

State or to any other proposal of the Chief Minister of Punjab personally or through correspondence made to the Ministry. Some large scale industries in the public sector are already included in the Second Five Year Plan for the State of Punjab. It is not known whether the Hon'ble Member is referring to any such large scale industries that are to be located in the Punjab or to some particular scheme or schemes sponsored by the Chief Minister of Punjab Government and if so, relating to which period. Several proposals are continuously being received from all State Governments.

Industrial Development

2217 Shri Hem Raj: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state

(a) the number of large scale factories to be established during the remaining two years of the Second Five Year Plan, and

(b) how they will be distributed State-wise and region-wise?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah) (a) and (b) It is not very clear whether the Hon'ble Member refers to large scale industries in the private sector or public sector. It cannot be stated as to how many large scale factories will be established in the private sector during the remaining two years of the Second Five Year Plan as it would depend on the number of entrepreneurs coming up with applications for setting up of large scale industries and the total capacity existing and to be allowed for future development. In regard to the region-wise or State-wise distribution of the large scale industries in the private sector also while it is the intention of the Government to so disperse the location of these industries that there is fair State-wise and region-wise distribution with particular reference to the backward areas, factors like availability of raw material, supply of water and power, proximity to mar-

kets and transport facilities, etc have also to be taken into account. In the sphere of the public sector also region-wise and State-wise distribution is determined on the above basis. The policy of the Government is to give preference in the establishment of industries to the less developed areas.

12.16 hrs.

MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT

SITUATION IN WEST BENGAL

Mr. Speaker. I have received notices of three or four adjournment motions. I will read the first. Shri S M Banerjee, Shri Jagdish Awasthi and Prakash Vir Shastri:

Need to discuss the brutal firing on 3rd September, 1959 in Howrah, Calcutta and other places in West Bengal resulting in death of 11 persons, serious injuries to more than 120 persons and complete breakdown of law and order situation and administrative machinery in that State. Calling of troops has further aggravated the situation and paralysed the city life completely. Centre's intervention is absolutely necessary to safeguard the interest of the people of West Bengal as majority of them have completely lost confidence in the State Government."

How have we got jurisdiction over this matter? I will put one question and one of them as representative may answer not all of them. Yesterday, this matter came up. Whenever the civil authorities find it difficult to manage the dispersal of the crowd or other gathering or they apprehend that law and order will be threatened it is open to them under the Criminal Procedure Code and the normal law of the land to call in the aid of the troops. If so, the Centre is not responsible for that under the law itself. They are bound to send. If they had committed default certainly I would admit an adjournment motion here why the Centre has not sent or the

[Mr. Speaker]

troops refused to go. Normally, legally, the civil authorities are entitled to call upon them. How is there jurisdiction? I will call Shri S. M. Banerjee who is the first signatory.

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): My submission is this. Yesterday, this was denied by the hon. Prime Minister that troops were called.

Mr. Speaker: Leave that alone. Today it would not be denied. How have we got jurisdiction over this matter?

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I will only make a submission.....

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member must satisfy me and not in general go about discussing things. First of all, what is the default on the part of this Government?

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I will tell you. This agitation started only for a piece of bread. Actually it was the food situation and food is a thing.....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order; I am not going to allow all this. Every day we find here something relating to food, a committee being formed to just resist. All that we have heard so far as this is concerned, this is purely a matter of law and order. A number of persons might have been shot dead. It is that Government that is responsible for law and order. If they had not called the troops, possibly a large number of men might have died in the other way. Let us not therefore enter into all that. First, I would like to be satisfied on this.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Eleven persons died and 120 have been injured. One Minister is doing all these things. (Interruption).

Shri Muhammed Elias (Howrah): We have also given an adjournment motion.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I will call one after another if necessary.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Troops have been called. They have a right under the law to call the troops. But, what are the circumstances? Is it not a fact that the present Government of West Bengal has completely failed to maintain law and order?

