

Mr. Chairman: Is the hon. Member likely to take some more time?

Shri Kодиан: Yes.

Mr. Chairman: Then he may continue the next day because we have a half-hour discussion at 5 p.m.

17.01 hrs.

PACKAGE PROGRAMME*

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur (Pali): This half-hour discussion arises out of starred question No. 404 asked on 16th August on the floor of this House. It relates to the Government of India's very special programme for intensive food cultivation in seven selected districts in seven States in the country.

I have no manner of doubt about the good intentions and anxiety of Government to increase food production, and the scheme for this intensive food production in these districts is really well-conceived and is commendable. It was designed, as a matter of fact, to place the technical know-how at the door of the cultivator, to supply him in full the necessary improved implements, improved seed, all fertiliser he needs and so on. The condition was that his requirements would be met absolutely to the full. Beyond that, if I have understood correctly, it was designed to make credit available to the cultivator, and the significant fact was that the credit was to be available not on the credit-worthiness of the agriculturist but on the plan and programme for production. That is something for which we have been asking for a very long time.

Now, what has happened to this scheme? If all those things envisaged happen, I think the food production is bound to go up. This scheme was to go into full swing from the 1st April 1960 in all the 7 districts. Not

only that. As a matter of fact, a circular letter had gone from the Ministry to the effect that all necessary preparations should be made much before April so that the scheme could go ahead in full swing from the 1st April. Some of us who were keenly interested, went from village to village and panchayat to panchayat preparing the agriculturists and peasants for this scheme, because it is not only the resources which count in this, but the farmer and peasant must be prepared to utilise them and make the best use of them. I punctiliously attend, all the Zila Parishad meetings where the panchayat samiti chairmen and other people collect. But what I find is nothing doing before April, nothing doing in April, nothing doing in May, June and July. We are at the end of August. Those people naturally feel utterly disappointed and disillusioned. They say: 'You want us to go round and tell the peasants that this is to be done, here are the provisions going to be made, and we should be prepared to do this and that. But nothing has happened'. That was why I asked this question. I find that out of the 7 districts, only something has been started in Madras.

My first question is whether the State Governments were not prepared for it? Whose fault is it—the Centre's or the States'? Who is to blame for this time-lag, for this loss of food production?

It is unfortunately our general experience here that all good schemes are mutilated and imprisoned in the stone-walls of the Secretariat here. It is very difficult to get these schemes out and put in the field.

My first question, therefore, is, on whom is the responsibility to be fixed—whether on the Central Government or on the State Government? In Madras the scheme has been started. May I know how much credit, how much seed, how much fertiliser

[Shri Harish Chandra Mathur]

and how much improved implements have been provided there?

17.06 hrs.

[PANDIT THAKUR DAS BHARGAVA in the Chair]

I want definite information on this.

We understand that this scheme is now to come into the field from the rabi season. Naturally, my second question is whether even by now these concerned districts have drawn up their programme or plan of work and whether they have a full and clear picture of the scheme at all.

The House will be amazed to know that only last Friday—that is 3 days back—when I went to attend a meeting of the Zila Parishad, where all the panchayat samiti chairmen were present, I found that this scheme was the first item on the agenda because they were all anxious. The Collector was trying to explain to them what the scheme is. I was a little bit ashamed when I found that even the Collector was not fully informed; and on certain vital matters, he was giving wrong information to the people, just as the quantum of the funds that are likely to be available etc. I do not know what was his source of information. This was only three days ago; and the scheme is to be in full swing from the rabi. By this time they have not even got a full picture of it.

I had asked the hon. Minister whether I could get some idea of it; and his Private Secretary was good enough to send me a copy of a pamphlet which I took with me so that at least I could leave the pamphlet with those people and they may be a little wiser about it.

About the scheme as such I wish further to know—and I want a categorical answer from the hon. Minister—what is the nature of the scheme in rupees, annas and pies. I do not

want all about fertilizer and all that. May I know whether they are at least prepared to send the fertilizers and all the other items envisaged in the scheme immediately to the districts and whether these districts would be in a position to take them over immediately for this rabi crop? What arrangements have been made?

