

COOPERATION (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY) : (a) and (b). Government of Kerala had asked for 14 new Applied Nutrition Programme blocks for the year 1968-69, which have been allotted.

SHRI A. SREEDHARAN : Perhaps this is the first time that a question regarding Kerala has been answered this way instead of the Minister saying : No, does not arise. I am happy that the Minister gave a positive reply. I should like to know whether the Centre has given any instruction as to the time limit for implementing the nutrition programme blocks ?

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY : My reply contained this information. We have sanctioned 14 blocks for this year, 1968-69. That is the time limit fixed. The Kerala Government has not so far informed us about the names of the blocks. But sanction has been given for fourteen blocks.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA : This question pertains to Kerala. Taking into consideration the conclusion of the All India medical survey that fifty per cent of the country's population are suffering from malnutrition, what steps have the Government taken to chalk out a phased programme for the whole country to see that a nutrition programme is implemented throughout the country in every block ?

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY : This question relates to Kerala. Since it has been allowed by you, I may say that large sections of population in this country suffer from malnutrition and that is why we have started this programme with a comprehensive and co-ordinated approach to nutrition development in the country. We have already covered about 221 blocks in the third plan period and we propose to cover about a thousand blocks in the fourth plan period.

#### Apeejay Shipping Company

\*1174. SHRI MADHU LIMAYE : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has

been drawn to the file on Apeejay Shipping Company produced before the High Court in the hearing of the election petition against Shri George Fernandes, M.P. before Mr. Justice Kantawala ;

(b) whether it is a fact that Shri A. M. Thomas, the then Deputy Food Minister, after asking for the file in a most unusual manner, did not direct that stern action be taken against the firm ;

(c) whether he has been sent to Australia as our High Commissioner ;

(d) whether a demand has been made for his recall in view of these suspicious circumstances ; and

(e) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE). (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The file of the Food Department, which has been produced in the Bombay High Court, shows that it was asked for by the Private Secretary to the then Deputy Minister for Food, Shri A.M. Thomas, and returned the same day with the remark "Seen by Deputy Minister ; thanks". There was nothing unusual in the manner in which the file was asked for. The file also shows that the action which was already being taken by the Department of Food continued to be taken as before after the return of the file. No direction was given on the file either by the Deputy Minister or on his behalf.

(c) Shri Thomas has been High Commissioner of India in Canberra since 15th July, 1967.

(d) The Government is not aware of any demand for his recall nor of any suspicious circumstances.

(e) Does not arise.

श्री मधु लिमये : अध्यक्ष, महोदय, मंत्री महोदय ने जो गलतबयानी की है, वह उस को

तत्काल सुधारें, वर्ना डायरेक्शन 115 के अन्तर्गत मुझे एक लम्बी कार्यवाही करनी पड़ेगी। मैंने स्वयं प्रधान मंत्री को इसके बारे में सारे तथ्य बतलाए थे। यह प्रश्न अगर ट्रांसफर हुआ है, तो यह मेरी जिम्मेदारी नहीं है। यह प्रधान मंत्री नाम से कल की सूची में था। अगर इसको ट्रांसफर किया है, तो या उन्होंने किया है, या आपने किया है। मुझे मालूम नहीं है। जैसा कि मैंने कहा है, मैंने स्वयं प्रधान मंत्री को एक पत्र द्वारा सारे तथ्य बताये थे और मैंने कहा था कि स्वयं एच० बी० लाल ने, जो कि उस समय डायरेक्टर-जनेरल आफ फूड थे, हाई कोर्ट के सामने गवाही देते समय कहा कि किसी भी मंत्री के लिए सीधे फाइल मंगाना कोई साधारण बात नहीं है। नार्मल बात नहीं है। अब मंत्री महोदय कहते हैं कि यह कोई अनयूजयूअल नहीं है। तो दोनों में यह असंगति है। दूसरी बात इस गलतबयानी को सुधारें! मैंने प्रधान मंत्री को स्वयं चिट्ठी लिख कर मांग की थी कि 'बू' कि टामस साहब ने असाधारण ढंग से फाइल देखने के पश्चात् भी नहीं कहा कि इस फर्म को ब्लैक लिस्ट करो, न यह कहा कि इस फर्म से एक्सप्लेनेशन, स्पष्टीकरण मांगो, न इस कम्पनी के खिलाफ मुकदमा चलाने के लिए उन्होंने कोई निर्देश दिया इसलिये मंत्री महोदय का व्यवहार फाइल देखने के पश्चात् भी जब कि उनको पता चला था कि यह सरकार को धोखा देने का प्रयत्न था, गोविन्द मेनन साहब बैठे हुए हैं, उन्होंने इस सदन में कबूल किया है कि यह चीटिंग का प्रश्न था, ऐसी हालत में टामस साहब का व्यवहार 'बू' कि सन्देहास्पद था, मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि जो असलियत मैंने रखी है और प्रधान मंत्री को पत्र द्वारा पहले बताया था, उनकी रोशनी में उनको वापस बुलाने की माँग पर सरकार विचार करेगी ?

**SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE :** As far as the first part of the question is

concerned, I think the Minister has a right to call for any paper and there was nothing unusual as has been mentioned by the hon. Member. Then, with regard to the second part, on the file when it was called, the department has already taken action, alerted—(Interruption).

**श्री मधु लिमये :** क्या ऐक्शन लिया ? मैंने जो तीन ऐक्सेस बताए.....( व्यवधान )... आप सुनलो, फिर जवाब दो, दस मिनट तक जवाब दो, इसमें मुझे कोई एतराज नहीं, लेकिन मैंने सवाल क्या पूछा है... ( व्यवधान )... इन्होंने कहा कि ऐक्शन लिये, मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या स्पष्टीकरण मांगा, एक्सप्लेनेशन मांगा ?

मुझे प्रश्न का उत्तर चाहिए। मेरा स्वयं बहुत समय बरबाद हो रहा है। मैं जवाब लिए बिना बैठूँगा नहीं। ऐसे दबने वाला मैं नहीं हूँ... ( व्यवधान )...

**SHRI RANDHIR SINGH :** Will he behave ?

**MR. SPEAKER :** Will you allow me to control the House or if you want to take the Chair, please do come here. I have absolutely no objection : he can come and occupy the Chair and control the House.

**SHRI RANDHIR SINGH :** I bow before you.

**MR. SPEAKER :** Thank you. The question is clear and simple. If the question was concerned with the Food Ministry, naturally, the Prime Minister wanted that to be transferred to the concerned Ministry and it has been transferred.

**श्री मधु लिमये :** तो प्रधान मंत्री को इत्तिला देनी चाहिए थी कि उनके रिकाल की माँग की गई थी। आज यह गलत बयानी क्यों कर रहे हैं ? आप जरा सवाल देख लीजिए

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Madhu Limaye, the hon. Minister for Food is not responsible for recalling a High Commissioner or anybody like that. That portion he has answered.

SHRI MADHU LIMAYE : The question is, whether a demand has been made for his recall in view of the suspicious circumstances.

