

[Mr. Chairman]

Sarvashri Indulal Kanaiyalal Yajnik and Karsandas Parmar, Members, Lok Sabha, were accordingly arrested at 8.15 hours on the 17th August, 1958 and are at present lodged in the Sabarmati Jail, Sabarmati, Ahmedabad."

16.30 hrs.

MOTION RE. FOOD SITUATION—
contd.

Mr. Chairman: Now, Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi may speak.

Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi: Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is one redeeming feature, and it is that there is an increasing appreciation in the country about the urgency of the food problem. It has begun to be appreciated now that food is the foundation of all plans, and unless we become self-sufficient in food there will be a perpetual drain on Indian economy.

There is no doubt that the Food-grains Enquiry Committee has depicted a very dismal and dark picture, saying that for many years to come we will have to depend on imports from outside. The speech of the hon. Minister this morning also did not give a very rosy picture. No doubt, he said that there has been a slight reduction in imports. He also said that there is a possibility of an easing of the situation. But, at the same time, he admitted that it is not possible for us to reach the target of our production. In the face of this situation, Sir, we have got to see how we are to meet the situation.

I am afraid, despite the appreciation that is there, we are not handling the food problem in the manner we ought to. The person who holds the situation at present in the food problem is the farmer, the peasant, the man in

the fields, the man behind the plough. He needs to be looked after. I ask the Minister of Agriculture, if really he is giving that much attention to the interests of the farmer which the circumstances call for.

What does a farmer need in the present conditions? His needs are four. He wants a fair price, he wants finance, he wants fertilisers and he wants better and improved implements. Looking at the picture of food production from these four aspects, is the Ministry looking after these four needs of the farmer—that is the question before us. Let us take the first one—a fair price. Here I have got a very sad comment to make. The hon. Minister was pleased to say that we have created zones for the purposes of controlling prices. So far so good. Is this creation of zones giving a fair deal to the farmer in the different zones?

Now, my hon. friend Pandit Thakurdas Bhargava, who preceded me, stated that Punjab has not shown so much of progress. What his intention was, I do not know. But from what figures I have about Punjab, I believe that Punjab has led all the other States in the matter of production, and the hon. Minister for Agriculture would bear me out in this. Whereas Punjab was deficit by 3.35.000 tons in 1947, at the time of partition, at present, according to the speech of the hon. Minister, one lakh tons of rice have been procured and exported outside, besides other foodgrains. As far as I know, Sir, during the First Five Year Plan, food production in the integrated area of Punjab and PEPSU increased by 38 per cent, and that of cotton, sugar and oil seeds by 55 per cent, 35 per cent and 25 per cent respectively, but the actual production figure for the final year of the First Plan was about 44.81.000 tons. Punjab is determined, in the present circumstances, to reach the peak target of 52 per cent by 1960 in the production of foodgrains, as compared to the all-India target of 23.8 per cent.

Therefore, with this increased production, I believe, Punjab is entitled to more attention by the Food and Agriculture Ministry. But what is the treatment that we are given? A zone has been created with the object to artificially manoeuvre a decrease in prices. What price a poor farmer is getting there is just half of what his counterpart is getting in UP. I do not say that you should give him more. I drew the attention of the hon. Minister for Food and Agriculture, in my speech at the time of the Budget, to the fact that the Punjab Economic Enquiry Committee definitely says that the Punjab farmer is not getting prices commensurate with the labour that he puts in with the family labour that he puts in and the investment that he makes in agriculture with the present prices. Yet you have created an artificial zone in order to bring down the prices and by bringing down the prices at a very ridiculously low price you have procured one lakh tons of rice. I submit, Sir, that is not fair. If you want to give an incentive to the farmer to produce more, you must give him a fair price. For that purpose I agree with Shri Asoka Mehta—though I differ from him in many other things—that there should be an integrated stabilisation of prices whereby you assure the farmer a price taking into consideration the prices of other things, and the farmer will also know that he will get that price. Therefore the first and foremost point is that you have to look to the peasant and his interests, and you have to give him an incentive to grow more. Sufficient attention is not paid in that respect.

In Punjab, Sir, as the hon. Minister knows very well, about 50 lakh acres of land lies water-logged. The Punjab Government has put in a scheme and has sought for an assistance of nearly Rs 6 crores to Rs 7 crores from the Centre in order to remove that water-logging and increase production. How much assistance has been given? We are having a drain of Rs 125 crores every year on foreign exchange, whereas Rs 7 crores has not

been given so that the Punjab Government may be able to implement their scheme to remove water-logging and increase production. Only a paltry sum—of course, I am subject to correction—of Rs 87,00,000 has been given for the purpose as assistance to Punjab Government. What I am submitting is—of course, as Shri Asoka Mehta says, it is not only the responsibility of the Centre, it is equally the responsibility of the States—the overall responsibility is that of the Centre and the States do seek assistance. In this respect Punjab has got a certain grouse that things have not been properly looked into.

The second need of the farmer is finance. In this connection we have got a report of the Rural Credit Committee. But what has been done? How much has been saved? I am not against the National Savings Scheme. My constituency has contributed the maximum in Punjab, and it will continue to contribute. We have got to feed the Plan, and for that purpose we have to give the maximum to the National Savings Scheme. But I want to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to one thing. By asking people in the rural areas to invest in the National Savings Scheme, you are withdrawing the finance which should have been utilised for increased production. I am not against it. I support it, but, all the same, I want to point out that, by asking them by persuading them, by bringing pressure on them to invest in the National Savings Scheme as much as possible, you are withdrawing from the rural areas without giving any substitute finance through credit societies. It is a very important thing that there should be easy credit at the disposal of the farmer to increase production.

His third need as I said, is fertilisers. Here too we have got a sad picture. We are very pessimistic about the picture which the hon. Minister has given us. Even taking the figure of 15.52 lakh tons which he has given us, our consumption is not even 5 per cent of the consumption in other countries, and as somebody

[Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi]

has rightly put it, even a new Sindri Fertiliser Factory every day would not be able to meet the demands as in other countries. It is a very sad picture. We cannot reach even the target figure unless you give the farmers the required quantity of fertilisers. It is very difficult to improve the situation without fertilisers. In case you want to increase production, the most essential and basic thing is that there should be an ample supply of fertilisers. Of course, I am glad that something is being done. In this connection, I would submit that the report of the Development Commissioners made in 1957 should be implemented. It is a happy feature, as the Minister was just now pleased to state, that much of the work was being entrusted to the Community Development blocks. That is the right thing. I said once on a previous occasion also that we have got a certain machinery, namely, the Community Development blocks. They should be utilised to the maximum extent. They should be improved, and they should be convinced so that they may look to the increased production. They are in a better position. There should be also co-operatives created for the purchase of good seeds and all that so that the farmer may get something.

I would not take long. There are other Members waiting to speak. The fourth and the essential thing, besides the three other topics which I have spoken upon, is the technical know-how. Here too much has not been done. Here again the Community Development Blocks could do great service. My respectful submission is that for all these purposes we should definitely arrive at a certain policy, and that policy should be this. The Community Development Blocks should be the one unit that should look to the interests of the villages and from that point, a target should be fixed not only for the block as a whole but for each village. We must tell them that each village should reach a certain increase in production

and if a certain duty made to devolve or entrusted to the blocks, there is no reason why there should not be an increased production throughout the country. I would even go to the extent of saying that there is then a possibility of our reaching self-sufficiency. I concede that the population is increasing; that the purchasing power of the people is increasing. We are shifting to better foods, and in this developing economy, there is a possibility that we may not be able to reach self-sufficiency to a certain degree, but there is no reason why we should not rise to that extent. If we make the Community Development blocks the vehicles through which we implement our policies, I feel that there is every possibility for us to succeed.

I was submitting that when the overall picture is taken, there cannot be an increase in production. But then we have got to change our food habits, however conservative we may be and whatever objection or hurdles there may be, and there should be a certain means adopted to change our food habits. How can that be done, with all the conservatism that we have got? How can we shift from the present diet to meat and other things? That is the problem. But I do not think that as long as we stand on old practices, we can succeed. There should be, on the other hand, a propaganda, and you should be courageous enough to tell the people that they must change their food habits. Unless a change in food habits is there, unless family planning is there, and unless there is increase in production, I am sorry to say that the future of the country would be dark. But I feel that the time has come when we have got stamina and strength, when we are determined to do certain things. If we do that, we can possibly better our position, and in that, I would submit that the Ministry today is taking certain steps.

Shri Parulekar (Thana): The other day we discussed in this House the

scarcity of water in the Capital of India. We found that the attitude of the Government then was one of complacency, irresponsibility and callousness. Today, we are discussing another crisis, namely, the food crisis. It is far more grave, far more acute. It has covered the entire country, and what is more, it has become chronic.

