

the First Statutes of the University, the members of Lok Sabha do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Samsad (Court) of the Visva-Bharati for the next term."

*The motion was adopted.*

12.30 hrs.

### RE. FOOD SITUATION IN WEST BENGAL

**Mr. Speaker:** Members may now put questions on the food situation in West Bengal.

श्री यशपाल सिंह (कैराना) : एक तरफ आप कहते हैं कि बंगाल में खाने की कमी नहीं है और दूसरी तरफ आप यह भी कह देते हैं कि जी लैफ्टिस्ट लोग हैं वे जनता को बहका लेते हैं। जब वहां पर खाने की कमी नहीं है और लैफ्टिस्ट लोग जनता को बहका लेते हैं तो यह तो वहां की गवर्नमेंट की नालायकी हुई कि खाना रहते हुए भी थोड़े से मुट्ठी भर लैफ्टिस्ट लोग जनता को बहका लेते हैं और सरकार कुछ नहीं कर पाती हैं। क्या सरकार ने कभी यह जानने की कोशिश की है कि इसका असल कारण क्या है और कितना वहां की विरोधी पार्टियों ने मांगा था और कितना सरकार ने दिया और बीच में जो गैप है, उसको कब तक पूरा किया जाएगा ?

**The Minister of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Co-operation (Shri C. Subramaniam):** Sir, I thought I made it clear. There was a shortage in the production and there is a gap between the supply and demand. That is why we are supplementing whatever is available in West Bengal with wheat which is being supplied from the central reserves. I have also indicated that as far as Calcutta is concerned the ration was reduced during November be-

cause of the difficulties with regard to the availability of wheat due to the pause in the P.L. 480 arrivals. It was reduced to a total supply of 1900 grams per week. Now it has been stepped up to 2000 grams per week, which is the quantity supplied except in one place, in all the other areas. Only 2000 grams per week is being given in Delhi, in Kanpur, in Madras, in Coimbatore and in all the other statutory rationed areas. 2000 grams is the maximum that is being given in all these places, whatever might be the content with regard to wheat and rice. That limit has been now reached in Calcutta. Therefore, from 1900 grams it has been raised to 2000 grams and orders have been issued in regard to that. In modified rationed areas, where there is no statutory rationing, they were giving 1500 grams and now it has been stepped up by another 300 grams and the people there would be given 1800 grams per week. This is the main thing. And, to meet this demand on this basis, whatever extra wheat is available we are making available to West Bengal Government.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur):** Sir, on page 5 of the statement the Minister says:

"I am sure that with all these steps taken by the West Bengal Government to increase the availability of foodgrains to the public, the situation in that State should improve considerably."

Then he says:

"Government of India is in constant touch with West Bengal Government and all possible measures will be taken to help the West Bengal Government to meet the difficult situation in that State"

This means, Sir, it is admitted by the hon. Minister that the situation in West Bengal is difficult. I would like to know whether he is aware that on 6th April a call has been given for a day's hartal despite the assurance given by the Chief Minister because

[Shri C. Subramaniam]

the United Leftist Front feel that the quota asked for by the Government of West Bengal, the quota which is actually needed to feed the people of West Bengal, that is not being given by the Centre; if so, I would like to know what is the demand of the Government of West Bengal, what is the demand placed before the Union Food Minister by the United Leftist Front and the actual supply by the Centre to West Bengal. I want to know what is the difference between the two.

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** I am afraid food is being mixed up with other things. As far as food is concerned, the Chief Minister of West Bengal phoned me up twice saying that he had discussions with the United Leftist Front leaders and that this increase from 1900 grams to 2000 grams per week in statutory rationed areas, on a par with other statutory rationed areas in other parts of the country, and also the increase by 300 grams, from 1500 grams to 1800 grams per week in modified rationed areas, has given general satisfaction. As far as that is concerned, they would require an additional quantity of 25,000 tonnes of wheat, which they asked for, and I have agreed to give that—it is not only 25,000 tons, on calculation it was found that they would require 30,000 tons and I have agreed to give this extra 30,000 tons needed for the purpose of meeting this requirement. They are asking for the release of all persons who have been charged with murder, arson, looting and all those things. They are asking for the release of these persons who have been arrested for these things and also various other things in which they were involved. As far as food is concerned, I would like to give this assurance to the House that everything possible, particularly with reference to the general food situation in the country, is being done and the West Bengal Government also are taking all possible steps to meet the situation.

