

times the whole film is rejected and sometimes portions of the film are cut.

While on this point I would like to make a submission that the job of the censors is only to cut certain portions of film. But whether a film is of good taste or not depends on the producer of the film. So, I would like the hon. members to know that it is the job of the film producers and I would appeal through this House to them to make more and more good films, films of good taste for the people of this country.

श्री फूलचन्द बर्मा : अध्यक्ष महोदय, निर्माताओं को तो पैसा चाहिए, इसलिए वे ऐसी फिल्में बनाते हैं। आप कोई कानून बनाइये, अपील से कोई काम नहीं चलेगा।

श्री एस० एम० बनर्जी : अध्यक्ष जी, मैं कोई सवाल नहीं कर रहा हूँ, केवल यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि माननीय मंत्री खुद उन फिल्मों को क्यों नहीं देखती ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मैं तो और टाइम देने को तैयार था लेकिन क्या कल्ले क्वेश्चन आवर समाप्त हो गया।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : अध्यक्ष जी, मैंने आपकी इजाजत मांगी थी एक मामला उठाने के लिए।

श्री इन्द्रजीत गुप्त : अभी तो एक शोर्ट नोटिस क्वेश्चन है।

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

Acute Shortage of Foodstuff
in Orissa

+

SNQ. 6. SHRI P. GANGADEB :
SHRI D. K. PANDA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has drawn to the news item in "Times of India (Delhi)" dated the 27th May, 1972 about

acute shortage of foodstuff in Orissa leading to cannibalism ;

(b) whether Government would announce immediately declaration of famine in the affected districts of Orissa in accordance with 'famine code' ; and

(c) whether emergent steps will be taken to meet the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE) : (a) Yes, Sir, The State Government was requested to report about this new item. Now the State Government has intimated that an enquiry was held in the matter and in regard to the alleged case of cannibalism, and it has been found that one woman, whose husband abandoned her, turned mad about two years back. This woman has developed the habit of lifting dead bodies of infants. The State Government further reported that she is availing herself of the facilities provided by a Red Cross free kitchen and that the report of cannibalism is not true.

(b) The State Government has reported that there are no famine conditions in the State.

(c) Relief measures have been undertaken by the State Government and will continue to be undertaken. Central assistance for drought relief measures will be provided in accordance with the prescribed procedure.

SHRI P. GANGADEB : Mr. Speaker, Sir, The statement made is not convincing. In view of the facts which I am putting forth categorically and which are as follows : (a) the State of Orissa today, with its millions of people, is ravaged by drought and is faced with acute famine conditions in a number of districts in my State ; (b) what is worst and most shocking is the report, the alarming report...

MR SPEAKER : Please ask your question. Short Notice Question is like other questions. There is no special procedure for this. Don't depart from the accepted procedure.

SHRI P. GANGADEB : Having got a chance...Sir, we don't get a chance. Even

calling attention notice you have not admitted. So, please give me a chance to explain it a little.

(b) What is the worst and the most shocking is the report, the alarming report and the horrifying instance of hunger leading to cannibalism in the District of Balasore.

(c) While, on the one hand, we have a State Government . . .

MR. SPEAKER : Sorry, please. Don't deviate from the accepted procedures. Every time you are trying to make a speech. I know the subject is as such. But, anyhow, please ask the question.

SHRI P. GANGADEB : In view of the fact that on the one hand, we have a State Government which does not wake up, nor react to the situation either intentionally or unintentionally . . .

SHRI P. K. DEO (Kalahandi) : Question.

SHRI P. GANGADEB : ...on the other hand, famine relief is technically a State subject. I would like to know from the hon. Minister firstly, whether the Central Government will make an independent inquiry as to whether a woman in a village near Balasore or near the Balasore town itself did live on the dead when reports are just to the contrary.

Secondly, is the Government considering adoption of an All India Famine Code ?

Thirdly, are there any proposals to create a special agency to handle . . .

MR. SPEAKER : Please ask one single connected question. Don't ask disconnected questions.

SHRI P. GANGADEB : Are there any proposals to create a special agency to handle famine relief directly by the Centre ? And lastly . . .

MR. SPEAKER : Order, please. I propose that your supplementaries may be circulated. They are too long and many-factored questions.