Sir, I have read carefully the White Paper issued by the Ministry on the food situation. I have listened carefully to the speech made by the hon. Minister when he explained the food situation just a few hours back, but I am all the more convinced thereby that the attitude of the Government is far more irresponsible and callous in this respect. I say so because I think, and I believe, that the food crisis can be avoided, that the miseries of the people suffering as a result of the food crisis can be mitigated to a great extent if appropriate measures are adopted by the Government. But Government have not adopted those measures and are not likely even today to adopt those measures.

When we met in August, 1957, we were faced with the food crisis, and as a result of the discussion which took place then, we were assured that the Government would take measures by which the prices of foodgrains would be brought under control. When we met in March this year, the Address of the President dealt with this question, and it was stated in the Address that the measures which have been described there helped to restrain the upward trend in prices. This is stated on page 2 of the Address of the President. We are meeting now in August, and now we find that the assurance which was given then and the statement which was made in that Address of the President were without substance. That shows how shallow and bankrupt is the understanding of the Government about the food crisis.

After the harvest, when a large portion of the marketable surplus

comes to the market, the prices fall, but the moment the hoarder, the monopoly merchant, the speculator, gets a grip over the stock, the prices rise. It is the simple truth of our rural economy, but we find that the Government is incapable and has not got the capacity to grasp this simple truth. When they made a statement in March that the prices were under control, the irony of fate was that the prices of foodgrains started rising in March itself.

I will give a few figures to show that the prices of foodgrains started rising, soaring, just when the statement was being made in this House that the prices were under control. The index of the wholesale prices of food articles—taking 1952-53 as the base year and taking 100 as the base was 100·8 in February, 1958. In March, it was 102·5. It already started rising. In April, it was 105·2; in May, it was 107·2; in June, it was 113·6, and the latest figure for July has been just now given by the hon. Minister, and he has admitted that the prices have soared still higher and they have soared much higher than what they were at this time last year.

I will not try to describe the food situation as it prevails in the country, but I will state a few salient features of it, and draw the attention of the House to where it has become acute. In Bengal the price of rice is soaring high. The foodgrains available in the ration shops are not adequate to meet the needs of the people. The Government had promised that they would procure 1½-lakh tons but what they actually procured is 67,000 tons. The West Bengal Government had appointed a committee to go into the question of food crisis—known as the Foodgrains Enquiry Committee—and it has brought out a report on the policy followed by the Government regarding procurement, regarding levy, regarding the movement of foodgrains, etc. But it seems from what has appeared in the papers that the Government is not willing to

[Shri Parulekar]

make this report available to the members of the State Legislative Assembly there. The inference is obvious. That is, the recommendations and the findings of that committee are damaging to the Government.

Take the districts of Eastern Uttar Pradesh and parts of Bihar. It is reported in the press that people are living on grass and roots. In Kashmir, deaths due to starvation have been reported. In several other parts in the whole country, we find that similar conditions prevail. I will not detain this House with this aspect of the question because everybody is aware how acute the question is and how acute the food crisis has become. But what, according to the Government, are the causes of this crisis? The Government distributed to us a White Paper on the food situation in which they try to analyse the causes of this crisis and also advance a theory for the crisis. According to them, two causes are responsible for the food crisis which faces this country today. One is the growth of the population and the second is that the purchasing capacity of the people, meaning thereby that the purchasing capacity of all the people has increased as a result of the expenditure on development programmes and the production of foodgrains is not enough to meet this increased demand.

This analysis and this theory are misleading and mischievous and that is why it is necessary to scrutinise both these causes. Increase of population is not the cause of the food crisis that is facing this country today. Nobody can deny that the population is increasing. It is increasing, I admit it. But it is one thing to say that the growth of population is the cause of the food crisis and a totally different thing to say that the failure of the Government to increase the production of food to meet the increasing demand of the people is the cause of the crisis. What is the implication

of the statement made by the Government as regards the cause of the crisis? The implication is that increase of production is no longer possible to such an extent as to meet the demands of the increasing population. If this is accepted as the cause of the crisis, what, I would like to ask the Government, is the remedy. The main remedy, according to them, on the basis of this theory of causes, would be: curtail the growth of population. Produce less children and you will get enough food. That would be the solution, in the main, which this Government would be able to offer on the basis of the theory which they are advancing. But if the real cause, as I have stated, is the failure of the Government to increase production to meet the needs of the growing population, then the remedy will be to increase production of foodgrains to meet the minimum requirements of the population in the country

To speak hypothetically, I can say that when the country or the world has reached the level of production of foodgrains to the maximum possible limit and when the population has grown beyond that limit, it might be possible to say that the growth of the population may be the cause of the food crisis which may face the people at that time. But I cannot conceive of such an eventuality arising at any time in the world, because science is advancing much faster than the pace of growth of population. It is true that land is limited and there are no limits to the growth of science. Science is advancing at such a rapid rate that we will be able to meet the food requirements of the entire population, however much it may grow.

I will illustrate this point by taking the example of China. I will read a small passage from a very respectable source.....

Shri Ranga: They have already begun to adopt birth control.

Shri Parulekar: We will adopt birth control when we reach that stage.

Shri Ranga: They have already begun in China.

Shri Parulekar: This is not a document written by a fellow-traveller or communist. This is written by a most respectable person. In the *Eastern Economist Annual Number*, 1957, it is stated:

"The pressure of population in China is much greater than in India, not only because the rate of increase at two per cent per annum is significantly higher than India's 1.25 per cent, but also because the cultivable land on per capita basis in China is much smaller than in India."

It goes on to say:

"For every square mile of cultivated land the pressure in China is three times that in India. If one square mile of cultivated land in India is required to support nearly 500 persons, the corresponding figure in China exceeds 1,500."

I will give a few figures to show that population cannot be the cause of the crisis which we are facing today in India. I will give the figures of cultivable land, irrigated area and population in India and China. In India the cultivable land is 153.5 million hectares; in China, it is less, only 110.2 million hectares. Irrigated area in India is 22.8 million hectares. It is slightly more in China, 26.1 million hectares. The population in India was 357 millions in 1951 and 585 millions in China in 1953. The population in China did not create food crisis, and it cannot be the cause of food crisis in India. In China, I find, there is surplus of foodgrains. They are exporting foodgrains in order to

get capital goods, whereas we are in deficit and we are importing foodgrains to such an extent that our whole economy of development is at stake.

Now, what might be the motive, if one can find it out, of the Government in advancing the theory that it is the growing population which is responsible for the crisis. It is simple to find it. Government want to shift the responsibility for the food crisis on to the shoulders of the people, which is primarily theirs, and they have failed to discharge.

I will now proceed to analyse the second cause, namely, that the purchasing power of the people has been increasing and that is the cause of the food crisis in the country. It is a myth. The hon. Minister knows that there are several income groups in the country. The question is whether the real income of all these groups has increased as a result of the expenditure on development programmes and inflation. It is true that the real income of certain income groups has increased. But who are they? They are the persons who are the captains of industry. They are the big business. They are the businessmen who carry on monopoly in business and they are the big landlords. The real income of these groups has undoubtedly increased due to both these factors, inflation as well as expenditure on the development programmes. But they constitute an insignificant fraction of the entire population. The real income of the workers, the real income of the salaried employees, of the agricultural labourers, the artisans, the poor peasants, have not increased, and they constitute a overwhelming proportion of the entire population in the country.

The hon. Minister has chosen to make a statement, without giving any evidence in support of his contention. Perhaps he has borrowed it from the Foodgrains Enquiry Committee, where also these causes have been mention-

[Shri Parulekar]

ed. Here I will take the opportunity by reading a small passage from the Report of the Taxation Enquiry Commission, which has refuted the theory that the purchasing power of the people has increased. On page 79 it is stated

"The main conclusion of study of income distribution in India on the basis of such inadequate data as are available is that no major shift in income from the urban to the rural or from the rural to the urban as a whole can be established to have taken place during the period since the beginning of the war, though for some years after 1942 the terms of exchange would seem to have moved in favour of the agricultural sector. It appears, however, that certain shift took place inter se among different income groups within the respective sectors

"In the rural sector, the comparatively large landholders, particularly such as have regular irrigational facilities and have been growing cash crops, have improved their relative position, especially in those parts of the country where significant land reforms have not taken place. On the other hand, the position of an important section of the agricultural population comprising landless agricultural labour which also includes some artisans and non-occupy tenants has always been particularly vulnerable, and appears to have suffered some further deterioration. In the urban areas, the middle classes and those with fixed incomes have lost in real terms, while business classes, both in commerce and industry, especially in the higher income groups, have gained,

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This is the conclusion to which this Commission has arrived and here is the White Paper which is distributed to us and which says without any

foundation, without any basis, without studying actually what is the rural economy and what are the real incomes of the lower income groups, that the income or the purchasing power of the people has increased and that is why the demand for food has increased and that is why the food crisis is there.

