

[Shri Hathi]

from the State Government and give it to the House later

Shri Ranga: What about sending experts from here?

Shri Hathi: Yes, if they want

Mr. Speaker. The Centre cannot be responsible for all projects, however big they may be. The State Governments are there. The hon. Minister has stated that the execution portion of the project is undertaken purely by the State Government. They have got their own engineers. If any accident has happened, however regrettable it may be that it should have happened, the hon. Minister promised to get some more information and keep us informed about this matter, because our monies are also involved in that. Over and above that, I am not able to see what the Central Government can do. If, however, it transpires on investigation that on account of a faulty recommendation made by the Central Government it has happened, there is enough time for hon. Members to take it up and say that the local engineers only adopted and tried to execute the advice given by the Central Government. If the data given from here are false and therefore it happened, the authorities here are responsible. I am not suggesting any measures to be adopted. There may be cases, however, where this may be the case. Sometime ago there was a railway accident. Some engineers said that the bridge ought to be dug deep and so on. The Superintending Engineer, without going to the site, said 'No, no, it is not necessary. This resulted in all the trouble, the bridge in Hyderabad being overthrown. There are cases where the Centre may be responsible. But, so far as this matter is concerned, as at present advised, I do not agree that the Central Government is responsible for the unfortunate accident that has happened.

Shri Goray: Sir, the hon. Minister has stated that he will give us some information. I want him to take some action on his part.

Mr. Speaker: I do not think I am called upon to give my consent to this adjournment motion.

ALLEGED SUICIDE BY A FAMILY DUE
TO UNEMPLOYMENT

Mr. Speaker: I have received notice of another adjournment motion. I am not allowing it but anyhow I want to bring it to the notice of the House. It says

"In Bareilly, a district of UP a family of six persons have committed suicide by taking poisoned food on account of unemployment due to which a serious situation has arisen."

Unemployment is there all over India. How is the Central Government responsible for that? I do not think I am called upon to give consent to this motion. (*Interruptions*)

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): The Chief Minister of UP has said that this is a political move. The entire population of UP are facing starvation and the Chief Minister, instead of taking preventive measures, has described the whole thing as a political move. The Food Minister of UP who was here, did not care to meet the Opposition Members and discuss all these matters with them. It is a very serious situation and that is why we approach the Central Government.

श्री यादव (बाराबंकी) श्रीमन हम सबध मे मझे निवदन करना है कि उस परिवार न कर्ट दिनों मे खाना नहीं खाया। उस परिवार के बड़े आदमी ने जा कर एक लाटा चुराया।

Mr. Speaker: Order, order, I am not going into this matter.

श्री बाबू : श्रीमान्, जब दरोगा को भी उस पर दया भा सकती है और वह पांच रुपया देता है, जिस से बें खाना खाते हैं, तो क्या सरकार इस को सुनने के लिये भी तैयार नहीं है ? क्या यह सदन का कनमर्न नहीं है ? छः घादमी भूख से मर जायें, जहर खा कर मर जायें, क्या यह सरकार के देखने की बात नहीं है ?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. It is rather unfortunate. Somehow or other, it has developed into a sort of centralisation so far as food is concerned. If somebody dies of starvation then the Central Government is held responsible for not saving him and this matter comes up here. I am afraid some decentralisation is necessary.

So far as I am concerned, the trouble is to decide whether it is a purely State subject or a Central subject. This difficulty comes in because the Centre is taking up a responsibility which it is not able to fulfil completely.

So far as food is concerned it has become a peculiar feature. It incidentally involves the question as to whether sufficient supply of food was there or not, and in spite of sufficient supply of food whether there was the purchasing capacity or not. All these matters are inter-related. Unless some demarcation is made viz. for what matters the Central Government is responsible and for what matters the State Governments are responsible, it is rather difficult for me to decide. I have found on occasions when some matter is rejected here, in the other House, the same matter is allowed to be discussed. These are matters which are rather complicated. I would like to have a discussion with the hon. Minister for Food as to which matters are purely State matters and which are not. Sometimes they are answered and sometimes they are not. It is only for that purpose that I have brought this before the House.

श्री जगदीश अवास्थी (विल्हार)
श्रीमान् जी, प्रश्न यह है कि...

अध्यक्ष महोदय : यह प्रश्न नहीं है ।

There is the Chief Minister there and there is a Legislative Assembly consisting of more than 400 members.

Shri Jagdish Awasthi: What is this House here for?

Mr. Speaker: Unemployment is a purely State subject and the Central Government is not responsible for that.

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): Sir, I shall only be too glad if there is a clear demarcation of the responsibilities of the Centre and of the States in the matter of food and whatever assistance I can give in making such a demarcation will always be at your disposal. In fact, many times questions are allowed which are not exactly within the jurisdiction of the Central Government. We did not want to be discourteous and so we answered them. But, I think the time has come when there must be a demarcation of the responsibilities of the Central and State Governments in this matter.

Mr. Speaker: So far as matters like food, health, education and irrigation are concerned, there must be a specific demarcation as to what exactly the position of the Centre is. They have also sometimes to interfere and go to the help of the States. But that is taken advantage of and a number of questions are brought here; and it is rather difficult for me to allow or not to allow them.

But, so far as this matter is concerned, it is a matter of purely state policy and I am not giving consent to this adjournment motion.

Shri Mahanty (Dhenkanal): May I make a submission?

Mr. Speaker: Papers to be laid on the Table.