मैंने स्वयं पत्र द्वारा प्रधान मंत्री के पास यह माँग की है। यह कहते हैं कि हम को पता नहीं है। प्रश्न यह था कि क्या ऐसी माँग की गई है या नहीं, तो प्रधान मन्त्री को लिखने पर भी इनको पता नहीं, इसका क्या मतलब है ? यह सरकार है या क्या है ? और इन्होंने कहा कि ऐक्शन लिया तो मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि तीन में से कौन सा ऐक्शन लिया गया ? उन से एक्सप्लेनेशन माँगा गया ? ब्लेक-लिस्टिंग की कार्यवाही की गई ? क्या उनके ऊपर क्रिमिनल प्रोसीक्यूशन किया गया। क्रिमिनल प्रोसीक्यूशन की बात इस सदन में की गई है जब जगजीवन राम जी खाद्य मन्त्री बने थे, मैं तो 1962 की बात कर रहा हूँ, लेकिन इन तीनों में से कोई ऐक्शन नहीं लिया गया। इसलिए मैंने कहा कि माननीय मन्त्री का व्यवहार फाइल देखने के बाद, पश्चात् बड़ा सन्देहास्पद रहा है, फाइल देखने के बाद उनको यह सब करना चाहिए था इनका व्यवहार सन्देहास्पद है, इसलिए मैंने पूछा कि क्या इनके वापस बुलाने हर रिकाल पर, सरकार विचार करेगी ?

MR. SPEAKER : TO the extent that is relevant, Shri Jagjivan Ram may throw some light on the matter.

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM) : The position is this. Naturally we have ascertained it. As you know, this question was transferred to us. About the question regarding the recall, we had no information. We ascertained from the External Affairs Ministry, and on the basis of that information we have given the reply.

So far as Mr. Thomas is concerned, he saw the file and I can say that a Minister can call any papers of his Ministry or Department that he would like to see. There is nothing unusual in it. So far as the action is concerned, at that time, the department took precautionary action so that the move of the party could be foiled and Government property as such should not be taken. I can presume that there is nothing in the noting on the file. Mr. Thomas might have thought that since action was being taken to see that Government was not cheated, there was nothing to be done by him and he simply saw the file and returned it. I do not think there is any case of *mala fides* against Mr. Thomas.

SHRI RANGA : On a question of procedure. Here is an hon. Member, an important Member like that, who has written to the Prime Minister making a suggestion—a kind of demand—that he should be recalled. What happens between one Ministry and another, especially between the Prime Minister and another Minister, we do not know. But we would naturally expect that when a letter like that had been written to the Prime Minister, when a question like this comes up for answer, some information should be given : "True, a demand has been made and that too from the hon. Member himself ; and we do not consider it necessary to accept the demand for his recall." They could have said that. But they have not taken any trouble to say any such things.

MR. SPEAKER : I think he has said no further action if necessary.

श्री भद्रल बिहाररी बाजपेयी : यह ट्रांसफर क्यों किया गया ? यह ट्रांसफर इसलिए किया गया कि प्रधान मन्त्री इसका जवाब नहीं देना चाहती थी...

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : If you read the question, Sir, "whether a demand has been made."—

श्री मधु लिमये : यह सब क्या चल रहा है ? भेरे ऊपर इन लोगों ने डीफेंशन कैसे किया है और यह जवाब नहीं देना चाहते हैं ?

में इस तरह दबने वाला नहीं हूँ। आप लोगों ने क्या समझ रखा है ?

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : I want a clarification. Mr. Shinde, in reply to the question...

SHRI NATH PAI *rose*—

श्री मधु लिमये : इनको भी जरा सुनिए। इस पर सदन का समय बहुत खर्च हुआ है। बीस प्रश्न इसके ऊपर मैं पूछ चुका हूँ। बिल्कुल टालमटोल, ईवेज्ज न चल रहा है।

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM : I have Stated whatever is in my possession. As I said, the question was transferred to us. Naturally, on this matter, the External Affairs Ministry is concerned. We will ascertain from the External Affairs Ministry—I will have to go into that—and it might be that the letter written to the Prime Minister might not have been sent to the department. But when my Ministry ascertained from the External Affairs Ministry whether any demand has been made for the recall, the reply that came to us was in the negative, and we have given that fact. That is the exact position.

MR. SPEAKER : That point of view is correct.

SHRI M. L. SONDHI : Sir, this question has been handled by the Food Ministry ! (*Interruption*).

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS *rose*—

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Madhu Limaye was asked to put his second question.

