

ASSEMBLY DEBATES

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF PAKISTAN

Wednesday, the 3rd June, 1964

The National Assembly of Pakistan met in the Assembly Chamber (Ayub Hall), Rawalpindi, at nine of the clock, in the morning, Mr. Speaker (Mr. A. K. M. Fazlul Quader Chowdhury) in the Chair.

(Recitation from the Holy Quran)

STARRED QUESTIONS AND THEIR ANSWERS

CAR MANUFACTURING PLANTS

23. ***Mr. Farid Ahmad** : Will the Minister for Industries be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of car manufacturing plants of various types with their locations for which permission has been accorded and the amount involved in each project ;

(b) whether, for according sanctions in respect of those projects, the principle of parity has been followed ; if not, the reasons therefor ; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to bring about economic parity between both the wings in that behalf ?

Mr. Muhammad Shehabullah : (a) No sanction has so far been given by the Government for any car manufacturing plant.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Mr. Farid Ahmad : Will the Parliamentary Secretary be pleased to state whether the Government have under consideration any proposal for according sanction for car manufacturing plant in Pakistan in the near future ?

Mr. Abdullah-al-Mahmood : May I reply, Sir ?

Mr. Speaker : Yes.

Mr. Abdullah-al-Mahmood : Sir, the question is with regard to manufacturing plant for cars. Well, if the supplementary is to that effect, the Government is just thinking over the matter, and will invite applications from the Provinces, and then the matter will be examined if it is thought feasible.

Mr. Farid Ahmad : Will the Minister for Industries be pleased to state the number of cars assembled of the various types for which permission has been given so far, giving the number of such concerns in the two wings of Pakistan ?

Mr. Abdullah-al-Mahmood : Sir, with regard to the assemblage of plant, two units were given permission—one in 1954, and the other in 1955. Gandhara was given permission for the assemblage of cars from complete...

Mr. Speaker : He does not want the names of those units. He wanted how many were given permission ?

Mr. Abdullah-al-Mahmood : Sir, he asked about assembling, not manufacturing. So...

Mr. Speaker : He did not want the names ; he only wanted the number.

Mr. Abdullah-al-Mahmood : Two, Sir.

Mr. Speaker : All right.

Mr. Farid Ahmad : Has there been any permission accorded to any firm for assemblage of cars and trucks in East Pakistan ?

Mr. Abdullah-al-Mahmood : Up-till now there is no sanction. Only with a progressing manufacture of trucks one unit was given sanction, and with regard to the manufacturing of cars no sanction has been accorded to any unit.

Mr. Farid Ahmad : Will the Minister kindly consider the fact that, in case of trucks and other heavy vehicles assembled in East Pakistan and then transported to East Pakistan it involves expenditure of several thousand rupees for each vehicle ?

Mr. Speaker : Assembled in East Pakistan and transported to... ?

Mr. Farid Ahmad : No ; assembled in West Pakistan and transported to East Pakistan...

Mr. Speaker : All right. Yes.

Mr. Farid Ahmad : It involves expenditure of several thousands per vehicle. In view of that, will the Government consider the desirability of allowing some, or inducing some, of these concerns to assemble the requirements of Pakistan in East Pakistan ?

Mr. Abdullah-al-Mahmood : Steps have already been taken. The Provincial Governments, especially the East Pakistan Government, have already been written to that effect.

Mr. Farid Ahmad : To what effect, Sir ?

Mr. Abdus Sobur Khan : It is in respect of manufacture or assembly of trucks or cars.

Mr. Speaker : Next question.

TELEPHONES

24. ***Mr. Farid Ahmad :** Will the Minister for Communications be pleased to state the total number of telephones in Pakistan, showing the figures for each province, separately ?

Mr. Abdus Sobur Khan : The total number of telephones in Pakistan is 1,13,200—23,000 in East Pakistan, 41,073 in Karachi, and 49,127 in rest of West Pakistan.

Mr. Farid Ahmad : Will the Minister for Communications be pleased to state whether in view of the existing disparity in the number of telephone facilities and the number of telephones between the two wings what steps, if any, do the Government propose to take in order to progressively decrease or close down the gap of disparity in the number of telephones between the two wings ?

Mr. Abdus Sobur Khan : Sir, every possible step is being taken to remove, what is to say, the huge amount of disparity that is existing in so far as telephones are concerned and due care will be taken in the next Third Five-Year Plan so that this disparity is narrowed down as close as possible.

Mr. Farid Ahmad : In view of the fact that the disparity is today existing to the tune of about sixty seven thousand, will the Minister kindly indicate the number of more telephones that will be allocated in favour of East Pakistan in five years in a progressive manner to enable us to know the extent to which this gap of disparity would be removed at the end of the Third Five-Year Plan ?

Mr. Abdus Sobur Khan : Sir, I have already stated that every possible step will be taken to remove this existing disparity and though the gap rather appears to be very big but for his own information I can read out the numbers which were obtaining in 1947. In 1947, immediately on partition, East Pakistan had 1,362 telephones. Up to May, 1964, the total number is 23,000, i.e., 1,362 in 1947 and in May, 1964, the number is 23,000, and in West Pakistan at the time of independence it was 6,319 whereas in May, 1964, it was 49,127. Karachi at the time of independence had 4,819 and in May, 1964, it had 41,073. So, from these above quoted figures it will be presumed that every possible step is being taken to have the larger number of telephones installed in East Pakistan.

Mr. Farid Ahmad : Will the Minister for Communications be pleased to state whether in view of the growing demand for telephones everywhere in East Pakistan, do the Government consider the desirability of setting up a separate telephone industry in the province ?

Mr. Abdus Sobur Khan : Sir, a proposal for setting up a light industry has already been considered in the Economic Council meeting which the other day took place in Dacca and this matter was widely publicised in all the newspapers of East Pakistan and West Pakistan.

Mr. Abbas Ali Khan : Will the honourable Minister be pleased to tell the House the reason for this great disparity ?

Mr. Abdus Sobur Khan : I do not know if my friend was present when I was reading out the telephone numbers which were in existence in 1947 and which existed in 1964. The reason was that apparently, practically speaking, East Pakistan was having all manually operated telephones which numbered 1,362 but the number has now reached 23,000. So the basic difference which existed at the time of independence, I am sorry, with the passage of time it has not been possible to do away with but every possible step will be taken and *Inshaallah* by the end of Third Five-Year Plan this disparity will be, I believe, completely wiped off.

Mr. Farid Ahmad : If you are there.

Mr. Ghulam Sabir Khan Rana : †Is the demand for telephone connections from East Pakistan the same as from West Pakistan ?

Mr. Abdus Sobur Khan : Could he kindly repeat, Sir ?

Mr. Speaker : Please repeat the question.

Mr. Ghulam Sabir Khan Rana : †I ask the honourable Minister concerned if the demand for telephone connections in East Pakistan is the same as that in West Pakistan ?

Mr. Abdus Sobur Khan : The demand or the number of pending applications for the availability of telephone is practically the same so far as East and West Pakistan are concerned excluding Karachi because of late you have noticed the tempo of industrial investment and other opportunities, and these are creating demand for more telephones in East Pakistan as well as in West Pakistan. Practically speaking, the demand is identical for both East and West Pakistan, if we exclude Karachi.

COAL-TAR

25. ***Mr. Ghulam Muhammad Wassan** (put by Mr. Amir Hyder Shah) : (a) Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to state the quantity of coal-tar imported during the last three years, separately ?

(b) How much quota did West Pakistan receive during those years ?

(c) What method had been adopted for its distribution in West Pakistan, division-wise ?

(d) How much quota has each division of West Pakistan received during 1963-64, so far ?

Mr. Mohammad Haneef Khan : (a) Coal-tar is not a separately classified item in the Pakistan Standard Trade Classification. Statistics are maintained for Mineral Tar only, which includes coal-tar. The import of Mineral tar has been as under :

1960-61	..	..	..	..	8,351 Tons
1961-62	..	..	..	...	9,887 Tons
1962-63	..	..	..	...	5,817 Tons

(b) The information is as follows :

1960-61	..	..	..	..	592 Tons
1961-62	..	..	..	..	179 Tons
1962-63	..	..	..	..	423 Tons

(c) and (d) The information is not available as the Central Government have no distribution control on this item.

INDIAN BORDER

26. ***Pir Ghulam Rasul Shah Jilani** (put by Mir Aijaz Ali Khan) : (a) Will the Minister for Communications be pleased to state whether he is aware of the fact that the area from Kunri to the Indian Border via Chacharo in the Tharparkar district of the Hyderabad Division is a strategic area ?

(b) If the answer to (a) above be in the affirmative, what action has been taken or does he propose to take to construct metalled roads in that area ?

Mr. Abdus Sobur Khan : (a) No.

(b) Does not arise. In any case construction of roads is entirely a Provincial responsibility.

STRATEGIC AREA

27. ***Pir Ghulam Rasul Shah Jilani** (put by Mir Aijaz Ali Khan) : (a) Will the Minister for Communications be pleased to state whether he is aware of the fact that the area from Naokot to Nagarparkar in the Tharparkar district of the Hyderabad Division is a strategic area ?

(b) If the answer to (a) above be in the affirmative, what action has been taken or does he propose to take to construct metalled roads in that area ?

Mr. Abdus Sobur Khan : (a) No.

(b) Does not arise, though I may state that it is the responsibility of the Provincial Government to plan and construct roads.

G. M. C. TRUCK

28. ***Pir Ghulam Rasul Shah Jilani** (put by Mir Aijaz Ali Khan) : Will the Minister for Communications be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that no G. M. C. truck for public use in the Thar Desert has been imported since 1960 ; and

(b) whether any recommendation has been submitted to the Ministry of Finance for importing new G. M. C. trucks for plying in the backward areas of the Thar Desert ?

Mr. Abdus Sobur Khan : (a) Imports of G. M. C. trucks namely Chevrolet and Bedford have continued to be made, previously by M/s. General Motor Overseas Corporation and now by Gandhara Industries Ltd. on cash. Moreover any make of motor vehicles is importable under Export Bonus Scheme. Truck operators in Tharparkar area should be able to obtain their requirements in the like manner as transport operators in any other area of Pakistan.

(b) The need for any recommendations has not arisen.

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

29. ***Pir Ghulam Rasul Shah Jilani** (put by Mir Aijaz Ali Khan) : (a) Will the Minister for Natural Resources be pleased to state whether any underground geological survey has been undertaken in the Tharparkar district ? If so, when ?

(b) What is the total expenditure incurred thereon ?

(c) How many teams are working at present in that region, and how many persons have been employed therefor ?

(d) What minerals have so far been found out in the Tharparkar district and of what quality and in what quantity ?

(e) What steps have so far been taken to make use of those minerals ?

Mr. Muhammad Shehabullah : (a) Yes. Sub-surface geological exploration through drilling, pitting and trenching was started in the Nagarparkar area in 1961. The work is still continuing.

(b) About Rs. 5 lacs (Five lacs).

(c) All old three officers and six assistants are working at present in that region.

(d) Samples of kaoline and other types of clays, Laterite and Evaporites have been found and these are being tested and analysed. Only Kaoline is of significant importance. Its reserves are roughly estimated at 300,000 tons.

(c) Exploration of minerals is the responsibility of the Provincial Government.

Mr. Speaker : Question over. Yes, Mr. Abul Quasem.

THE CONSTITUTION (SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL—*contd.*

Mr. Abul Quasem : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I said yesterday that the National Assembly of Pakistan shall be dissolved in the interest of the sitting President as he wants to screen out the Opposition candidates and now I would like to give my reasons why I said so. According to Article 23 of the Constitution, the President cannot dissolve the National Assembly at any time when the unexpired portion of the term of the Assembly is less than 120 days. So, the term of this present Assembly is up to 8th June. Therefore, up to 8th February he can only dissolve it. According to Article 12, if the unexpired portion of the term of office of the President is less than 180 days, he cannot be saddled with powers. Here as he has got 60 days, more than the term of the present Assembly, from 8th February—he has 180 days there—he has got no benefit, if he dissolved the National Assembly before that date. He will have to be saddled with power for the unexpired period of the time, say, for one or two months. If he dissolved within that period, it will not help him. That is why he wants to shift the date of the election by six months, so that he can dissolve the National Assembly and assume power. This is the only reason why he has shifted the date.

Sir, according to Article 228 "The Chief Election Commission, shall as soon as is practicable after the enactment of this Constitution, take such steps as are necessary for the holding of the first elections of Members to the National Assembly and each Provincial Assembly." He has to get himself elected within 120 days or he has to quit. According to the present constitutional system, he cannot hold election through the existing BDs. but he can do it only through the Electoral College, when it is properly constituted under Art. 158. So, he cannot dissolve the National Assembly and that is why he is refraining from it. So, an attempt is being made to shift the date from 8th August to 22nd March. The Electoral College may be constituted by December 1964. If he dissolves the Assembly after that constitution, he will have less than 90 days of his term and hence he would be, then, in a position to get himself elected for 5 years, this unexpired term being less than 180 days. They are trying to dissolve the National Assembly to screen out all the Opposition candidates by means of shifting election date from 8th August to the 22nd of March. The existing provisions of the Constitution are against the move. If he does anything, then he also goes out and that is why he is waiting till the electoral college is formed as under Article 158. There is a barrier against him because in this National Assembly

we have about 54 Members of the Opposition and there are more than 40 Members in the Provincial Assemblies. We have already 104 and by secret voting we expect we will be getting one candidate selected for presidency under Article 167. That is why he will have to in his own interest dissolve the National Assembly as soon as this Bill goes through. Sir, I will also draw your attention to the fact that they have said that they have secured the support of 101 Members. They are putting a price of vote on the Opposition. What for? Is it in the interest of the country? You cannot depend on the votes of Opposition. There is no morality. Nowhere in the world there is such an example when the Government party could count on votes from the Opposition.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Mr. Quasem, be relevant; kindly speak on the Bill.