Some Hon. Members: How?

Some Hon. Members: No, no.

An Hon. Member: Eleven have been killed (Interruptions) (Laughter).

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Let them laugh at their peril; I do not mind.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I maintain that today—I am not generating heat—what I say is, is it not high time that the hon. Prime Minister should try to restore confidence among the people of West Bengal who have absolutely lost confidence on that famine Minister whom West Bengal Government are not going to turn out; but they are going to kill the people; they are giving bullets in place of bread. This is not fair. (Interruptions).

Some Hon. Members rose—

Mr. Speaker: On behalf of the Communist Party, I shall hear Shri H. N. Mukerjee or Shri A. K. Gopalan as they choose.

Shri A. K. Gopalan (Kasergod): I have given an adjournment motion which you have not taken up. If necessary, I can read it out.

Mr. Speaker: I need not read out everyone of them.

Shri A. K. Gopalan: In my adjournment motion, I have stated that there is a breakdown of law and order and of the Constitution of India. I say this because the information is that it is not only those people who took part in the agitation who have been killed, but even a man who was inside the house was killed, who had nothing to do with the agitation or anything like that; he was standing outside, and he has also been killed.

Now, the question is this. The whole law and order situation has been handed over to the military. And even when it has been handed over to them, as far as the life and property of the people are concerned, there is no safety for them. So, it is not a matter where you can ask how under the rules it can be raised here.

In this connection, I would submit another thing also. It is true that there may be certain rules. But it is a very grave and serious situation, every day, firing is going on there. And if we bring forward a motion here, we do so because we want a discussion on this matter in order to see that this is not continued there. Even if it be a question which under certain rules cannot be raised here, yet we must remember that here is a situation for the last three days, when there had been firing always, every day, there had been firing, and that will continue.

So, what we say is that Government must consider whether they are to allow this situation to continue or they should talk with the committee that is there and see that this situation does not continue. Though it may not come under an adjournment motion under the rules, yet it is the responsibility of the Government also to appreciate that here is a very grave and serious situation where the military has been called, and some area is under their control. We do not know what will happen today. Already, eleven persons have been killed. (Interruptions) Some Members say they know, they may know, but as far as we are concerned, we want to know the position. We represent the people, and it is our duty also to consider it. Here is a serious situation, that situation is continuing, that situation will continue. Every day, there is firing. It is not just one instance of firing, there has been firing for the last three days. So, it is the duty of the Centre to intervene. When law and order has broken down, it is the duty of the Centre to intervene and see that the situation is put an end to; I mean the food situation. Whenever there had

been similar movements in other parts of India, the Centre intervened..

Mr. Speaker: I put only two questions to the hon. Member Shri A. K. Gopalan.

Shri Muhammed Elias rose—

Mr. Speaker: I have called Shri A. K. Gopalan. Let the others sit down. What is the meaning of getting up like this when I am asking Shri A. K. Gopalan? Am I to understand that the military have taken charge of the administration in Bengal?

Shri A. K. Gopalan: No, the military has not taken charge of the administration, the military has taken charge of some areas.

Mr. Speaker: Has the military taken charge of the administration in any particular area?

Shri A. K. Gopalan: Yes.

Mr. Speaker: Or have they merely come under section 129 of the Criminal Procedure Code, under the direction of Government and in aid of the people?

Shri A. K. Gopalan: That is what we would like to know. It is reported in the papers that the whole area is under the control of the military. That is why we want a discussion. That is one thing.

The other thing is this. It is not only a question of whether the military has taken the whole administration under their control, but it is a question of a very grave and serious situation. I want to know whether the Central Government have nothing to do with the situation there, and whether they consider that the situation is not grave. I want to know whether the Central Government have nothing to do with it. If the Central Government say that they have nothing to do with it, we want to hear it from them.

[Shri A. K. Gopalan]

Then, I would submit that the military has taken control of that area. That is the report in the papers.