SHRI NATH PAI AND SHRI S. M. BANERJEE *rose*—

MR. SPEAKER : Both the two cannot be standing.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : I wanted to raise a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER : There cannot be any point of order now,

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : I want to make a submission.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरा निवेदन है, आपने व्यवस्था दी है कि प्रश्नों के घंटे में प्वाइंट आफ आर्डर नहीं उठ सकता...

MR. SPEAKER : No point of order. He wanted to have some clarification about the question.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : आपने कहा कि प्वाइंट आफ आर्डर नहीं उठा सकते...

MR. SPEAKER : That is what I said.

श्री मधु लिमये : इसमें तो जरूर उठा सकते हैं।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : अध्यक्ष महोदय श्री मधु लिमये ने यह प्रश्न प्रधान मंत्री को सम्बोधित किया था। सवाल यह है कि उसका उत्तर प्रधान मंत्री ने क्यों नहीं दिया ? अगर किसी हाई कमिश्नर को हटाने की मांग है तो खाद्य मंत्री महोदय उसका उत्तर नहीं दे सकते। तो क्या यह सच नहीं है कि यह प्रश्न इसी लिए ट्रांसफर किया गया कि प्रधान मंत्री महोदय इस सवाल का जवाब देना टालना चाहती थी और इसमें आप के द्वारा उनकी मदद हो गई ?

श्री रवि राय : प्रधान मंत्री को बुलाया जाय।

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : I have not completed my question.

MR. SPEAKER : The Question Hour is being taken up for something else.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : It is a very serious matter.

MR. SPEAKER : It may be so, but you have other remedies for this. You can raise it in a different way.

**SHRI S. M. BANERJEE :** Let me complete may say.

**MR. SPEAKER :** Even in the middle of your sentence, I have a right to stand. The difficulty is, you have forgotten the main question and are going to something else. It is not that the answer given is satisfactory....(Interruption) not that the answer is full. The Minister has clearly explained whatever information he got from the External Affairs Ministry.

**श्री मधु लिमये :** यह हम कबूल नहीं कर सकते । यह मांफी मांगे । गलत जानकारी की है इन्होंने । इनको जानकारी नहीं थी तो कहना चाहिए कि जानकारी नहीं है ।

**MR. SPEAKER :** It may be ; I myself am saying that it is not full. I am sure the Minister also feels that. For this part of the question, where it is asked whether there is any demand for recall, the answer that he got from the External Affairs Ministry is "No."

He has answered that. Therefore, there is no use further discussing it.

**SHRI S. M. BANERJEE :** Why does not the Minister say it ?

**MR. SPEAKER :** He has clearly stated it and I am satisfied.

**श्री मधु लिमये :** कैसे, बतलाइये ? शिन्दे साहब ने क्या जबाब दिया ? उन्होंने कहा—मुझे मालूम नहीं है कि इस तरह की मांग की गई है ।

**MR. SPEAKER :** Both Mr. Shinde and Mr. Jagjivan Ram have said that whatever information they have got from the External Affairs Ministry, they are giving it.

**श्री मधु लिमये :** सदन इसको ऐक्सेप्ट, कबूल नहीं करेगा । एक्सटनेल है या फूड विभाग है, हमको इससे कोई मतलब नहीं है, हमको साफ उत्तर चाहिए ।

**MR. SPEAKER :** Are we going to proceed with the question or take up the

whole question hour on the procedural matter ? If I allow one minute to each hon. Member, the whole hour will be taken away.