So far as credit is concerned, I was a little surprised to understand that most of the credit is to flow from the Reserve Bank. The Reserve Bank representative has now possibly to go round and discuss the procedure and the ways and methods of how this credit should flow. If it is so, Mr. Chairman, God alone help us. (*Inter-ruptions*).

Pandit K. C. Sharma (Hapur): God is not going to worry about it.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: I am really distressed about credit. I would like to know.....

Mr. Chairman: The hon. Member should now finish. He has already taken 11 minutes.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: I have to take about 10 to 12 minutes.

Mr. Chairman: Only 30 minutes are allowed for the whole thing. The hon. Minister will take some time to reply. The hon. Member is asking so many questions. Other hon. Members also want to put questions and sufficient time must be left for the hon. Minister to reply.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: We can sit for 5 minutes more, Sir. After all this is a very important matter.

Mr. Chairman: There will then be no time for the hon. Minister to reply. The importance will go away.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: I will finish after putting two or three questions. Then about credit. Short-term credit is always possible. I

would like to know what they are going to do about the long-term credit. That is the most important. I do not find any provision for it.

I visualise another difficulty also. After all that they have done they want to funnel all their resources and this credit through co-operative credit societies. My first complaint is this. The Minister of Agriculture and the Minister of Co-operation do not see eye to eye with each other. It will again create so many difficulties in the implementation of this scheme. What steps have been taken to see there is smooth running?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: There is no difference so far as this is concerned.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: The difference is about the working; it is working the scheme that matters; that is the whole trouble. It also indicates that there is clearly this difference. It is an indirect admission that there is difference and that difference is bound to reflect in the working. That is my complaint. Will they not by encouraging credit to co-operative societies, by this method, encourage spurious co-operative societies to take advantage of this? Why cannot they do something better?

This scheme does not after all take note of the decentralisation which we have done in Andhra and Rajasthan. It is to be implemented through the official agency. Do we want to give that scheme of decentralisation a setback? Do they provide any small irrigation projects also and for lift irrigation? Or is it only confined to some high-sounding schemes? Are they going to leave it to the district concerned as to how best they can do? It is my firm belief that if they give this sum of Rs. 35 crores to the districts—Rs. 5 crores for each district—and let it draw up its own programme, the results would be three times what they expect. I do not know on what basis they say that production would go up by 40—60 per cent. I stand on the floor of this House to assure the hon. Food Minister that if

the scheme is not worked only in the Secretariat in Delhi and in the State Secretariats, if it is permitted to work in the fields and if the project officer and the non-officials of the district are entrusted with it the whole hog and if they are given the fullest liberty and if the resources are placed at their disposal, the results would be at least 100 per cent better than what would be otherwise. Otherwise, this scheme will share the same fate as most of the other schemes of the Food Ministry because of which, even after 13 years of our freedom, we find ourselves in such a deplorable condition so far as the food problem is concerned.

डा० राम सुभग सिंह (सहसराम) :
सभापति जी, जब इस योजना को चालू करने की बात हो रही थी, उस वक्त बहुतों ने कहा था कि इस के बिना भी काम चल सकता है, लेकिन जब गवर्नमेंट ने तय किया इस के बारे में तो सबों ने इस का स्वागत किया कि अच्छा है, इस योजना के जरिये ही हम लोग खेती के काम को आगे बढ़ावें। इस योजना के मूल सिद्धान्त के अनुसार इसे उन जगहों पर चालू करना था जहाँ सिंचाई की अच्छी व्यवस्था थी, और मैं मद्रास सरकार को बधाई दूंगा कि उन्होंने तंजोर जिले में इस को चालू कर दिया, इस धान के सीजन से। लेकिन और छः राज्यों आंध्र, मध्य प्रदेश, राजस्थान, बिहार, उत्तर प्रदेश और पंजाब में इस को अभी तक चालू नहीं किया गया और वे रबी के मौसम से चाल करने वाले हैं। मेरी समझ में नहीं आता कि इस तरह से राज्य सरकारों तथा भारत सरकार के अधिकारियों में विचार धाराओं का अन्तर क्यों होता है। यदि सिंचाई के जरिये किसी काम को करना था तो धान के मौसम में इस चीज को चालू करना चाहिये था।