Mr. Speaker: He may answer one other matter. Now, a particular party has started an agitation on the ground that food is not supplied, and that the prices are very high, and the hon. Minister has been explaining what steps this Government have taken one after the other; if in spite of that, it goes on just organising this kind of agitation, then is that Government to keep quiet? *(Interruptions)*

Shri A. K. Gopalan: This is not a matter where the movement began all of a sudden on one day. Before the movement began, so many times, the parties tried to approach the Government. The point is that a situation is created. The Famine Resistance Committee again and again went and approached the Government there, but the Government there did not pay heed to it, the Government there did not want to listen to them. If only they had paid heed to them, the situation could have very easily been solved, the struggle would not have been continued; and the movement would not have been there.

Shri Keshava (Bangalore City): This is all their creation.

Shri A. K. Gopalan: If there had been some discussion with them, this movement would not have been there, if there had been some discussion when they had approached the Government there, then the movement would not have been there.

Shri Raghunath Singh (Varanasi): It is all a creation of the Communist Party. *(Interruptions)*.

Shri A. K. Gopalan: When you have allowed me to speak, I want that the hon. Members should not interrupt like this.

Shri Prabhat Kar (Hooghly): Go to Bengal and face the people.

Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri (Barrackpore): The Vice-President of the

West Bengal Pradesh Congress Committee, the dictator of the Congress there, has accused the Central Government that they do not send supplies in times. What answer have they got? Shri Atulya Ghosh is a Member of this House; he does not dare to appear before the people there; he does not dare to go and answer the charges. Are we to see our people being shot down day after day? . . . *(Interruptions)*

Shri Tangamani (Madurai): Twenty-seven people were killed.

Shri Prabhat Kar (Hooghly): Why do you not go to Bengal and face them?

Some Hon. Members: Go to Bengal and face the people. It is a challenge to them.

Shri A. K. Gopalan: The other day the Prime Minister was asking me, 'I ask the Leader of the Communist Party whether this is parliamentary democracy.' Now, I want to ask him the same thing. I was talking here, and he has been seeing what is happening. I was speaking here, and even if my hon. friends opposite are going to answer me, I do not know whether this is the way in which it should be done.

Mr. Speaker: There are interruptions from the hon. Member's side also.

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru) rose—

Mr. Speaker: Now, the hon. Prime Minister. Other hon. Members may kindly sit down.

Shri A. K. Gopalan: I have not answered the second question that you had put to me. The second question was about the movement. The movement had not been started all of a sudden. The movement was not started for the sake of pleasure or *tama'ha*. The movement has been started because in spite of the fact that several times they approached the Government, and even now, they are

approaching, Government are not talking to them. Even now, no approach is being made from the Government side, as far as the Famine Resistance Committee is concerned, they are all in jail, and they are not even talked to on this matter.

Mr. Speaker: Now, the hon Prime Minister

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Mr Speaker, Sir, yesterday, after the question hour, when you were pleased not to allow those adjournment motions, some hon Members of the House on the other side approached me and spoke about this Calcutta situation. They said that the food situation there was very good now.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty (Basirhat): Who said that?

Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri: I repudiate that.

Mr Speaker: Let the hon Prime Minister go on. In the end, hon Members can have their say.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: They said—I say so firmly—that the food situation had greatly improved.

Shri Prabhat Kar: That was not said by us.

Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri: That is completely wrong. (*Interruptions*)

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: that prices had come down and that the harvest was very good, a promising one. In other words, there may be some difference of opinion in the measure of improvement, but there was no doubt that prices had come down by as much as Rs 3 to Rs 5 or Rs 7 per maund. This was not said by them. I am saying this. Prices had come down. There is no doubt about it, that is, about these facts whether they said them or not, that the prices have come down by Rs 3 to Rs 7 per maund in that area, that the harvest is a very good one, and perhaps that is the reason why the prices have come down.

