

were a burden to society became socially useful afterwards. Once their energies were directed to the right channel they performed wonders. Gorky used to say: "There is no word like 'impossible' or 'unachievable' in the dictionary of the one-time orphans." The Soviet Government saw that anything could be achieved. And there were many impossibilities. One of them was the White Sea Baltic Canal Project. During the time of the Czars also it was thought impossible that such a canal could be built. It was due to many difficulties. From the point of view of engineering it was suitable. But due to the climatic conditions it was considered impossible. Therefore Gorky said, "We accept the challenge of nature. Although the cold is forty degrees below zero my boys will work there." They did work—children and in scheduled time that canal was built.

But it is not the history of the canal which is of interest to us: it is the history of those children who have written their autobiographies afterwards. They are published in six volumes, and Gorky himself has edited them. No country today which wants to make a scientific approach to this question can ignore these volumes. Without reading them you will be simply wandering in darkness.

When once these children became socially useful, they showed their worth in several other fields as well. Individually also they proved that there is no height attained by man which one who has been an orphan cannot attain, or there is no lead which he cannot give to society for its further progress. I was referring to some literature because it is important and I would recommend to Members of this House to go through that literature to see in what way other countries have tried to solve this problem.

In this connection I would refer to one book by Avdenko. It is called "I love". It is his own biography. That book deals with how, when he was an orphan, hated society. How he loved life. And afterwards when he went to the Gorky school what changes came into his life, and how happy his life became.

Any society where there are a large number of children who suffer in such a brutal way, is a society not worth living in I would say. It has no right to call itself civilized. Because, it is not the crime of the children that they suffer, it is the crime of the so-

ciety. Government also is to be blamed to a certain extent for that.

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

Coming back to India, we find, that in our country no work has been done as yet in this respect. We have to make a beginning. And it is a very good thing that our friend Mr. Dwivedi has brought this Bill before this House. We need a greater Gorky in our country than what the Soviet Union had in order to solve this problem, and we hope that our friend Mr. Dwivedi will one day become a great Gorky.

I am aware that I have another couple of minutes. The subject is so important. I would conclude now with a few more words, and next time when this subject comes up again I would like to speak in detail. Because I had only a few minutes I could not elaborate my points. It is not such a thing that you can touch and go. It is a thing which you have to thrash and thrash again to see what is the right path.

So in the one minute left I would make this suggestion that the Bill should be circulated to the several organisations, to the States, to the Universities, to orphanages, to Members of the House, to educationists and to all those who are interested in this subject in order to have their views. And next session when the Bill comes again before the House we will be ready to explore further possibilities about it. If the Government Bill also comes, it will not make this Bill superfluous, because there is so much to do. We will try to find out what the Government has to do but before that we should know exactly what we want to achieve. The magnitude of the problem is such that one Bill will not be sufficient. Perhaps.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member must resume his seat. He may continue later on if the Bill is not withdrawn.

MESSAGE FROM THE COUNCIL OF STATES

Secretary: Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary of the Council of States:

"In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 162 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Council of States, I am directed to return herewith the following Bills which were passed by the House of the People at its sitting held

[Secretary]

on the 18th April, 1953, and transmitted to the Council of States for its recommendations and to state that the Council has no recommendations to make to the House of the People in regard to the said Bills:

- (1) The Finance Bill, 1953.
- (2) The Central Excises and Salt (Amendment) Bill, 1953."

✓ ALLOTMENT OF TIME FOR PRIVATE MEMBERS' LEGISLATION

Shri M. L. Dwivedi (Hamirpur Distt.): May I solicit your indulgence in asking that in view of the fact that Members of this House are greatly interested in private legislation.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: What about this piece of legislation?

Shri M. L. Dwivedi. I find that very little time has been given for discussion of private Bills in this House. If you go to England.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: What does he want?

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: More time should be allotted for discussion of private legislation.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: We must sit this afternoon.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: In the House of Commons two days are allotted every week for discussing private legislation. Here we get only two days in three and a half months.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: We have now passed a rule whereby half a day on every Friday will be allotted for non-official work in addition to three half hours or such longer time as may be fixed for other important work either arising out of questions or independently on any public matter of importance. I think we can utilise all that hereafter.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: We may be prepared to sit on Saturdays in case those days are allotted for discussion of private legislations.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Saturday is booked.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: In future.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Nothing like that.

✓ Shri M. L. Dwivedi: There must be some provision regarding Private

Members' legislation. They take a lot of interest in these discussions. In these discussions they will focus the attention.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Hon. Members never get anything by merely springing up and saying something and inviting some decisions offhand by the Speaker. More often it goes against them.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi rose—

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: All this has been considered. Half a day on every Friday has been allotted for non-official work. Let this experiment be carried on for some time. Let us see.

FOOD SCARCITY IN RAJASTHAN

Shri G. D. Somani (Nagaur-Pali): Unfortunately, the scarcity conditions in Rajasthan now have become almost a regular feature and during the last few years since 1948, one or the other part of Rajasthan has been suffering from these scarcity conditions. In the year 1951 there was almost a total lack of rainfall and conditions of scarcity were widespread. Last year, i.e., in 1952, certain parts of Rajasthan were suffering from famine conditions and in order to give briefly some idea of the present conditions, I would like to invite the attention of the hon. Minister to certain reports which recently appeared in the Press. I would first quote a report that appeared in the *Times of India* of 21st instant which says:

"The entire Bikaner Division, excluding the canal area, is in the grip of a severe famine. Water scarcity is acute and people are dependent on khejra tree bark for their food."

Similarly, a local paper from Bikaner, *Ganarajya*, gives a report like this:

"बीकानेर ज़िले में अकाल धीरे-धीरे एक भयंकर रूप धारण कर रहा है। लोग तूबे जैसे विषैले फलों के बीज खा कर निर्वाह कर रहे हैं। 'गणराज्य' के सम्मानित प्रतिनिधि, जो अभी, यहां के कई सर्वमान्य नागरिकों के साथ, इन गांवों का दौरा कर के आये हैं, उनका कहना है कि बच्चों का स्वास्थ्य बिलकुल समाप्त हो गया है, स्त्रियों की आंखों में पानी है और पुरुष असहाय हो गये हैं।