Mr. Abul Quasem: I am speaking on the Bill.

Mr. Speaker: Is there anything in the Bill about 'immorality'?

Mr. Abul Quasem: Because it is a constitutional amendment for which 104 votes are required and the Government party have already said that they have secured 101 votes. That shows that they are counting the Members from this side of the House, and what for?

(Interruptions)

Mr. Speaker: Order please, order.

Mr. Ghulam Sabir Khan Rana: Point of order, Sir. It is with a heavy heart that I have to make this submission. May I ask the honourable Member if he looks upon the Members of National Assembly as a market commodity that could be purchased by paying the price. He should withdraw his words. These words are derogatory to our prestige and dignity and he should withdraw them.

Mr. Speaker: Have you uttered any such word?

Mr. Abul Quasem: No, Sir.

Mr. Ghulam Sabir Khan Rana: Yes, Sir. He did say that.

Mr. Speaker: Has not said that.

Mr. Abul Quasem: I have not said that.

Mr. Ghulam Sabir Khan Rana: Yes, he said that, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: He has not used the words, 'Mandi ka Maal' (market commodity).

Mr. Ghulam Sabir Khan Rana: Sir, he said in English. I have only translated that in Urdu—'Mandi Ka Maal' (Market commodity).

Mr. Abul Quasem: It is really derogatory to the prestige of the National Assembly Members when the Government party counts upon the votes of the other party.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. There is a misunderstanding; I would request you, declare in Urdu and in Bengali also.

Mr. Abul Quasem: I said a price has been fixed.

Mr. Speaker : Mr. Quasem, have you said that they are putting a price on the head of Members ? This is unparliamentary and derogatory to the prestige of the Members of this House.

Mr. Abul Quasem : That is why I have said that this should not have been said by the Government party.

Mr. Speaker : Have you said that they are putting a price on the head of the Members ? This is derogatory !

Mrs. Marium Hashimuddin Ahmed : Point of order, Sir.

Mr. Speaker : Point of order by Begum Hashimuddin.

Mrs. Marium Hashimuddin Ahmed : Mr. Speaker, to err is human but to forgive is self indulgence.

Mr. Abul Quasem : I could not hear.

Mr. Speaker : Begum Hashimuddin Ahmed is trying to help you out of it.

(Interruptions)

Mr. Abul Quasem : Now, Sir, there is one provision which seeks to provide...

Mr. Speaker : (To Mr. Mizanur Rahman Choudhury) I would request the honourable Members not to utter such words which are not behoving a Member of the Assembly.

Mr. Abul Quasem : Provision is sought to be made for continuing the President in office on the expiry of the term until new President comes into office. Sir, as our present Constitution stands, there is room for casual vacancy in the office of Presidentship because if the President dissolves the National Assembly, then in that case he has to get himself elected within four months and in that case there can be a vacancy and that is why under Article 16 provision has been made for such an eventuality. I need not quote the details but I should say that it covers all the eventualities. It says :

“ At any time when—

(a) the office of President is vacant ; or

(b) the President is absent from Pakistan or is unable to perform the functions of his office due to illness or some other cause,

the Speaker of the National Assembly shall act as President, and except as provided in clause (2) of this Article, shall perform the functions of President.”

The exceptions are very few. The exceptions are that he shall not dissolve the National Assembly nor he shall remove any Governor, Minister or the Parliamentary Secretary but the functions of the President he can continue to perform without any hindrance ; if he finds that any particular Minister does not work according to his desire he may withhold his consent ; he may not accept his advice.

Mr. Speaker : Whoever becomes President he knows this mechanism. There is no need to repeat it.

Mr. Abul Quasem : I am speaking to convince you. The Law Minister, the other day, made out that the Speaker acting as President would not be able to fulfil all the eventualities and he would not be in a position to serve the country during that period. But I say he has all the powers of the President in spite of keeping the Ministers in office. So, he can exercise the functions of President quite efficiently and faithfully. That is why there is room for it. Now if this provision is made as provided in the amending Bill, what would happen if in some cases the President is elected and debarred from coming into office by the continuing President. He might be debarred to take his oath. Things in this country have happened in such a manner that even constitutional provisions practically did not get full recognition from those who had come into power. What would happen afterwards if a person who is elected as President is not allowed to enter. This is necessary for democratic transfer of power from one President to the other new President. In such a situation, Speaker becomes the Acting President. At that time, the new President will come and take oath. If the old President is allowed to continue even in that gap, what would happen if he does not allow him to enter into office? So this is a dangerous provision and it cannot be accepted by this House.

Sir, what are other objects for which this Bill has been introduced—the object is to see that President can be re-elected without going to the electoral college and he can screen out Opposition candidates and return uncontested. That much I have already said. But then he must also get protection from future impeachment under Article 13. Sir, Article 13 provides for impeachment of the President by the National Assembly. If election to the National Assembly takes place unhampered and uninfluenced by Government officials, then there is likelihood that a huge number of Members from the Opposition will return and will bring a motion of impeachment against the President and he will be removed. Sir, to stop it he wants to come before the election of the legislature. When he will be in office, he will take to some kind of official dishonesty in getting Members of his party elected in preference to the Opposition Members as was done in the last by-elections.

A Member : Question !

Mr. Abul Quasem : You may put this question not to me but to your conscience. At the time when the by-elections were announced, the Governors and Ministers, who were Public servants according to this Constitution, were allowed to canvass for the election of the candidates set up by the Government party.

Mr. Speaker : That is allowed by law.

Mr. Abul Quasem : By Presidential Order. The previous position was changed by Presidential Order and they were allowed to do it.

Mr. Abdullah-al-Mahmood : Point of order, Sir. May I for the information of the other Deputy Speaker bring to his notice a decision of the Indian Legislature.

Mr. S. Zaman : Is it necessary, Sir ?

A Member : It might not be necessary.

(Interruptions)

Mr. Abdullah-al-Mahmood : This is No. 118 to which I am referring.

"A Member referring to the history of a measure on the motion to take the Select Committee Report on the Bill into consideration,—

The President remarked : 'The history of the measure was in order on the motion to refer the Bill to a Select Committee. The Bill has come back from the Select Committee, the House has endorsed the principle of it, and the matter now in issue is whether the Report of the Select Committee be considered, and matters arising out of that. All this past history may be very interesting, but is entirely irrelevant.' "

So, when my friend talks of Electoral College and other matters according to this debate dated 24th July, 1923, p. 4960, it is irrelevant. Therefore, Sir, my friends would take note of this decision and talk less about the Electoral College.

Mr. Abul Quasem : I was not speaking on the Electoral College.

(Interruptions)

Mr. Speaker : Order, order, Mr. Abul Quasem.

Mr. Abul Quasem : If the President is elected before the election of legislature, the normal feeling in the country would be that the President being already saddled in power, it would be useless to vote for others. So his coming into power before the Legislature will influence them. Moreover one man who is all-powerful in the country even under the Constitution, when he will ask his Governors and Ministers to work for the party, then automatically the election being limited to the Electoral College, only consisting of 80,000 people, he will be able to influence these members. As a result, the people's voice will not be felt in the elections of the legislature. That will hamper not only the cause of democracy in the country but will also fail to enlist the support of the intelligentsia in the country. Without the help of the intelligentsia and the masses, a country cannot be democratically run and this will take away all the chances of free and fair election in the country. Sir, the President himself in his wisdom recently declared that Governors and Ministers should not take the officers in their respective areas while they go for canvassing of votes. That shows that he has realized that the Governors and Ministers have also done something which was not desired or desirable at all from the principles of morality and that is why he did see to it. Now again if he comes to power although the Ministers or the Governors may not take the officers with them to the voting areas, but these officers will know that their service after all depended on the sweet will of the Governor or Ministers or President and so they may think that it is their duty to see that their party members return. Whether they accompany the Minister or the Governor, they will be influenced and probably they will be compelled to work for the Government party members and they will take away...

Mr. Speaker : You have already said that.

Mr. Abul Quasem : Whatever right they have, that will be taken away, Sir.

Next question, Sir, when the officialdom will be so strong because of the new President coming into power and the new Governors and the new Ministers being sworn in, it will be difficult for the Government

party Members who are now expecting that they would be returning on Government ticket, to get ticket again. The President should be dependent on the goodwill of the people and the members of the party. But if the President is already elected before the Members are elected, he will not depend on them and he will not try to go by the dictates of the party for nomination of the candidates. In that case, he will equally depend on the advice of the officials because the officials will place him in power. So, those gentlemen who are now working for the party will have little chance to get justice at the hands of one man because a man howsoever just he may be, cannot do justice unless he depends on the public opinion in the respective places. Public opinion in the respective places will not be taken into consideration if these elections are held after the election of the President. So, not only this will affect the Opposition Members, but will also affect the Government party Members who consider that they have conscience to differ in certain matters. So, I again appeal to my friends on both sides that you should kindly reconsider the position in view of the analysis that I have just given. Sir, what would happen if our President is elected by the 80,000 B.Ds. who are representing different areas in the two wings of the country. These people will still feel that they are participating in the election of the President who will rule over them. But by this Bill, you will take away that right of the Electoral College also to elect their President and would declare the President to be elected by the present Legislature. What will happen, Sir? The people will not be in a position to participate in all political elections in this country. A democratic rule is not possible, Sir. You know, Sir, that unfortunately for us country is divided between two wings set apart by a thousand miles from each other. Only by our close collaboration we can feel that we are one nation. Sir, you will excuse me if I say that there is a feeling that when Martial Law was imposed it was practically a law imposed by only one section of the people over the majority section.

Mr. Speaker: This matter shall not be discussed. These matters are not called for in the discussion of the Bill.

Mr. Abul Quasem : Sir, even in a bureaucratic rule, the position is the same. Political participation by all the people of all the areas may make people feel that they jointly administer the country. This feeling is to be created in the greater interest of the country. Now we also expect some development in the different regions like East Pakistan, Frontier and Baluchistan and other places which are still undeveloped. But how we can expect the developments of these areas unless we have a right to choose our representatives directly to the Assembly or we have some voice in the election of the President. If the President goes for vote, then, Sir, people can place their demands before him.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Quasem, are these relevant? President has got to go for his election.

Mr. Abul Quasem : Sir, I can tell you that in view of the analysis that I have just given, he shall not go to the people. Through this Bill, he will get himself elected by screening Opposition candidates and declare himself uncontested and this will deprive the people to participate in the election. This will cause great harm to the nation. I appeal to all the sections of the House not to pass this Bill. By the passage of this Bill, their future will be doomed.

Mrs. Marium Hashimuddin Ahmed : Point of order, Sir.

Mr. Speaker : Mrs. Hashimuddin is on a point of order.

Mrs. Marium Hashimuddin Ahmed : Politics is a game of chance and as such we should be prepared for all eventuality good or bad.

Mr. Speaker : Would you accept her advice ?

Mr. Abul Quasem : I do not consider that it is chance and I am not here for a game. I am here to represent my people and to see that their lot is improved and for this purpose I have come here. We are their chosen representatives. We have not come here to deprive them of their rights through the passage of this Bill. We consider that even the B.Ds. are not going to get a chance to elect the President. These are my observations. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker : Mr. Ghulam Jilani Malik !

Mr. Ghulam Jilani Khan Malik (West Pakistan) : everything in this House, Sir, is subject to your discipline. So, I seek your permission to use the mike in the Ayub Hall. First of all, Sir, I must confess to a feeling of great nervousness all the time that I was listening to a very elaborate speech of the Law Minister. I was listening to it with bated breath and at every moment I expected something new, something which we could not guess from his previous speech. I myself, saw, something protruding from the file in front of him yesterday and took it to be the fuse of the bomb under his table. I expected that bomb to be thrown and sooner or later to burst upon us. I waited, Sir, and waited and it was only when he resumed his seat that I heaved a sigh of relief. The bomb after all did not explode. It was even not thrown and we remained as far as material goes where we were before the Law Minister began his speech. When this document was flourished before us, Mr. Speaker on the first day of March, 1962, we were told that it was as perfect and as faultless as a scripture that had descended from heaven. We were assured that it was a complete blue-print of the type of Government that we needed. It was a great work of a great mind that it was a lofty vision of an inspired genius. We were forbidden to discuss the sacred revelation which was, Mr. Speaker, handed down to us as a divine command, as a decree of an almighty power and those of us who questioned the wisdom or justice or some of its provisions were called traitors and enemy agents, Sir.

Sardar Khizer Hayat Khan : Question.

Mr. Ghulam Jilani Khan Malik : What you said about Mr. Suhrawardy ?

Sardar Khizer Hayat Khan : What did I say ? This is absolutely wrong.

(Interruptions)

Sardar Khizer Hayat Khan : You are nobody to question me.

Mr. Speaker : Yes, Mr. Jilani.

Mr. Ghulam Jilani Khan Malik : Sir, the slightest murmur of its undemocratic character, the feeblest criticism of its repressive measures was termed as an act of high treason by self-appointed custodian. They employed all their engines of repression, all their instruments of coercion against those who dared protest again this rape of the

masses. They bullied and tortured; they slaughtered and hunted. Mr. Speaker, if you doubt me today, go and visit places of education in your own Provinces where the walls are still riddled with 303 bullets.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. These are not relevant Mr. Jilani. Come to the Bill.