For want of time, I will not be able to go into other figures which are available to me, but here is an article written by Shri H D Malaviya, who was the editor of the economic journal conducted by the AICC. His remarks are only relevant so far as UP is concerned and this is what he says

" in 1954-55 The rural income in that period declined from 195 4 to 150 7. Thus, while the urban income declined by 2 pc, the rural per capita income registered a fearful decline of 22 pc and the disparity between the rural and urban per capita incomes increased by 10 pc"

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A M Thomas):
What is that paper?

Shri Parulekar: The paper is 'New Age' conducted by the Communist Party of India. But the author is Shri H D Malaviya. The article does not become tainted just because it is printed in a Communist journal.

Shri Tangamani (Madurai):
Figures do not change because they are published in the Communist Party paper.

Shri Parulekar: I have got a table which shows that the real income of the industrial workers has gone down during this period. Taking 1939 as the base it was 100 in 1939, 108 6 in 1940, 103 7 in 1941 and it has gone down since that period. In 1942 it was 89 0, in 1943 it was 67 0, in 1945 it was 74 9 and in 1946 it was 73 2.

Mr. Chairman: It is the real income of industrial labour compared to 1939?

Shri Parulekar: Yes. Taking 1939 as the base, the real income of the working class has gone down.

Shri Tangamani: Total emoluments may be greater, but the real income has gone down.

Shri Parulekar: Only in 1952 it was 101:8. In 1953 it was 99:9 and in 1954 it was 102:7.

So, it will be seen that the real income of all the lower income groups, all those groups who go to constitute the vast majority of the population has not increased during these years either due to deflation or due to expenditure on development programmes. In many cases it has gone down. So, the theory that the purchasing power has gone up does not stand to reality. It is something which is a myth.

I will now pass on to the other question, i.e., what are the real causes of the food crisis. I have stated just now that according to the Government are the real causes of the food crisis. Now, I will discuss the question as to what are the real causes of the food crisis. In examining this question there are two aspects of the problem and they should not be mixed up. One is the problem of production of enough foodgrains to meet the minimum requirements of the people. That is one aspect of the problem. The second aspect, which is equally important so far as the food crisis is concerned, is the problem of making available all marketable surplus to the people at prices which are within their capacity to purchase. This is the second aspect of the problem. When we examine them, which I will presently do, we will find that the failure of the Government in both these respects is responsible for the food crisis which we are facing and which has become chronic for the last several years.

I will take the first question—of production. The root cause of failure to increased production is the failure of the Government to carry out agrarian reforms. It is ten years since agrarian reforms were promised. Ten years have passed since India became Independent and agrarian reforms were promised. But actually their performance is a sorry spectacle. What are the causes of why agrarian reforms are not being introduced and are not being implemented? In this respect also, I will quote a small paragraph from Shri Malaviya's article, who seems to know the real causes because he was in the innermost circle of the Congress.

Shri A. P. Jain: Where is he now?

An. Hon. Member: In Moscow.

Shri Tangamani: Even the book which he wrote when he was in Congress will bear this out.

The Deputy Minister of Agricultural (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): Shri Malaviya and others were trained in our party.

Shri Parulekar: "It is amazing that people who openly and unequivocally denounce accepted policies of the Congress on the land question continue to occupy leading positions in the Organisation, the legislatures that he has proved itself to be impotent in dealing with such non-believers within the Organisation."

That is why, though land reforms were promised ten years back, they have not been implemented.

Shri M. P. Mishra (Begusarai): Congress Party itself is taking care of that.

Shri Parulekar: I will come to to point which my hon. friend is making, i.e., that the Party is taking care for expediting the implementation of these reforms.

[Shri Parulekar]

Recently, the A.I.C.C. appointed a committee to see that land reforms are expedited. This is what he says about it:

"With this as the background, Sri Dhebar, Sri Pant and Sri Morarji Desai have now been entrusted by the Congress Working Committee to expedite land reforms. It is probably not generally known that these very gentlemen were constituted into an identical sub-committee almost three years ago, in the beginning of 1955. Then, as now, they were entrusted with the task of expediting land reforms. No one knows what they did then. And no one can say what they will do now."

All I can say is that this committee will again sleep just as it did three years ago. The root cause of the food crisis is that land reforms are not introduced. Perhaps, the hon. Minister will get up and say 'hat they have passed agrarian legislations in various States. I cannot go into a detailed examination of the agrarian legislations but I can make one generalisation that wherever the legislation has been passed, the results have been that large number of tenants have been evicted. There has been mass eviction. That has been the result. That has been the result in Bombay State where the legislation is supposed to be most advanced. In respect of results of land legislation I have got figures. But I may only point out for want of time that Shri Nanda, who submitted a note to the Minister of Planning, has referred to these figures of eviction. I will leave it at that.

There are other causes also for the inability of the Government to deal with this aspect of the food crisis. Government has to provide cheap water. Water is there, but it is not cheap. The peasant cannot afford to have it.

The failure of measures taken by Government in respect of providing cheap credit, cheap manure, minor irrigation were also among the causes which have resulted in the food crisis facing us today. The measures which the Government have adopted go to the benefit, not to the tillers of the soil who are so numerous and who constitute the overwhelming majority, but to the benefit of a very minor section of those who actually cultivate the soil.

The second cause of the crisis, with which I shall deal very briefly, is the failure of the Government to make available the marketable surplus at reasonable prices. The root cause of this failure is that the hoarder, the monopoly merchant and the speculator can manipulate the market and the prices. Unless their activities are eliminated, the problem of the food crisis cannot be solved. Various steps have been taken by Government to control prices. But the measures of Government of creating zones, cordons and credit squeeze have failed. What is the proof? The proof is that despite all these, the prices have risen and are rising.

It will be very interesting to note just a few lines from a spokesman of the Forum of Free Enterprise, a representative of that class:

Shri Ranga: Are both of you of the same opinion?

Shri Parulekar: No, we differ in the conclusions. But so far as hoarding is concerned, this is what he has said:

"Why does hoarding take place? It takes place because of the expectation of a continued price rise. So long as this expectation remains, hoarding will continue."

Unless you take away that expectation, hoarding is bound to continue. This is what the spokesman of the Form of Free Enterprise says.

As regards credit squeeze, he says:

"At the moment, our attention seems to be riveted on a credit squeeze by the banks against speculative squeeze hoarding."

I will drop a few lines as I have no time. He goes on:

"If the expectation of a price rise remains, credit squeeze measures are likely to be dodged, as they are being dodged, and hoarding will continue. The market will raise credit on the hypothecation of things other than commodities, loans against which are restricted or banned."

It will thus be seen that the prices are rising exactly because the Government is not taking appropriate steps by which this price rise can be stopped.

They are taking all other measures, for instance creating cordons. You hear the history of these cordons. From Mysore State, on the border of Bijapur district, million of tons of rice was smuggled into the other State. What then are the remedies?

Shri C. D. Pande: Billions or millions?

Shri Parulekar: Millions of maunds.

Shri C. D. Pande: Even million is big.

Shri Parulekar: Ask the representative from Mysore State. He will give you the details. For want of time I cannot give you the details.

What is the remedy? The remedy is to implement the recommendations of the Foodgrains Enquiry Committee, for increasing production of

foodgrains, and to carry out agrarian reforms. There is a small paragraph on page 116 which I did not read, in which they have stated that it is urgently necessary to carry out agrarian reforms, without which it is not possible to solve the question of increasing production of foodgrains. Give land to the tiller; reclaim uncultivated land. 95 million acres of land is uncultivated land. In this respect also it is interesting to note what this Report has stated. It says that the pace of reclaiming uncultivated land is so slow that Government will never be able to reclaim all the land that can be cultivated.

Plan, minor and medium irrigation works, give the peasant cheap credit, manure and good seed.—These are the measures, but the basic measure is one of land reform; of giving the land to the tiller. If you adopt all these measures, the food crisis can be solved. We will not only be self-sufficient but we may be in a position to have surplus of foodgrains and perhaps be able to export foodgrains to get our capital goods. We must make available the marketable surplus to the people at fair prices. These are the measures which, according to me, can solve the food problem.

On page 86 this Report says: socialise trade in foodgrains. I have not got the time to read it, but it is a very interesting paragraph. The hon. Minister who has brought out a pamphlet on the food situation narrating what steps they have taken and intend to take on the basis of this Report, has not referred to this paragraph at all. And it is a very important paragraph so far as the question of price structure of the commodities is concerned.

Shri A. P. Jain: What else is procurement and fair price shops if it is not socialised distribution?

