

[Dr. V. Venkatesh]

Rural Karnataka is reeling under very miserable conditions. Rural unemployment, in addition to scarcity of drinking water in villages, has become very serious. Cattle wealth is decreasing day by day causing great loss to the farming community. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to consider this problem purely on humanitarian grounds and release immediately Rs. 100 crores on an emergent basis for relief. Fodder should be supplied free of cost to save the life of the cattle in Karnataka.

Kolar District is a chronically drought affected area. 80 per cent of the farmers are very much affected due to unemployment. This district is not bestowed even with a single river. People are very much affected economically. There is only one factory, Bharat Earth Movers Ltd. which has a very meagre labour force in the entire district. Therefore, there is an urgent necessity to expand units of this factory at Maller and Mulbagal which have broad gauge railway and national highway facilities and other necessary infrastructure required for production viewpoint.

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT : I have listened to the Hon. Members with rapt attention about inclusion of their points in the next week's business. As this is the job of the Business Advisory Committee to decide the next week's agenda, I shall bring to their notice these points.

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12.28 hrs.

**STATEMENT RE : STATUTORY MINIMUM  
PRICE FOR RAW JUTE FOR 1986-87**

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Buta Singh.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Basirhat) :  
Is he going to make a statement on the statutory minimum price or minimum support price ?

MR. SPEAKER : You can judge it afterwards.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE  
(S. BUTA SINGH) : Sir, I would like to make the following statement :

Government have fixed the statutory minimum price of raw jute for the 1986-87 season after taking into account all relevant factors including the latest changes in the administered prices of fertilisers and some petroleum products.

The statutory minimum price for W-5 grade of raw jute in Assam has been fixed at Rs. 225 per quintal. The corresponding prices for various grades at different centres will be fixed by the Jute Commissioner in the light of normal market differentials.

The Jute Corporation of India will undertake market support operations, as and when necessary.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : You are a farmer. I appeal to you that if there is a statutory minimum price, it means that anybody who pays less than that minimum is liable to penalty under the statute. First of all, there is no statute at present. So, what does he mean by saying that they will carry out purchase operations. That they are doing always. That is the support price and not the statutory price...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I think for wheat and rice also it is the support price.

S. BUTA SINGH : For wheat and rice it is the procurement price. But here it is the statutory minimum price. With your permission I am repeating it third time that it is the statutory minimum price.

MR. SPEAKER : We shall find out from the dictionary the exact word.

*(Interruptions)*

S. BUTA SINGH : It will be administered under the statute which is applicable to the essential commodities.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : If that is so, then there has to be a proper notification under the Act.

How is it left to the officers to decide ?

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : How can the Jute Commissioner decide the statutory price ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI A. K. SEN) : It is a Control Order under which prices can be fixed by issuing notices.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : By whom ? By the Jute Commissioner ?

SHRI A. K. SEN : If you want we shall give you these orders.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : There is no question of our wanting it. What sort of wrong information is being given to the House that so many questions are to be put to find out the...*(Interruptions)*. Why it is not a full statement ? It is meant for the people outside also. They must know what it is.

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER) : We never knew Mr. Somnath is that ignorant.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sometimes we enjoy flippancy but not always. But this is a flippancy in respect of...*(Interruptions)*. I am not trying to score a point. I am requesting the Minister that when he is announcing the statutory minimum price, why does he not mention the statute and also how it is to be implemented. What is the difficulty in it ?...*(Interruptions)*.

12.32 hrs.

RE : MUSLIM WOMEN (PROTECTION OF RIGHTS ON DIVORCE) BILL

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : Now I have to inform the House that the Government wants to introduce the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Bill, 1986. According to Direction 19A and 19B, at least one week's prior notice is required. The same has not been complied with. However, in this case if the whole House agrees, I have no objection in allowing them to move the motion...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : How can you allow, Sir ? It has not been...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. SPEAKER : Then I will not. If there is no consensus in the House...

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN (Badagara) : A supplementary List of Business has been circulated this morning. You have not even bothered to include such an important item on that...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. SPEAKER : That is what I have said...

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have got no self authority. The House vests me the authority. If the House says, I will do it and if the House does not say, I will not do it...

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : The Bill has not been circulated...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. SPEAKER : O. K. The leave is not granted...

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN : I am on a point of order...*(Interruptions)*.

AN HON. MEMBER : Let the Bill be introduced...*(Interruptions)*.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : No, no...*(Interruptions)*.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER : How can we proceed in this manner ?

[*English*]

I cannot break the rules. I have to put it before the House. The House is my master and the House is its own master...

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I cannot overrule the House...