

*The motion was adopted*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House will now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill. The question is:

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill"

*The motion was adopted. Clause 2 was added to the Bill. Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the title were added to the Bill.*

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

*The motion was adopted.*

17.30 hrs.

#### HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION

##### Rate of inflation by 1988

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is now almost 5.30 p.m. We now take up Half-an-hour Discussion. Dr. G.S. Rajhans.

[Translation]

DR. G.S. RAJHANS (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when on the 20th November this subject was being discussed in this House several members from both the sides stood up and said in one voice that the prices of goods have increased a lot. From the government side it was contended that the price increase really is not as much as it

is being claimed. What I mean is that even though the increase in prices is not in double digits but 8 to 9 per cent increase is not in any way less. The truth is that after II World War, except in one or two years, the prices have never increased so much. If you want to see the impact of this inflation, you should visit the remote villages of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Bengal and ask the villagers how are they effected by inflation, whether they do get the goods and if so, at what price? Before I proceed further, I would like to ask the hon. Minister to send his economic advisers to agricultural ares. All the economic advisers are urban based and thus ignorant of the truth. They ar just lost in figures that price hike is that much. They say that there is no increase in wholesale prices. But what will we do with the wholesale prices, we are concerned with retail prices. We should go to the market and see how much have the prices increased there. If arresting of price hike goes beyond our control consequences will be disastrous. The history of inflation has been disastrous for a particular country. In your reply the other day you had assured to bring liquidity in control. My submission is that the principle of economics viz. monetary or fiscal policy, liquidity control, credit control are applied only in an economy where there is a fair game and supply meets the demand position. If supply is not adequate to meet the demand, prices will increase and if supply is more than the demand, prices will decrease. It has rightly been said that H<sub>2</sub>O forms water. H stands for hydrogen and O for oxygen, both blended together form water. But the same formula fails on the peak of Everest, where this type of blending forms snow. Thus, if the circumstances are not favourable, the laws of economy are of no use. How will you control the liquidity then? You may achieve credit control by not granting loans to the foodgrains trader so that he may not buy foodgrains in good quantity. You may deny loans to oil-seeds. But how are you going to control the accumulation of black money? Transactions in the wholesale

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market are made with the help of black money and the prices increase there in no time. Therefore, you will not be able to control the black money? The other day I said in the House that one is deeply moved seeing people dying in U.P. and Bihar etc. due to floods and drought and having no food to eat. while on the other hand in Delhi, people are busy constructing new houses, purchasing new cars. There is no check for the wealth being displayed this way. If there is a raid, owner of the firm or property is informed by the officials of Income Tax department themselves a day or two before such a raid is conducted. If things go like this, will the system run? Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru once said

[*English*]

"Hang the blackmarketeers by the nearest pole".

[*Translation*]

But, today there is neither Pandit Nehru nor those poles, but the black marketeers are there and they are flourishing. Therefore, you should either control these blackmarketeers or give them concession to invest their black money in productive projects. After the II World War, due to bomb explosions, there was total destruction in Italy and nearby cities, but their Government gave concessions to the blackmarketeers to invest their black money in constructing the houses. They were also allowed to rent out these houses and assured that no investigation regarding their funds will be made. The Government here should make similar schemes. We know that the practice of raids is not going to bring fruitful results and black money cannot be ousted through these raids. People should be given concessions, instead, to invest the black money in some productive work, otherwise this black money will swallow the nation and we will prove

helpless spectators.

Then you referred to administered prices as one of the factors responsible for price rise. But my submission is that where is the need of increasing administered prices time and again? Oil prices in the whole world are decreasing. But on the contrary, due to the administered prices, you have increased the prices of oil, but it leads to price spiral and its effect are multiple. Due to the hike in oil prices, the prices of transport also increase and the prices of vegetables, fruits and foodgrains all increase and its effects are multi-dimensional. Keeping that in view, will the hon. Minister assure the House that now he will not increase the administered prices because recently the Nobel Prize laureate in Economics Mr. Robert Salló has given a very useful principle to the world. He says that the growth of the nation is based in latest technology not in more and more number industries which go sick with the passage of time. We have the example of the O.N.G.C. before us which inspite of its best efforts could not explore oil. Assistance of a super computer was suggested for quick exploration of oil. Therefore, instead of wasting crores of rupees on rigs, which is an old technology if the latest technology is brought, the nation will surely increase its production rapidly. Take the example of Japan which has moved ahead of all the nations only on the basis of its latest technology, you too should bring the latest technology for increasing production in abundance. When production is in abundance prices will automatically fall.