Further, in Bengal, even previously, about 50 per cent. of the people were rationed, they got ration cards, the entire population of Calcutta and a good part of the rural population. That was so some time ago. Now, even this area has been expanded, it is much wider, that is, rationing has been extended in the rural areas, to the smaller peasants or farmers. Now, that is the position. I do not mean to say that everything is well in Bengal on the food front. But I would submit that it is not only improving, but is somewhat better than in some parts of India. That is, of course, nothing for me to be proud of, but it is so.

But I would submit that at the present moment we are not considering the food situation here only, the food situation is going to be considered in a big way tomorrow in Delhi by the National Development Council. We cannot consider the food situation in every bit of India, forgetting the rest of India, therefore, all the Chief Ministers of States are coming here, along with their Food Ministers, for, we consider it important to discuss this matter, not only from the point of view of the separate States but in its organic unity of India. There it is. But the present position to which the hon Member objects is relating to what is happening in Calcutta. The hon Member says that the army have taken charge of parts of Calcutta, parts of Bengal. As a matter of fact nothing of the kind has happened. The army was called in yesterday. I said at mid-day yesterday the army had not been called in. It was called in at 6 p.m. yesterday to Howrah parts of Howrah, because there was a very bad trouble there. I might mention that till three days ago the Chief Minister of Bengal deliberately did not issue firearms to the police, because he did not want the use of firearms. When ambulance cars, milk vans were burnt, apart from buses.

Several Hon. Members. Shame.

Shri Muhammed Elias: From them they were shooting people throughout the city.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Did the hon. Member say that ambulance cars were shooting people?

Shri Nagi Reddy (Anantapur): Is it not a fact that ambulance vans were used as police vans?

Shri Muhammed Elias: It has been agreed by the Mayor of Calcutta and he has agreed that he will make an enquiry into the matter.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Hon. Members have helped me—I thank them—that because the ambulance vans had policemen they had to be burnt, according to them. Is that the argument of hon. Members opposite?

Shri Nagi Reddy: When policemen began to shoot the people, naturally the people got angry. Are ambulance vans to be used as police vans?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Ambulance cars do not even belong to the Government. Ambulance is not a government organisation; it is a private organisation. Milk vans which were distributing milk, large numbers of them, were burnt, apart from other damage and arson done. When the situation had become so bad, then only the Chief Minister, under great pressure, agreed to the issue of fire-arms to the police, because the situation was getting bad with regard to arson, destruction, etc., not to mention other cars and buses which were burnt.

Yesterday in Howrah at first, in the course of the morning, there was some dispute between two sets of workers, one set, a large number of workers, who wanted to continue to work in the mills—and they did not approve of the hartal and, what is more, they did work for some time, for a good time—and another set which objected to their working. There was some trouble between them. And those workers did work in the mills for some time, I say. It was only after that. . . (Interruptions).

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: It was only after that, when that set of workers finished their work that day, that the trouble became worse in Howrah, Howrah town and the neighbourhood of Howrah, and the forces were sent for, the army was called in in aid of the civil power, and they went only to Howrah.

And what they have done thus far is this. It is not a question of taking over the administration; very far from it. The troops carried out the following two things. They patrolled the Howrah police station area in vehicles, they laid a cordon round the jute mill in Dashnagar area etc. to enable the police to arrest miscreants suspected of causing loot, arson and murder. The police arrested a number

May I say that people die in these things, and it is not for us to shout too much about it. But it is a manner of doing things that is sometimes even worse than that. Today's paper announces that a policeman was killed. Well, a policeman was killed. There it is. But how was he killed? He was pulled out and an attempt was made to cut, to decapitate him with a sword. That is utter brutality, I say (Several Hon. Members: Shame). And I say it is utter, naked brutality. And this is the kind of brutality that is being encouraged by this behaviour and this action in Calcutta. (Interruptions).

