(b) The official responsible for the irregular purchases was a Technical Assistant in the Food Corporation who was immediately placed under suspension. The case has been referred by the Food Corporation of India to the Central Bureau of Investigation for further investigation. The report of the Bureau is awaited.

DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: Is the hon. Minister aware that just about two months back, in the last Session, the question about the scandal of missing train full of sugar worth about Rs. 3 crores was asked? That is also still under investigation. We do not know what has happened. Now there is a scandal of dal. In the serious irregularities, have they found that over a short period of time the F.C.I. purchased dal worth about Rs. 50 lakhs. and the loss incurred was Rs. 10 lakhs? If that is a fact, my subsequent question would be-is Government going to tighten FCI administration at the purchase and distribution level? How are you going to deal with this deal, because two scandals have taken place in Madhya Pradesh in a short period of time in FCI Department? I would like to know the overall policy of the Government. Are they going to tighten the entire administration so far as purchase and distribution is concerned?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICUL-TURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUC-TION AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO); It was the supervisory mechanism which detected this mal-practice before it came to light through press. Action had already been taken by the senior officers. A person had been suspended. The quantity involved was approximately of the order of about 9000 quintals. But out of that payment had been made for approximately 2900 quintals worth of arhar. The rest of the quantity that had been purchased was returned to the producers and, therefore, there was no loss incurred on that account. Investigation is continuing through the C.B.I. and we shall see how this loss can be recovered. The purchase was made for the Army.

DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: The entire quantity of dal purchased was not from the producer but ït the was from the traders. Was quantity paid for, really belonged to the producer or to the trader? To my knowledge the trader who has benefited out of this scandal is trying to build up political pressure to see that CBI enquiry is also hushed up. What steps does the Government plan to take to see that at he purchase as well as disribution level FCI administration is tightened up?

SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO: Every effort is being made to tighten purchase and distribution mechanism. F.C.I. is a very big Corporation. We have been asnwering on this point from time to time in this House. But I am not very sure whether this dal was purchased from the producers directly in the mandi or from the traders. So far as I know the policy is if purchase is to be made from the traders, the approval of Government is necessary by the FCI. The practice is that it has to be purchased in the mandi directly from the producers.

(Interruptions)

Assessment of Living conditions in Sewa Kutir, Delhi

*184. SHRI BAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI:

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN:

Will the Minister, of EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made and any exercise to assess the living conditions in Sewa Kutir, , , a remand home for beggars in Delta and with regard to the operation of

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the Bombay Prevention of Begging Act, 1959 (as extended to Delhi);

(b) if so, when and with what result:

(c) whether cases have come to the notice of Government where a nonbeggar was arrested under the Act and detained in Sewa Kutir; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the measures taken by Government to prevent such incidents in future and to improve the living conditions in the Sewa Kutir?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Tabue of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) The National Institute of Social Defence has conducted a general study during 1978-80, regarding the economic factors leading an individual to beggary and the impact of the institutional programmes on the inmates. This study was based on the sample from the located in two institutions Sewa Kutir. The dilapidated condition of some buildings in these institutions has been referred to in this study. Information is being collected from Delhi Administration about the steps taken by it to improve the situation. No exercise has been conducted in regard to the operation of Bombay Prevention of Begging Act, 1959 (as extended to Delhi).

(c) According to the information supplied b_y Delhi Administration, there have been no cases of innocent persons who were arrested for being beggers. But some complaints have come to Government's notice from press reports and a study conducted by the National Institute of Social Defence. These are being looked into.

(d) In order to improve the living conditions in Sewa Kutir, it is proposed to construct a new residential complex to accommodate 400 inmates.

श्री राजनाथ सोनकर शास्त्री : मंत्री महोदय ने म्रपने उत्तर में यह बताया है कि राष्ट्रीय समाज रक्षा संस्थान ने 1978 में भिक्षुकों के सम्बन्ध में एक स्टडी किया था जिस में कि वहां की टूटी फूटी इमारतों. वहां की ग्रव्यवस्था, प्रधिकारियों के रूखे व्यवहार, दी गई सहायताम्रों के दूरुपयोग म्रादि का वर्णन किया गया है । हम ने उस रिपोर्ट को डिटेल में देखा है । उस रिपोर्ट में राष्ट्रीय समाज रक्षा संस्थान ने यह भी बताय। है कि उन भवनों की स्थिति ऐसी है जिस से कि वह एक भी म्रादमी के रहने क.बिल नहीं है, उन भवनों को तत्काल ठीक किया जाय । 1978 में यह रिपोर्ट मंत्रालय को मिली थी। उस के बाद से ग्रब तक सरकार ने इस रिपोर्ट को प्राप्त करने के बाद क्या कार्यवाही की श्रौर क्या इस स्थिति में सुधार किया, यह बताने की कृपा मंत्री महोदय करे।