Secondly you referred to the formation of a National Monitoring Cell. Recently during the Conference of the Chief Secretaries, hon. Minister of Finance had said, and it was published in the newspapers also, that prices will be monitored at national level and district level. You said that the Collectors will have to monitor the prices for at least one hour in a day, but you are probably not aware of their attitude. Why should they undertake

such task? You should first go and see what happens there. Suppose, the Collector does not make a review, who is going to call him to question? I suggest that you should send to one state, a team of five Members of Parliament belonging to other State, which should survey the situation there and find out the condition of the fair price shops, of the public distribution system and also whether the prices are monitored or not? Since our country is a welfare State, the people here too should be accountable. I want to ask the hon. Minister whether he will send teams of M.Ps. to different States so that you may get to know the true situation of public distribution system.

They will try to see whether people are getting foodgrains or kerosene oil or not.

I will say one or two things before ending my speech. Whatever is happening presents a frightening picture. You are saying that we won't let prices rise and if they rise, we will import. There are people in this country and abroad who are more capable than your economic advisors. One minister from your Government said that we will import rice. From where will you import rice when there is no rice anywhere? Other people know that there is not rice anywhere in the world. So where are you going to get it from? In this way they will board it and create difficulty for us. You should say something which at least makes some sense. There is a big shortage of food in the world. The coming year will see this shortage increase at an incalculable pace.

In many countries hoarders are made to stand on public places and whipped and lashed. If you cannot do this, at least punish 4-5 traders. Then you will find no inflation, no price rise remains. Your action against even five people will stop hoarding and prices will not rise as fast as they are now. Otherwise you may have stock of any magnitude but they will keep on hoarding. They know that at

one time or the other your supply lines will be disturbed. You must apply practical economics. Tell people the truth. Tell them that we are standing here and after this we won't be able to stand there. If someone violates the law, if someone hoards and indulges in black marketing he will not be spared at any cost.

A severe famine had afflicted Ethiopia. People from all over the world helped them. There was a little rainfall but the unfortunate thing was that these people became lazy. Black marketing and hoarding started there again. The same crisis has occurred again in Ethiopia this year. Now, no country in the world is willing to give foodgrains to Ethiopia. So I will say in a round about way that we should not find ourselves in the same state as Ethiopia is in. Hence, people who isolate laws should be given the severest possible punishment. Don't just keep saying it, but take some action against 2 or 3 or 5 people. How were things cheaper during Emergency? We will have to follow the principle of "Without fear there is no love."

[*English*]

"Spare the rod and spoil the child."

[*Translation*]

Nothing will happen unless you keep the cane in one hand. Nobody will obey otherwise. Nothing will be gained from speeches. Nobody obeys through speeches. The Government should set 2-4 examples and then see whether prices decrease or no.

When the Government wanted to impose an expenditure tax the Commission said it could not be imposed. The Government gave it to a special committee. It was you who levied the Hotel Expenditure Tax. I say that if the Government want to impose expenditure tax, there is no better way than

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this to stop black marketing. Therefore, other interested people should be appointed on the Committee and then it may be seen whether expenditure tax can be imposed or not. If expenditure tax cannot replace income-tax, at least it can be imposed on certain items. It will end.

[English]

vulgar display of wealth.

[Translation]

What I would like, Gentlemen, is that at least replies be given for the matter we have raised.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): Sir, I quite appreciate the concern shown by the hon. Member. Government also admits that on the prices there is a pressure of a very serious drought, which is unprecedented in the last one hundred years.