Shri Parulekar: I have not got the time, Sir. If you will allow me some time, I will be able to read the whole paragraph.

An. Hon. Member: Socialisation of trade.

Shri A. P. Jain: My question is: what else is procurement and distribution through fair price shops if it is not socialisation?

Shri Parulekar: I think I will require another half an hour, if he does not know the elementary difference between these two concepts, to explain what it is. But I will recommend to him to read page 86 of this Report so that he may get better enlightenment and be in a better position next time to give a correct reply.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty (Basirhat): Fair price shops are open market shops, and I do not understand how he can mix up socialisation with this.

Shri Parulekar: Sir, I have not got the time. The paragraph is illuminating enough, and I will request him, when he returns home, to read it at night.

Mr. Chairman: I think the hon. Member is concluding.

Shri Parulekar: Yes, Sir, I shall conclude in a minute.

Fix the prices for foodgrains in such a manner that the peasant does not suffer; purchase the marketable surplus at the time of the harvest; form central advisory committees with representatives of the people to watch the prices. These are the remedies which must be adopted. Without adopting these basic remedies you can never solve the food crisis. Year after year we will be coming in the House and shouting about the food crisis, and they will be shedding crocodile tears about the food crisis. If we meet in August they will come and shed tears. If we meet in March they will give us hope and say that everything is all right. This continues. That is why I urge that these measures are

urgent, and Government must adopt them if they are really serious about solving the food crisis.

Shri T. Subramanyam: Mr. Chairman, the Food Minister has taken the earliest opportunity of bringing up for discussion before this House the problem of food and of food production. Our whole economic programme in the Second Five Year Plan and the Third Five Year Plan will not succeed unless we solve satisfactorily the problem of food production and food distribution.

He has placed a White Paper before us and has not concealed facts. From the facts he has given us, the situation that he has described there seems disquieting; it is even humiliating. Last year, that is in 1957-58, our food production figure was 62 million tons. It is a decrease, by 6.7 million tons, compared with the figure of food production for the previous year. And during the Second Five Year Plan period we had envisaged an import of 6 million tons from abroad. But in the three years, that is from 1956-57 up to now, we have already imported about 6.8 million tons. So we have already exceeded the figure for the entire Second Five Year Plan period. That is the position. And it was well known that the calories consumed per capita in India is the lowest in the world, and has been so—18.80. The target of food production, under the Second Five Year Plan, by 1961 is placed at 80 million tons. Last year, that is in 1957-58, we produced 62 million tons. The Food Minister has placed all these figures before us. While analysing the present position regarding food production, we must bring to bear all our resources, whether they be on the part of the Government or on the part of the people, to place this problem of food production on a war footing. All of us, very often, urge that this problem should be placed and tackled on the basis of a war footing.

I am afraid at various levels this awareness or consciousness is absolutely lacking. Unless we remove some of the difficulties in the way of carrying out the Plan with respect to the various items, our position will get worse.

First of all, the percentage of irrigated area to the cultivated area in our country is only 21.2 per cent. Unless we increase the irrigated area, we cannot tackle the problem. As the hon. Food Minister was pleased to observe, our present agriculture is a gamble in rain. Either it will be drought or it will be flood in various parts of the country. Therefore, we are bound to have this problem. We must increase the irrigated area. We must never fail to utilise all the irrigation facilities provided under various major irrigation projects, medium irrigation projects, and minor irrigation projects. We have not done this satisfactorily. I know two or three big projects in my district. There is the Tungabhadra project. On the left bank side, there is provision that an acreage of 5.8 lakh acres should be brought under irrigation. But, actually water made available for distribution is for 1.41 lakh acres. For the rest of the acreage, no arrangements have yet been made up to now. There are difficulties. The position on the right bank side in the Bellary district is not so. The conditions are much better now. Three or four years ago, the position was rather disquieting. Now, the ryots are taking to irrigation facilities. I have seen some places where very impressive yields— increase of yield—has been effected. More demonstration farms have to be started in these ayacuts. The hon. Food Minister was saying that every step will be taken to increase the acreage under minor irrigation schemes, small irrigation schemes, under tanks and other small projects. This should be done expeditiously.

Mere utilisation of irrigation facilities will not be enough unless we take other measures also. Next comes the question of manure. Unless we are making available to the people adequate supplies and distribute them

through the co-operative agencies or through local agricultural depots at various levels, at the village level, at the taluk level, at the district level, organic manure and inorganic manure, increase of yield per acre will not be effected. The crux of our problem is to increase the yield per acre. It can only be effected by solving satisfactorily the problem of manure. Every year, we are informed, 33 million tons of nitrogen is removed from the soil by the various crops whereas we supply to our lands only 1 million tons. There is a large deficit in this matter. I have seen some places where the villagers have taken to green manure. This is reassuring. They have taken to various green manures like glyceria, cesbania, and diancha and other plants. It is to be encouraged. This must be done in every village. Then, it would be possible within two or three years to make every village self-sufficient in the matter of providing green manure which provides a sufficient quantity of nitrogen to the fields. This can be done in an inexpensive manner provided all the agencies, Government agencies, popular agencies, representatives of the people, local bodies, co-operative societies, work together. Now we have got these Community development agencies and departmental officers, village level workers, Block development officers. The services of all these officers should be utilised completely to solve this problem. This can be done. There is nothing impossible about it. I know it has been done in some places and, as I said, very impressive yields have been achieved up to 60 per cent or even 100 per cent by adopting this method.

I now come to the question of seed farms. Seed farms are also important. Unless we produce improved varieties of seed, better strains which are disease-resistant and which produce larger yields, we cannot solve this problem easily. But, even with regard to this, the progress has been very slow. We have received recently copies of Review of Progress of the various State Development plants. I shall not go into this in detail. It makes

[Shri T. Subramanyam]

very unsatisfactory reading with respect to many matters, particularly with regard to seed farms. The Review of progress shows that due to various difficulties such as land acquisition, procedural difficulties, and high prices, a sufficient number of seed farms could not be started in the various States. I have got here Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Madras, Orissa and West Bengal. In all these States, adequate number of seed farms could not be started. In West Bengal, they wanted to have and they started with a target of 200 farms to be started during the Second Plan period. It was agreed to by the Planning Commission. Afterwards, this figure was reduced to 100 and even with respect to that, some difficulties have been expressed. We often hear that these problems should be solved and tackled on a war footing. I am afraid, as I said already, this awareness is lacking, and is not there in that measure if we really want this problem to be solved. If any difficulty is to be tackled or overcome, that is not overcome in the earliest possible time. Departmental delays, procedural delays, rules and orders, the acquisition rules, etc. are given as excuses for not starting these farms. I say, if the State Governments want it, they must have enough power to do this as expeditiously as possible. It should not be left to be mentioned in this report that, on account of this reason, the State Government could not start the farm. It should not be difficult and the difficulty should be overcome in the least possible time. The State Governments have got powers with regard to these matters.

Now, I shall take another question on the solution of which also higher yield will depend, and that is the problem of implements. I went to some villages in the Tungabhadra project area recently. I was shown a village demonstration centre, some sort of an exhibition. I asked them what those instruments were. They said that were bund-formers, adjustable ridgers and buck scrapers. They were interesting;

they were useful. I wanted to know whether they were available in sufficient quantities. They said that they were not available. Then, I asked, what did they do. It was said that they had placed orders on some firm. It was done at a taluk level. Some of the firms which were manufacturing these implements have now taken to the manufacture of furniture and other types of fancy articles. I consider this most criminal that when we are tackling this problem of food production, the available stocks of iron and steel should not be diverted to the manufacture of implements, but should be diverted to the manufacture of furniture and other things. Then, I asked what is the position with respect to bulldozers, tractors and all those things. That is another very tragic story. I know the position in Mysore and some other States. Many of these tractors and bulldozers have gone out of use. They are not in use for a very long time. Only a small proportion or percentage of the available bulldozers and tractors has been used. Then, a sort of cannibalisation has been allowed to creep into this. That is, some of the bulldozers are dismantled and the parts are allowed to be used for one or two bulldozers and they are moved to the field. That is the sort of arrangement that takes place. That is again highly unsatisfactory. I shall not go into these matters in detail.

Everywhere they want implements and seeds and manure. All these problems could be tackled with the co-operation and active participation of all. I am not throwing the blame entirely on the Government. Government has also a serious responsibility in the matter. Popular agencies, popular leaders, co-operative societies, panchayats, all these must take an active part in these matters.

Then with regard to power supply. There are many pumping sets in the rural areas. I know in Mysore, in several parts, power is distributed for irrigation purposes for pumping sets during nights. The inadequacy of power is so tragic. I request that this inade-

quacy should be removed as early as possible. Some of the generating sets which are under contemplation should be sanctioned and brought into operation as early as possible, particularly relating to the Tungabhadra project. There are four more generating stations to be started there.