Mr. Speaker: Order, order

Shri Nagi Reddy: The shooting of people is responsible for all these things

Mr. Speaker: I would request hon. Members to work as a team or as a party or as a group, the leader to command the rest of his following. Otherwise, I won't recognise the party as such.

Shri Tangamani: You need not tell us about it.

Mr. Speaker: I am here to tell it. Order please. Otherwise we cannot

control the House Any organised group, one after the other, the leaders are here, let them elect a leader for the day and speak through him, and if he wants some other person to speak, I have no objection, if he is in possession of better facts If all of them jointly want to speak, whom am I to call from the Communist Group? All of them simultaneously? Shri Hiren Mukerjee What does he want to say?

Shri H. N. Mukerjee (Calcutta-Central) Sir, on behalf of our Group

Mr. Speaker Just a minute Let the Prime Minister finish

An Hon Member What has he got to finish?

Shri Nagi Reddy: He has made the last insinuation

Shri M P Mishra (Bengal) I want to ask a question

Mr. Speaker. Order, order

Shri M P Mishra I want to ask

Mr. Speaker Order, order The hon Member is irrepresible I will have to ask him to get out of the House Shri Hiren Mukerjee

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Sir, you have permitted the Prime Minister to make certain circumstantial references on the basis of whatever information he has got in his possession, and that is why I am constrained also to have to refer to certain other things, and I hope you will permit me to make a reference to them

The Prime Minister has referred particularly to one case where a policeman was dragged out or something like that happened and he was killed under circumstances which, from the paper reports, were certainly very regrettable and gruesome, I might add But, Sir, the Prime Minister chose to omit any reference to the fact that in only two days' time as many as twenty-seven people have been killed in Calcutta and in Howrah If this account has any claim to

veracity, in a few hours' time eleven people were killed in a small town which has not more than a population of three hundred to four hundred thousand people

Now, what I want the government of this country always to bear in mind is this, that when in any particular part of the country, especially a strategic and a very important place like Calcutta, the greatest city in this country, when in that area there is a movement—for good reason or bad reason, it is not for us at this moment to decide upon—when in that city there is a movement of which the leaders are taken away altogether, it is completely decapitated of its leadership by means of Preventive Detention, the West Bengal Security Act and a hundred other devices which are in the armoury of the Government, the leadership is completely out of the picture, and second third and fourth rank leaders have also been taken away, Government itself in its press note says that as a result of the leadership not being there, the movement has got into the hands of anti-social elements—it may or may not be true—but the situation has arisen on account of a basic dissatisfaction with the food policy of the Government, and particularly the personal vanity of one particular Minister, the Food Minister there, who refuses to follow the example of Shri A P Jain in Calcutta, as I said the other day in a parenthesis which perhaps escaped you, even Congress newspapers like *Jugantar* are saying that a shameless policy is being pursued I am not going into the details of that policy, because at this point of time it is not for me to say anything about it But I am astounded to see the attitude that is being displayed by the Prime Minister of this country when twenty-seven people are killed in two days' firing in Calcutta, which shows that he is completely callous in this regard And I remember how in regard to Bombay he has come with sack cloth and ashes to give Samyukta Maha-

[Shri H. N. Mukerjee]

raashtra and Gujarat after he has killed more than two hundred people in the agitation over there. And he is supposed to be the most sensitive individual whom we are supposed to respect. We respect him a great deal, but he is forfeiting the respect of this country if he is going to adopt the attitude which he has done in this present debate

I tell you, I beg of you to remember this, that in a part of our country which you cannot ignore—you cannot wish Bengal off the map of India, you cannot desire Calcutta to be wiped out of the map of India, you cannot wish it, it is there, and we are here by the mandate of the people—I wish you, I beg of you to bear in mind that in Calcutta there is agony, there is distress, there is torture and if we in Delhi sit and do nothing because a policeman has been killed in gruesome circumstances, because Communists have got to be made the scape-goats, because the vendetta has to continue till the Kerala elections happen, then I say good-bye to all hopes of democracy and progress under the leadership of the Prime Minister.