Mr. Ghulam Jilani Khan Malik: Where the play-grounds are moist with the sparkling blood of the youth. (Interruption) People washed the vandalism...

Sardar Khizer Hayat Khan: This is irrelevant. You, Sir, cannot allow people to exploit the students in this country.

(Interruptions)

Mr. Mizanur Rahman Choudhury: Whether a Member is relevant or irrelevant is the business of the Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: I would seek the co-operation of the House. I can understand their enthusiasm and their grim. I have got to keep the decorum of the House.

A Member: Ask him to control emotions!

Mr. Speaker: Before I ask him, may I ask you to control your emotions.

Mr. Jilani, by way of introduction you can say something; but the way you started, I thought you had lost sight of the Bill.

Mr. Ghulam Jilani Khan Malik: No, Sir. I am talking about the constitution.

(Interruptions)

Mr. Speaker: Order please. Please go on.

Mr. Ghulam Jilani Khan Malik: Sir, as you know, the inherent defect of the Constitution has now been practically conceded by the Government. I was just explaining that the people watched this vandalism with anguish in their heart, ***. All that they could do was to hope and pray in their hearts that one day this burden shall be removed, and they shall be given justice and a measure of liberty. But, little did they realise that these Nadir Shahs of the 20th Century do not believe in withdrawing behind the hills with caskets full of gold and silver. They believed in ever-lasting...

A Member: What has Nadir Shah to do with this, Sir?

Mr. Ghulam Jilani Khan Malik: A year after its promulgation, Mr. Speaker, the first amendment was inserted in this chapter of our slavery. It was nothing but an attempt to...

(Interruptions)

Mr. Speaker: Order, please, you called some of your friends Nadir Shahs by way of compliment?

***Expunged as ordered by the Speaker.

Mr. Ghulam Jilani Khan Malik : I was just telling you.

Mr. Speaker : Compliment ?

Mr. Ghulam Jilani Khan Malik : ***And those who listened, turned away in disgust and disillusionment and now we are confronted with the second amendment. This amendment has been introduced by our master because he feels that whatever he conferred upon us is more than what we deserved ; is more than what was our due. Today by bringing this Bill, he regrets his own generosity. He wants to correct his own mistakes. Sir, let him go ahead by all means ; let him alter his own command ; let him give any shape to his own hand work. The law-maker, Mr. Speaker, you know, can change the law at any moment he likes. The sovereign is all-powerful in his regime. He can shoot and kill, he can gag and imprison ; he can enact and abrogate. When he bestowed upon us this Constitution, he proclaimed it in these mighty words : "I hereby enact..."

(Interruptions)

Mr. Ghulam Jilani Khan Malik : I say what prevents him today from using those glorious words once again to change the Constitution or even to abrogate it. ***

(Interruptions)

Mr. Speaker : Mr. Jilani ! You are going off the bounds ; you are going off...

(Interruptions)

Mr. Abdul Waheed Khan : Sir, I rise on a point of order.

Once you yourself asked that he compared some of the Members here with Nadir Shah. It was certainly not a compliment because he is known for massacre.

Second thing is that he is discussing the person of the President. That is not permissible under the Constitution. So, Sir, I hope you will kindly stop him and ask him to come to the Bill. We welcome suggestions. We are prepared to listen to him.

Mr. Nasrullah Khan : If you bring this Bill, the President would be discussed.

Mr. Abdul Waheed Khan : Sir, the person of the President cannot be discussed...

Mr. Speaker : Kindly resume your seat.

Mr. Abdul Waheed Khan : Only one word, Sir.

He can discuss anything except the person of the President, not his guns and army of the President.

Mr. Speaker : Mr. Jilani ! Our Rules of Procedure do not allow...

Mr. Ghulam Jilani Khan Malik : ...to discuss the Constitution...

Mr. Speaker : ...to make any remark which reflects upon the personal conduct of the President. Please do not refer to any personal conduct.

Mr. Ghulam Jilani Khan Malik : It is not personal conduct, Sir. All that I wanted to prove was that this was official conduct about which I am speaking. I never have the sinner ; I hate the sin.

Mr. Speaker : Better leave this point. Speak about the Bill itself.

Mr. Ghulam Jilani Khan Malik : First of all I wanted to prove...

(Interruptions)

Mr. Ghulam Jilani Khan Malik : ***

Mr. Khursheed Ahmad : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on a point of order.

Mr. Speaker : (addressing Mr. Ghulam Jilani Khan Malik) You see Ministers are raising objection. You have invited him. He was not here !

Mr. Khursheed Ahmad : I have only to submit for your consideration that nobody can be allowed to dub the Constitution as "monsterous" and to undermine it outright. The honourable speaker on the other side can move an amendment.

Mr. Speaker : No ! He has not said "monsterous". I would have declared it out of order.

Mr. Khursheed Ahmad : He has even used stronger words.

Mr. Speaker : What stronger words ? Please state. I will expunge.

Mr. Khursheed Ahmad : I will...

Mr. Speaker : You first said "monsterous". But it is not on record.

Mr. Khursheed Ahmad : He undermined the very authority to promulgate this Constitution. He said "cold-blooded murder" and a "bundle of falsehood".

Mr. Speaker : Will you tell me...

Mr. Khursheed Ahmad : I respectfully submit that he said that it was a bundle of falsehood. He said that it was monsterous. He has said that the promulgation was wrong. He said that it was a charter slavery of something. Everything has been said as if this Constitution is not worth anything. I say under the cloak of a speech on a Bill, no Member can undermine the whole Constitution. He has even gone to the extent of saying that the President was not competent to promulgate it. Therefore, I submit that he may speak only on the principles which are embodied in the Bill, and he should not go beyond the scope of the Bill.

Mr. Mashiur Rahman : On a point of order, Sir. In the amendment of the Constitution, general discussion of the Constitution is permitted. When amendment of an Act is introduced, the whole Act is discussed. This is No. 1, Sir.

[Mr. Mashiur Rahman]

Then, Sir, you know the feelings of this side of the House about Constitution. We wanted that the Constitution should be amended to make it more acceptable to the people. And, so, if Mr. Jilani has said something general about the Constitution, he has not done anything irregular. It is an open criticism in the country that the country's Constitution cannot be given by one man. It should have got the approval of the country through the referendum, or through a Constituent Assembly. So, if Mr. Jilani criticises that an individual introduced or enacted it, it is not directed against the personal or private conduct of the President. Neither, it is against the dignity of the House. They are interrupting just only to stop Mr. Jilani from speaking. Mr. Khursheed Ahmad, the Law Minister of the Government, himself wants an amendment of the Constitution which has been promulgated a few days before while the President is so many words has said to the Opposition and even to the Government party Members that 'I have considered this Constitution carefully and I have introduced it, and I am not ready to amend this and use it as a child's play.'

Mr. Speaker : All right. You have stated your point of order. I will give my ruling on the point of order raised by the Law Minister and subsequent point of order by Mr. Mashiur Rahman. I have asked them (the officers) to put up the record of the speech of Mr. Ghulam Jilani. Yes, Mr. Ghulam Jilani Malik.

Mr. Ghulam Jilani Khan Malik : I have heard the Law Minister : Actually this is the President's Constitution, not the people's Constitution.

Sardar Khizer Hayat Khan : Question.

(Interruptions)

Mr. Speaker : Please go on.

Mr. Ghulam Jilani Khan Malik : He keeps it as it is ; he may change it in any manner he likes...

Sardar Khizer Hayat Khan : He cannot change it in any manner he likes.

(Interruptions)

Mr. Ghulam Jilani Khan Malik : Or he even can abrogate it to please himself...

(Interruptions)

Mr. Ghulam Jilani Khan Malik : But he has no right to ask us to sign our own death warrant here..

(Interruptions)

Mr. Ghulam Jilani Khan Malik : He can lead us to the gallows, but he cannot force us to commit suicide...

(Interruptions)

Mr. Ghulam Jilani Khan Malik : We may be a prisoner in his hand today but we do not bargain our freedom for anything, or for selling our children to slavery...

(Uproarious interruptions)

Mr. Speaker: May I tell you and this is for the last time that this Bill has been introduced by the Law Minister...

Mr. Ghulam Jilani Khan Malik: Yes, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: The President has not come here to introduce the Bill. If you have got anything, any grievance, you address the Law Minister...

Mr. Ghulam Jilani Khan Malik: All right. I will not touch it.

Mr. Speaker: And as senior Member you know under the Rules the President's conduct cannot be discussed.

Mr. Ghulam Jilani Khan Malik: I will not.

Mr. Speaker: I only allowed you to that extent to criticise the Constitution. That is a different matter. Anybody in this House under the Constitution has got a right to amend the Constitution by way of amendment. They have a right to criticise it and I do say, had the Constitution been perfect, the Law Minister would not have brought this amendment here.

Mr. Ghulam Jilani Khan Malik: That is what I say.

Mr. Speaker: He himself says that it is needed.

(Interruptions)

Mr. Speaker: Order order. The Law Minister does concede that there is need for improvement. Even, well, the President has declared on many occasions that if after experiment it is found that any amendment is necessary, he would welcome it. Then why point your guns at the President for nothing. The Law Minister is sitting here.

Mr. Ghulam Jilani Khan Malik: I am not discussing the personal conduct of the President.

Mr. Speaker: Yes, Mr. Jilani.

Mr. Ghulam Jilani Khan Malik: I confess, we are in minority in this House, a hopelessly outnumbered minority. We are weak. We are disorganised. We have no platform today. We have no press, no press, no press! We lack the discipline. We lack the support of industrialists and landlords, and above all, Mr. Speaker, we lack the support of Makhdoods, Mazaris, Rajas and Ranis.

Sardar Khizer Hayat Khan: They were a very good people when they were with you!

Mr. Ghulam Jilani Khan Malik: The discipline of the Quaid-i-Azam...

(Interruptions)

A Member from the Treasury Bench: What a pity!

Mr. Ghulam Sabir Khan Rana: Personal explanation, Sir...

Mr. Speaker : Personal explanation by Rana Sahib.

Mr. Ghulam Sabir Khan Rana : *You talk of Ranas in their presence. You better ask your conscience on whose side you were formerly.

Mr. Ghulam Jilani Khan Malik : *It was a mistake, Rana Sahib.

Mr. Speaker : The House is called to order. Mr. Jilani, if you want to speak, please speak but be within bounds.

Mr. Ghulam Jilani Khan Malik : All right, Sir. The discipline of Quaid-i-Azam today prevents us from seeking short-cuts to power through all sources. Our hands are today too tired to make a fist, but we have understood one thing. We have understood that our lot is to struggle, struggle and struggle. Is this not strange that we the Members of this House should be asked today to vote on a Constitution Bill ? I need not remind you that we are not competent to vote even on money Bill. We cannot be trusted with the keys of the King's treasury for he prefers to keep them under his own pillow. If we are incapable of passing a Budget, how can we legislate on the future form of Government ?

(Interruptions)

Mr. Ghulam Jilani Khan Malik : How can we take an intelligent decision on an intricate problem ?

Mr. Speaker : Mr. Jilani, is this relevant ? Please come to the Bill.

Mr. Ghulam Jilani Khan Malik : It is relevant.

Mr. Speaker : Go on.

(Interruptions)

Mr. Ghulam Jilani Khan Malik : I was just explaining...

Mr. Speaker : I think, my friends on my right are on a quite strong wicket. So, why should they be restive ?

(Interruptions)

Mr. Speaker : Order please, order.

A Member from the Treasury Bench : This is not a Budget speech !

[**Mr. Ghulam Jilani Khan Malik :** Sir, I will take one minute to explain it. All that I wanted to say was that let the maker of the Constitution alter the Constitution. Let him do so under his own order and authority. He did not seek our opinion when he framed it. Why should he need our services now when he has the powerful support and firm backing of my own friend, Sheikh Khursheed Ahmad, Master of Arts, Bachelor of Law. I wish he could have been Master of Law and Bachelor of Arts instead. I am quite sure that the savacious and brilliant representative of the Lahore Coffee house shall be amply rewarded for all his pains in the shape of a nicely upholstered chair in one of the court rooms of Pakistan. Afterall, one of his predecessors...

Mr. Speaker : Pindi Coffee house also needs customers.

Mr. Ghulam Jilani Khan Malik : Afterall, one of his predecessors and equally an eminent expert in law was similarly rewarded. But I do hope, before he retires from politics and occupies that Chair, our venerable Law Minister shall remember to perform a pilgrimage to the holy Mecca for the sake of his soul and conscience.

Mr. Khursheed Ahmad : I have never been a Government servant, nor I would like to join Government service. I am not an *ex-Government* servant.

(Interruptions)

Mr. Ghulam Jilani Khan Malik : All right, they do not want to hear me. Now, I invite your attention to this piece of paper and request you to give your fullest attention, for his fine legal phraseology gives it a very deceptive appearance. ***

Sir, the most significant amendment, the amendment that alters the entire shape of the Constitution is amendment to Article 12 of the Constitution which deals with the tenure of the office of the Head of the State. Article 12 of the Constitution limits the term of the office of the President to five years. But, now a proviso is being added enabling him to continue to hold office even after the expiry of his term—till such time, that is, until his successor enters upon his office.

Article 165 of the Constitution requires that the election to the office of the Head of State must be completed before the expiry of the term of the sitting President ; but the proposed amendment relaxes this obligation. It removes the deadline for the holding of election for reasons beyond the control of Election Commission.

A Member : Question.

Mr. Ghulam Jilani Khan Malik : The proviso that is being added to Article 226 of the Constitution covers the case of the present Head of State on similar lines—

“Provided that he shall, notwithstanding the expiration of his term, continue to hold office until his successor enters upon his office.”