Secondly, in Rajasthan and some parts of Gujarat the drought has been there continuously for the last four or five years, and all over the country also. The drought is very severe. Everybody has acknowledged this fact and naturally the agricultural production has gone down. We are trying to restore the level of production, so far as the *rabi* crop is concerned, by various methods and various programmes. Just for example, the hon. Member would appreciate that there is an area of edible oil. Now about seventy five per cent of the edible oil seeds are grown in Saurashtra and part of Gujarat and not a single seed was grown this year in those areas. We cannot help it. These are all the factors known to the Members and to the

country. On both the sides, that is the demand side as well as on the supply side, two-pronged measures have been undertaken to combat and to contain the prices. I don't say we are not concerned. We know and we admit that the prices are rising. But to contain the prices, two-pronged measures have been undertaken. As has been referred to, by the hon. Member, on demand side, selective credit control, economy in non-plan expenditure and all those steps are being taken. De-hoarding raids are also on. The State Governments were informed to have a monitoring right from the District level, Block level and Taluk level. We are also having a monitoring cell to control right up to the national level. At the same time, we are augmenting imports of edible oil, pulses and some other commodities. In the areas of spices and condiments also, the price rise is there. Those areas which used to produce these things were unfortunately affected by the drought. But still, I would say that we have been able to contain the inflation. Presently up to 14th of November, the inflation rate in WPI was 8.4 per cent and last year comparatively for the same period, it was 6.4 per cent. In regard to Consumer Price Index, of Course it was a little more.

DR. DATTA SAMANT (Bombay South Central): It was in double digit, 10.2 per cent.

SHRI B.K. GADHVI: For that, we are trying to augment Public Distribution System enlargement and supply.

You have rightly said that committees should be formed and not only the officials but also the non-officials also should be involved. We are trying to have monitoring committees even at the block level or Mohallah level. Our PDS shop is there. Our fair price shop is there, involving some women because they feel the pinch of the price rise very much, they know where the shoe is pinching. That is all being done. If the hon. Member want, I can just list out all the meas-

ures. Every week, the Cabinet Sub Committee on Prices meets and review it. But production is an answer. Import is O.K. As you rightly said, we find some difficulty even for import of pulses for example. The customs duty was twenty five per cent in areas other than Burma. Now we have brought it down to ten per cent. Pulses are put on OGL.

As far as milk and oil are concerned, NDDB and other agencies are there. As far as Butter oil and other things are concerned, we are trying to finalise some packages with different countries, who have now come forward to give us some commodities. Therefore, presently I can assure you one thing that so far as the shortage of foodgrains rice and wheat is concerned, there should not be any apprehension. This august House should be glad to know that so far as the procurement in Punjab, which is our main area of procurement, is concerned, it has grown a little more than our expectations. The farmers are very much cooperative and we are giving something more also. They are really coming to the help of the nation by giving us more rice. In wheat the position is comfortable. We are sure that in rabi the wheat crop will not fail us. That is the very reason why, although our country is of this magnitude, this much population and very large areas and other things, we can proudly say that there has not been even a single starvation death. This is a great achievement because pressure is there on the economy, but still the economy is withstanding the price rise, drought, international recessional trends. We are going strong. I know that PDS is not covering the whole of the nation. In some of the remote areas where there are difficulties and where even shops could not be opened, there through mobile vans and other things essential commodities are being distributed. About 52 per cent of the commodities are such where mere application of economic measures would not prove fruitful but only production. When there is no production, we can

feed the people. But to have a very cheap commodity like grass, it becomes difficult. How to meet that situation? Because that depends upon the local growth and local production.

By and large, the pinch is there. But the situation is not so alarming.

You have talked about blackmoney. I do not think, that is much relevant here. But to contain menace of blackmoney, all efforts are being made. There is an expenditure tax when you go to 5-Star hotels.

DR. G.S. RAJHANS: Why do you not apply it on other areas?

SHRI B.K. GADHVI: Earlier also Government resorted to expenditure tax. Since it did not prove successful, the Government had to withdraw it. What is the expenditure? Wealth plus income minus your saving, that is expenditure. When you have to compute it, you have to compute the income and your spending. Sometimes, you are spending jointly. A Government servant sometimes shares a common car with four other families for going to a hill station. In such cases how will you compute his expenditure? It cannot be a replacement for income tax.

DR. G.S. RAJHANS: It can be applied to a number of areas.

SHRI B.K. GADHVI: But those areas are limited because we have tried it in the past. We have got Dr. Raja Chaliah's report.

DR. G.S. RAJHANS: Why don't you distribute that report among the MPs?