I beg of you to allow discussion of this in calmer circumstances. But I have lost my equilibrium because of the attitude displayed by the Prime Minister.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: It is not necessary for me to say much because the hon. Member opposite has confessed that he lost his equilibrium. And I think he lost it unnecessarily because I would be inclined to agree with him even in respect of a great deal that he said. Nobody likes, or does not deplore, what has happened in Calcutta. I brought a case to the notice of the House because it was a very brutal and callous one; it is not a clash of people and people dying, which is unfortunate of course.

Now, the question is, there is a situation in Calcutta which has

arisen because of a movement,—if you like, I am prepared to admit it; it is not a matter for discussion. The hon. Member may be right in saying that the attitude of the West Bengal Government is not good or bad in regard to food. That is a matter for discussion. You can discuss it, if you like. But let us keep that separate.

The point is, that a movement was started. The reason for that movement, if it was the 'food' reason, no longer exists. That is my submission. Not finally, of course, but for the moment, it does not exist because the food situation is much better.

Now, certain conflicts have occurred between the government police forces and the rest, which is unfortunate always. We might really deplore them. But it passes my comprehension what the Government is expected to do in these circumstances when large-scale arson is being done all over. I do not know whether it was done more than necessary. I am no judge at the present moment. Anyhow, I do submit that even though it may be said—as has been said—that many of the leaders of the Communist Party or other groups who started this agitation are in prison or are detained, there are hon. Members opposite who can withdraw the agitation.

Some Hon. Members: No, no.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: How can we?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Why do they not say 'Withdraw the agitation'?

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: May I just make a submission? Even during the time of the British, when there was movement, the goods were delivered by the leaders of the Congress who were in jail. The British Government leaders went to the jails to discuss and settle with the leaders in jail. It is not open to individuals who are not on that Committee, it is

not for people like us, to call it off I would beg of the Prime Minister to consider this. I met him yesterday and I told him that the price of rice had come down by Re. 1 or Rs. 2. It may go down still further because we are now going to have the aman crop in December. I also told him that the prices are far beyond the reach of the people in the villages and that in the villages, the food situation is very bad. I would beg of him to consider this. I also told him that the situation is very bad and we want him to intervene, because we have no faith in the Food Minister and the Chief Minister there. They are adamant. Repression is not going to achieve anything. I would beg of him to consider that 27 people have been killed. A seven-year old boy has been killed. Instead of saying that the situation is so bad, he should intervene. He did so in Kerala. He even went there when the agitation was going on and he asked the Chief Minister, Shri Nambudiripad, to negotiate with those who were actually in the movement. Shri Nambudiripad agreed to negotiate. Can that not be done even from Delhi in this case?

Shri Muhammed Elias. I want to contradict the statement which the hon Prime Minister has made just now, because it has been given by the West Bengal Government. Although, the people of West Bengal do not believe what the West Bengal Government says. The people do not believe those statements because the statements given out by them are false. We have got a trunk call from Howrah, my constituency. I want to say that never during the general strikes—and many strikes have taken place in Howrah—have any disturbances occurred. I am personally connected with all the factories and their unions. I know very well that disturbances had never occurred. Even yesterday, the people of Howrah everywhere remained silent, when

the lathi charge took place on the 23rd, they did not react in that way, in a violent way. But the military was called in. The military started firing. A seven-year old boy has been killed. A 78-year old man was sitting inside the house. He was killed. In this way, a number of people are being killed.

In West Bengal, unlike the Vimochana Samiti leader of Kerala, the leaders have not said that they are going to overthrow the Government, that they are going into the Secretariat to overthrow the Chief Minister, B C Roy, and the Food Minister. Here they have only demanded a handful of rice. The Government cannot give that. They want to stand on prestige, they want to save the prestige of one man***. the Food Minister (*Interruptions*). For his sake, a number of people are being killed, on which this trouble arose.