**Shri Indrajit Gupta** (Calcutta South West): The Central Government has stated more than once, through the Food Minister, that only one lakh tons of rice can be supplied to West Bengal this year. On page 3 of the statement the Minister has said:

"A quantity of 4.30 lakh tonnes in terms of rice has been so far procured and it is expected that West Bengal will be able to achieve the target set for itself."

I want to know, since the target set is 11 lakh tonnes and only 4.30 lakh tonnes have been procured by the end of March, is it not quite clear to the Food Minister that the State Government's procurement target is never going to be reached and, therefore, with one lakh tonnes of rice which is promised from the Centre, based on the assumption that the procurement in the State would succeed, the quantity will now prove to be totally inadequate? Will he, therefore, reconsider the question in that light since procurement in the State has failed?

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** Since the West Bengal Government is the best judge on this matter of procurement, they are still confident that they would be able to reach this procurement target. The hon. Members belonging to the hon. Member's party and various others have extended their cooperation particularly for procurement from the bigger hoarders who have not yet delivered their stocks. I am sure if that cooperation is also coming forward, apart from the efforts of the Government of West Bengal, they will be able to reach the target. If it is not reached, at that time we may have to review the situation and see what further has to be done.

**Shri Indrajit Gupta:** What is the time, what is the target date?

**Dr. Ranen Sen** (Calcutta East): Previously, last year, the total amount of ration in Calcutta industrial area was

more than 2000 grams. Then there was a cut and it was reduced to 1900 grams and now raised to 2000 grams. The main demand of the ULF leaders in regard to food is to increase this quantum a little more than what has been offered by the State Government. They ask only for wheat and not rice. For some time past the hon. Minister for Food has been saying before us, not only informally but also in the House, that he can release any amount of wheat for West Bengal. They do not demand rice, they want only wheat. Of course, they want some kind of an assurance in the near future in regard to rice also. Therefore, in view of the statement of the hon. Minister about releasing any amount of wheat to West Bengal, I hope a little more wheat, about 100 grams more, will be made available to West Bengal. Since this is the demand of the people, may I ask the hon. Minister to look into the whole thing afresh and see that a deadlock is averted in West Bengal on the 6th April.

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** I would very earnestly appeal to hon. Members to consider this. We have fixed, as far as the ration quantum is concerned, apart from the question of how much quantity of rice and how much of wheat, that in the statutory rationed areas we should stick to this 2000 grams as the maximum. Because of the very difficult situation we have to restrain consumption and we should have controlled distribution. Now, on what basis should I discriminate in favour of Calcutta and say that they should get more than 2000 grams when in Delhi we give only 2000 grams, in Madras only 2000 grams, in Coimbatore only 2000 grams and in all the statutory rationed areas only 2000 grams. I have no doubt this will have further repercussions also. As far as manual labour is concerned apart from this an additional quantity is given. That is quite a different thing altogether. Therefore, I would

appeal to hon. Members not to insist on this extra 100 grams. After all, it is a small quantity compared to 2000 grams being given per week, taking into account the overall situation and the supply position in all the other statutory rationed areas and the great difficulty even for this supply. Even though hon. Members on the other side have been objecting to PL 480, all this is from PL 480, supplies and we have to depend upon the arrival of PL 480 supplies even for the supply of wheat.

**Shri H. N. Mukerjee (Calcutta—Central):** I am sorry, the ways of Government appear to smack of horse-trading methods, because concession is coming in annoying dribblets only when pressure is there, and that is why there is this question of hartal on the 6th of April. Government waits for this kind of pressure and then gives some kind of concession. This is a sort of thing which will not work. I ask, why is it even at this point of time Government of India does not exercise its good offices with the Government of West Bengal in terms of the assurance which the Prime Minister had earlier given to some of us, that popular committees would be set up at different levels in order to assist in the work of procurement as well as the distribution of foodgrains? Without this kind of thing, whatever the Government is trying to do on appear would not produce the right results, and I want an assurance from the Government of India that in regard to the setting up of popular committees at different levels to help procurement and distribution the Government of West Bengal would be told what is their duty.