SHRI B.K. GADHVI: I believe, we are going to put one copy of it in the library. Since there was no Hindi translation, we have sent this for Hindi translation. I give an assurance that Dr. Raja Chaliah's report will be put in the library. I very well appreciate the concern

[Sh. B.K. Gadhvi]  
 shown by the hon. Member about price rise. Let me assure the House that Government is equally concerned and conscious about the upward trend in prices. We are trying our best and we will be trying much more in this regard. So far as dehoarding and other things are concerned, the leakage is at P.D.S. level, at Fair Price Shops level. You asked me to give five names. I do not have the exact number, but in Gujarat I can certainly say that some people have been arrested and they are detained also for black-marketing and other things. In other States also the same measures are being advised. Only three days back, there was a Chief Secretaries Conference taken by the Finance Minister to see how strict we can be on having the commodities available in the market and for dehoarding drive. They have been told about this. Our Food and Civil Supplies Department also has been told. We are releasing more edible oils and more sugar also in the market. Therefore, although there is a price rise, Government's anxiety, so far as the price rise is concerned, and as you have rightly stated, is with regard to the common man who is unorganised. So far as the organised sector is concerned, they may be government employees or they may be industrial workers—the price rise normally gets neutralised because of the hike in the dearness allowance. But so far as the man who is in the unorganised sector is concerned, who has got a fixed income, in whose case the price rise is not being neutralised by way of dearness allowance and other things, for him it is certainly very difficult. We are keeping this in view and, therefore, in the rural areas, where the farm labourers and other people are there, where backward communities, Harijans and Adivasis are there, we are trying to expand the distribution system and to see that the supply link is not disrupted. I think this answer would satisfy my hon. friend. With these words, I once again assure that price rise is there but the Government is equally keen to

contain it so that the poor man may not be affected too much.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I want to inform other Members that already we are discussing the prices of essential commodities under rule 193. Therefore, what I request the Members is to restrict their remarks to the area of fiscal policy. It will be very nice of the Members if, instead of going on giving a speech, they keep this aspect in view. Now I request Shri Shantaram Naik to put his question.

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK (Panaji): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, practically in solving the problems of this country, we apply several sciences, and whenever we apply sciences and technologies, we are always successful. Perhaps economics is one such science where the theories do not apply and do not become successful in every stage. Therefore, one thing I will appreciate that there is no doubt that the Government is making every effort to see that we contain this price rise for the obvious reason that no government can afford to play with this. We have to presume that the Government is working hard because Government itself is interested in keeping the image of the Government, Government is interested in serving the people. Therefore, in this aspiration at least, there is always the presumption that the Government is working hard. At the same time, I would like to take this opportunity to say that it is not only the Government but the Opposition too has equal responsibility in maintaining the price rise, in controlling the prices. I would say, with due respect to all the leaders of the Opposition, that if they see the trend of the price rise, it will be seen that it is during those months when the Opposition Members try to create instability in this country by raising issues like Bofors and other things, that the prices shoot up like anything. It has been seen.

In several developed countries also,

when sensitive issues, political issues are raised, the same thing happens. What happened in United States the other day? It was only a small action of the President that drumbled the entire share market. So, that is not without any consequence. Therefore, the Opposition Member should also be equally responsible to see that when they raise issues, they raise them in the interest of this country. If they just throw issues in the House or outside which create doubts in the minds of the people, then what happens? The prices shoot up. I do not want to put the entire blame on the Opposition. We too have been doing so. But what I am saying is that the Opposition Members of the various parties are equally responsible because they try to create instability in this country, they do not behave responsibly when they raise issues in several forums of this country.

**18.00 hrs.**

Therefore, I would submit that they should keep in mind that point. At the same time, I would like to bring to the kind notice of the hon. Minister that we should not only try to arrest rising trend in prices of essential items but we should see to it that there is no artificial scarcity. In the last Session, we had enacted good laws like the Consumer Protection Act, etc. Now, wherever we have standard goods, if consumer protection Act is implemented and District Councils and State Councils are established all over the States, if that machinery is activated, there will not be any scarcity of essential goods, at least artificial scarcity will not be there and that aspect will control production and distribution of essential commodities. I would like to seek the assurance from you, Sir, as to whether the Finance Ministry is coordinating with the Ministry of Food and Civil Supplies as far as implementation of consumer Protection Act and other Act which control the distribution system of the essential commodities is concerned. If you are not coordinating already, in what manner you are

going to do it?