Mr. Speaker: I have heard both sides. So far as this particular matter is concerned, it is regrettable.

श्री जगदीश शर्मा (बिल्हौर) श्रीमान
भा, आपन वादा किया था कि आप मुझे
[लायनें]। आप किसी की बात सुनना नहीं
चाहते हैं।

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I am not going to allow the hon Member to speak. There is no good creating more dissatisfaction regarding this matter.

Shri Braj Raj Singh (Ferozabad)
The other day you were so impatient.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The hon Member is now creating it.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: I have been and am peaceful, though I had my adjournment motion and you did not read it out.

Mr. Speaker: I have repeatedly told him that when I am on my legs he should not speak. I have heard sufficiently about this matter.

श्री जनदत्त बाबूजी : श्रीमान् जी,
भाषण वादा किना था ।

Mr. Speaker: I am sorry that all this has happened. It is unfortunate that such a situation should have arisen in Calcutta. As the hon. Prime Minister has said, this matter seems to have arisen out of the food question. That is said even now, that the food situation is the main reason for all this, for parties or groups of people organising themselves to resist famine. This started on account of food scarcity. Then there was the question of prices and then of distribution. Though this matter is primarily the concern of the West Bengal Government, I have been allowing discussions in these matters.

The other day, when Shri A. P. Jain was here, I allowed the House an opportunity to discuss the West Bengal food crisis and also the question of rise in prices. After all, food can be rushed from one State to another to make up the deficit. After Shri A. P. Jain spoke, I heard some voices here saying that he ought not to continue. In disgust, I think, he resigned and went away. Some such thing must have occurred. Now, another hon. Minister comes in. It is now said that Shri A. P. Jain was better! (Interruptions).

Shri S. M. Banerjee: No one said that.

Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri: We did not say that.

Mr. Speaker: Someone said that.

So far as the facts are concerned, this is a very important matter. I would request hon. Members to see the situation. We have been taking note of it here. We have not been indifferent to any situation, whether Food is a State subject or not. We have not been saying that we are not concerned with it. I have been allowing a number of questions and Call Attention notices, though it is

not a matter for discussion by way of an adjournment motion.

As I have been able to see, at one time, it was suggested that there was want of foodgrains. Therefore, even yesterday the hon. Minister said that every step had been taken to rush as much foodgrains as possible. After that, the question of prices was taken up. The prices also started coming down, in view of the rushing of supplies and in view of the fact that very soon there will be a harvest, though the fall in prices may not be to the same extent as some people may like it to be. It is not as if overnight the entire population will be able to purchase any quantity as they like. But to some extent, prices have also come down.

Then the complaint was made—and we had also a discussion here on that—that the distribution system was wrong. So far as that is concerned, some hon. Members had been to West Bengal and had studied the situation. It is not as if only one section alone represents West Bengal. Other sections have also visited West Bengal and gone from place to place. There was also a non-Bengali Member who went with that team. It was only a few days ago that they returned. They have said that they went round and found that lots of people had sufficient rice; there was not that complaint.

Then it was said that the quality of the foodgrains supplied—the quality of the rice supplied—was not of the standard. It is unfortunate that though Bengal is excellent in many respects, the quality of the rice supplied to Bengal from Madhya Pradesh does not come up to that standard. But West Bengal does not produce sufficient quantity of rice. So the only alternative is starvation or having some quality of rice which is available. Wherefrom are the Government to get the rice of the required quality, if West Bengal does not produce it and Madhya Pradesh

rice is not to be eaten because it is of a bad quality? What is this poor Government to do? (Interruptions)

The hon Members who have raised this question have not suggested any alternative to the steps taken. Therefore, all possible steps are being taken. Nobody is indifferent to the situation. Everybody must eat, and everybody knows the difficulty of starvation. Therefore, all that has been done