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** I am sure the hon. Member would not charge the Government of India that we have not taken any steps or that we have not moved in the matter. I am sure the hon. Member is aware of

[Shri C. Subramaniam]

the action we have taken. Now the question is whether all-parties committees should be set up. As a matter of fact, a step has been taken by the West Bengal Government and a committee at the State level has already been appointed. If further committees have got to be appointed at the district level, block level and the village level, I am sure the Committee at the State level, when it meets, can take that decision. With reference to the total situation in West Bengal, with reference to procurement and distribution, if constructive suggestions are made in this Committee, I have no doubt in my mind that the West Bengal Government would actually respond to it. I am sorry, the hon. Member said that there is horse trading. As a matter of fact, I would like to know on which side there is horse trading. The West Bengal Government have increased the ration to the level which is available throughout the country. Now, after having reached that level, they want 100 grams more, which is not a significant quantity. I would like to know on which side is horse trading now.

डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया (फरुखाबाद): मंत्री महोदय ने सफा 2 पर जनवरी, फरवरी और मार्च के अनाज के अनुदान बताये हैं। जनवरी में 80 हजार टन, फरवरी में 1 लाख टन और मार्च में 1 लाख 10 हजार टन। इसके मानी फरवरी में 25 सैकड़ा बढ़ा और मार्च में 40 सैकड़ा बढ़ा और उसी के साथ साथ अध्यक्ष महोदय में आपका ध्यान दिलाऊँ कि फरवरी से तोड़फोड़ और गोली जारी है, तो मंत्री महोदय क्या कार्यवाही कर रहे हैं जनता को यह बताने के लिए कि इन दोनों में कोई सम्बन्ध नहीं है और तोड़फोड़ और गोली चलने के बाद में ही अन्न की पू बढ़ नहीं जाया करती। मैं आपका ध्यान दिला दूँ 25 सैकड़ा और 40 सैकड़ा बढ़ा।

Shri C. Subramaniam: I do not know what answer I have to give to this. Am I expected to give any opinion on this?

An hon. Member: Answer the question.

Shri C. Subramaniam: I have no answer to give.

Mr. Speaker: I have not followed this.

डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया : अध्यक्ष महोदय, यह क्या कर रहे हैं ? यह कुछ कार्यवाही कर रहे हैं ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आप फिर दोहरा दीजिए। लिये साहब, मैंने आपको बुलाया आप खड़े नहीं हुए।

श्री मधु लिये (मुंगेर) : मैंने सुना नहीं।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मैं क्या कर सकता हूँ ?

डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया : यह जनवरी फरवरी और मार्च, में अन्न की केन्द्र की तरफ से बंगाल को जो पूर्ति दी जाती है वह बढ़ती जा रही है। 25 सैकड़ा और 40 सैकड़ा बढ़ी और उसी के साथ साथ फरवरी और मार्च से तोड़फोड़ और गोली जारी है, बढ़ा जबदस्त आन्दोलन जारी है, तो मंत्री महोदय क्या कार्यवाही कर रहे हैं जनता के मन से इस बात को निकालने के लिए कि जब गोली चलती है, तोड़फोड़ होता है, उपद्रव होते हैं, तभी अन्न की पूर्ति बढ़ायी जाती है ? कोई कार्यवाही तो कर रहे होंगे न ? दोनों में सम्बन्ध जुड़ गया।

Shri C. Subramaniam: After taking into account the general availability in the country, we make available to the State Government as

much as possible according to their demand. If the hon. Member thinks that we are going to yield to pressure or violence alone, then perhaps the hon. Member expects that I should refuse anything they ask for.

श्री मधु लिनये : अध्यक्ष महोदय इनका 'एलोन' शब्द नोट किया जाये।

डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया : अब देखिए, अध्यक्ष महोदय, 'एलोन' इन्होंने कहा। इसके मानी इनके ऊपर जरूर असर पड़ना है उसका भी। तो जरा मारपीट हो जाया करे तो यह ज्यादा दे दिया करेंगे।

श्री रघुनाथ सिंह (बराणसी) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, यहाँ राष्ट्रीय नाविक दिवस . . .

Shri Dinen Bhattacharya (Serampore): This is a very important issue. We must be given a chance.

अध्यक्ष महोदय आपका नाम नहीं है।

Shri Dinen Bhattacharya: We have come only today. We must be given a chance. I am interested in this matter. The hon. Minister has made a wrong statement.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I cannot help it.