**SHRI NATH PAI :** We have a way-out.

**MR. SPEAKER :** I will call him. Let Mr. Madhu Limaye put his second question.

**श्री मधु लिमये :** अध्यक्ष महोदय, जब सरकार के पास इस तरह की इत्तिला या जानकारी आजाती है कि फलां-फलां कम्पनी या फर्म सरकार को ठगने की, चीट करने की कोशिश करती है तो क्या किसी भी स्तर पर किसी भी अफसर की या मन्त्री की इसके बारे ठोस जिम्मेदारी नहीं हो सकती है ? अगर इसके ऊपर कोई कार्यवाही नहीं होती है, तो इसके लिए कौन जिम्मेदार है—क्या इस बात का साफ़ उत्तर मन्त्री महोदय देंगे ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय, इस विषय पर मैं बीसियों प्रश्न पूछ चुका हूँ इसी सभा में, लेकिन अब तक यह सवाल साफ़ नहीं हुआ है । मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि जब इस तरह की जानकारी सरकार के पास आती है तो यह किस की जिम्मेदारी है । मन्त्री महोदय की है, उपमन्त्री की है या राज्य मन्त्री की है या किसी अफसर की हैं— डिप्टी सैक्रेटरी, ज्वाइन्ट सैक्रेटरी या सैक्रेटरी की है, या किसी की भी नहीं है ?

**SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM :** I think this question has been answered more than once. Mr. Limaye has put a number of questions on this and all of them have been answered. This has been also discussed in the House. As I said, whatever information I will give, it will be based only on whatever material is available in the file itself. The file has been seen by Mr. Limaye also.

**श्री मधु लिमये :** वह अपने दिया-या नहीं, आपने कुबूल किया था, मगर दिखाया नहीं... (अवधान)...

**SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM :** I couldn't show it to you. It has however been submitted to the court, and it is open to everybody to see. Now he has seen it also. Whatever information I give to the House will be based on the material that is available in the file itself. I cannot say anything more than what is in the file. I can say that at that time, the officers who were dealing with this thought that precaution should be taken to see that the move of the party is foiled and Government is not cheated. More than that, nothing was done I cannot say who is responsible, why it was not done, etc., because all those things are not available in the file.

**श्री मधु लिमये :** अध्यक्ष महोदय, क्या मेरे प्रश्न का उत्तर आ गया ?

**MR. SPEAKER :** Whatever he has said, he has explained.

**श्री मधु लिमये :** अध्यक्ष महोदय, ये बिल्कुल इरेलेवन्ट वाले हैं। मैंने पूछा था कि किसी मन्त्री की या किसी अफसर की कोई अन्तिम जिम्मेदारी होती है या नहीं, जिसकी हम गरदन पकड़ सकें। आप बहुत चालाक हैं, लेकिन अब की बार ज़रा चालाकी को छोड़ कर मेरे प्रश्न का सीधा उत्तर दे।... (व्यवधान)...

**MR. SPEAKER :** You cannot address the minister directly like that saying he is *Chalaka*.

**SHRI MADHU LIMAYE :** *Chalaka* only means 'clever'. चतुर कहे आप से मतलब वे है।

**MR. SPEAKER :** I know, but if you address the Ministers directly that creates trouble. It is not the question whether it is parliamentary or not. I do not want you to address the Ministers directly and provoke them. It should be through the Chair. (*Interruptions*).

Mr. Nath Pai.

**SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH :** Despite your definite ruling on the matter...

**MR. SPEAKER :** I will call him afterwards. Mr. Nath Pai is on his legs.

**SHRI NATH PAI :** I am not very much convinced by the reply given by the Minister of Food and Agriculture. But I must confess I am deeply impressed by his implacability and imperturbability. He has a very rough weather to fare, and I sympathise with him. My appeal is addressed to you, Sir. I do not expect a very satisfactory reply from the minister, because there is much to hide and conceal. You will agree with the apprehension expressed both by me and by Mr. Ranga that there is something very disturbingly fishy about the whole affair. This will not be cleared by replies on the floor of the House. May I quote a very well-established precedent of the House? I appreciate your appealing to us not to prolong the question. In view of the fact that the Government is doing everything to hide something, thus strengthening our suspicion that there is something to hide from the public and Parliament, the only way to bring to light the real truth is that you exercise your inherent right by complying with our request to appoint a committee of Members of Parliament of parties, as was done on two earlier occasions. One was by a directive given by you to the P.A.C. in the sulphur case and the S.T.C. There is another thing. When there was a dispute about a certain behaviour of a member of the Government, Sardar Hukam Singh readily agreed to have a committee to look into it. We shall not be convinced by these replies. The more the Government speak, the more the confusion it creates. May I therefore have an assurance from you that you will appoint a committee of M.P.'s to look into this?