दूसरी बात जो मैं रखना चाहता हूँ वह यह है कि मुझे पता चला है कि कम्यू-

[डा० राम सुभग सिंह]

निटी डेवेलपमेंट की ही तरह इस योजना के अन्तर्गत भी लाखों रुपये हेडक्वार्टर बनाने और आफिस बनाने पर खर्च किये जायेंगे। जो जानकारी मुझे प्राप्त है उसके अनुसार हमारे यहां ६ जगहों, उद्वस्तनगर, नवानगर, बक्सर, दिनारा, मोहनिया और डिहरी में इस योजना को चालू करने का फिलहाल निश्चय किया गया है। इन ६ जगहों में से ४ जगहों, उद्वस्तनगर, बक्सर, मोहनिया और डिहरी, में ब्लाक चर रहे हैं। एक मोहनिया है जहां पोस्ट इंटेन्सिव ब्लाक चल रहा है। इन चार जगहों में अभी तक क्यों नहीं सोचा गया कि इन किसानों की क्या क्या जरूरतें हैं और उन लोगों से पता लगा कर धान के मौसम में इसे क्यों नहीं चालू किया गया क्योंकि हमारे यहां धान पर ही विशेष ध्यान दिया जाता है। रबी के मौसम में अधिकांश रूप में वहां जो चीजें पैदा होती हैं उन को पहले फाडर के रूप में इस्तेमाल किया जाता है। इसलिये जो निश्चय किया गया है कि रबी में इसे चालू किया जाय, यह गलत है।

तीसरी बात मैं यह रक्खूंगा कि जिन सरकारों द्वारा इसे सन् १९५९ में चालू करने का निश्चय किया गया और उसके लिये सोचा गया था कि सारी चीज तैयार कर ली जायेगी, चूंकि वहां सी सन् १९६० तक यह योजना चालू नहीं हो सकी, इस लिये जो भी व्यक्ति इस के लिये जवाबदेह है, उन से पूछना चाहिये कि उन्होंने यह विलम्ब क्यों लगाया क्योंकि सरकार खेती का उत्पादन ज्यादा बढ़ाना चाहती थी और इसी लिये अमेरिका के सहयोग से यह स्कीम यहां चालू की गई। यदि दूसरे देशों से मिल जुल कर कोई चीज यहां चालू करने की बात हो और उस में इतनी देर लग जाय तो दूसरों पर इसका क्या प्रभाव पड़ेगा, इस पर भी हम को विचार करना

चाहिये। चूंकि किसानों को मदद देनी है, जैसा माथुर साहब ने कहा कि क्राप पैदा करने के लिये शक्ति के अनुसार ऋण देने की बात इस में है और पूरा ऋण देने की बात है, तो सरकार को रबी के मौसम में जो काम करना है, उस के लिये हर तरह से तैयारी होनी चाहिये। पिछले दिनों यहां पर मंत्री महोदय ने बतलाया था कि हम लोगों ने अपने स्टाफ को, जहां जहां वह बहाल हुआ है, वहां वहां भिजवाना शुरू किया है, लेकिन मुझे पता है कि अभी घर घर किसी का लेखा नहीं लगाया गया है कि क्या जरूरतें किसानों को होंगी मवेशियों के लिये, फटिलाइजर के लिये, इरिगेशन के लिये या गोदाम के लिये, तो इन तमाम बातों का लेखा तैयार करना चाहिये अक्तूबर के पहले, तभी रबी वाली बात कामयाब हो सकती है लेकिन मैं इसे पूरी तरह मानता हूं कि जिन ६ प्रदेशों में इस काम को अभी तक नहीं चालू किया गया वहां पर एक तरह से अधिकारियों ने इस योजना को चालू न करने जैसा काम किया है।

Some Hon. Members rose—

Mr. Chairman: I find that there are only two names here in the notice. The names are: Dr. Ram Subhag Singh and Shri Pahadia. I can now allow other hon. Members only to put one or two questions and not to make speeches.