SHRI P. GANGADEB : Lastly, whether the people have been facing drought in the districts of Sambalpur, Sundargarh and Dhenkanal in addition to the coastal districts of Balasore and Mayurbhanj as reported in the Press . . .

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Samar Guba, does he come to you often ?

SHRI P. GANGADEB : . . . and if so, may I know what steps the Government propose to take to meet the situation on a war footing ?

MR. SPEAKER : I don't know how he is inspired to ask so many questions.

SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE : The State Government has reported that there has been no case of cannibalism and the Government of Orissa has informed us after making due inquiries. If the hon. Member wants me to find out any specific information relating to any specific point, I am prepared to refer it to the Orissa Government again. But the facts are as reported to us by the Orissa Government.

Secondly, as the hon. Member himself has submitted, drought relief is a State subject. Naturally, the State Government has to take action. It is a well-established procedure for helping the State Governments by the centre. As far as the specific question is concerned, namely, whether there is to be a Central Agency, there is no such proposal at the moment before Government. If the Government of Orissa wants to have some sort of coordinating agency we will consider the proposal at the appropriate stage.

SHRI P. GANGADEB : What about the All-India Famine Code ?

MR. SPEAKER : If you ask one question, the Minister can answer but you have put so many questions.

SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE : We are just awaiting the proposal of the Orissa Government and in the next 2 or 3 days as soon as the report is sent we will immediately depute the central team to look into the matter.

MR. SPEAKER : Have you finished, Mr. Gangadeb ?

SHRI P. GANGADEB : Yes.

SHRI D. K. PANDA : Mr Speaker, Sir, in view of the worst famine condition and the horrors of death due to starvation which has assumed already the nature of a national calamity especially in 5 districts such as Balasore, Cuttack, Kenihore, Dhenkanal and Mayurbhanj, which can be separated from the other 9 districts which are in distress, considering that in these 5 districts, the famine condition has assumed such unimaginable proportions that one lady in village Multa in Chandvali Panchayat Samiti ate human flesh...

SOME HON. MEMBERS : Shame, Shame.

SHRI D. K. PANDA : This is the position and reports have come in the papers. There have been several representations. In view of these facts, (*Interruption*) I am coming to the question... (*Interruption*) In view of the memorandum which was submitted by the Congress people in Orissa and the Communist Party, together, on 10-3-72, and in view of the second memorandum which was submitted on 14-4-72, reporting about the death due to starvation and the third one which was submitted by Shri Rajeshwar Rao, Secretary of the Communist Party, to the Prime Minister, with copy to the Agriculture Ministry, in view of all these things, in view of all these facts, may I put it to the Minister ; is it not a fact that 20 lakhs of people are affected in these districts due to worst starvation conditions ? What is the type of action that they are taking ? Sir, these are all the things that they are eating. These things should be seen by the hon. Minister. I may be permitted to place these on the Table of the House. (*Interruption*)

MR. SPEAKER : I am not going to allow.

SHRI D. K. PANDA : Poisonous herbs are being taken by them. In view of these things, I want to know whether the Government is going to play its role, its constitutional responsibility which is embodied in List III, Item 23 of the Concurrent list, where there is food scarcity, where there is famine, they have to intervene. That the State Government has failed miserably has been brought out beyond

any reasonable doubt. The people should not be allowed to die under these circumstances. May I put to the Minister a straight question ? Are they going to intervene immediately ? Are they going to send a Parliamentary delegation for investigation and taking appropriate action immediately ? People are dying. Hundreds and hundreds of them are dying. This is happening in my own constituency. What is to be done, Sir, if the Centre does not intervene ?

MR. SPEAKER : Kindly calm down before the Minister replies.

SHRI ANNASHEB P SHINDE : About cannibalism, I have already made a statement earlier. On the basis of the enquiry made by the Orissa Government, we have got certain information to which I have already referred to. The Central team which will be visiting Orissa in the near future. As far as the food situation is concerned, in the country as a whole, the food situation is very comfortable and this has never been so in the past before. Therefore, there should be no difficulty to meet all the requirements of the Orissa Government. Only yesterday, the representative of Orissa Government had some discussions with us and we are prepared to meet all the requests of the Orissa Government.