There is the Bhadra project, and there is the Sharavathi project. All these should be brought into use as early as possible, and the inadequacy of power for irrigation purposes should be removed as early as possible.

With regard to prices, I shall say a word. Everybody says prices should be reasonable and adequate to enable the agriculturist to produce foodgrains at economic prices. It should be an economic proposition for him to take to agriculture. The hon. Minister was referring to the recent increase in the acreage under sugarcane, which is remarkable in some areas and said that the production of cash crops has increased. That is true because there is more money and more profit in the production of commercial crops. Therefore, naturally they do it. Of course, the State must also come in and use its powers. I am not saying the State should not come in and use all their powers with regard to this, but still there is a limit to that. And the better plan would be to have reasonable prices which will meet the expenses of the agriculturist leaving some margin to him which will enable him to plough back some part of it again into the land either in the shape of manures or better and improved seeds and for using better implements.

Shri Ranga: Is the Minister willing to accept that moderate demand coming with such sweet reasonableness? No, of course not.

Shri T. Subramanyam: The distribution arrangements are, I should say, fairly satisfactory. He has just now assured us that the zones will continue and that fair price shops will be continued. Then, the south rice zone is working satisfactorily as also the other wheat zone. Some of the chronically deficit areas and important areas have been cordoned off and

the Central Government have taken up the responsibility for supplying food to them. That is a very satisfactory arrangement. I do not want to take any more time.

पंडित द्वा० ना० तिवारी (केसरिया) :

सभापति महोदय, मेरे यहां कहावत है—
जैसे जैसे दवा की, मरज बढ़ता गया। फूड सिचुएशन के बारे में भी वही किस्सा याद आता है। गवर्नमेंट की तरफ से बहुत इन्तजाम हो रहा है, लेकिन फूड सिचुएशन का समाधान नहीं हो रहा है। इस का क्या कारण है? इस प्रश्न की तह में जाने की कोशिश शायद हम नहीं करते हैं। दो बरस पहले जब पंजाब में गेहूँ ज्यादा हो गया था, तो वहां प्राइस-सपोर्ट की बात चली थी और मिनिस्ट्री की तरफ से दस रुपये मन मिनिमम प्राइस रखा गया था। वैसे ही चने का भाव भी पांच या छः रुपये रखा गया था। मेरे कहने का मतलब यह है कि जरा सा प्राइस बढ़ता है, तो चारों तरफ हल्ला हो जाता है कि प्राइस बढ़ गया, वह कम होना चाहिये। लेकिन यह नहीं देखा जाता है कि जो लोग इस भनाज को पैदा करने वाले हैं, उन का इस में खर्चा कितना पड़ता है, उन को मेहनत कितनी पड़ती है, उन्हें मजदूरी कितनी देनी पड़ती है और उन को मालगुजारी कितनी देनी पड़ती है और जीवन के आवश्यक सामान, जैसे कपड़ा, चीनी, तेल, इत्यादि, के लिये उन को कितना पैसा देना पड़ता है। यह देखा जाना चाहिये कि क्या उस हिसाब से एग््रीकल्चरल कमाडोिटिज का—भ्रम का—दाम रखा जाता है या नहीं। हम देखते हैं कि जो कपड़ा या चीनी की मिलें हैं, उन के खर्च, उन के एस्टाब्लिशमेंट चांजिज, सूख और उन के रीजनेबल प्राफिट को देख कर उन चीजों की कीमत रखा जाती है। हमारे यहां यह होता है कि गृहस्थ ने कुछ पैदा किया, उस पर मेहनत की, खर्च किया और अगर उस के दाम कुछ ज्यादा हो गये, तो हल्ला हो जाता है कि दाम कम करो। हम देखते हैं कि गवर्नमेंट उन्हीं लोगों की बात सुनती

[पंजिब डा० ना० सिबारी]

है—वह बात जामब हो या राजायब— जो कि बोकब होते हैं, जो इरबैन पापुसेसन के हैं, जो लोग शहरों में रहते हैं, जो हल्का ज्यादा करते हैं, जिन की चिल्साहट ज्यादा होती है उन लोगों की भाषाज गवर्नमेंट के कान तक जल्दी पहुंचती है। लेकिन जब गरीब बेचारे, जो कि देहात में रहते हैं, अपना खून पसीना एक क्रर के भनाज पैदा करते हैं और उस की कीमत ज्यादा हो जाती है, तो उस को कम करने की बात की जाती है, जिस का परिणाम यह है कि उन लोगों को उत्साह ही नहीं होता कि हम अधिक भनाज पैदा करें। पहली बात यह होनी चाहिये कि एक उचित प्राइस कायम करना चाहिये, जो कि उन लोगों के खर्च, उन की मेहनत और कुछ मूनाफे को ध्यान में रख कर निर्धारित की जाये—यह व्यवस्था हरेक सीरियस, चावल, गेहूं, चना आदि के लिये की जानी चाहिये—ताकि उन लोगों को इस बात का उत्साह हो कि वे अधिक पैदा करें और उन्हें अधिक से अधिक पैसा मिले। कोई ऐसा काम नहीं किया जाना चाहिये, जिस से उन का उत्साह जाता रहे और वे यह अनुभव करें कि उन को अधिक उत्पादन करने में कोई लाभ नहीं है।

जो व्हाइट पेपर हम को दिया गया है, हम चाहते थे कि उस में कुछ तफसील दी जाती। इस बात में कोई शक नहीं है कि भाज फूड सिचुएशन बहुत खराब है, लेकिन वह इस लिये खराब नहीं है कि बाम ज्यादा हो गये हैं—में इस को नहीं मानता हूँ—बल्कि इस लिये कि हमारे यहा गल्ले की कमी है। हम चाहते थे कि इस वाइट पेपर में दिया जाता कि किस प्रान्त में कितना गल्ला भेजा गया।

श्री प्र० प्र० जैन : वह मैं ने आप को दिया है।

पंजिब डा० ना० सिबारी : वह अभी दिया है। मैं ने माननीय मंत्री की मिनिस्ट्री

में कुछ पहले यह जानना चाहा, लेकिन वहाँ से प्रजीब जबाब मिलता है। मैंने रिजर्व सेबसन को लिखा और उस जॉर्ज ने पता लगाने की कोशिश की लेकिन उनको आपकी मिनिस्ट्री से यह जबाब मिला कि मिनिस्टर साहब ने मना कर रखा है कि कोई भी फिगर्स न दिये जायें। यह एक प्रजीब बात मालूम होती है। हम लोग कुछ प्रांकों केना चाहें तो वे भी हम को नहीं दिये जाते हैं और हम को अवेरे में रखने की कोशिश की जाती है। अगर हम यह जानना चाहते हैं कि हमारे प्रान्त को या दूसरे प्रान्तों के कितना गल्ला दिया गया है तो इसकी फिगर्स सप्लाई करने की भी मनाही कर दी गई है। इससे न तो पैदावार बढ़ने वाली है और न ही घटने वाली है। जब ऐसी बात है तो क्या बजह है कि इस तरह की इस्ट्रकशंस दी गई है कि किसी को कोई फिगर्स सप्लाई म की जाये। क्या यह इसलिये किया गया है कि हम लोग कोई बात न कर सकें ?

इस व्हाइट पेपर ने यह कहा गया है कि भनाज की पैदावार में कमी होती जा रही है। इसकी क्या बजह है। इसके सब कारण तो मैं नहीं जानता हूँ लेकिन दो एक कारण जो मुझे पता हैं उनको मैं आपको बतलाना चाहता हूँ। एक कारण तो यह है कि जितने हमारे इरिगेशन बक्स हैं खास तौर पर माइनर इरिगेशन, बक्स उनसे उतनी सिंचाई नहीं हो रही है जितनी होनी चाहिये। आप टैंक्स बनवाते हैं इरिगेशन के लिये, मैं दूसरे प्रान्तों की बात तो नहीं जानता और न ही यह जानता हूँ कि वहाँ की क्या हालत है। लेकिन मैं अपने प्रान्त की बात जानता हूँ। हमारे प्रान्त में टैंक्स से सिंचाई नहीं हो सकती है। टैंक्स तो केवल मवेशियों को पानी पिलाने के लिये या लोगों को नहाने के लिये होते हैं।

श्री प्र० प्र० जैन : आपको विहाइर जॉर्ज तो नहीं बतवायेंगे ?