Shri Achar (Mangalore): I only want to know on what basis or principle the district is selected and whether the Centre has got any voice in this matter.

Shri Braj Raj Singh (Firozabad): May I know whether Government propose to extend the package programme to other districts in the States where irrigation and other facilities exist during the Third Five Year Plan? Secondly, may I know whether in the package programme emphasis shall be laid on people's participation or the programme shall be handled by the bureaucracy? May I also know

whether a further grant from the Ford Foundation has been assured; if so, what is that amount and what percentage of the money spent in the package programme shall be spent on the construction of godowns and salaries of the staff to be appointed?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri S. K. Patil): Mr. Chairman, Sir, this subject of intensive agricultural district programme otherwise known as the package programme is of very great importance indeed, and I am very glad that the hon. Members of the House are taking such keen interest in this programme.

I shall first explain very briefly as to why we call it package programme. The other name is a big name—intensive agricultural district programme. So, we call it a package programme and we call it so because all the factors that go towards making agriculture intensive are there—very many things beginning with irrigation, fertilisers, good seeds, plant protection, insecticides, marketing, grading and so on and so forth. All these factors have got to be attended to, and therefore, in the absence of a better name, it is called package programme. It is a good word; there is nothing wrong about it.

Hon. Members seem to be under the impression that this is something which, if we really do not do it or if there is any delay, will cause a great danger or a great harm. Really speaking, agriculture is going on because there are more than 300 districts in this country. The package programme is restricted just now to seven districts, but later on eight districts will come in, to make up a total of 15 districts. So, it does not mean that if there is no package programme in any particular district, our growth or the prosperity of agriculture is going to be arrested. What is sought to be done is this. (*Interruption*).

Shri Braj Raj Singh: In certain districts, staff has been appointed.

Shri S. K. Patil: In those districts that are to be chosen. How this thing arose is this. The Ford Foundation team went into the question as to how the agricultural production in India can be scientifically raised so that we could maximise agricultural production as they do in their country or in some of the countries progressive in the matter of agriculture. They came to certain conclusions that if all these operations are done and given the facilities—that is, irrigation and other facilities which cannot be created in a day—it is possible to maximise the agricultural production and bring it to the standard to which they have been able to bring in their own countries. That was their recommendation. They did not stop at that. They went further and said that if such districts are chosen for the maximisation of agricultural production, that process itself would require some foreign exchange, etc., because the fertilisers and other things would have to be imported as long as we do not produce them in our own country. Therefore, they suggested that “we shall give something like 10 million dollars, about Rs. 4 crores to Rs. 5 crores—which should be necessary for the foreign exchange component for the success of this programme”.

Why seven districts have been chosen? Seven districts have been chosen because there was a limitation to the help which the Ford Foundation could give because they have got a world-wide organisation and they have got to look to all the countries. So, what they could allot to our country was of that dimension—about 10 million dollars. They said that it was just enough for seven districts. Otherwise, they could have taken more districts.

I can take the House into confidence and tell hon. Members that I tried to get some such help so far as the foreign exchange component was concerned from other countries, especial-

[Shri S. K. Patil]

ly Germany, which is very anxious to help us in the matter of agriculture. I tried for a long time: not that Germany refuses; Germany has got another difficulty. Although they might give money which they are prepared to give, they have not got people who can speak the English language which is necessary in this case; some language is necessary in order to collaborate with our scientific people here. Therefore, they suggested that they would give the money for something else but not for this programme. That is why a part of the delay is attributable to this aspect.