A most bewildering and incredible explanation has been offered by our great Law Minister for the change that has the effect of removing all restrictions on the tenure of the office of the Head of State. This is what he says—

“Although provision exists for holding elections to the office of President before the expiry of his term, except in cases of a casual vacancy, the fact remains that occasions can arise when for reasons entirely beyond the control of the Commission it may not be possible to complete the election within the constitutional schedule. As for example, if a Presidential candidate...and so on.”

Now I submit to you, Sir, that the Constitution as it stands today fully ensures the continuity of the Heads of State. As Mr. Quasem pointed out,...

***Expunged as ordered by the Speaker.

Mr. Speaker : This point has already been made out.

Mr. Ghulam Jilani Khan Malik : Article 16 of the Constitution takes complete care of the type of contingency visualized by Law Minister. Article 16 provides that a vacancy in the office of the Head of State resulting as an act of man or God shall be filled by the Speaker, National Assembly, who shall exercise all the powers of the Head of State except his power to dissolve the National Assembly. This is what Article 16 says. Should I read, Sir ?

A Member : Yes.

Mr. Ghulam Jilani Khan Malik : "At any time when—

- (a) the office of President is vacant ; or
- (b) the President is absent from Pakistan or is unable to perform the functions of his office due to illness or some other cause,

the Speaker of the National Assembly shall act as President and except as provided in clause (2) of this Article, shall perform the functions of President."

Mr. Speaker, the wordings are quite clear and unambiguous. A vacancy that may arise as a result of circumstances beyond the control of the Election Commission is, nevertheless, a vacancy. It is a Speaker's prerogative to fill that vacancy.

Mr. Khursheed Ahmad : Point of order, Sir.

Mr. Speaker : Point of order by honourable Law Minister.

Mr. Khursheed Ahmad : The honourable Member is speaking on the shape of the Bill as it had before it went to the Select Committee. There is no such provision to which he is referring, that "in the opinion of the Election Commission..." So he may kindly speak on what...

Mr. Ghulam Jilani Khan Malik : I am referring to your intentions.

Mr. Khursheed Ahmad : ... which has come out and which is under consideration now. Moreover, I would invoke the rule of relevancy, that the honourable Member may comment on the Bill as it is. We are discussing the Bill as it is.

Mr. Ghulam Jilani Khan Malik : Yes, I am discussing.

Mr. Khursheed Ahmad : No ; you are quoting it as it was.

Mr. Speaker : All right, Mr. Jilani. Be relevant, and that's all.

Mr. Ghulam Jilani Khan Malik : No, no. I have read the Bill.

A Member : (Addressing Mr. Ghulam Jilani Khan Malik) Don't listen to them.

Mr. Ghulam Jilani Khan Malik : I was saving, Sir, that, to fill the vacancy in any other form will amount to a violation...

Mr. Speaker : Order.

Mr. Ghulam Jilani Khan Malik : ... of Article 16 of the Constitution to say that the Constitution does not provide continuity to the office of the Head of State is, therefore, utterly untrue ; *** an attempt to throw dust in our eyes. The Government is not providing a cure for a situation which is unforeseen in the Constitution or overlooked. It is suggesting a remedy different from the one that already exists on the Statute Book.

A Member : Question.

Mr. Ghulam Jilani Khan Malik : Now we may ask, Sir, what is the true motive behind this Act ? Why are you...

Sardar Khizer Hayat Khan : That has already been explained.

Mr. Ghulam Jilani Khan Malik : Why are you, Mr. Speaker, considered incapable of stepping into the...

Mr. Speaker : This is personal. You should withdraw that. This is personal. That is not the way to speak.

Mr. Ghulam Jilani Khan Malik : Any Speaker.

Mr. Speaker : Well, I tell you that when you were criticizing the policy of the President, I allowed you a little latitude, because you were not criticizing the President himself ; you were criticizing a principle. You can only criticize on the basis of a principle, but you cannot be personal. You know that the Speaker is presiding over this House, and you should also address the House and the Speaker in a manner that it is not termed as personal.

Mr. Ghulam Jilani Khan Malik : It is meant for all Speakers.

Syed Abdus Sultan : Point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Speaker : Syed Abdus Sultan on a point of order.

Syed Abdus Sultan : As you happen to be in the Chair now, you are not a person ; you are an institution. He is referring to the constitutional institution.

Mr. Ghulam Jilani Khan Malik : Yes, quite right, Sir. I was saying that why the prospect of your acting as Head of State is so dreadful and dismal in the eyes of these people ?

Mr. Speaker : I may agree that legally it is right.

Mr. Ghulam Jilani Khan Malik : Mr. Speaker, I am within my rights.

Mr. Speaker : All right. All right.

Mr. Ghulam Jilani Khan Malik : I say, Sir, is this Bill not a motion of no confidence against you ?

Members : No, no.

(Interruptions)

Sardar Khizer Hayat Khan : Question, Sir. He should be...

***Expunged as ordered by the Speaker.

Mr. Ghulam Jilani Khan Malik : All right, Sir. I will not refer to you. Is this not a slap on the face of the province whom the Speaker represents today ? Is this not a slur on this House that has put you in this Chair ? Mr. Speaker, only yesterday you said that the dignity itself would protect the dignity of the House.

Mr. Speaker : Order, order.

Mr. Ghulam Jilani Khan Malik : Where is the dignity to-day ?

Mr. Speaker : Order, order, Mr. Jilani. I rule that I shall not allow discussion in this trend.

Mr. Ghulam Jilani Khan Malik : Sir, now I must explain this provision. This is a provision because the Speaker belongs to a part of the country where people are in the habit of telling the truth, where God is feared more than man, where the people are too upright for the freedom of the people.

Mr. Mohammad Haneef Khan : Point of order, Sir.

Mr. Ghulam Jilani Khan Malik : All right, Mr. Speaker, I will not make a reference to you.

Mr. Mohammad Haneef Khan : On a point of order, Sir.

A Member : No point of order.

Mr. Speaker : Mr. Haneef on a point of order.

Mr. Ghulam Jilani Khan Malik : I will not make a reference.

Mr. Speaker : Mr. Haneef, he is on a point of order.

Mr. Mohammad Haneef Khan : Sir, I humbly submit that he can criticize the provision by referring the Speaker of the National Assembly, and not the person of honourable Fazlul Quader Chowdhury and putting the weight of East Pakistan against West Pakistan in this way, thus prejudicing the country's cause.

Mr. Speaker : So far as I am concerned, I am representative of Pakistan.

Mr. Ghulam Jilani Khan Malik : I will not make any reference, Mr. Speaker, to you. At least I can make a reference to the present regime. This present regime, Sir, can never repose trust in an East Pakistani.

A Member : Question, Sir.

Mr. Ghulam Jilani Khan Malik : Each one of you strikes terror in their hearts.

Sardar Khizer Hayat Khan : This is very objectionable, Sir.

Mr. Ghulam Jilani Khan Malik : Each one of you is a suspect in their eyes.

Sardar Khizer Hayat Khan : Point of order, Sir.

Mr. Ghulam Jilani Khan Malik : They feel weak and helpless against the unconquerable spirit of your people, Sir.

Sardar Khizer Hayat Khan : Point of order, Sir...

Mr. Speaker : Point of order by Sardar Khizer Hayat.

Sardar Khizer Hayat Khan : Sir, the honourable speaker has said that this regime cannot repose trust in East Pakistanis.

Mr. Ghulam Jilani Khan Malik : Yes.

Sardar Khizer Hayat Khan : This is highly objectionable. This is irrelevant. This is highly objectionable, and against the dignity of this House, against the dignity of Pakistan. He must withdraw these words. This is against the interest of Pakistan. This is against the interest of the country. He must withdraw these remarks, Sir.

Mr. Mashkur Rahman : What portion ?

Sardar Khizer Hayat Khan : He must withdraw these remarks.

Mr. Speaker : Order, order, order.

Mr. Ghulam Jilani Khan Malik : This is my right.

Mr. Speaker : Mr. Jilani,...

Mr. Ghulam Jilani Khan Malik : Sir, I can give expression to my views.

Mr. Speaker : Within this House you should not talk in a manner which will be taken as parochial in any quarters.

Mr. Ghulam Jilani Khan Malik : No question of parochialism. Every time we are talking about parity. Parity in the legislature is meaningless...

Mr. Nasrullah Khan : On a point of order, Sir.

Mr. Speaker : Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan on a point of order.

Mr. Nasrullah Khan* (West Pakistan) : Sir, there is no question of parochialism in it. This healthy convention was established in this country long ago. The principle that in case the Head of the State be from East Pakistan, the Prime Minister should be from West Pakistan, has been in practice in this country since long before the Martial Law. Accordingly Mr. Iskandar Mirza in his day had proposed the name of Ch. Mohammad Ali for the office of Prime Minister. At that time East Pakistan had objected to it saying that both the President and the Prime Minister should not come from the same Wing. But then the late Mr. Fazlul Huq confessed that Mr. Iskandar Mirza belonged to East Pakistan and came from the district of Murshidabad. Afterwards on the eve of the election of the Speaker following the lifting of Martial Law, it was unanimously agreed upon and decided under the present Constitution that if the President of Pakistan were from West Pakistan, the Speaker should be from East Pakistan. Subsequently, Sir, when you were elected to fill the vacancy of the Speaker, the same principle was observed by this House. Hence the Speaker should be from East Pakistan. But now-a-days one who refers to this convention is treated as a disruptionist.

Mr. Speaker : What am I to do.

Mr. Ghulam Jilani Khan Malik : Sir, I was simply explaining that parity in the Legislature is meaningless when the country is being governed by Ordinances, when the Budget is only discussed and not voted.

Mr. Speaker : But how is it relevant in respect of this Bill ?

Mr. Ghulam Jilani Khan Malik : I think they should have brought an amendment that he should continue to hold office till his successor enters upon his office.

(Interruptions)

Mr. Ghulam Jilani Khan Malik : I was just saying, Sir, that if these people really believe in the principle of parity...

(Interruptions)

Mr. Speaker : Order please.

Mr. Ghulam Jilani Khan Malik : ... they should be prepared to rotate the office of the Head of the State between the two wings of the country. Without conceding the principle of rotation, no mutual trust, no sense of harmony, no feeling of goodwill can prevail between the two wings of Pakistan.

Col. Nawabzada Abdul Ghafoor Khan : Point of order, Sir.

Major Mohd. Afsaruddin : Point of order, Sir.

Mr. Speaker : Point of order by Col. Abdul Ghafoor Khan.

Col. Nawabzada Abdul Ghafoor Khan : Sir, when the Constitution lays...

(Interruptions)

Mr. Speaker : Order please.

Col. Nawabzada Abdul Ghafoor Khan : Sir, when the Constitution lays no bar to any part of the wing and candidates from any wing can contest for the Presidentship, where does this question of parity arise ? What is the basis for this question ? If 10 or 40 Presidents come continuously from East Pakistan, I would like to honour it. Similarly if some Presidents come continuously from West Pakistan what is the harm in it ?

Mr. Abul Quasem : He is barring the prospect of any other than the present one.

Col. Nawabzada Abdul Ghafoor Khan : Then, Sir, we are not here in a dramatic club that we should raise our hands and shoulders, this is the National Assembly of Pakistan.

Mr. Speaker : This is no dramatic club nor a circus area. Major Afsaruddin, have you got something to say ?

Major Mohd. Afsaruddin : Sir, I have a point of order.

Mr. Speaker : Yours is a point of order ?

Major Mohd. Afsaruddin : It is a point of order to get their minds cleared on the floor of the House. To-day some of my friends talk about parity. . .

A Member: Is it a point of order ?

Major Mohd. Afsaruddin: Listen first, then only you will know whether it is a point of order or not.

(Interruptions)

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The House is called to order. Major Sahib, are you on a point of order ?

Major Mohd. Afsaruddin: Yes, Sir,

Mr. Speaker: State your point of order please.

Major Mohd. Afsaruddin: My friend Mr. Jilani...

Mr. Speaker: What is your point of order ?

Major Mohd. Afsaruddin: I am coming to that, Sir, if you kindly allow me. They are delivering 'paltan maidan' speech on the floor of the House and that was not stopped. So why should not I be given time to state my point of order ?

(Interruptions)

Mr. Speaker: Order. You please state your point of order. So far as Paltan Maidan speech is concerned, I will allow you a chance.

Major Mohd. Afsaruddin: Right, Sir. My point of order is this, Sir, nobody has got a right to spoil the precious time of this august House. That is No. 1.

(Interruptions)

Major Mohd. Afsaruddin: If anybody filibusters, if anybody makes a Paltan Maidan type speech, if anybody makes Mochi Gate type of speech, he should be stopped straightaway. No. 2 is this Sir, my friend, Captain Jilani, and my esteemed friend, Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, with his lofty cap, are very much sympathetic for the parity of East Pakistan.

(Interruptions)

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Mr. Abul Quasem: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on a point of privilege.

Mr. Speaker: Order please. I have already allowed the point of order to be raised by Major Afsaruddin. Nobody has the right to waste the time of the House.

Major Mohd. Afsaruddin: Will you kindly allow me, Sir, to state my second point. My second point is more vital, Sir.

Mr. Abul Quasem: Sir, Major Afsaruddin has cast an aspersion on the Members of the Opposition. The Opposition is here to criticise the Government policies and to find out the defects. Here my friend only wanted to show that by perpetuating the existing President for good, he is barring East Pakistan of its right of representing. Again, Sir, reference to the lofty cap...

Mr. Speaker: This is no point of order. I have already given my ruling on the point of order raised by Major Afsaruddin.