प्रंजित डा० ना० सिचारी : वहां पर बनाये गये हैं। इसके बारे में हो सकता है कि आपको रिपोर्ट न आई हो। वहां पर जब जैनुअल लेबर स्कीम चल रहा था उस वक्त टैंक बनाये गये थे। उनको घाट या दस फुट अहुरा खोदा गया है लेकिन एक बूंद भी पानी नहीं निकला है और सारे का सारा पैसा वेस्ट गया है। ट्यूब वॉल से सिचाई अवश्य होती है लेकिन वह सिचाई बहुत कम होती है।

दूसरी बात मैं आपकी स्कीमों के बारे में कहना चाहता हूँ। आपने दामोदर वैली स्कीम को चलाया और उसमें आपने एस्टीमेट बनाया कि कम से कम १०,००० या १५,००० एकड़ जमीन को सिचाई हो सकेगा लेकिन आज भी बिहार में एक एकड़ जमीन की भी सिचाई नहीं हो रही है इस योजना के फल-स्वरूप। हमने आपको कहा था कि आप सड़क योजना को पूरा कर दें जिस पर ज्यादा रुपया भी खर्च नहीं होगा और सिचाई भी ज्यादा से ज्यादा जमीन में हो सकेगी, लेकिन उस और आपका ध्यान ही नहीं जाता है यह स्कीम हिन्दुरतान में सब से वेस्ट स्कीमों में एक है और इसे आपको जल्दी से जल्दी पैसा भी मिल सकता है और आपका तमाम खर्चा तीन चार बरस में पूरा हो सकता है लेकिन इस तरफ आप कोई एटेंशन पें नहीं करते हैं।

अब मैं प्रयोरिटीस की तरफ आता हूँ और इस तरफ आता हूँ कि कहां और कब क्या करना चाहिये। चूकि समय कम है इस वास्ते में कोई जनरल बात नहीं करना चाहता और अब अपने प्रान्त की ही बात करता हूँ। साथ ही साथ आप यह भी जानते हैं कि बैंक बैचर्स को समय भी कम दिया जाता है। मुझे बिहार गवर्नमेंट की तरफ से एक पत्रिका मिली है जिस में कहा गया है कि वहां पर १६,००० राशन शाप्स काम कर रही हैं और जनवरी से अब तक जैसा आपने कहा कि ४,३८,००० टन गेहूँ वहां बेचा

गया है। मैंने हिसाब लगाया है और मैं इस नतीजे पर पहुंचा हूँ कि एक राशन शाप को एक महीने में चार टन गल्ला मिला है और एक राशन शाप २५०० या ३००० आदमियों के लिये होती है। महीने में मैंने जो हिसाब लगाया है उसके मुताबिक एक आदमी को ६ छटांक या आठ छटांक गल्ला मिला है। यह ठीक है कि पहले आफटेक कम होता था क्योंकि लोगों के पास कुछ सड़ा हुआ गल्ला पड़ा था और वह उसे खा लेते थे। लेकिन इधर अनाज की बड़ी कमी हो गई है। राशन शाप्स में मुझे बताया गया है कि दो दो हफ्ते गल्ला नहीं मिलता है और अगर मिलता भी है तो कहीं पचास मन और कहीं पच्चीस मन २५०० की पापुलेशन के लिये। अगर २५ मन और ५० मन दो हफ्ते के बाद गल्ला मिलता है वह यदि सब की डिमांड पूरी नहीं कर सकता है तो उस दुकानदार के मार खाने की नौबत के सिवा और कुछ नहीं हो सकता है। अधिक से अधिक लॉग वहां पहुंच जाते हैं और वह दे नहीं सकता है इसलिए कुछ लोग डरके मारे गल्ला नहीं लाते हैं कि कहीं बेइज्जती ना हो जाये।

यह कहा जाता है कि आफटेक ज्यादा होने की वजह से गल्ला कम हो गया है। मैं आपको बतलाना चाहता हूँ कि हर साल यह समय बिहार के लिये कहत का समय होता है। यों पहले भी जुलाई अगस्त सब से अधिक लीनेस्ट मॉंस आफ दी पीर होते हैं। इन महीनों में बराबर गल्ला और चावल बाहर से वहां जाता है। इसलिए यह सब जानते हुए भी ऐसा इतिजाम नहीं किया गया कि वहां अधिक से अधिक गल्ला भेज दिया जाये। बिहार में भी दो हिस्से हैं, साउथ बिहार और नार्थ बिहार। साउथ बिहार में इतनी सुबिधा है कि जब चाहें तथा जितना चाहें आप सामान भेज सकते हैं। नार्थ बिहार में वह सुबिधा नहीं है। वहां पर एक तो ट्रांसपोर्ट वाटलनैक है और दूसरे ट्रांसशिपमेंट करना पड़ता है और आप जब चाहें दो चार भी गाड़ियां भेजना

[संक्षिप्त द्वा० ना० तिवारी]

तो नहीं भेज सकते हैं। आपने वहाँ पर पहले से ही काफी स्टॉक नहीं जमा किया है और आपको वहाँ काफी स्टॉक जमा कर देना चाहिये या जिससे धर्र दिक्कत न होती। आप जानते ही हैं कि बिहार के फूड मिनिस्टर ने कहा है कि वहाँ पर चार पांच दिन से अधिक दिन के लिये गल्ले का स्टॉक नहीं है। आज सुबह एक प्रश्न भी किया गया था और उसके उत्तर में यह कहा गया था कि यह बात सही है और ट्रांसपोर्ट की दिक्कत की वजह से वहाँ गल्ला नहीं जा सकता है। इस स्टेटमेंट से आप यह समझ सकते हैं कि नार्थ बिहार जिसकी पापुलेशन एक करोड़ से भी अधिक है, उसकी क्या हालत हो रही होगी। लोगों को जब यह मालूम हो जायेगा कि वहाँ पर जो गल्ला है वह चार पांच दिन के लिये ही काफी हो सकता है तो कितनी घबराहट उन में पैदा हो गई होगी इसका अन्दाजा आप खुद ही लगा सकते हैं। कितना रथ राशन की दुकानों पर हो गया होगा और कितनी बेंचनी फैल गई होगी, इसकी सहज ही कल्पना की जा सकती है। कितना गल्ला वहाँ डिसपेंच किया गया है, इसकी जब फिगर्स मागी जाती हैं तो वे भी हमको सप्लाई नहीं की जाती हैं। मैं मानता हूँ कि हम लोग काम करते हैं, हम लोग चीजें देते हैं लेकिन हम एक ऐसे समय पर देते हैं जब उसकी खूबसूरती चली जाती है, उसी वक्त देते हैं जब हाहाकार मच जाता है और जब लोगों को अत्यन्त दुःख होने लग जाता है। मैं मानता हूँ कि हमारे मिनिस्टर साहब कुछ प्रबन्ध करेंगे और कर भी रहे हैं लेकिन जब देरी हो जाती है और लोगों को तकलीफ का सामना करना पड़ जाता है उस वक्त जो काम किया भी जाता है वह शोभा नहीं लाता है। समय पर ही काम करना शोभा देता है।

चूँकि समय कम है इस वास्ते मैं अधिक न कह करके नार्थ बिहार के बारे में कुछ कहना

चाहूँगा और उस और ही आपकी तबज्वह दिलाना चाहूँगा। वहाँ पर साथ समस्या का हल तब तक नहीं हो सकता है जब तक कि किसानों को आप ऐसा इन्सैटिव नहीं देंगे कि वे ज्यादा पैदा कर सकें। एक बात तो मैं ने दामों की बताई है, दूसरी सिंचाई की बताई है और तीसरी बात अन्ध्रे बीज की और खाद की है। इस साल भी गत साल जैसे ही हमारे यहाँ बीज की कमी हो गई है। आगे रबी का सीजन आने वाला है और उसमें बीज की कमी महसूस की जायेगी। इस वास्ते अगर बीज और खाद का पहले से ही प्रबन्ध नहीं किया गया और पिछले सालों की तरह समय बीत जाने के बाद इसका प्रबन्ध किया गया तो कोई फायदा नहीं होगा। इस वास्ते आपको अभी से सतर्क रहने की आवश्यकता है और अभी से प्रयत्नशील होना होगा। अगर आपने ठीक समय पर बीज सप्लाई नहीं किया तो आगे भी आपको बिहार का भविष्य उज्ज्वल नहीं मालूम देगा। इस दिशा में आपको ठोस कदम उठाने होंगे और काफी चेष्टा करनी होगी। लोगों के पास जो बीज था वे अनाज की कमी की वजह से खा चुके हैं।

इस साल भी जो पानी वहाँ हुआ है वह कुछ देरी से हुआ है जिस के कारण जो मकई की फसल थी वह बहुत देरी से बोई गई है। वहाँ पर जब तक धान की फसल नहीं हो जाती है तब तक आपको वहाँ लगातार अनाज देना होगा और अगर अनाज की सप्लाई में कोई कमी की गई तो वहाँ अकाल की स्थिति पैदा हो जायेगी और लोगों की तकलीफ बढ़ जायेगी।

Mr. Chairman: I may point out to hon. Members that if they are willing to sit beyond 5 p.m. we can have some more time for the debate.