I did not want a kind of competition in this country. When seven districts from seven States are chosen, the other States might ask, "Why is it that some States have been given some districts for this purpose and why we have not been chosen? Therefore, the Centre would be responsible for it." Just as States are responsible for choosing the districts in the States, we would have been responsible for choosing the States, and that would be really a bad thing. Therefore, I thought that if it had to be done, it had to be done in all the areas. So, now, seven districts have been chosen and possibly there would be some areas from the Centrally administered parts of the country which could be selected for this purpose.

Having said that, I repeat that this has been called package programme because every single factor that increases production has got to be taken into consideration. Now, a question will be asked as to why we chose the best districts and not the worst districts in order that something can be done? The objective of the package programme is to maximise production and to get the highest results so that they can be a demonstration to the rest of the districts that, given all these facilities which are available in other countries, this is the result that you

could expect from us. You could not go to districts where there is nothing. If there is no assured rainfall or irrigation, naturally all these things—fertilisers and other things—are useless. So, we wrote to the States that they should choose the best districts where all these factors exist, especially irrigation, because the other factors can be added, but not irrigation. Either there must be sufficient rainfall or there should be irrigation. So, the responsibility of choosing the districts is entirely that of the State. Hon. Members cannot blame the Centre, just as Shri Achar asked, how is it that the Centre interfered with the choice of the districts or encourage or inspire the choice? We have not done that. We have only circulated the conditions or the criteria on which the choice has got to be made. If the States have made a mistake in selecting a particular district, the fault or whatever it is entirely theirs and not ours.

After all, agriculture is a State subject. All these things—almost 99 per cent—have got to be done by the State. We merely come in for co-ordination or encouragement or giving a little help. So, we have got to rely upon the State not only for the choice of the districts, but to make all preparations and the other arrangements that must necessarily come in before the package programme starts.

Shri Mathur asked very naturally, because it created so much enthusiasm among those people, particularly in some districts like Tanjore in Madras and Pali from where my hon. friend comes. That perhaps happens to be his constituency. I am very glad he would have all the opportunity of giving the lead to his own people there in order to implement successfully this programme. Naturally, the people became anxious and they wanted to know why there was a little delay. I was trying, if it is possible, to take all these 15 districts simultaneously. That could not happen.

Besides, I was away for six weeks, when this thing came, particularly at the time when the programme was to have started. The programme has to be accepted not only by my Ministry, but also by the Planning Commission and the Cabinet. All things must go in before the programme becomes a reality.

These are the superficial things. But the real basic thing is the States. They must prepare the ground for it, so that they are prepared to receive the programme. This programme is a five-year programme. It is not a programme where immediately in a district everything is taken. According to the present plan 100 blocks in a district would be taken and not all the blocks, because of our limitation of finding the funds. So, we are cautiously proceeding, because in an anxiety to envelope everything, we must not proceed in a manner whereby the best results may not be possible. We are determined to show in this great experiment of ours what would be the top-most maximum agricultural production in a given area. So, we cannot take anything in which there is no preparation. That is why there is this limitation of 100 blocks.

Also, the arrangements that we make for the successful implementation of this programme must be such that the programme must be repeatable. It is not merely confined to those districts. After having proved its success in those districts, the programme has to go to the other 300 districts by and by. Everywhere you cannot get the Ford Foundation to give money or somebody else to do it. On the success of this programme will depend the possibility of enlarging this experiment and taking it to the other districts in this country. We have talked quite enough during the last 10 years that if we do this and that, agricultural production will increase. But we have never given any

practical experiment to those things in a scientific way.