Shri Dinen Bhattacharya: He is giving a wrong impression as if we are demanding discrimination between one State and another. He is making such statements.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. He will kindly resume his seat.

Shri Dinen Bhattacharya: I will sit down. But my appeal to you is to give me a chance to correct the statement.

Mr. Speaker: I am sorry, I cannot allow it.

Shri Dinen Bhattacharya: He is creating wrong impression in the country that we in West Bengal are asking something special.

Mr. Speaker: Will he listen to me or not?

Shri Dinen Bhattacharya: I will listen. But, at the same time, Sir, I would request you to listen to me also.

Mr. Speaker: He will kindly sit down. I will ask him to do it. If he feels that the statement given by the Minister is wrong, he can write to me.

Shri Dinen Bhattacharya: I will write to you and then you will give me a chance. But, in the mean time, everything will appear in the paper, people will read it and a wrong impression will be created.

Mr. Speaker: I am not going to change the procedure for his sake.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Sir, I rise on a point of order.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Time is wasted so much.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: How is so much time wasted?

Mr. Speaker: What is the point of order?

Shri S. M. Banerjee: My point of order is this.

Shri Sheo Narain (Bans): What is the rule?

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Rule 376.

Mr. Speaker: No, it is not a general rule that every time . . .

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Sir, kindly hear me.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय (देवास) : यह जिवनारायण जी हमेशा कार्यवाही में बाधा डालते हैं, मेरा प्रस्ताव है कि उन्हें निकाला जाय . . . (स्ववचन)

श्री स० मो० बनर्जी : मेरा प्वाइंट ऑफ ऑर्डर यह है कि कल यह स्टेटमेंट जब सदन के सामने आया था तो हम लोगों ने खड़े हो कर पूछा कि हम लोगों ने कालिग प्रॉपोजिशन नोटिस दिया है। आपने कहा कि कालिग प्रॉपोजिशन नोटिस रिजेक्ट कर दिया है लेकिन यह स्टेटमेंट मिनिस्टर दे रहे हैं। आपने कृपा की कि नाम बुलाने में सहूलियत के हिसाब से यह किया कि जिन्होंने कालिग प्रॉपोजिशन दिया था और जिनको रिजेक्ट कर दिया था उनको आपने पुकारा। तो मेरा निवेदन है कि दिनेन भट्टाचार्य जी एक पार्टी को बिलांग करते हैं तो जिस तरह से आपने स्टेटमेंट के ऊपर कालिग प्रॉपोजिशन में जिनका नाम था उनको चांस दिया जब कि वह रिजेक्ट हो गये थे, सुधो मोटो जैसे आपने उनको बुलाया वैसे ही इनको भी आप चांस दे सकते हैं।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : उन्होंने जब स्टेटमेंट करने के लिए स्वीकार किया तो मैंने रेस्टोर कर लिया वही जो काल प्रॉपोजिशन नोटिस मेरे पास थे और आप यह देखिये कि 376 इसलिये नहीं है कि आप उसके नीचे प्वाइंट ऑफ ऑर्डर रोज कर सकते हैं। प्वाइंट ऑफ ऑर्डर किसको रिलेट करेगा उसमें यह है। . . . (व्यवधान) . . . मैं ने पढ़ा है। फिर पढ़े देता हूँ :

"A point of order shall relate to the interpretation or enforcement of these rules. . . ."

श्री S. M. Banerjee: Kindly read what is mentioned next.

Mr. Speaker: "....or such Articles of the Constitution as regulate the business of the House. . . ."

श्री एम० एन० बनर्जी : प्रश्न मुझे कार्यवाही चलाने दीजिए।

श्री हुकम चन्द कच्छवाय : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मुझे एक सवाल पूछ लेने दीजिए . . .

श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : अध्यक्ष महोदय, आपसे निवेदन है और सदन से प्रार्थना है कि प्रति वर्ष राष्ट्रीय सामुद्रिक नाविक दिवस मंडल हाल में हम मनाते हैं और राष्ट्रपति जी उसका उद्घाटन करते हैं। और इस वर्ष भी राष्ट्रपति जी राष्ट्रीय नाविक दिवस . . . . .