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: The Government of India has given sanction for accommodating 400 inmates plus 26 staff quarters, both together cost about Rs. 50 lakhs. Delhi Administration has also given administrative approval. It is proposed to start the work of these buildings. The Lt. Governor himself has visited this institution twice and he has given instructions to improve the conditions prevailing there.

श्रो राजनाथ सोनकर शास्त्री : मती महोदय ने ग्रपने उत्तर में ग्रागे यह बताया है कि दिल्ली प्रशासन ढारा दी गई जानकारी के ग्रनुसार निर्दोप व्यक्तियों के भिखारी समझ कर पकड़े जाने का कोई मामला सरकार को नहीं मिला है । ग्रागे यह भी कहा गया है– परन्तु इस सम्प्रन्ध में पुष्ट शिकायतें प्रेस रिपोर्ट तथा राष्ट्रीय समाज रक्षा संस्थान ढारा किए गए म्राध्ययन से मिली हैं ग्रौर उस की जांच भी कराई जा रही है । हमें बड़ा दुख है कि सरकार को कोई शिकायत नहीं मिली, केवल प्रेस से थ्रौर इधर उधर से शिकायत मिली । मैं गंत्री जी से पूछना चाहता हूं, क्या तामिलनाडु से प्राए हुए एक देहाती जिस का नाम कुप्पू स्वामी था, उस की बहन यहां एक होटल में काम करती थी जिस की मृत्यु हो गई द्रार वह उस होटल में उस से मिलने के लिए ग्राया लेकिन उस को पुलिस ने पकड़ा, पकडे जाने के बाद वह बार बार कहता रहा कि मैं भिखारी नहीं हूं, लेकिन उस को पुलिस ने बहुत बुरी तरह से पीटा ग्रौर पीट कर भिक्षा गृह में ले जा कर बन्द कर दिया...

श्रो झटल बिहारो घाज्पेये : गनीमत है कि उस की आंख नही निकाली, दिल्ली पुलिस को उस के लिए धन्यवाद देना चाहिए । ... (ब्यवधान)...

श्वी राननाय सोलकर शास्त्रेः महतो कुप्पू स्वामी की एक बातहो गई। मंती जी बताएं कि क्या यह बात सही है या नहीं ?

दूसरी बात—वाराणसी का एक शंकर नाम का व्यक्ति . . .

ग्रअध्**क्ष महोदय**ः यह तो ग्राप इंडिविजुग्रल केसेज ले रहे है ।

How can you do that?

धो राजन(थ सोलकर सास्त्रोः तो हम मंत्री जी मे यही पूछना चाहते है कि क्या इस प्रकार की ये सब घटनाएं उन के नालेज मे हैं या नहीं ? यदि है तो जो भिखारों नहीं हैं, उन को जो बराबर पकड़ा जा रहा है पूरे देश में उन पर मंत्री जी क्या कार्यवाही कर रहे है भ्रोर कुप्पू स्वामी की घटना क्या है ?

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: It will be difficult for me to state anything about ... (Interruptions) e will certainly make enquiries. T : infor-

mation available from Delhi Administration does not mention the name Shri Kuppuswamy, as the hon. of Member is saying. We will make enquiries if the hon. Member wants to pass on the information on what particular date he had been arrested. But it has been brought to our notice that some innocent people have also been arrested. That is why we propose to issue instructions to the Delhi Administration that hereafter only those who are found actually asking for alms should be arrested and no innocent person should be arrested.

भो राम विलास पासवान : ग्रध्यक्ष महोदय, यदि मंत्री जी 18-10-80 का इंडियन एक्सप्रेस पढ़ लिए होते तो मैं समझता हूं उनको पूरी जानकारी मिल जाती । 18-10-80 के इंडियन एक्सप्रेस में कुप्पूस्वामी ग्रौर जितने स्वामी है....

MR. SPEAKER: I object to this...

एक माननीय सदस्य : जितने भी स्वामी है ।... (व्यवधान) ...