SHRI D. K. PANDA : Is the Government going to send a Parliamentary delegation to assess the situation ? Is the Government going to declare that area as a famine area ? (*Interruption*)

MR. SPEAKER : Don't try to create heat and excitement. If you ask a question in a sober manner, in a calm manner, if you put a straight question, that would be much more effective.

SHRI D. K. PANDA : Under these circumstances, I want to know whether they are going to do this or not...

MR. SPEAKER : You get so much excitement that you get lost in it.

SHRI D. K. PANDA : Why not a parliamentary delegation go there ? Every party is shouting. This is the reality of the situation.

SHRI P. K. DEO—rose.

MR. SPEAKER : He represents the Government there.

SHRI P. K. DEO : In view of the collusion of the Congress Party and the CPI in maligning us and the non-Congress Governments...

SHRI PILOO MODY : Well done...

SHRI P. K. DEO : This is admitted by them. Rajeshwar Rao's statement is full of contradictions. This gets publicity in the *Times of India* which is controlled by the Government of India...

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : I rise on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER : I am standing. May I request you to sit down? It would be much better if no heat is generated. I know you represent a party which is ruling there, in Orissa. And, that places still more responsibility on you to put the question in a sober manner.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : I rise on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER : Normally we don't allow points of orders during Question Hour.

SHRI P. K. DEO : Let me put a question.

MR. SPEAKER : No points of orders during Question Hour.

SHRI P. K. DEO : You called me, Sir, I am going to put the question. Then somebody else gets up...

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : You feudal, you murderer, you maharaja...

SHRI PILOO MODY : I take strong objection to irresponsible children losing their temper and using words which they should not be using. What does he mean by: you feudal, you murderer, you rajah? What does he mean by saying all this. This is collusion, we are talking about, incidentally, if you want any demonstration. What does he think he is? You should throw him out of the House.

MR. SPEAKER : It is not fair to use this language.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : I will use only two words—feudal, which he is... (*Interruptions*) He is the product of feudalism.

SOME HON. MEMBERS : No.

SHRI PILOO MODY : If you are said to be a produce of foreign agency, would you like it?... (*Interruptions*.)

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : I withdraw the word 'murderer'.

SHRI PILOO MODY : You should explain to him that there is no withdrawal from merder; it is a final act.

MR. SPEAKER : He has withdrawn it. So far as the word 'feudal' is concerned, I think it has come to acquire a meaning which is a bad as an abuse.

SHRI R. S. PANDEY : It is objectionable to say that a Member is a child; he is father of so many children (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. K. DEO : It is a serious matter which cannot be treated so lightly. Three questions arise out of the statement of the Secretary of the Communist Party... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Please allow me to lay it on the Table of the House—the statement of the Communist Party. Let him read that statement and search his own heart.

MR. SPEAKER : It is not a general debate going on; he need not refer to all that now.

SHRI P. K. DEO : Three controversies have been raised in the statement. Firstly, cannibalism—that has been denied and the lady, according to the telex message a copy of which has been received by the Minister developed the habit much before the last cyclone. Regarding starvation deaths, the Governor himself has gone to the spot, to each and every case and he has denied it. The third charge is that the social fabric is crumbling. He has mentioned that Brahmins have been forced to work in test relief work. We have had enough of Brahminism in the country for centuries. Right from Mrs. Indira Gandhi, Nandini Satpathy, Chintamani Panigrahi to Banerjee, Mukerjee and D. K. Panda, we have Brahminism and we have had enough of it in this country (*Interruptions*)

SHRI PILOO MODY : It is a crime for a Brahmin to do manual labour ?

SHRI P. K. DEO : He brings out a statement like this. Will you kindly read that ?

SHRI PILOO MODY : The caste-ridden communists do not know what the dignity of labour is.