Interruptions \* \* \*

Mr. Speaker: This will not go on record—four hon. Members talking at the same time and spoiling the record.

श्री रामसेवक यादव (बाराबांकी) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मधु लिमये साहब का नाम था उसमें। सुन नहीं सके। . . .

अध्यक्ष महोदय : अब अगर कोई मम्बर यहां बातों में मसरूफ रहे और मैं बुलाऊं तो उस वक्त खड़ा न हो, फिर यह कहे कि मैंने सुना नहीं तो मैं उसकी हेल्प नहीं कर सकता।

श्री मधु लिमये : मैं बातों में नहीं था।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : अब वह जो सामने मामला है उसकी तरफ ध्यान नहीं देते

श्री मधु लिमये : अध्यक्ष महोदय लिस्ट होती है तो पता चलता है, सावधान रहते हैं : इसमें तो लिस्ट नहीं थी। हमें पता भी नहीं था। . . . . (व्यवधान)

अध्यक्ष महोदय : अब मौर्य जी, मधु लिमये को आपकी मदद की जरूरत नहीं जो आप खड़े हो गए। आप बैठ जाइए। . . . . (व्यवधान) . . . यह क्या बात है ? कार्यवाही चलने क्यों नहीं देते ?

श्री मधु लिमये : चूंकि कोई लिस्ट मेरे सामने नहीं थी इसलिए

**अध्यक्ष महोदय :** वह तो खत्म हुआ मामला । अब वह नहीं उठ सकता ।

**श्री रघुनाथ सिंह :** मैं यह निवेदन कर रहा था हाउस से कि हर साल हमारा राष्ट्रीय नाविक दिवस सेंट्रल हाल में आयोजित होता रहा है और इस बार राष्ट्रपति जी उसका उद्घाटन करेंगे । राज्य सभा मेरे विचार में 4 तारीख को 5 बजे उठ जायगी बाकी लोक-सभा में हम लोगों ने दो, चार दिन पहले प्रस्ताव पास किया था कि हमारी बैठक 6 बजे तक हुआ करेगी इसलिये मेरा निवेदन है कि 4 तारीख को 5 बजे शाम को हमारा हाउस ऐडजर्न हो जाना चाहिए ।

**अध्यक्ष महोदय :** यह हाउस की मर्जी है ।

**Shri U. M. Trivedi (Mandsaur):** This is a very good suggestion. If the House agrees and you agree, the House should rise at 5 o'clock on that day. It is a very good occasion.

**Mr. Speaker:** If the House agrees, we can rise at 5 o'clock.

**Some hon. Members:** Yes.

**डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया :** अगर श्री रघुनाथ सिंह हम लोगों को सिगापुर और टोकियो आदि घुमवा दें तो बड़ा अच्छा हो ।

12.51 hrs.

**\*DEMANDS FOR GRANTS—contd.  
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE—contd.**

**Mr. Speaker:** The House will now take up further discussion and voting on the Demands for Grants relating to the Ministry of Defence. 2 hours and 35 minutes remain.

**Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath (Hoshangabad):** At 3 o'clock the Home Minister is to make a statement.

**Mr. Speaker:** How long will the hon. Minister like to take?

**The Minister of Defence (Shri Y. B. Chavan):** A minimum of 45 minutes.

**Mr. Speaker:** I will be calling him at a quarter to three.

**Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:** That statement will be after this or before?

**Mr. Speaker:** We can take that up after this, if the House so desires.

**Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad (Bhagalpur):** Yes, Sir; that may be taken up after the reply is over.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur):** Sir, we have not followed, who will reply to what.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Defence Minister will reply to this debate at a quarter to three and finish by 3.30. Then, there will be the Home Minister's statement. Shri Surendra Pal Singh may continue his speech.

**Shri Surendra Pal Singh (Bulandshahr):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was saying yesterday that since we have had an opportunity of having a first-hand experience of fighting with the Chinese and the Pakistani armies, we should now be able to make a proper assessment of all the strong and weak points of the two armies and on the basis of that assessment and also on the strength of the information that we may have received from our intelligence and other sources, we should be able to formulate and evolve our own military strategy in order to prepare our armed forces fully to meet the danger from across the borders. After all, it is not necessary that we should always purchase military improvements through boundless waste of human blood. This progress, in my opinion, should come from the power of human thought and reflections.