MR. SPEAKER: I am the custodian of 'Swamis' who are hon. Members of this House.

श्रो राम बिसास पासवान : यह बात ग्रलग है कि कुप्पूस्वामी को ही पकड़ा गया, दूसरे स्वामी बच गए। (ध्यवधान) तो मैं यह कह रहा था कि मंत्री महोदय 18-10-80 का इंडियन एक्सप्रेस पढ़ते तो उसमें पूरे डिटेल्स में दिया हुग्रा है ग्रौर मैं समझता हू इस पर क्वैश्चन नही बल्कि डिस्कशन की ग्रावश्यकता है। जिस तरह से ग्रांख निकालने की बात कही गई है उसी तरह से यह भी एक रैकेट है।

मैं जानना हूं क्या ग्रभी तक सरकार ने पता लगाया है कि जो बैगर्स हैं उनकी बैगिंग का कारण क्या है, ये भिखमंगी क्यों करते है ? क्या बहुत मे लोगों ने बच्चे-बच्चियों को उठाकर ले जाने, उनके हाथ-पैर तोड़ देने भोर उनको बैगिंग सिखाने का व्यापार कर रखा है ? पुरानी दिल्ली रेलवे स्टेगन के पास जो कौड़िया त्रिज है बहां पर धडल्लै से यह काम होता है जॉकि पुलिस, प्रशासन और सरकार की जानकारी में हैं। क्या मापने इस बात का पता लगाया है च र यदि लगाया है तो कितने प्रोफेंशनल बैगर्स तैयार किए गए हैं ? (व्यवधान)

मंद्वी जी ने सेवा कुटीर का भी उल्लेख किया हैं। सेवा कुटीर की हालत जेल से भी बदतर है। जेल में जिस तरह से कैदी के बैसे छीन लिए जाते हैं उसी तरह से सेवा कुटीर में बेगर्स के पैसे-क.ड़ी धीर कपड़े-लत्ते सब उसार लिए जातें हैं, उनकीं खाना तक नहीं दिया जाता है। इसौंलिए मैं नें कहा कि इस पर पूरे डिंस्कानन की झीवेंच्यकता है।

मेरे प्रक्ष्त के तीन भाग हैं। एक, क्या सरकार ने पता लगाया है कि भिखमंगी के कारण क्या हैं? दो, कितने ऐसें व्यापार चल रहे हैं जोकि भिखमंगे पैदा करतें हैं ? तीन, सेवा कुटीर, जोकि जेल के समान है उसको सुधारने के लिए झाप क्या कर रहे है ?

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: This question is limited only to Sewa Kutir. So, I have the information to that extent only. For the wider question that the hon. Member wants to ask, I will require notice.

Government has gone through the Indian Express of 15-9-1980; according to my information, at least the name of Kuppuswamy is not there.

श्वी राम विलास पासवान : ग्रगर मंत्री जी ने तैयारी नहीं की है तो समय ले लें। मेरे पास पेपर है, इसको मंत्री जी पढ़ सकते हैं। इसके मुरु में ही है :

"Kuppuswamy came from a village in Tamil Nadu early this year..." **ग्रह्यक्ष सहोदय**ः उन्होंने कहा है मेरे पास भेज दीजिए ।

अत्रों राम विलास पासवार : वें कहर्ते है कि पेपर पढ़ा है, उसमे यह है ही नहीं।

ग्नडवक्ष महोदयः उनके पेपर में नही है, उनके पास ग्राप भेज दीजिएगा ।

Withdrawal of subsidies from Food Articles

*186. SHRI CHITTA BASU:

SHRI N. K. SHEJWALKAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICUL-TURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to withdraw subsidies from the food articles;

(b) if so, the amount of yearly subsidy given for wheat, paddy, millet, jawar and maize;

(c) whether as a result of the withdrawal, the price of these foodgrains will go up; and

(d) if so, how do Government propose to take care of the interest of the poor, salaried and middle income groups who will be worst hit as a result of this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGARCULATURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI BALESHWAR RAM): (a) The Government propose to bring down the burden of subsidy over a period of time.

(b) The amount of subsidy varies from year to year depending on the procurement and issue prices, procurement and distribution incidentals and the quantities sold through Public Distribution System. The per quintal rates of consumer subsidy, as provided in the budget estimates, for 1980-81 are -wheat Rs. 33.49, rice Rs. 26.60 and coarse grains Rs. 32.84.