Mr. Abul Quasem: Sir, I have raised a point of privilege, because the honourable Member has cast an aspersion on Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan when he referred to him as having a lofty cap.

Mr. Speaker: The House in their wisdom has elected me to guard the rights and privileges of this House. So I need not be reminded of that. Yes, Mr. Jilani.

Col. Nawabzada Abdul Ghafoor Khan: Point of order, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: This is your second point of order.

Col. Nawabzada Abdul Ghafoor Khan: I wish to ask for a ruling because I have not learnt of it. I would like to be made wiser. Is there anything like a point of privilege?

Mr. Speaker: *What should I tell you? What could I say? Some call it 'point of privilege' while others 'point of personal explanation'. What am I to do?

Col. Nawabzada Abdul Ghafoor Khan: Is there anything like a point of privilege.

Mr. Speaker: I think you should all educate yourself. Don't bother me.

Major Mohd. Afsaruddin: Point of order, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Jilani.

Major Mohd. Afsaruddin: Sir, after the speech of Mr. Abul Quasem I have got a point of order.

Mr. Speaker: The House is called to order. There is no point of order. Mr. Ghulam Jilani to continue.

Mr. Ghulam Jilani Khan Malik: I was discussing that if these people honestly believe in the principle of parity, they should provide that the Head of the State shall be chosen for alternate terms from both the wings of Pakistan. But, Sir, this will never be conceded.

Some Members: How is it relevant?

Mr. Ghulam Jilani Khan Malik: I am relevant. I tell you why. Because the so-called friends and advisers of the President want him to follow in the foot-steps of Napoleon Bonapart who appointed himself as the first Consul for ten years, then as the first Consul for life.

A Member: He is casting reflection.

Mr. Ghulam Jilani Khan Malik: I am not making any reflection. I am stating history. He appointed himself as the first Consul for life and finally as an imperial founder of the destiny. They are not his well-wishers. They are leading him blindfolded on a path that ends in a bottomless pit.

* English translation of uncorrected speech in Urdu.

Now, Sir, the proposed amendment to Article 168 of the Constitution could not fail to arouse your indignation and despair as a guardian of this House. Our Law Minister has taken upon himself the role of a guy fox. The cellars of Ayub Hall have been filled with gun-powder. The match may be applied at any moment and this beautiful roof will come crushing upon our heads.

A Member : Poetry ! Poetry !

Mr. Ghulam Jilani Khan Malik : Sir, it is significant that two different amendments were presented before this House to this Article. The first amendment was proposed by the Law Minister in his original draft—in the original Bill where he proposed that the dissolved National Assembly instead of being revived within 90 days should be re-elected as early as practicable. I must congratulate the Law Minister for the choice of this most useful word in the English language. It could solve all his problems. The President shall quit his office 'when practicable'; the dissolved National Assembly shall be re-elected 'when practicable'. Sir, on the hinge of 'practicability' rotates the entire Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

(Interruptions)

Sardar Khizer Hayat Khan : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as a rule he is always referring to the Bill which was presented earlier. If he has prepared his speech before the coming of this Bill, he should be kind enough to disown the Members sitting on that side of the House.

Mr. Speaker : All right, you will have a chance to rebut that point.

Mr. Ghulam Jilani Khan Malik : 120 days and 'practicability' is the same thing. Whatever, Sir, suits the ruling party is 'practicable'; whatever meets their convenience is 'practicable'. On the other hand, direct elections are impracticable. A set of free laws is 'impracticable', a free press 'impracticable' and Mr. Speaker, Sir, even loudspeakers in this country are 'impracticable'.

Another devastating feature of this Bill is the proposed amendment to Article 226 of the Constitution which provides that presidential election should take place before elections of the National Assembly are held. In other words, the party boss should be installed to foresee and supervise elections and to ensure that only his chosen men are allowed to occupy seats in this Hall...

Sardar Khizer Hayat Khan : Question, question !

Mr. Ghulam Jilani Khan Malik : ...which bears his name. If elections to the National Assembly and the office of President were to be held at the same time, it would be difficult to use Government machinery to the fullest extent, because the functionaries of the Government would not know who was going to be the ultimate boss for the next 5 years. To win the presidential election, the big and small bosses of the Government on whom the citizens depend for their existence will be at the beck and call of the Chief Executive to assist him in conducting the campaign of his party. Sir, there is nothing to prevent him from turning every department of the Government into a team of canvassers and campaigners for his own party use.

Sardar Khizer Hayat Khan: Question, question!

Mr. Ghulam Jilani Khan Malik: No question! no President will resist this contention. Don't you worry!

Sir, as you know, the President is no longer prevented from electioneering for his own party. Is there the slightest chance for the Opposition—not at least in West Pakistan—where Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners, Superintendents of Police, even Thanedars, decide the outcome of an election...

Sardar Khizer Hayat Khan: Question, question; absolutely wrong.

Mr. S. Zaman: Read the proceedings before the Election Tribunals.

Mr. Ghulam Jilani Khan Malik: They say, questions. I say, Sir, is this healthy politics? Is this the teaching of Quaid? Is this a fair play? Is this the lesson that we were taught at the play field Sandhurst? Is this the tradition of an Aligarian?

(Interruptions)

Sardar Khizer Hayat Khan: What has that got to do with him? Who is he to challenge?

(Interruptions)

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Mr. Ghulam Jilani Khan Malik: I know my duty. I can question in every single detail.

Sardar Khizer Hayat Khan: How the Sandhurst affairs comes in this Bill?

Mr. Speaker: We have to adjourn for tea break, please go on.

Mr. Ghulam Jilani Khan Malik: I will cry more loudly before the last image of liberty is systematically and ruthlessly stifled by time servers and self-seekers. We have been furnished with amusing justification.

Mr. Speaker: Please have patience for a few minutes.

Mr. Ghulam Jilani Khan Malik: We have been furnished with amusing justification for this Amendment. It is said that the incoming President should have his own Budget. This argument can be visualized only by those who know about the Budget and the manner in which Budgets are made. A Budget is only presented in the name of the President; it does not emerge out of his own mind, but it reflects the thinking of countless people.]

Col. Nawabzada Abdul Ghafoor Khan: On a point of order, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Yes.

Col. Nawabzada Abdul Ghafoor Khan: He is trying to explain the fact that the Budget is prepared by someone else and it is presented to the House in the name of the President.

Mr. Speaker: This is no point of order.

Col. Nawabzada Abdul Ghafoor Khan: He forgets that the President has powers to appoint anybody as his Minister.

(Interruptions)

Mr. Speaker: Order, order please. When you speak, they have also got points which they want to rebut and you will likewise get an occasion when you are in possession of the floor. So, I would request both sides of the House to take note of this fact. Well, after all, I think, you need tea break. The House stands adjourned till 11 a.m.

The Assembly adjourned till 11 a.m.

The Assembly reassembled after twenty minutes, Mr. Deputy Speaker (Mr. Abul Quasem) in the Chair.

Mr. Ghulam Sabir Khan Rana: Sir, there is no quorum in the House.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Obviously there appears to be no quorum in the House. So, the House will meet after fifteen minutes.

The Assembly adjourned for fifteen minutes due to lack of quorum.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT RE DAMAGE TO RICE CROP

The Assembly reassembled after a short interval; Mr. Deputy Speaker (Ch. Muhammad Afzal Cheema) in the chair.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Syed Abdus Sultan to move his adjournment motion!

Syed Abdus Sultan: Sir, I propose:

“That the Assembly do now adjourn to discuss a definite matter of recent and urgent public importance, namely, the situation arising out of the failure of the Government to arrest the annual damage to rice crop to the tune of 40 crores in East Pakistan by pests, insects, fungus, virus and other crop diseases as disclosed by a news published in the Pakistan Times, dated Rawalpindi, Sunday, April 12, 1964.”

The amount of the damage to rice crop which is Rs. 40 crore is more than the amount spent on the annual import of rice from abroad to meet the home requirements. The damage is really colossal and shows utter neglect and default of the Government in the matter in spite of the food deficit in the country and deserves to be discussed in the National Assembly to focus public opinion and to urge on the Central Government to rise to immediate action to solve this national problem. The damage to the rice crop is mainly caused by an insect called “rice virus”. Mr. Speaker, the source of the news further discloses that other

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crop damages also occur annually, namely, damage to jute and tea, to the tune of two crores each; damage to sugarcane to the tune of three crores; and damage to fruits and vegetables to the tune of 3.5 crores. But Mr. Speaker, I have deliberately sought to move an adjournment motion on the damage of rice crop only, because it is vitally connected with the food problem in the country.

Sir, Pakistan has to face every year deficit in food, and to meet this deficit Pakistan has to rely on the highly productive agriculture of North America. But, Sir, foreign aid cannot be, and should not be, the basis of reliance for all time for any independent country. If Pakistan has to develop really as an independent country, and establish a secure base for higher living standards, then it has to see that its savings, investments and productivity run at a far faster rate.

Sir, to raise productivity of food crop, various measures can be tried, and the country has to build up its own savings, investments and productive capacity at a very quick rate, and both means and the consequence of doing so will be arresting this recurrence of damage to food crops.

Sir, this question is also very vitally connected with the question of population growth. In Pakistan population has already outrun the food supply. Sir, the problem of population is attracting increasing attention these days. The rate at which the world population is growing has been really alarming, and if this rate of growth continues, it is hard to imagine how man will be able to live, particularly in a country like Pakistan which is under-developed and where food supply always lags behind the population growth. Sir, the population of Pakistan, which was estimated at 74 million heads in 1951, increased to about 94 million heads in 1961, showing an increase of 2.2 per cent per annum. The latest opinion of experts is that the growth rate of population in Pakistan is 2.8 per cent, and not 2.2 per cent. The Government of Pakistan should recognize this fundamental importance of the population problem, and should devise all possible means to solve the problem of growing population and the problem of providing food for this growing population.

Sir, for any independent country, of all the national problems defence comes first; next comes food. Even education can wait, but food cannot wait. I would rather say, Mr. Speaker, that the problem of food is a part of the problem of defence as well. Sir, during the Second World War, Mr. Lloyd George was asked as to what was the secret of his success in the First World War, and the reply that came from that grand old man was that it was not on account of this that we had only armed strength, but we also had sufficient food strength for the Army that we could provide. This, Sir, he explained as a secret of his success during the First World War. So, Sir, the problem of food cannot be neglected, and it should receive almost the same amount of attention of the Government in a free country which should be given to the problem of defence.

Sir, in Pakistan population is growing at a very high rate, and Pakistan is also faced with the problem of land shortage. Now the problem of land shortage can be eased by arresting the damage to food crops. Sir, crop protection is a measure which has been adopted by the Government of Pakistan; but, Sir, the amount of success so far achieved is highly discouraging. Sir, I do not say that our Government is altogether unmindful of the solution of this problem. I shall not make that sort of an inelegant criticism; but, Sir, it has to be admitted that Pakistan is still faced with food deficit every year; and if things go on in this shape, the damage of crops cannot be arrested, and Pakistan cannot expect to be self-sufficient in food. But, Sir, Pakistan has to be self-sufficient in food. Crores of money, tons of money, are spent every year in popularizing fertilizer, for introducing new varieties of cultivation, and in the name of arresting food damage. But, Sir, the amount of success achieved is hopelessly discouraging. The reason is that money is no doubt spent, but Government do not tackle the problem in the right fashion. As a matter of fact, the officers who are entrusted with the task of arresting the damage to food crop should establish a close connection between themselves and the people of the soil who are very much concerned with the work of cultivation and with the raising of crops. Only if we would care for the real cause of this damage, then it would be clear to us that the officials are more concerned with doing things in the most technical manner. Money is advanced, forms are filled up, returns are sent up; and the Government are satisfied that the thing is progressing well. But if we go by actual results, we see, in spite of all seeming attempts made by the Government, in spite of all show put up by the Government, really very little is being done in this respect. Money of the public exchequer should not be spent in that way. Government should be careful enough to see that every pence of the hard-earned money of the poor masses of Pakistan is well spent. For this reason, Sir, a close contact between the Government and the people should be established, should be allowed to grow, and circumstances should be created which may make it possible to create a sympathetic outlook on the part of the Government. Sir, everything cannot be done and all national problems cannot be solved by mere legislation or by mere executive action or coercive force or application of sanction behind the state apparatus. I shall say, Sir, a sort of understanding and a sort of sympathetic outlook should guide the Government in approaching these problems which are thrown out by the conditions of our own country. Sir, the pattern of law is always there but that cannot solve the problems of the people there. The Returns and the Reports are there at the beck and call of the Government. I am sure the honourable Food Minister would come forward to say that so much has been done by the Government and so much money has been spent by the Government but, Sir, I would ask him most humbly if he is also to be concerned with the results achieved or he should not be concerned with that. If he cares for the results achieved, then he should feel frustrated and he should go to the root of the cause of such unsatisfactory results and should try to solve them. So, Sir, the long and short of what I would like to say is that the Government should not ignore this annual recurrence of colossal damage to food crops. Government must devise ways and means effectively to stop this and in order to stop this Government must work not only at the official level but at some other level where laws cannot reach, where Government orders alone cannot prove effective. That level is the mind of the people in the country. Government must reach the minds of

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the people and people must know that Government is eager to do what is good for them and Government must have the support of the people behind all their actions. That alone can be a sure guide to success and I hope the honourable Minister would see that the Government policies are not divorced from a sympathetic outlook—an outlook of understanding and a true spirit for solving the problems of the country in the greater national interest. Thank you.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Mr. Serajul Islam Miah.