SHRI P. K. DEO : I want to make this submission. The Government of India can abdicate its responsibility. It is not a State subject ; it comes under entry 97 in List I, under residuary powers. Under these circumstances, when Orissa Government has made a demand of Rs. 150 crores for long-term relief and Rs. 40 crores for short-term relief, only Rs. 23 crores have been given. If they are keen to meet the situation squarely, will the Government of India take the responsibility on their own shoulders and sanction these amounts of Rs. 150 crores and Rs. 40 crores for long-term and short-term relief respectively ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : There is no question of the Government of India getting out of its responsibility. In fact, we have faced more difficult situations in other States. But there is an well-established procedure. I wanted to avoid certain controversial issues. The Orissa Government conveyed to us that they have taken a decision on 10th May that they would be sending a request to the Centre for sending a central team. We are still awaiting that request. The Orissa Government has not yet sent it. As soon as the request is received, we will see that immediately a central team is deputed. We would not like any party politics to come in the way of relief when millions of people are suffering. We will take all necessary steps.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI : The State Government has denied that nobody has been eating human flesh or anything else and there have been no starvation deaths. With your permission, Sir, I can show you so many photographs to prove the alarming conditions now prevailing there...

MR. SPEAKER : I am not allowing it. If you persist, I will ask you to sit down.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI : May I know whether the Government of India is now

prepared to supervise the State relief machinery of Orissa by appointing a special officer or group of officers, so that large-scale misuse of relief funds may be avoided and all sections of the people may get a fair deal ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : As is well known to the House, drought relief is entirely a State subject according to our Constitution. There is no question of having a separate machinery for supervision. When the central teams go, they will look into the items eligible for expenditure.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Mody, kindly have some regard for the decorum of the House. Why don't you sit quiet ? Why do you behave like this ? There should be some limit.

SHRI PILOO MODY : I want to ask a question.

MK. SPEAKER : Don't try to mock.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI : I am not going to repeat the things that have been said. We are also ashamed of things happening there in Orissa. Mr. P. K. Deo has no shame left in him.

SHRI P. K. DEO : You should protect me, Sir. He calls me shameless. You should pull him up.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI : When the Orissa Government has asked for a central team to study the latest drought conditions there which have caused a number of starvation deaths, etc., when the central team goes there, what is the total amount of foodgrains which the Central Government has released from its foodgrains pool in stock, so that it reaches the people in those scarcity-affected areas ? The Central Government had instructed the State Government to open a large number of fair price shops so that the people in the scarcity areas can get rice at Rs. 1.10, instead of at Rs. 1.40 or 1.50 which is beyond the purchasing power of the people. Have the government checked up whether an equal number of fair price shops have been opened by the State Government ? My knowledge is that they have not done so.

MR. SPEAKER : I am not concerned with your knowledge ; I am concerned with your question. Ask your question.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI : When Rajasthan was faced with a very difficult drought situation in the past, the Central Government had deputed a special officer to coordinate relief work there. Will the government consider sending a special officer to Orissa to see that all the relief operations are properly carried out in view of the calamity that has be fallen Orissa ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : As far as deputing a Central team is concerned, as soon as a formal request is received we will take quick action. As far as the availability of food is concerned, in Orissa at present they have a stock of 1,80,000 tonnes of both wheat and rice. They have asked for release of 35,000 tonnes. There will be no difficulty in supplying that. About fair price shops, on our suggestion they have opened a very large number of fair price shops, according to the information furnished to us by the Orissa Government. Since the hon Member has made a suggestion, we will check up whether there is any need to have additional fair price shops in that area. The foodgrains made available at a controlled price.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA : A question was asked by Shri Ganga Deb whether Government have any proposal to change the Famine Code, which we have inherited from the British days. Have they got the capacity to sanction any amount of money or any amount of foodgrains asked by any State Government ? Is it not a fact that because of the bureaucracy and red-tape there is no proper distribution and whenever foodgrains are required because of distress, the foodgrains do not reach the people in time ? Now there is a serious drought in West Bengal but the fair price shops are not being supplied with sufficient stocks. After some months when there will be floods, Sir, you will be astonished to know, drought relief will be given. In view of all this, are they going to change the system of giving relief ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : This question has been answered a number of times. Famine code is a State subject and we have requested the State Governments, including Orissa, from time to time to revise their Famine Codes. But they do not come in the way of giving relief. Among the various items of Central relief, one is subsidised food. Even if the State Government