**MR. SPEAKER :** About the demand for recall, he said, this department does not know anything about it. He said, they got the information from the External Affairs Ministry and naturally they can give only that information. That was the point where I said, perhaps the coordination was not good. But I know nothing about there being something fishy about Apeejay. For heaven's sake, do not drag the Chair into this.

**श्री नाथ पाई :** लेकिन जाँच तो होनी चाहिये।

**श्री मधु लिमये :** जाँच अवश्य होने चाहिए।

**SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM :** There is nothing to hide or withhold from the House. I welcome a committee of this House to go into it, but the only thing I submit for your consideration is that the defamation case arising out of this is pending against Mr. Limaye.

**श्री मधु लिमये :** ये चार महीने से ऐसा कर रहे हैं। अध्यक्ष महोदय, अभी तक इन्होंने मेरे प्रश्न का उत्तर नहीं दिया है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि कौन रेस्पॉन्सिबल होता है ?

**SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM :** I am not suppressing anything. What is this howling ? He is not allowing me to complete the sentence. I have nothing to hide and I welcome the setting up of a committee of this House by you Sir, to go into this. The only thing to be taken into consideration by you is the defamation case pending against the hon. Member. (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI NATH PAI :** That is totally different.

**SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM :** Parliament is being taken advantage of in order to vitiate the proceedings in that defamation case. (*Interruptions*).

**श्री मधु लिमये :** चोरों को पकड़ने के लिए यह पार्लियामेन्ट है।

**SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM :** Again I repeat, Sir, that I welcome the formation of a Committee of the Members of this House to go into this entire question. The only thing to be considered by you, Sir, is that by this process the proceedings in the defamation case are not vitiated (*Interruptions*).

**श्री मधु लिमये :** उस से तो अदालत को मदद मिलेगी।

**MR. SPEAKER :** Let us proceed now to the next question.

**SHRI HEM BARUA :** Sir, what is your ruling on Shri Nath Pai's point ?

**MR. SPEAKER :** I am not going to give any ruling now.

**श्री मधु लिमये :** अध्यक्ष महोदय, नाथ पाई जी ने जो सुझाव दिया है उस पर फैसला होना चाहिये।

**MR. SPEAKER :** I cannot give any ruling off-hand. I will take my time. It is my right.

**श्री मधु लिमये :** आप विचार करेंगे ?

**MR. SPEAKER :** The Minister has also asked for it. But even if both of you agree on an issue it is not for the Speaker to jump into it. I must see how deep it is.

**श्री मधु लिमये :** आप विचार करेंगे तो ठीक है।

#### Strike and Lock-Outs in Govt. of India Office's Undertakings

\*1176. **SHRI R. S. VIDYARTHI :** Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of strikes/lock-outs recorded during the years 1965-66, 1966-67 and 1967-68 upto February, 1968 in various Offices of the Government of India Undertakings along with their names ;

(b) the reasons in each case and the assurances given by Government in respect of their demands ;

(c) the number of persons working in those Offices against whom legal action is pending due to their participation in strikes; and

(d) the loss of working days and the estimated damage to Government property as a result of those strikes ?

#### THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI HATHI) :

(a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**श्री रा० स्व० बिद्यार्थी :** मन्त्री महोदय ने जवाब में लिखा है कि सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है तो उसमें कितना समय लगेगा, 21 दिन पहले तो मैंने प्रश्न दिया था।