Mr. Md. Serajul Islam Miah (East Pakistan) : Sir, it is known to everybody that rice is the staple food of the majority of the population of Pakistan. About sixty million people of Pakistan live on rice and rice is grown mostly in East Pakistan. It is true that the lands of East Pakistan are most fertile than any other land in the world but it is also a tragedy and we must admit it that the people of East Pakistan are the poorest of all the people of the world.

Col. Nawabzada Abdul Ghafoor Khan : Including Frontier.

Mr. S. Zaman : And excluding Nawabzada.

Mr. Md. Serajul Islam Miah : Because less attention is paid to East Pakistan and Frontier. But, Sir, my question is that this problem is known to everybody but what the Government has done to discharge its responsibility in this respect.

Sir, the adjournment motion under discussion reveals the fact that crops worth more than forty crores of rupees are wasted due to attack of pests and diseases but I would say that rice crop worth more than another forty crores of rupees is also wasted due to flood and cyclone, but has the Government done anything for the prevention of these natural calamities like flood and cyclone? We hear tall talks off and on about the policies enunciated by our Ministers incharge of Food and Agriculture about the stoppage of recurrence of flood and cyclone but in practice we find that they have failed to do justice to what they say. Sir, you know that East Pakistan which is mostly the rice growing area is full of rivers but all these rivers have been dried up. The river beds have silted up. As a result, it cannot contain the volume of water which it used to contain previously and we find the recurrence of flood every year. The flood takes away not only the crops but the entire fortune of the people every year. Recently we heard that an embankment would be constructed from Kaunia a place in the district of Rangpur up to Serajgunj which is a place in the district of Pabna by the side of the river Brahmaputra. There was an attempt last year also. The tenders were called but this year nothing has been done in this respect.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : I am afraid that would not be relevant. The motion under discussion is the loss or damage done to rice crops as a result of pests, insects and fungus.

Mr. Md. Serajul Islam Miah : Let me explain that it is quite relevant. It may be due to our ignorance. It is sheer ignorance that rice is damaged—true that rice is damaged by pests and insects but how these pests and insects grow?

Mr. Deputy Speaker : That may be quite true. There may be other reasons also.

Mr. Md. Serajul Islam Miah : No, Sir, this is the same reason. The pests and insects grow in the marshy land. These pests and insects grow in those lands which remain under water for a long time.

Sardar Rashid Ahmed : Point of order, Sir.

Mr. Md. Serajul Islam Miah : You do not know anything about rice. You are a wheat-eater. What do you say ?

(Interruptions)

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Order please, order.

Mr. Md. Serajul Islam Miah : It is we who know all about it. You do not know about the production of rice. You do not care to know about it. We know all about it.

Sardar Rashid Ahmed : My point of order is how can tidal bore become a fungus ? Can I know it ?

Mr. Md. Serajul Islam Miah : These fungus, these pests, these insects all these grow well in the marshy lands and if you cannot stop these floods, the land will remain under water for a long time and it will help these insects to grow well there. So, if you want to stop the insects, you are to stop the flood—the recurrence of flood. You have done absolutely nothing. You speak only of tall talks. You do not know anything about rice. This Ministry is in the charge of a man who knows absolutely nothing about the production of rice and nothing has been done in this respect to solve the problems of the people of Pakistan specially of East Pakistan who live on rice.

(Interruptions)

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Order please, order.

Col. Nawabzada Abdul Ghafoor Khan : Point of order, Sir. I would hate to interrupt my esteemed friend on the right but I would like to point to him that foreign exchange is earned from the rice exported from Punjab.

Mr. Md. Serajul Islam Miah : That is why you want to see that East Pakistan does not produce good rice and you are able to export it.

(Interruptions)

Mr. Md. Serajul Islam Miah : So what I was telling was that almost most of the rivers in East Pakistan have silted up and this is the reason for the recurrence of flood and we have been hearing that the Government is spending tons of money to stop these floods but I give you a specific case. I was just citing to you that we heard about the construction of an embankment, from the district of Rangpur to the District of Pabna by the side of river Brahmaputra but that has not yet materialised. It was so important that I can tell you that this entire belt is a rice growing area and crores of rupees we are losing

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as the rice crop of this area is swept away by floods every year. We have heard that Government has constructed so many godowns in different unions to protect this rice from the damage caused by insects but in most cases, I will point out to you, Sir, these godowns have been constructed at the instance of their partymen at unsuitable places and as a result of this political consideration, these godowns will not be in a position to protect the rice from the damage caused by the insects.

(Interruptions)

Mr. Abdus Sobur Khan : Should we demolish these godowns ?

Mr. Md. Serajul Islam Miah : Yes, you should, as you have constructed these godowns at the instance of your partymen in low-lying areas and these places are not at all suitable and it has been done on political consideration.

Mr. M. Sohrab Hossain : They are not to demolish it because it will be demolished by the course of nature.

Mr. Md. Serajul Islam Miah : We have heard a lot about birth control of human beings but what are you doing about the birth-control of insects and rats ? You are very much particular about human beings.

(Interruptions)

Mr. Md. Serajul Islam Miah : But you will not listen to me because you were interested in the import of rice. ***

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Please withdraw.

Mr. Md. Serajul Islam Miah : When you have taken it so much seriously, then I withdraw it.

Government should try to put a stop to this wastage of rice which is the staple food of the country. Every Government which fails in this way is criminally liable for shattering the economy of the people of the country ; they should be ashamed of their conduct and I hope the Minister-in-Charge of Food and Agriculture will pay more attention and save the country from such catastrophies.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Mr. Badrul Haque Khan !

Mr. Badrul Haque Khan (East Pakistan) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is not controversial.

Mr. Md. Serajul Islam Miah : Thank you.

Mr. Badrul Haque Khan : Sir, our body-politic has been eaten up by insects ; principally there is no remedy against it. My friend has a grievance against insects and they want that it should be controlled. Insects are more or less visitation from nature. Therefore, it demands expert treatment ; and researches are to be made. We have heard of swarms of locusts being killed in particular places. But in East Pakistan we have rats who also eat up the crops in large numbers. China was also confronted with a similar problem and they started killing rats and ultimately eating them up. Here there are no rat-eaters.

(Interruptions)

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Order please, order.

Mr. Badrul Haque Khan : They finished the entire population of rats and rodents. Then again comes the question of sparrows.

(Interruptions)

Mr. Deputy Speaker : What is the constructive suggestion of the honourable Member to make up for this deficiency in the absence of rat-eaters in this country ?

Mr. Badrul Haque Khan : Rats and rodents damage both in the fields and at homes. If you go to the granary, you will find 1/4th of the stocks are damaged by them.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : I would remind the honourable Member to refer to the motion itself.

Mr. Badrul Haque Khan : I am coming to it. I would suggest to the Minister-in-Charge of Food and Agriculture to set up research institutes and find out insecticides. Then again such medicines should be found out that do not harm other birds, and animals. In one instance, insecticides which were sprayed killed other birds and animals. There is a need for lot of precaution. It is not a fact that these insects like mosquitoes are born in marshy lands only. These insects come in thousands and crores. Therefore, scientific approach to the problem should be made and insecticides which do not harm other birds and animals should be discovered and produced in large scale so that colossal damage to crop could be prevented.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Mr. Fakhruddin Ahmad !

Mr. Fakhruddin Ahmad (East Pakistan) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am in sympathy with the purpose of the adjournment motion. It was from a report of the Associated Press that we learnt that about 40 crore of rupees worth crops were damaged, but I do not know how they assessed this colossal damage to crops in East Pakistan alone. But as no contradiction came out from the Government side, it can be said that this is a correct assessment.

I, however, do not agree with those who asserted that the Government is callous about it and that the Government is not doing anything. I will, however, maintain that whatever the Government is doing to arrest this menace is not enough ; that is half-hearted and inadequate. There is no denying the fact that this is a national problem because we have got to spend enormous amounts to import foodgrains from abroad and the nation is bleeding white because of this drainage of foreign exchange. Now, Sir, this state of things cannot be allowed to continue. Sir, this damage of 40 crores of rupees worth crops particularly to paddy crops is in East Pakistan alone. There is a similar damage to crops in West Pakistan as well. So this matter should be considered from national point of view and we would expect that the Government should come forward with a clear and categorical statement as to what they propose to do to stop this menace. Sir, ours is an agricultural country and this problem should be given top priority and Government should

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make provisions in the coming Budget for combating this menace in both wings of the country. Sir, it is true that so far as East Pakistan Government is concerned, they have arranged what they call plant protection Assistants in every union. At least quite a number of plant protection Assistants in the villages in Thanas have been employed so as to see whether there is any appearance of locust or insects damaging crops so that they might take proper measures to stop this menace. But, Sir, they are not, as I have already said, doing their duty properly. So, the Government should look to that also. They are spending so much money after these protection Assistants but they are not doing their job quite properly. So, it is high time that the Government should be up and should have a definite policy, an effective policy to arrest this menace so far as damage of crops is concerned.

Mr. Ghulam Sabir Khan Rana (West Pakistan) : *Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank the mover of this adjournment motion for bringing in this motion in time. The damage done to crops in East Pakistan due to the natural calamities and insects is, no doubt, irreparable. The Government is in duty-bound to do something about it. Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is no gain-saying the fact that despite their limited means, the farmers, cultivators and agricultural labour of Pakistan can produce more and this fact has been corroborated by the foreign experts visiting Pakistan from time to time. The present output of our cultivators and tillers of the soil is a positive proof of the fact that they are very industrious and laborious. If they are provided further facilities such as loans by the Agricultural Development Corporation for the purpose of installing tube-wells, etc. there is no doubt that they can further raise the agricultural output.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : You are being irrelevant. That is not the subject under consideration.

Mr. Ghulam Sabir Khan Rana : *The damage to crops is the subject under discussion. Something should be done to meet this deficit. What I have stated is one of the measures that could be adopted to meet the situation because it would be no wonder if such a colossal damage to the crops results in the vicious spiral of rising prices. We have to ensure fair prices to our cultivators and availability of rice and other foodgrains at lower prices to our people. This could be possible only when the Government comes forward to cut down prices and subsidise them as far as possible. This burden should be borne partly by the Government also. The mover of the adjournment motion has pointed out that the problem of food is as much important as that of defence. We have to bring down the prices of foodgrains as well as adopt precautionary measures to avert such an ugly situation. We must adopt effective measures for this purpose.

With these words I strongly appeal to the Food Ministry to pay proper attention to this matter.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : I have given the floor to Mr. Sohrab Hossain.

Mr. M. Sohrab Hossain (East Pakistan) : †Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today East Bengal—a land of many rivers, fruitful trees and green with corns—is being reduced to wilderness. The quality of paddy that the

*English translation of uncorrected speech in Urdu.

†English translation of uncorrected speech in Bengali.

people of East Bengal used to grow before Independence was sufficient. At least they did not require to look to the outside world for food supply. Today the people of East Bengal wear the clothes made at Lyallpur as they used to wear the clothes made at Lanchashire. Today they are to depend on the foreign countries for their food supply as they previously had to depend on foreign countries for different commodities. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the country which was once renowned in the world as an important granary has now been reduced to a profitable market for the rotten foodstuff of the U.S.A. and Burma.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is painful that we have become independent in name only. Previously 90% of the population of East Bengal had to depend upon agriculture. They produced commodities from raw materials and from the sale proceeds they used to finance the education of their children and meet their other problems. But today nothing tangible comes from their endeavour in producing agricultural commodities does not serve them any purpose. They have to live on the purchased foodstuff. It is a matter of great regret that while they are to consume rotten rice imported from various countries of the world, rice of finer quality produced in the country is being exported to foreign countries. The foodstuff that could preserve the health of the people of East Bengal are being exported to foreign countries on the plea of earning foreign exchange.

From this fact naturally we can form this idea that East Bengal and West Pakistan can be compared with Algeria and France. No doubt the people of East Bengal are consuming rice but that is of inferior quality imported from abroad. Whereas the rice of superior quality is being exported to foreign countries. What else can be more distressing than this? Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is one aspect of the adjournment motion. The other aspect is that the Central Government could have spent money for saving East Bengal from the damages of crops caused by pest and insects. Now the Central Government has "disbanded" the Plant Protection Department. As a result those who used to serve under this Department have now been passed on to the Provincial Government where they have neither any work nor any decision has been taken regarding fixation of their pay. As such, literally they are roaming aimlessly in the streets. With a view to reducing East Bengal permanently to a market, all these departments have been disbanded and transferred to the Provincial Government. Being so displaced, employees of these Departments are roaming aimlessly; they have no work to do. From this one could realise how far the Central Government is willing to pay attention to the serious difficulties that the people facing. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government have taken in hand some programmes for increasing agricultural production and for getting rid of these pest menace. The Government do not feel any necessity to see how far these programmes have been implemented.

Sir, just like in the sphere of politics, so also in all other spheres the Government do not want to maintain any contact with the people. For, last year we saw a project named Ganges-Kobadak Project was implemented covering the districts of Kushtia, Jessore and Khulna in order to make the country prosperous in matters of foodgrains. Because of this project, it was found that an extensive area has gone under water. Under this project, a 'Tughlaki barrage' has been constructed which has threatened to submerge standing crops of 10,000 acres of

[Mr. M. Sohrab Hossain]

land in a Union. The people became apprehended and concluded. "If we do not cut this barrage, we shall die from starvation." In their attempt to cut a breach in the barrage they laid down their lives. Eleven or twelve persons were killed by bullets. You are killing men while trying to increase the foodgrains, but foodgrains did not increase.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Organisation named East Pakistan WAPDA, is not doing anything for increasing the foodgrains. The organisation was set up with the object of supplying irrigation water to different places, to develop power, etc. The organisation has already spent 10 crores of rupees under this Ganges-Kobadak Scheme but nothing beneficial came out of it.