Still, if the agitation is going on, I have not been able to notice any reason excepting one that there is some kind of dissatisfaction with the Food Minister there. Again and again, it is repeated on the floor of this House that that Food Minister is not competent to be there. (Interruptions) I will assume that the Food Minister may change or go on changing, just after getting as much of food as possible and distributing it. Yet, it is for the Members of that Assembly to get rid of him and not for us. It is open to them. That seems to be the only cause of resentment now. (Interruptions) I would like to give another opportunity also to the hon Minister to explain things, if necessary, and for the hon Members to tell him how best to relieve the situation if it has started out of food. It was only yesterday that he said something here. Ultimately, what I heard there say was that he must go to the spot. Excepting the Food Minister and the Prime Minister going there there is nothing, it might create disturbances.

After all, this House is not in charge of law and order. If we create an impression that those people who are in charge of law and order there—if that Government—are not able to manage the show notwithstanding the fact that the food problem has been solved or is being solved, I do not know whether by that the hon Members want to ask me or ask this House and through this House this Government to take

over charge of West Bengal as in Kerala

An Hon. Member: We never said that

Mr. Speaker: I am sorry what is happening? (Interruptions) I am trying to analyse what exactly is happening. It is highly regrettable that 14 people had to be shot down.

Shri Muhammed Elias: No, 27 people

Mr. Speaker: Or 27. I am exceedingly sorry. My heart and sympathy go forth to those people who have died and to all those persons who have been deprived of the companionship of those persons. From this House I send our condolence to the families of all those persons who have deceased. (Interruptions) Order, order. I do not know how we can relieve the situation by merely having a discussion here. (Interruptions) Hon Members will persuade their friends there to withdraw this and restore peace in West Bengal.

I disallow these adjournment motions

Shri Muhammed Elias. What is the fate of our adjournment motion? (Interruptions) I want a discussion here, I want the House to adjourn and discuss the matter.

Mr. Speaker: Order please. Hon Members need not come to my aid. When a decision has been given with respect to one matter, with respect to one motion, on a similar matter other adjournment motions cannot be raised in this House. I have disallowed this adjournment motion and I disallow all the other adjournment motions as being barred because they relate to the same subject-matter.

Shri A. K. Gopalan: I am only sorry to say that the attitude of the Prime Minister in the reply that he has given is something which is not

[Shri A. K. Gopalan]

helpful Therefore as a protest we walk out

An Hon. Member: Shut up (Interruption)

Mr. Speaker: Why should hon Members object to the walking out?

The Minister of Rehabilitation and Minority Affairs (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna): Lal topi

Mr Speaker: Hon Ministers must also be restrained

(At this stage Shri A K Gopalan and some other hon Members left the House.)

12.55 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

REPORTS ON CONDUCT OF CERTAIN OFFICIALS CONNECTED WITH INVESTMENTS MADE BY LIC

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): Sir, on behalf of Shri Govind Ballabh Pant, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of each of the following papers

- (i) Vivian Bose Board of Inquiry's Report of the Life Insurance Corporation Inquiry
- (ii) The advice of the Union Public Service Commission in Shri H M Patel's case
- (iii) The advice of the Union Public Service Commission in Shri G R Kamat's case
- (iv) Government Resolution No F 15/58-HS, dated 27th May, 1959 [Placed in Library. See No LT-1594/59]

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA

Secretary: Sir, I have to report the following messages received from the Secretary of Rajya Sabha —

- (1) "In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 162 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Central Excises and Salt (Amendment) Bill, 1959, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 25th August, 1959, and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill"
- (2) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 125 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha, at its sitting held on the 2nd September 1959, agreed without any amendment to the Oil and Natural Gas Commission Bill, 1959, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 20th August, 1959"
- (3) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 125 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha, at its sitting held on the 3rd September, 1959, agreed without any amendment to the Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh (Transfer of Territories) Bill, 1959, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 11th August, 1959"
- (4) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 125 of the