Of course, there are some districts which have excellent agricultural production without this programme. But this is an attempt to show that if all these factors are brought into play, the cumulative result of it is maximum production. That is exactly what is sought to be done. A district like Tanjore, which is by far, I should say, a leading district in the country so far as agriculture is concerned, not only because agriculture is good there, they are assured of water supply because there is irrigation there by Cauvery and most of the district is covered by that, because the people are so agriculture-minded and the farmer there is so good, our basis is very strong there. Therefore, they thought they could make a start. And the Madras Government, if I may say so, as a Government is ahead in agriculture and I must give credit to it. Because, in every little aspect of agriculture I have seen that Government is really more keen than any other Government. Therefore, they said, ultimately, if you do not expect any money help from elsewhere, "we can start this programme even without any help". They said that they can do it themselves. Therefore, they made a beginning with the appointment of officials and so on. Now the programme has to be completed in five years, which means 20 per cent of the district every year. That means, if we have hundred blocks, we shall take up 20 blocks or 20 per cent of each of the blocks so that in five years we make a complete programme.

It would require some money, some time and some preparation. But more than all these things what is required is the enthusiasm of the people. Really, they must be prepared to take this. If they go on making complaints from the beginning "Where is the credit to come from, where is the fertilizer to

[Shri S. K. Patil]

come from, where is the help to come from", if that becomes the mood of the people, and farmers especially, then it becomes a little difficult. Because, the success or failure of any programme depends upon the farmers. Therefore, we have to enthuse the people so that they would take it up themselves and wherever there are things which are beyond the ambit of their power surely the Government can go and help the people.

Now most of this help is a matter of loan, a credit. It is not a *bakshis* that we are giving them in crores of rupees. It is not so. Out of the Rs. 37 crores, or Rs. 35 crores which my hon. friend mentioned, Rs. 29 crores is a kind of loan. It is a question of long term and short term loans. Out of these Rs. 29 crores, Rs. 22 crores is short-term and Rs. 7 long term loans. And this is our expectation, and possibly it might be a little more or a little less, because after all these efforts that we are making, the farmers may not need it; not the farmer necessarily goes in for a loan if he has got other resources. He may depend upon other sources and the loan may not be necessary, and the actual expenditure—and though I call it expenditure, part of it will be loan also—is somewhere about Rs. 8 crores. It will work out to a crore of rupee, about half of which will come from the Ford Foundation and the other half will come from the State Government and the rest in various forms.

This is the state of affairs, and we are very anxious indeed that this should be started and done. Although the area in those seven districts is somewhere about 5 million acres, if this is really done and the production is maximised then we expect in these seven districts alone that the agricultural production will increase by something like three million tons. Now if we take the other eight dis-

tricts, for which we have written to the State Governments, the production will go up still further. Now as many as five States have already written to me stating which districts they have chosen. I think the district of Mandya has been chosen from Mysore, though it is not liked by my hon. friend, Shri Achar, because Mangalore is not chosen. But, it does not matter for if it is Mandya this year, it will be Mangalore next year. This is the experiment which is going on and we hope the farmers will see to it that the production increases. This is exactly the scheme that is envisaged.

There are a few questions which I shall very briefly reply. My hon. friend, Shri Mathur, referred to credit. The traditional way of determining the credit-worthiness of a particular person, which mostly depends upon his property and other estates, will not do for this scheme. Therefore, the credit rules will have to be revised. So, a long talk took place between our Ministry and the Bank so that they could come to some kind of understanding as to the reorientation of the credit-worthiness of the peasant so that it should not be a deterrent. That also took some time. But I can assure this House that if such experiments go on and the fruits of it are visibly seen, the Reserve Bank also would see that there is nothing wrong in it, because, after all, the money that has come is invested, and more of it would come back. Therefore, everything depends really on the successful implementation of the scheme. Therefore, we must not initially go on fighting saying that the water must be there before and then we will proceed. That cannot happen. Therefore, we must go on and try to improve things by our own experience, by dint of our own perseverance and hard work, and the consequences will follow.