Sardar Rashid Ahmed : Point of order, Sir. How the Ganges-Kobadak Scheme come as insects ? I would like to know that.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : I maintain the point of order raised by the honourable Parliamentary Secretary. The honourable Member should be quite relevant to the motion which is before the House.

Mr. M. Sohrab Hossain : *Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is unfortunate that the Parliamentary Secretary to the Government does not know for what works of the Ganges-Kobadak Project the WAPDA, has been set up. He should have known it earlier. Then only he should have raised this point of order.

Sardar Rashid Ahmed : Sir, he should speak on the motion.

Mr. M. Sohrab Hossain : *Sir, I am also speaking on the motion. So far I am not irrelevant. This Ganges-Kobadak Scheme has multifarious activities. One of the objects is to eliminate pests and insects. The cultivators learn the use of fertiliser from the Field Assistants of the Agriculture Department. It is the Field Assistant who will give instruction as to how one can get rid of pests. That is why control of pest has been placed under the Department. He answers the questions as Parliamentary Secretary, but he has no knowledge about that Department. In exchange of 600 rupees, he raised the point of order . . .

(Interruptions)

Mr. Deputy Speaker : A discussion on that project would not be relevant. I have already given my ruling. I would request the honourable Member to come to the point instead of arguing with the Parliamentary Secretary.

Mr. M. Sohrab Hossain : *Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is certainly necessary to discuss about the measure taken by those Departments which have been set up for increasing foodgrains in the country. What I was saying is that we have nothing to say if these Departments, set up for killing insects and pests do not save a loss of 40 crores of rupees and if they sit idle.

[At this stage Mr. Speaker (Mr. A. K. M. Fazlul Quader Chowdhury) occupied the Chair]

Mr. M. Sohrab Hossain : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is no efforts on the part of the Government to take suitable steps so that food crops of the country are not destroyed. Their endeavour is concentrated only to secure their position, to make a swift change in their fortune and to see that the 600 rupees of the Parliamentary Secretaries are not lost. For these purposes they have become very much busy. If that is not the case . . .

Mr. Speaker : Order, order. I would request honourable Rana Abdul Hameed if he could manage that the Law Minister and the honourable Information Minister be present in the House. I have to give an important ruling. May I request both the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition to be present.

Mr. M. Sohrab Hossain : *It is with much pain that I am constrained to say that there is no limit to the negligence shown to East Pakistan. Not only in matters of foodgrain but also in respect of all sorts of grievances, the Government do not feel it necessary to look into them. The only reason is that even without looking into these grievances, they can manage to have one Member under their disposal, they think, that they will be able to achieve success. In that case they think they will face no difficulty in running the Government. They are not at all concerned to save this loss of 40 crores of rupees. Their only effort is to win over a Member with money to their sides.

Sardar Rashid Ahmed : Point of order, Sir. Sir, may I know from the honourable Member how the insects are bringing the Members from the Opposition to the Government side. The motion is on insects and he says that Government is trying to make the Members come to the Government side. I do not know if he is relevant.

Syed Abdus Sultan : Mr. Speaker, Sir, possibly my friend Mr. Sohrab Hossain means what man has failed to do insects may succeed in doing.

Mr. M. Sohrab Hossain : *I would like to conclude my speech with these words that because of you and of the military regime, the neglected East Bengal, once famous as granary, today has been reduced to a wilderness. Today, for our consumption we purchase foodstuff given as gratis. But they themselves will not get rid of the consequences. Of course, we hope, we will be able to free ourselves from oppression. The people of East Pakistan will not excuse these oppressors.

THE CONSTITUTION (SECOND AMENDMENT), BILL—contd.

Mr. Speaker : Before we proceed, may I have the attention of the House? I would request for the attention of the gentlemen of the Press and of the Official Reporters inside the House. In the morning sitting—earlier morning sitting rather—the distinguished Member, Mr. Ghulam Jilani Malik, took the floor and spoke on the Constitution (Second Amendment) Bill, 1964. In his speech he used some words and phrases which were unparliamentary and I propose to read out those sentences, words and terms. In the course of his speech he said : ***. The words used are unparliamentary. This shall not form part of the proceedings. I officially say that this shall not be published in the Press.

*English translation of uncorrected speech in Bengali.

***Expunged as ordered by the speaker.

Mr. Mohammad Yusuf Khattak : Which one of these is unparliamentary, Sir ? Any particular word ? ***.

Mr. Speaker : "... they were reminded of the days ..." The honourable Member meant "our days" and meant how the Government is run.

So, these are unparliamentary. Ordinarily, I would not have replied to the point raised by the Leader of the Opposition. But he wanted some clarification, so I had to bring home to him what I meant.

In another part of his speech, he said. For the information of the House may I say, and the House will recall that he had the Constitution of Pakistan in his hand : ***. This is unbecoming of a Member who has taken an oath under the Constitution. I rule that this shall not form part of the proceedings. It shall not be reported in the Press. He proceeded : ***. This also shall not be published and shall not come in the proceedings.

There is another portion : I say what prevents him today from using those glorious words once again to change the Constitution or even to abrogate it. ***. The words which would go out would be these : ***. These shall not appear in the proceedings and shall not be reported in the Press. I hope the honourable gentlemen of the Press would co-operate and Official Reporters will take note of it.

I have to inform the House that this has always been a convention in great legislatures of the world that no disrespect should be shown in any way to the Head of the State by way of gesture or by way of hints or by use of words. I hope the honourable Leaders of various Groups in this august House will take note of it and try to bring home this matter to the distinguished Members of the House. As the Speaker of the House I rule that this shall be followed. Anybody crossing bounds shall be named to be disorderly and doing something derogatory to the prestige of this House.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT RE : DAMAGE TO RICE CROPS— *Continued.*

Mr. Mizanur Rahman Choudhury (East Pakistan) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in support of the adjournment motion tabled by Syed Abdus Sultan I may add only a few words.

Sir, in pre-Independence days East Pakistan was a granary of the then India or at least it was a granary for Bihar, Orissa and some other adjoining provinces. And now, Sir, you probably know better than anybody else that fifty per cent of the people in East Pakistan do not get a square meal a day and 75 per cent of them do not get any employment for the whole year to purchase their food.

Sir, independence does not mean a change of masters. It definitely means the economic independence of the people. Actually, Sir, if we are very frank about economic independence, we have got nothing.

If we go back to pre-Independence days we know how nice the life was in the villages and from that time onward people have become tired of their life and they do not now live—they simply exist. Whatever we sell that is taxed and, therefore, we do not get proper price. Whatever we buy, that is again taxed, which makes the price higher. That is the main reason.

Now, Sir, to come to this adjournment motion, East Pakistan has always been neglected. Sir, the Krug Mission recommended that if the Government is ready to spend 1,000 crores, the floods can be stopped. Lt. Gen. Azam Khan, during his tenure as Governor of East Pakistan also submitted a scheme to the Government of Pakistan in which he had suggested some embankments to be constructed on the coastal areas of Chittagong, Barisal, Khulna, Noakhali, Hattia and Sandip. Unfortunately that scheme could not see the light of the day. At a time when this Government is spending 860 crores of rupees on Mangla Dam and Tarbela Project, we can imagine the position. We know your motives and the amount of love and affection you have for East Pakistanis. That we know...

Sardar Rashid Ahmad : Point of order, Sir.

Mr. Mizanur Rahman Choudhury : This is his 8th point of order...

Sardar Rashid Ahmad : The adjournment motion is on the destruction of rice by insects...

Mr. Speaker : Will you leave that job to me ?

Mr. Mizanur Rahman Choudhury : Sir, I was mentioning how you are neglecting the people of East Pakistan.

(At this stage the Chair was occupied by the other Deputy Speaker, Mr. Abul Quasem).

Mr. Mizanur Rahman Choudhury : You just fail to do anything for them. Sir, natural calamities are there; pests and insects are there. As far as I know enquiry has been made to deal with them. Instead of that, the Central Government has shifted its responsibility as regards the protection of plants is concerned. Protection of plant is necessarily a matter of common concern and the Central Government cannot shift its responsibility to the Provincial Government. The birds which could destroy these pests and insects have been killed by hunting them out and are not found now-a-days. The trees which used to be dwelling place for these birds are also no more because they have been uprooted by the devastating cyclones and floods almost every year. I would suggest to the Government that there should be re-afforestation of East Pakistan as a preventive measure to check pests and insects, and the hunting of birds should be stopped forthwith. The cultivators should also be given some training so that they may be able to protect their crops from the attack of these pests and insects. We have our publicity department. We know we have our agriculture department, but both these departments remain inactive, and the officers sleep in their rooms and submit a report on the basis of which this Government comes forward with a bulletine. It goes to the press and they speak highly, of their endeavours through these agencies. I would, therefore, propose that plant protection should be taken as a responsibility of the Central Government and it should be re-organised on the Union basis. As I have already pointed out the agriculturists should be trained in the method of destruction and elimination of pests and insects. For training purpose for one Union if we have only one documentary film and if we show it to the people, in one night they will get a certain amount of pleasure out of it and benefit

[Mr. Mizanur Rahman Choudhury]

themselves with new ideas. Sir, I do not know what sort of films they have been giving to the people, but I know they show the films of some of the foreign countries which are not quite in conformity with the conditions prevalent in our country. The Films and Publication Department of the Government should prepare such documentary films which can educate our cultivators to withstand the calamities and protect their crops from being destroyed by the pests and insects. Secondly, there should be strong publicity throughout the whole country in educating the people how to protect their crops. We know the Central Government have very effectively deal with the locust problem in West Pakistan. They deserve our thanks for that. But, for East Pakistan you have not done anything. Neither you have done anything for controlling flood which you could do if you could spend one thousand crores of rupees as suggested by the Krugg Mission. Not even ninety crores of rupees as suggested by the Governor of East Pakistan, Lt. Gen. Azam Khan, were spent. These embankments if built could have not only saved the crops, but also the lives of the millions of the people who lived in the coastal areas and their property.

Sir, the Agriculture department is being managed by the Provincial Government. Now, we have seen in the villages that there are very beautiful seed stores. These have been constructed with the money of Works Programme. Will you believe me, Sir, that these seed stores have no seeds; instead, they are being inhabited by thieves and stolen cattle, and if money is spent in this way without any plan or programme, I do not know by what amount they will be answerable to the people and also to Allah.

I, therefore, suggest, Sir, that by way of strong publicity, the people should be educated as to how they can fight the insects and pests, and sufficient insecticides should be made available to all the Unions whenever they require it for fighting those pests and insects. They can have it from the nearest possible centres. With all these suggestions I would further add that the Government cannot shift its responsibility by saying that it is the responsibility of the Provincial Government. Rice is a common concern and is a stable food of the majority of the people of Pakistan. Therefore, this responsibility should be taken over forthwith and we shall be grateful to the Government if they come with any suggestion just now.

Mr. Habibur Rahman (East Pakistan) : Sir, in support of this adjournment motion, many of my friends and colleagues have only told about damage to the rice crops and paddy, and I would like to add one thing more. Sir, the whole of northern part of East Pakistan produces potatoes and these are being destroyed by pests and insects. We have seen in the last two years that the potato growing areas of northern parts of East Pakistan, namely, Bogra, Rangpur, etc., have suffered from the devastation caused to the potatoes by these insects and pests. So, I would request the Government to take every sort of precaution to protect the potatoes grown in those districts.

Mr. Saifur Rahman Arbab (West Pakistan) : *Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am in agreement with the adjournment motion moved by Mr. Syed Abdus Sultan. In addition to the annual damage of rice crop to the tune of forty crores by pests, insects and other crop diseases, the recurring expenditure in the form of foreign exchange on the purchase of rice from

abroad is no doubt a problem. As a matter of fact it is the responsibility of our Central Government to adopt remedial measures in time to eliminate and prevent these crop diseases. The Central Government should, therefore, proceed forthwith to establish factories in East Pakistan for the manufacture of insecticides for being sprayed on the standing crops in order to destroy the insects and pests. As for the factories, it is the duty of the Government to establish them with its own resources, for, capital through private investment in such enterprises is shy due to the lack of interest on the part of industrialists. It is our misfortune that nowadays profiteering is the only incentive for our industrialists. They find little time to devote to the nation-building activities. So the Government should devote more time to the nation-building programme instead of planning in the field of politics. As pointed out earlier, the people of China had made a firm resolve to destroy rats and they ultimately succeeded in destroying them. But our Government made no such resolve. There is a saying in Persian that there is no problem on earth which cannot be solved. There is no difficulty which could not be overcome. Then, Sir, I have seen cultivable areas of land in East Pakistan which go without irrigation in spite of the fact that water is in plenty there. It is, therefore, of utmost importance that irrigation facilities should be provided to them in order to meet the requirements of the crops and increase the productivity of the land. Besides, Sir, the Government should adopt precautionary measures without delay for the protection of crops against floods and natural calamities which have become a regular feature every year.

Mr. Deputy Speaker (Mr. Abul Quasem) : Mr. Shehabullah !

Mr. Muhammad Shehabullah : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose this motion on the ground that I did not expect that a motion like this will come up from a Member of the eminence of Mr. Syed Abdus Sultan. I am giving you the reasons. The subject matter of this motion is plant protection, which is a provincial subject. As such this motion should have been moved in the Provincial Legislature of East Pakistan.

Mr. S. Zaman : Point of order, Sir.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : I have understood your point of order.

Mr. S. Zaman : Sir, I should be allowed to raise my point of order. I am not sure that he (Mr. Abdullah-al-Mahmood) has understood it.