cannot provide subsidised food, Central assistance is available for that.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : क्या यह ताज्जुब की बात नहीं है कि जब देश में अन्न के भंडार भरे पड़े हैं, तब लोगों के भूख से मरने की खबरें आ रही हैं ? क्या यह सच नहीं है कि अकालग्रस्त क्षेत्रों में लोगों के पास अनाज खरीदने के लिए पैसा नहीं है और इसलिए केवल सस्ते अनाज की दुकानें खोलने से समस्या हल नहीं होगी ? क्या उड़ीसा सरकार को कहा गया है कि वह लोगों को मुफ्त अनाज दे, जिससे उनके जीवन की रक्षा हो सके ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : What is required to be done under such circumstances is this. There are two categories of persons, firstly, of invalid and old persons, children, etc. For them, gratuitous relief is available. Gratuitous relief is being provided to them. I know, at the moment, 1 million people are being fed every day. As far as the persons who can do physical work, what is to be done is to provide physical work to them. We have brought it to the notice of the Orissa Government. They should undertake test relief works. But the detailed arrangements will have to be made by the State Government. The State Government is aware that all these items are entitled to Central assistance. We have now so much experience of facing these calamities that I do not think with the cooperation of the Central Government and the State Government there should be any difficulty to meet the situation adequately.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : While asking a supplementary, the hon. Member, Shri P. K. Deo, referred to a memorandum submitted by Shri Rajeshwar Rao, General Secretary of the Communist Party of India. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that on 10th March, 1972, a memorandum enclosing the list of those 98 persons who died of starvation was submitted to the Prime Minister and also to the Minister of Agriculture and, if so, what action has been taken on the suggestions made in this particular memorandum.

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : About the starvation deaths, the Orissa

Government have specifically denied that there are any starvation deaths.....(Interuption)

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : I have got the list here.

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : Why don't you allow me to complete my reply ?

First of all, the Orissa Government has supplied to us the information that they have enquired about 29 specific cases and they have said that there have been no starvation deaths and that those people have died as a result of old-age ... (Interuption)

MR SPEAKER : The question was very simple. I do not think there was any need to side-track it. He asked whether the Prime Minister and the Minister of Agriculture received a memorandum along with the list which he is referring to. You say, yes or no.

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : A memorandum has been received.

MR. SPEAKER : That is all.

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : He referred to starvation deaths and I wanted to say something about that. Otherwise, they will again say, I am not saying about that. About the other cases, we will refer it to the Orissa Government. I cannot give information of my own. It is necessarily through the State Government to get the information. We will refer the specific cases to the State Government.

SHRI PILOO MODY : Sir, the memorandum that has been just referred to by Mr. S. M. Banerjee and others has made three charges. One of the charges is under the heading "Social Fabric is Stumbling" and it says that the Brahmins have been forced to work in test relief works. Am I to take it that Brahmins are exempt from all works ? It says very clearly. Is this also one of the charges that Mr. Rajeshwar Rao, General Secretary of the Communist Party of India, is levelling against the Government of Orissa and, if so, what is the opinion of the Central Government regarding this charge ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : The

hon. Member or anybody else is free to have his own views in regard to these matters. I do not think the Government of India should express any opinion on it.

SHRI JAGANNATH RAO : May I know what is the amount the Government of Orissa has asked for test relief works, for drought relief, and what is the amount that has been sanctioned by the Central Government ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : So far, an amount of Rs. 25 crores ceiling has been prescribed. Roughly, Rs. 19 crores have been released. We are awaiting the request from the State Government again for additional assistance.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

आकाशवाणी भोपाल का प्रसारण सीमा क्षेत्र

*1061. श्री गंगावरण दीक्षित : क्या सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री यह बनाने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या आकाशवाणी के भोपाल केन्द्र के प्रसारण सीमा क्षेत्र और शक्ति का विस्तार करने का कोई प्रस्ताव सरकार के विचाराधीन है;

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो तत्सम्बन्धी मुख्य बातें क्या हैं; और

(ग) इसे कब तक कार्यान्वित किया जायेगा ?

सूचना और प्रसारण मन्त्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती तन्विनी सत्यबी) : (क). जी, नहीं। तथापि इन्दौर के ट्रांसमीटर की शक्ति को 20 किलोवाट से बढ़ाकर 100 किलोवाट कर देने से भोपाल, जो इन्दौर के ट्रांसमीटर के मुख्य सेवा क्षेत्र के अन्दर आता है; को भी लाभ होगा ?

(ख) और (ग). प्रश्न नहीं उठते।