Then my hon. friend, Shri Mathur, very rightly said as to who is res-

possible for the loss of production etc. because we talked of the package programme and possibly the consequence of it that we shall get it. On that assumption the hon. Member asked me as to who is responsible for the loss of it. Maybe, if anybody is responsible, it is the Centre and not the States. Why? Because unless we give all these facilities to the States, the States cannot begin. Something could begin just as Tanjore has begun or just as Pali possibly has made a beginning at least in imagination, in preparation and in spiritual and other preparations but not actually on the field. But that could be done. I have no doubt about it. Therefore if there is any delay it is due to the system and because it is the first programme we do not want to take any defeat in that programme. I can assure this House that we have staked everything in this programme because we have talked enough. Now let us show something that in five years this can be done by efforts in the direction in which they are properly guided.

A question was raised of the *rabi* crop and of the other crop by my hon. friend, I remember. I was not present in the House on that day because I was in the South when these questions were asked otherwise I would have told him that it does not either begin with *rabi* crop or with the *kharif* crop. Possibly it might begin when other preparations have begun. We have got many preparations to make until we actually come for the sowing and other things. For instance, all the arrangements have to be made as to how it has got to be done. That is more important than merely the procedure of sowing and of finding out the proper type of seed and fertilisers etc. Therefore when they begin will depend upon the States. There the Centre cannot go every now and then and tell them that you should do it in a particular fashion. If they require any guidance from us that guidance will always be available.

My hon. friend, Dr. Ram Subhag Singh, said about differences of

opinion between the States and the Centre in this. They do not exist. I could assure him that it is not for the matter of saying that I am saying this. Some hon. Members say that there are differences between some Minister and the other Minister. I can tell you, not that I talk in self-praise, that generally I have no differences with anybody whatsoever.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: I said that if there was any lack of understanding on the part of the States and the Centre so far as the introduction of this programme is concerned and if due to that lack of understanding the matter was held up then it should be rectified.

Shri S. K. Patil: I can assure my hon. friend that there is no difference. On the contrary the States are vying with each other in order to get this programme naturally because they would get this opportunity of demonstrating it in their own State. There was some difference, not difference of opinion, between the Reserve Bank and Bihar, the State from which the hon. Member comes, and Shahabad District that was chosen because the structure of the co-operative societies in that particular district was not of the type which the Reserve Bank could accept. Therefore some kind of a change was necessary in that structure. I do not know the details of it, but I got the information that that also has now been done. The structure has been so made because the Reserve Bank should see to it that there is a reasonable possibility of getting money back. It must not be bogged into some kind of a co-operative society which may ultimately prove to be defective. But all these hurdles are being removed and have been removed.

So far as the seven district are concerned I think the green light will be given in the next few days. So far as the other eight districts are concerned, five of them have been chosen, but all eight have got to be chosen

[Shri S. K. Patil]

so that we make the announcement and find the money and everything because even the foreign exchange for these districts will have to be found by the Government as the Ford Foundation cannot stretch their aid to these eight districts at least for this year.

A question was asked by Shri Braj Raj Singh as to whether there would be any extension of this programme to other districts. I have replied it by saying that these are really laboratories. They would be extended as soon as the success of these is known.

He asked another question as to whether the Ford Foundation could give additional money. We cannot go on asking the question to the Ford Foundation, namely "Could you give more money as you have done this etc.?" If they see that our programme is succeeding they also get encouraged that the experiment that they have started in this country has really proved to be fruitful. This being the case one need not be afraid that any disastrous results can come out

of it or that this scheme would be like any other scheme etc. that has gone wrong. Let us not start with that premise. I would appeal to the House that for the first time we are giving concrete shape to what we have been saying. The table politics or the table statistics are now being taken and transplanted in the fields. Therefore all of us put together, even the hon. Members of this House, should make a determined effort that this package programme becomes a success. If it becomes a success in these 15 districts, it would mean an addition of nothing less than five to six million tons of foodgrains. If it expands in the other districts, the time will soon come when not only will we not be a country suffering from shortfalls, but we will become a country which will have surplus and we can help other countries too with our surplus.

17.41 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday August 31, 1960/Bhadra 9, 1882 (Saka).