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha): Some hon. Members wanted to have more

time for this debate. Government are prepared to have the sitting extended today by one hour. This will mean that instead of 7 hours, we will have 8 hours.

Shri Radhelal Vyas (Ujjain): If it is extended to 8 hours, we are willing to sit one hour late today.

Mr. Chairman: So we are sitting till 6 p.m. today.

Shri D. C. Sharma (Gurdaspur): May we know the names of the speakers?

Mr. Chairman: The general sense is that we sit up to six today.

Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani: Tomorrow it can be extended. Just now in the Business Advisory Committee the Speaker said he is willing to consider favourably the question of extending the time tomorrow.

Mr. Chairman: So far as today is concerned, I think the general sense is that we sit up to six.

Some Hon. Members: Yes.

Shri D. C. Sharma: Tomorrow.

Mr. Chairman: What is the sense of the House?

Some Hon. Members: Five.

Some Other Hon. Members: Six.

Mr. Chairman: Shri Shibban Lal Saksena.

Shri Warlor (Trichur): The notice is too short for today. We have other appointments. We required the Speaker just now and he said he will consider it.

Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani: We should adjourn at five today.

Shri S. L. Saksena: So far, distinguished speakers have spoken about the food situation in general and have made suggestions about it. I want to confine myself to the problem of the distressed area and that too to the problem of eastern U.P. In the Foodgrains Enquiry Committee report....

Mr. Chairman: I understand that the Speaker has decided that we shall sit up to six today.

Shri S. L. Saksena: In the report of the Foodgrains Enquiry Committee, there is a chapter on scarcity areas and there they make a reference to the problems of Eastern U.P. Eastern U.P. consists of three divisions: Gorakhpur, Basti and Ballia. They have got 16 districts and their population is 2½ crores. The cultivated area is one-third of the whole place. The density of the population varies from 900 to 1100 and may be taken to be about a thousand per square mile on an average. I think it is the most densely populated area in this country. The average holding there is less than half an acre. In these conditions, even if the country was not visited by floods and droughts, the condition would be precarious. Half an acre is a small piece of land to support a family of about six persons there. But nature has been very unkind and Eastern U.P. has got two rivers of sorrow: Ghagra and Rapti and their tributaries. These two rivers bring floods almost every year and then there is a drought. For the last seven years, almost every year, except 1953, there have been drought conditions and then floods. This has been a regular cycle there.

Last year there was a very severe drought, unprecedented in the history of the whole country perhaps. This drought was confined not only to the eastern U.P. but it extended to West Bengal and North Bihar also; they were in the same belt. The drought was so severe that not only the paddy crop was destroyed completely but lands could not be ploughed for rabi

[Shri S. L. Saksena]

sowing. Even according to the Government estimates five per cent. of the total rabi sowings had been a failure; when the calculation is restricted to Eastern U.P., it will be seen that 20 per cent has failed. The production is 14 per cent. for the whole but in the eastern U.P. there was a failure of 70 per cent. because there the rabi crop was a complete failure. For the last three harvests, the position has continued to be bad. The early paddy crop sown September last year, the late paddy crop sown December last year and the rabi crop to be reaped in April this year have all been total failures. The early paddy yield was 3 annas in a rupee, the late paddy was one anna in a rupee and the third was two annas in a rupee. That is the position of the three crops according to the figures given by the administration itself.

Sugarcane which is another crop grown there has also fared badly on account of these weather conditions. The produce per acre is very low. The Minister himself knows that it had come down to about 200 maunds from 300 maunds.

For the last seven years, Eastern U.P. has regularly been visited by droughts and floods with the result that all the crops are destroyed. For the last twenty years, ever since the Congress Government came into power, they were promising to control these rivers. In 1937, when the Congress Ministry took the reins of office there were very serious floods in that year and our present Minister was there and the Government promised to control the floods. 20 years have passed but no plans have been evolved to control the rivers. Punjab has its Bhakra-Nangal scheme and Bihar and Bengal have the Damodar Valley scheme. Uttar Pradesh had none so far—Rihand Dam probably is the only one. The most urgent need is the control of rivers Ghagra and Rapti. That work has not been taken up. I can tell you, Sir, without a

multi-purpose scheme to control these rivers, the 2½ crores of people in Eastern U.P. can never be saved from the recurring droughts and floods. The water of these rivers can be stored in big reservoirs. If this multi-purpose scheme is taken up, Sir, I am sure that the people in Eastern U.P. can be saved from floods, they can get water from the reservoirs during drought months, and the people in the villages will be able to get electricity to feed the small industries which may grow up there. In fact, this is the remedy which the Ashoka Mehta Committee suggested. This is what they say:

“As already stated agriculture being the main source of income of the people, any serious damage to crops, in addition to enlarging the deficit, creates the problem of low purchasing power. The problem often is not lack of flow of supplies from other areas but lack of means to buy. Opening of test relief works in only a palliative. The solution lies in correcting the unbalanced character of the economy by increasing and diversifying employment opportunities through promotion of village and small-scale industries, besides provision of better irrigation facilities for agriculture, and protecting the economy against flood hazards.”

Control of floods, better irrigation and more employment are the three remedies which have been suggested. Without a multi-purpose river valley scheme to control the rivers Ghagra and Rapti, you cannot control the floods, you cannot give irrigation to this vast area and you cannot provide electric power to run the small industries in the villages.

I have been asking for this for many years. In fact, when the Ashoka Mehta Committee was appointed I wrote to the hon. Minister saying that he should also ask that Committee to

investigate the possibilities of taking up this scheme immediately. I was told that the terms of reference would not permit it. Now that we are discussing the food situation, I would like to tell you that if the Eastern U.P., which has got a huge population, were to be given proper irrigation facilities and enough capital, I am sure that that area would not only produce enough for its own needs about also more for export.

At present, Sir, it is a deficit area and you have to get foodgrains from outside. The Minister just now said that cheap grain shops have been opened. If I were to tell the story how these shops are working, he would be shocked. For the last eight months I have been touring the villages in Gorakhpur District. Only a week back I was in a village called Khada. There are seven cheap grain shops in that village. In every shop I found people from the villages waiting to receive foodgrains. But the shopkeepers closed their shops saying that they had no stocks. They had sold all the stocks in the blackmarket. The villagers had to go away disappointed after having come from long distances and even crossing swollen rivers. When the shopkeepers were caught by the police and other people, nothing happened, they were allowed to go scot-free. In some shops where these grains are distributed, it was about two months back that 50 maunds of grains were distributed—30 maunds of wheat and 20 maunds of coarse grains—but now only 10 maunds of wheat and 5 maunds of coarse grains are there.

They say they have not got stocks enough. The Minister here has been telling us that there is no stock to supply that much amount. In Uttar Pradesh they have reduced the amount which was supplied by the shops from 50 maunds to 15 maunds, with the result that those shops which honestly distribute, grains cannot cope with the rush, as the people come in numbers and they are in need, and everybody

is in need. There are no foodgrains anywhere. So, they come to the shops and they have to go disappointed because that amount of grain is not enough. Even when the grain is sold at Re. 1 or eight annas, the quantity cannot serve more than one hundred or two hundred people. The result is that they go away disappointed and discontented. You can imagine the discontent. Finally starvation results, the consequence of which is also obvious.

17 hrs.

I have myself seen in the villages that the people are completely prostrate, because they have not had food for days on end. Sometimes they eat some uneatable things like *sakus*. Perhaps I could have brought here some specimens of it. It is a forest produce which is not eatable. If you eat it, you cannot have stools for about a week. This is the sort of thing they have been eating in order to satisfy their hunger. They also eat mango kernels. In fact, in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly, there was a question about eating uneatable food like mango kernels. I will give a very interesting account of the debate in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly about eating of mango kernels. There was an adjournment motion by a member in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly about the excess of rent collections in eastern Uttar Pradesh where there was famine, and he had asked the Minister whether there would be any postponement of elections.

Shri A. P. Jain: Which Minister?

Shri S. L. Saksena: Shri Charan Singh.

Shri A. P. Jain: He is not here.

Shri S. L. Saksena: He is not here, but what he said is here. He said that the rent will be realised by force. He said:

[Shri S. L. Saksena]

"जहां तक मालगुजारी का सम्बन्ध है वह वसूल की जायेगी, कोई नहीं देगा तो वह खबरदस्ती वसूल की जायेगी, उसे गिरफ्तार भी किया जायेगा और जमीन भी नीलाम कराई जायेगी।"

This is done where? It is done where the people are dying of starvation and the Minister had admitted that there were starvation deaths. I will read out the portion There was the death of a lady named Samraji. The question was put by Shri Abdul Rawoof Lari, MLA. He said that four deaths had taken place due to starvation

"श्री अब्दुल रऊफ लारी : क्या मंत्री जी बतायेंगे कि यह मौत कैसे हुई, किन कारणों से हुई ?

