Governments. Therein the inspectors go to the cultivators and harass them.

Shri Shinde: If the foundation seed is made available to the farmers, that is made on the condition that they have to make it available to other farmers for multiplication purposes. So it is not a compulsion, so to say. They themselves are interested in seeing that, if they grow seeds, purchasers are available, and some produce seeds for their own purposes. So, Mr. Warior's contention appears to be not very correct.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty has raised a point that seed-growing is likely to be entrusted to capitalists. I know that she is sensitive about private capital, but as conditions stand today....

Shri Warior: Private monopoly capital and not private capital.

Shri Shinde: In fact, it has not been declared by Government that seeds will be allowed to be grown only by joint stock companies. In fact, it is a highly technical subject and in the present circumstances, if some parties who have technical knowhow and technical personnel at their disposal, can help our country in growing more food, I think their help should be taken. But it does not necessarily mean that Government will not undertake such an activity on its own in government farms, or that the State Governments will not be encouraged to do that. In fact, the Centre is already taking steps to see

that the State Governments are encouraged to undertake such an activity.

My only submission is that, at this stage, the doubts which have been raised by the hon. Members are really due to some misunderstanding on their part and I am quite sure that after the Bill is received back from the Select Committee, properly examined, the House would wholeheartedly support it.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for regulating the quality of certain seeds for sale, and for matters connected therewith, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of 30 members, namely: Shri R. Achuthan, Shri Maganti Akineedu, Shri Parashottamdas Haribhai Bheel, Shri Brij Raj Singh, Shrimati Jyotsna Chanda, Shri N. T. Das, Shri M. L. Dwivedi, Shri Gajraj Singh Rao, Shri R. Muthu Gounder, Shri Badshah Gupta, Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath, Shri Kisan Veer, Shri Jiyalal Mandal, Shrimati Shashank Manjari, Shri Mohan Nayak, Shri Sarjoo Pandey, Shri S. K. Paramasivan, Shri Man Sinh P. Patel, Shri Deorao S. Patil, Shri Kishen Pattnayak, Shri Pratap Singh, Shri H. C. Linga Reddy, Shri S. C. Samanta, Dr. Sarojini Mahishi, Shri Annasaheb Shinde, Shri Ku. Sivapraghassan, Shri Sivamurthi Swami, Shri Shiva Datt Upadhyaya, Shri Manikya Lal Varma and Shri C. Subramaniam, with instructions to report by the first day of the next session."

The motion was adopted.

14.28 hrs.

UNIT TRUST OF INDIA (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat): I

beg to move:

"That the Bill to amend the Unit Trust of India Act, 1963, be taken into consideration."

The House I think, will not expect me to make a long speech. I would like to give briefly a resume of the work done by the Unit Trust.

The Trust was established in February 1964 and the sale of unit certificates commenced on the 1st July, 1964. The initial response was very encouraging and although there has been a reduction since then in the net sales of unit certificates, the Trust has been able to mobilise savings to the extent of nearly twenty crores of rupees upto the end of December, 1965, and serves about 1,34,000 investors, many of whom are individuals in the upper and middle income groups, who might not normally have invested their funds in shares or other securities. The initial dividend which the Trust has declared, namely 6.1% corresponding to a taxable income of 7.62% on the investment has not been unattractive. If it is not as high as some of the investors might have expected or desired, we should, I think, remember that, in the first year of the Trust's existence, there was necessarily a time-lag between the sale of units and the investment of funds and the Trust was not able, in consequence, to realise or to distribute a full year's income. In the current and succeeding years, we expect that the Trust will be in a position to increase its dividend.

14.30 hrs.

If the Unit Trust is to attract new investors and to make a further effort to create or mobilise savings, a mere increase in the dividend which is to be distributed might not be adequate. In the existing conditions in our country, the Trust has necessarily to compete with several other organisations and it has also to take into account the marked increase in the interest rates all round since it was establish-