Mr. Abdullah-al-Mahmood : This is an aspersion on the Chair.

Mr. S. Zaman : Sir, it is rather improper to raise the question that it should have been raised in the Provincial Legislature.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : You are perfectly right, because...

Mr. S. Zaman : Sir, if I am perfectly right, than do you think that this gentleman should be given any facility in this House to speak on this subject ?

Mr. Deputy Speaker : You are perfectly right. While the motion has been admitted by the Speaker, it should be treated to have been in order. So he is not making an argument.

Mr. Muhammad Shehabullah : I am not challenging the decision of the Chair that this should be....

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Please go on.

Mr. Muhammad Shehabullah : This is being discussed. I am coming to the point. I have just pointed out that the proper forum is the Provincial Legislature. As this motion has been admitted and is being discussed, I am also discussing it.

The figures which have been given in support of this motion are not dependable. The report is by APP and that is the only information that we get from the statement of objects and reasons in support of the motion. We get only that, according to a reporter of APP, the loss or damage estimated is 40 crores, which amount is bigger than the amount which is spent for importing the deficit food for feeding the East Pakistani people. But my friend had not produced any other supporting document that the amount of 40 crores is more than the amount we need to meet the deficit of food which is imported for East Pakistan ; and also how he has come to that conclusion that the total damage is Rs. 40 crores. So the data have not been produced, and also he has not produced any document or given any information as to how the Government of Pakistan is responsible for this damage. As I have said that this is a provincial subject, the primary responsibility is of the province, and he must have produced and given us the information that the Provincial Government has brought it to the notice of the Central Government of Pakistan, and that the Central Government of Pakistan did not take proper action in due time. So, in the absence of that information that there was a claim in time and the help or assistance did not reach in time, on that the Central Government did not react in time, the motion cannot be supported, although there may have been damage. But if nobody raises any demand for sending help, then the Central Government cannot have any responsibility. Maybe the Provincial Government might have thought that they have got enough resources to tackle the situation, and ultimately when the damage was done, then the world knows that the damage was done, and the Government of Pakistan, without knowing it, cannot be made responsible for the damage, even if it be Rs. 40 crores—the figure that has been given in the note.

So, Sir, on these grounds I oppose the motion of Mr. Syed Abdus Sultan.

Mr. Mohammad Haneef Khan : At the outset I remark that the food problem is a very vital problem of the country, and there is no excuse that this problem should be tackled by the Provincial Government and the Central Government should not. But, Sir, the motion under discussion has been moved by Mr. Abdus Sultan, and the importance of this particular motion can be visualized by the absence of the honourable mover. He is not present in the House. Furthermore, the non-seriousness of this motion is accepted by the presence of the honourable Members from the Opposition benches where I see only eight or nine Members.

Mr. Saifur Rahman Arbab : But they are sufficient for you.

Mr. Mohammad Qasim Malik : That's good one.

Mr. Mohammad Haneef Khan : Now coming to the motion itself.

Mr. Mohammad Qasim Malik : (Addressing Mr. Deputy Speaker) I came here, Sir, because you had gone there.

Mr. Mohammad Haneef Khan : So, Sir, the presence of the Treasury Benches shows that we, in all seriousness, are tackling the food problem, and we are very much serious for that and the other side is not.

(Syed Abdus Sultan entered the House)

Mr. Saifur Rahman Arbab : Here is Syed Abdus Sultan.

Mr. Mohammad Haneef Khan : Now coming to the motion itself, the first and the primary point is that, if there is damage to the crop, who will be responsible for it, who will make up the deficiency caused by the damage of the crops in the country? Definitely if the Provincial Government requests, the Central Government will come to help, Sir.

Now, Sir, I submit that the first point in this case is that whether by the damage of the crop, the East Pakistani people have suffered any deficiency in rice supply? No, Sir. This point has not been taken by the honourable Member, who has just come and who is the mover of the motion. The point involved is that whether actually any damage has been done which was under the control of the Central Government or not. The adjournment motion can only be valid when there would have been cogent reasons by the other side that the Central Government failed to tackle the problem, Sir, and no instance in that respect has been forwarded by the honourable Members on the other side.

When we see the figures of 1961-62, as compared with the figures of 1963-64, Sir, we see the increase to the tune of 70 lakh tons in the rice production in East Pakistan, and this is very important, Sir. I think the honourable mover of the motion did not bother to consider that point, Sir. Now an argument can be advanced, Sir, that these 70 lakh tons' increase in the rice growth is due to some attention of the Government or of the people bringing more land under the rice field. Definitely, Sir, the Government and the people cannot be separated. If people have reclaimed more land, have put up labour and have grown more rice in more fields, definitely credit goes to the Government who by its various agencies propagate and facilitate the growth of the rice and encourage it.

Mr. S. Zaman : Point of order, Sir, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker (Mr. Abdul Quasem) : What is that?

Mr. S. Zaman : Sir, this gentleman is misleading the House. He says that this year there were seventy thousands or seventy lakh tons of foodgrains more in East Pakistan and he wants to take credit for that. The fact is that it is the gift of the nature not the gift or any efforts on the part of the Central Government.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : You are just challenging his speech. This is not exactly a point of order.

Mr. Mohammad Haneef Khan : I still maintain that in the year 1963-64 the increase has been to the tune of 60 lakh tons. There is no question of misleading. We are not being profited by the showing of increase or decrease because the East Pakistan Government as I have submitted are responsible for the shortage of food and the supply is their business and not the business of honourable Mr. S. Zaman.

Syed Abdus Sultan : Point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Yes.

Syed Abdus Sultan : The Parliamentary Secretary has stressed the point that Government is responsible for the increase in the growth of crop. But, Sir, he is wrong because he is going away from the subject-matter of the adjournment motion which relates to the positive damage to the tune of 40 crore per year. It is Government's duty to arrest it. Government has failed to arrest it and if the Government as failed to do so in this scientifically advanced age, there should be an answer from him for this. Secondly, Sir, I have got a personal explanation to offer. Sir, the honourable Parliamentary Secretary tried to indicate that the mover did not attach sufficient importance to the adjournment motion because he was temporarily absent from the House but, Sir, the fact is that in fact I went out to find out Mr. Mashhur Rahman who told me that he was very serious to say something on the subject and that he was posted with facts and figures. That shows my seriousness in the matter.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : What you spoke is not a point of order but a speech.

Mr. Mohammad Haneef Khan : So, Sir, it is admitted by the honourable Member, Syed Abdus Sultan, that he is very much serious outside the House and not inside.

Rana Abdul Hameed Khan : May I request the Speaker that as I have to wind up the debate, I must be given sometime so that I may be able to reply my honourable friends.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : How long will you take ?

Rana Abdul Hameed Khan : I will take about 10 or 15 minutes.

Mr. Mohammad Haneef Khan : I will finish after two minutes. I will be very short in my submissions. A point was raised by the honourable Members on the other side that East Pakistan is a rice growing area and that West Pakistan is taken more care for the reason that it should export rice. But that statement was very much misleading. A commodity which is an exportable commodity should be such that it could compete with other countries' commodities and the commodity which is inferior in competition to the commodities exported by the other countries have got no market in the world, Sir. I will submit, Sir, that the commodity produced in East Pakistan in case of rice is not so much superior as to compete with the commodities of the other countries and it is...

Mrs. Marium Hashimuddin Ahmed : Point of order, Sir.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : What is your point of order ?

Mrs. Marium Hashimuddin Ahmed : I think Parliamentary Secretary here has misunderstood. I am clarifying points for the benefit of everyone not for the benefit of one particular person and my honourable friend had misunderstood that rice is being exported because larger and better preparations have been made and better facilities are available. We want that rice should not be exported at the cost of starvation; we want that rice should go there so that our people can be well-fed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : It is actually not a point of order in any case.

Mr Mohammad Haneef Khan : The honourable lady Member may not be knowing this that West Pakistan rice was supplied to East Pakistan. We do not say that West Pakistan rice should be exported at the cost of East Pakistan. I do not divide the two wings in this respect. I take Pakistan as a whole whether a commodity is exported from the East or West Wing it does not matter, provided it is beneficial for the country as a whole. With these words I finish, Sir.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Thank you. Yes, Rana Sahib !

Rana Abdul Hameed Khan (Minister for Food and Agriculture) : I am very much obliged to my friend, Syed Abdus Sultan, for bringing in this subject for discussion in the Assembly so that I may have a chance to say something on this subject in this House. Some of my friends have already said that the subject of plant protection has been transferred to the provincial sphere. Plant Protection, Sir, was a Central subject but in 1962 when the new Constitution came in and the subjects were divided Plant Protection was also transferred to the Provincial Governments. The Central Government is only keeping an aerial wing in East Pakistan and that is not primarily meant for plant protection but it is meant for fighting the locust. But whenever any emergency arises or they have got no other work at hand and the Provincial Government requests us we go to their help and spray the fields. I would like here to say that the entire responsibility of ground work for plant protection is with the Provincial Government and as for the reports which I have got from the Provincial Government they are doing their work very efficiently and up to the capacity which they have got because you know, Sir, that cent per cent . . .

Mr. Mashiur Rahman : Both the Provincial Governments you mean, Sir ?

Rana Abdul Hameed Khan : I am only concerned with East Pakistan Government at present, Sir, because that is being discussed. There is no doubt that the plant protection work is a stupendous work and at present the Provincial Government is only able to handle about 10 per cent of the total land under plough. We are trying to increase this percentage. In the Third Five-Year Plan we have doubled it. With the aid which we are giving and the insecticides which we are supplying to the Provincial Government it is expected that at least 20 per cent of the area should be covered by these plant protection methods. You know, Sir, that in all countries of the world it is not possible for the Government to have the cent per cent acreage under the plant protection. It is the growers themselves who do this work and the Government is only there to supplement it. Enough provision has been made to supply the people with insecticides to combat these diseases. Here I would like to give certain facts as my friend Mr. Sultan as pointed out that there is a growing population and for that growing population Government must produce more food. I quite agree with him. On the Government side we are trying to increase the food production not only for the population itself but we are trying to produce food to such an extent that we may be able to feed other outside the country, who need it. For his information, I would like to quote the position of rice in East Pakistan which is as follows :

In 1959-60	...	...	8.5 million tons.
1960-61	...	...	9 " "
1962-63	...	...	10.5 " "

[Rana Abdul Hameed Khan]

It means that more than a crore ton of rice has been produced in East Pakistan. This figure proves that concerted efforts have been made to increase food production in East Pakistan.

Mr. Mashiur Rahman : One crore tons

Rana Abdul Hameed Khan : 10.5 million tons.

Mr. Mashiur Rahman : The Minister in East Pakistan is lean and thin and I wonder who consumes all that.

Rana Abdul Hameed Khan : I do not know ; it might have been consumed by my friends. I have quoted these figures for your information so that you may know the food position in East Pakistan.

Then there was a charge that we are importing foodstuffs from our masters. Well, Sir, masters or no masters. When we need food we have to import it from somewhere and we imported it from America who made an offer to us. We are not ashamed of it, rather we are very much obliged to the American Government for the kind gesture of goodwill at the time of our need and these foodstuffs are being imported under PL-87 Scheme.

Mr. Mizanur Rahman : For Basic Democrats' development.

Rana Abdul Hameed Khan : The foodgrains which are imported under this scheme are sold at certain subsidized price because the price is higher than the price on which we are selling. For example, we are selling in East Pakistan at a price of Rs. 12.50 when the actual cost is Rs. 16.00 and this subsidized price cost us a crore of rupees.

A Member : For BDs ?

Rana Abdul Hameed Khan : Basic Democrats may be included ; it is being spent on the development project ; not only on works programme. For instance on embankments.

Then, Sir, I come to the work of the Plant Protection. As I have already said that the ground plant protection work is a provincial subject.

Mr. Mashiur Rahman : Why ?

Rana Abdul Hameed Khan : Because you wanted autonomous government in your province.

Syed Abdus Sultan : On a point of order, Sir.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Yes.

Syed Abdus Sultan : If you refer to the proceedings you will find that the honourable Minister has himself admitted during the course of the adjournment motion that it is a Central subject ; and on his admission this adjournment motion was admitted.

Rana Abdul Hameed Khan : I have said that the Plant Protection is a subject which is with the Province ; that's all. I still repeat it. As I have told you that we have an Aerial Spraying Wing and that is primarily meant for locusts fighting and whenever the Provincial

Government needs it, we spray for them. This Aerial Wing does not belong to the Pakistan Government, but it has been given to us by international agencies and it is their property. We are keeping half of it in Karachi to fight the locusts in West Pakistan and the other half in East Pakistan to fight locusts there.

Mr. Mashiur Rahman : We agree that it is a provincial subject.

Rana Abdul Hameed : Plant Protection under the Constitution is a provincial subject.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Have you concluded ?

Mr. Mashiur Rahman : No, let us hear him please.

Rana Abdul Hameed Khan : I would like to inform the House that the Government have spent for the Plant Protection in East Pakistan a sum of Rs. 6.84 lakhs. We have put in another 2 crores for importing pesticides. Then we have diverted 180 tons of pesticides from West Pakistan to East Pakistan.

Mr. Mashiur Rahman : A newspaper in East Pakistan has given photos of this medicine and pointed out that the year by which it should have been used was 1958.

Rana Abdul Hameed Khan : Thank you very much, I will look into it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker (Mr. Abul Quasem) : Have you concluded your speech ?

(Interruptions)

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Already two hours have passed. The motion is talked out. The House stands adjourned till 9 a.m. tomorrow.

The Assembly adjourned till nine of the clock, in the morning, on Thursday, the 4th June, 1964.