श्री संयच अली जहीर : जहां तक श्रीमती समराजी का ताल्लुक है वह रामहरख की बेवा थी, 1 21 जुलाई को उनकी मौत हुई, उनको कई दिन से खासी जुकाम की बीमारी थी। उनका खानदान है। 3 बच्चे थे और इनके कुछ दो एक जानवर थे। लेकिन जब इनको जुकाम हुआ और इनकी तकलीफ बढ़ी तो उन्होंने आखिर में भ्राम की गुठली का आटा बना कर के खा लिया। यह सही है कि जिस वक्त यह मरी है, इनके घर में अनाज नहीं था। लेकिन उसकी वजह यह थी कि वहां के ऊपर कुछ पानी जमा हो गया था। भ्रामदरपत बन्द हो गयी थी। गांव वालों को कुछ पता नहीं था कि इनकी हालत इस दौरान में यह हो गयी है। उसकी वजह से इनकी बीमारी बढ़ गयी और इनकी मृत्यु हो गयी।

श्री अब्दुल रऊफ लारी : क्या सरकार को यह पता है कि इसके लिये जिस वक्त काम रोको प्रस्ताव हमने दिया था उसमें पटवारी की रिपोर्ट थी, वहां के सभापति की रिपोर्ट थी कि वहां भुखमरी से यह औरत मरी है और जिस जगह यह रहती

है वहां उसके घर के आगे और पीछे हर तरफ भ्रामियों की आबादी है ?

श्री संयच अली जहीर : यह जो रिपोर्ट में नें पढ़ी है यह जिलाधीश की रिपोर्ट है। उन्होंने सब बातों को देख कर रिपोर्ट भेजी है।

राजा यादबेन्द्रवल बुधे . (जिला जौनपुर) क्या मंत्री महोदय यह बतायेंगे कि इस न जो भ्राम की गुठली का आटा बना कर खाया वह अन्न के अभाव में खाया या दवा के रूप में खाया ?

श्री संयच अली जहीर : रिपोर्ट से मालूम होता है कि उन्होंने अनाज की जगह पर, खाने की जगह पर खाया।

श्री सदन पांडेय : क्या माननीय मंत्री जी बतायेंगे कि यह जो जाच की रिपोर्ट है यह जिलाधीश ने स्वयं उस स्थान पर की है या किसी दूसरे के जरिये से करायी है ?

श्री संयच अली जहीर यह रिपोर्ट उन्होंने सब डिवीजनल आफिसर और तहसीलदार से तहकीकात करा के तब की है।"

This is an admission by the Minister himself. We have brought to the notice of the Government about 300 cases of deaths due to starvation. This is the one single case in which this admission has been made, but even there, he says that it is not by starvation, because he says that if it was correct, then all people would have died. They alone would not have died. Their children would also have died. That is what then Minister says

An Hon. Member: The Minister wants all of them to die.

Shri S. L. Saksena: I will read from the debates again.

राजा बाबूनेन्द्रस कुबे : जब माननीय मंत्री महोदय ने स्वयं कहा कि भन्न के अभाव में भाम की गुठनी का घाटा बना कर खाया तो क्या यह इस बात का प्रमाण नहीं है कि उस क्षेत्र में भुखमरी है ?

श्री संयुक्त अली जहीर : भुखमरी तो इस वजह से नहीं है कि इनी भारत का घोहर था, इनी के वच्चे थे और अच्छी हालत में है। उनमें कोई भुखमरी नहीं है। लेकिन यह जरूर है, जैसा मैंने कहा पानी घिर जानें की वजह से अनाज कम हो गया। भारत बीमार थी और इसने ऐसी चीज खा ली जिसमें एकदम से हालत खराब हो गयी और वह मर गयी।

एक माननीय सदस्य : वह सनी हो गई।

They would not admit that all people would have died. We have brought to their notice about 300 cases. What happens is this. The officials go to the village. They meet the husband or father, whoever is there, and threaten him with serious consequences and get some written statement that she has died of some disease. I have read some reports where it is stated that deaths took place by starvation. And in every case they say it is due to some disease, cholera, small-pox or something else. I want to tell you that during the last six months in one basti in Gorakhpur 10 people have died of small-pox alone. I challenge anybody to prove that it is not the case. In one village alone there were 75 deaths. There are other friends from Gorakhpur who will probably bear me out and this is the result of the famine conditions.

Pandit Govind Malaviya (Sultanpur) : The process suggested by the hon. Member is the wrong way. He should prove what he says.

Shri S. L. Saksena : I have stated it. I will take you to the village and show it to you if you come with me.

Pandit Govind Malaviya : No no. If you prove it, then everybody would accept it. But this puts it the wrong way!

Shri S. L. Saksena : I have proved it by reading the Minister's own statement. While this is the condition in eastern Uttar Pradesh, while the position there is changing from bad to worse, the amount spent on relief is becoming less and less. I have got before me the figures for the last five years, 1954-55 to 1958-59. You will find from the statement that the amount is coming down and down. As the position becomes worse, the amount spent on relief comes down. It is so even in the case of taccavi loans. In the year 1956-57 the amount allotted was Rs. 1.15 crores. In the year 1957-58 it was only Rs. 50 lakhs. This year it has come down to Rs. 33 lakhs. So, it is going down every year. The Minister himself has admitted the Eastern U.P. is the most hit area.

Shri A. P. Jain : On a point of order. Of course, a lot of latitude is allowed here to all the speakers. But the subjects which the hon. Member is discussing relate to the State Governments. It is the State Government that gives taccavi loans. How am I to answer all those question? How are they relevant so far as the debate here is concerned?

Shri Braj Raj Singh : This is the discussion on the food situation.

Mr. Chairman : The hon. Member was referring to some figures of food production in Uttar Pradesh.

Shri A. P. Jain : He was referring to the taccavi loans, given by the State Governments.

Shri S. L. Saksena : Last time when a statement was made by him he himself stated that as much as a

[Shri S. L. Saxena]

crore of rupees has been advanced to Uttar Pradesh as taccavi loan. It is his own statement in which he has stated that so much is given as taccavi loans. Now he raises a point of order on that subject.

That is why I say that now only one-third of what was given in 1956-57 is given and my hon friend is not concerned with that. I say that the UP Government cannot solve this problem. They cannot build even a project like the Ghagra and the Rapti. They cannot advance loans, even taccavi loans, unless they get assistance from the Centre. They cannot cope with the famine conditions there. It is now seen that they have admitted famine conditions there. People there are dying of food shortage. Whose province is that? If people are dying, if famine is there certainly it is within the province of the Centre. I submit that these are things which are absolutely his concern.

Then, he himself just now said that socialisation is what he is aiming at and the plan which he has adopted is cheap grain shops and procurement. In my Province there used to be procurement of rice. It has been stopped. The amount of food distributed by the Fair Price Shops, as I told you, one month back was more than what it should be. Even though the number of shops has been increased by 500—there are 2,000 now, there were 1,400 previously—the amount of food distributed today is about half of the food distributed before. Actually, the calamity has become much worse now, because not only the old scarcity conditions are there but, due to floods this year, they have become most virulent. The Rapti, the Ghagra and the Gandak, all these three rivers have made Eastern UP a complete deluge. You go there from Basti to Gorakhpur, you will find the entire area a sheet of water. I came only yesterday from there and I

found that the whole area was a sheet of water. What was one month back has become ten times today on account of the floods. So, drought and floods are there.

I am very sorry that the hon Minister has started thinking that it is not his concern. The UP Government says that it is the Centre's concern. You say, "It is not my concern." That means that the conditions in UP are nobody's concern.

Shri Ranga: That is why you have the hon Prime Minister as well as the Deputy Prime Minister and the hon. Food Minister from UP.

Shri S. L. Saxena: I am a Member from that constituency. I have been in Parliament. I have been roaming about in my constituency for the last eight months from time to time, and coming here at the time of adjournment motions. No relief has come. It is, therefore, that I have decided to undertake a fast from tomorrow. Tomorrow evening I shall leave my food. I cannot go on eating if my people are starving. The hon Minister says that he is not responsible. UP Government say that they are not responsible.

Shri Arjun Singh Bhadauria (Etawah): The hon Minister and the Government are responsible for this.

Shri S. L. Saxena: Therefore that is the only remedy. If my people die, I should also die.

17-18 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

TWENTY-SEVENTH REPORT

Shri Shree Narayan Das (Darbhanga): Sir, I beg to present the Twenty-seventh Report of the Business Advisory Committee.