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, inspite of outside compulsions and conditions created by internal drought, the Government has succeeded to a large extent in controlling the prices and inflation rates. The Government deserves appreciation for this, but the rate of inflation and elements of price-rise in our economy are such that it is very difficult to either totally eliminate or exercise full control over them. In a way it is an impossible task. When the rate of inflation affects items of daily use for the common man, then the Government is criticized. Now the situation is that when there is the price-rise of the goods needed by the affluent its effects are felt by limited class of people. It can affect the state of the economy also. But its after-effects cannot be felt; its pinch cannot be felt. There is a restlessness among people because goods of common consumption have gone costlier.

I would like to know from the honourable Minister whether the Government is giving any thought to our public distribution system. There is a need to increase the quantity of foodgrain, oil and other essential commodities available through this system. Even oil is not given in sufficient quantities so that the needs of a family are fulfilled. There is a need to increase the quantity of such goods which are used by the common man and workers in cities and villages. A decision will be taken according to policy that such and such goods would be supplied by the Government for distribution. The problem with the Food and Civil Supplies Minister is what goods are to be given and how to meet them out. This work has to be done by the Finance Ministry. I would like to know if the Government's attention is drawn to the fact, that essential commodities to poor people should be distributed through the medium of the public distribution system. In what quantity are these to be given so that factors which create

[Sh. Harish Rawat]

problems by increasing market prices can be dealt with?

[English]

DR. DATTA SAMANT (Bombay South Central): Sir, I will not take much of your time. Sir, during the last one year, the consumer price index and the whole-sale price index have been going up. For the week ending on 14th November, the final figure for the whole-sale price index was 412.3 and for the previous week it was 411.2. It is more than one per cent rise within a week. Your consumer price index is 11.6%. It is a double digit figure.

Sir, in respect of all the items, if you see in the market, you will see that everything has gone up so tremendously that it is very difficult for the average man to live in this life properly. Sir, with the 140 million food production only the poor people, the landless labour who are below the poverty line suffer and the middle class people suffer a little less. Therefore, those poor people are only the scape goats.

The hon. Minister has given a reply. But I do not agree with his reply. It is the economic policies, the fiscal policies of the Government in which they miserably failed. The privatisation or liberal economic policies and the massive corruption leads to black money. There is a black money of Rs. 8,000 crores in the country and so long you are going in deficit budget. Rs. 1000 crores is the internal debt and the external debt is Rs. 50,000 crores. The economic debt is going to be much more. If you give me the time, I will give all the figures. With all the privatisation, the liberal economic policies, massive corruption and black money, and the deficit budget, I think the Indian economy is going to be robbed. Such type of economic policies of the Government are definitely going to rob the Indian economy. I am warning this au-

gust House and the Government that it cannot be discussed in a sweet way by distributing wheat and rice.

Coming to wheat and rice, the hon. Minister has made a statement that 23 million tonnes of wheat and rice are sufficient, but the other day the Minister has made another statement that 5.5 million tonnes of rice and 9.5 million tonnes of wheat are in stock now and another stock is going to come in April. But the question is whether the existing stock is sufficient for these five months. I have read something in the press that you are going to import rice. But today I have read that 1.2 million tonnes of wheat is required for distribution. That is not sufficient up to April. It is not only oil seeds, it is not only pulses, but it is so unfortunate that we are planning to import rice and wheat. After all this, it is now water that is left to be imported. This is the economic policy of the Government. I have got all the figures and I have gone through the reply which the Finance Minister gave in the other House. My question is: Are you going to import these items? Which items you are going to import? Wheat, rice and sugar-are they sufficient up to April for the whole country? This is my first question.

The second question that I am putting to the hon. Minister is: What about your non-plan expenditure? Rs. 15,000 crores is going to be the defence expenditure Rs. 2000 crores is the subsidy that is going to be given to the farmers for fertilisers. And the price for the farmers is going up. You are giving the food subsidy of Rs. 1800 crores. You are going to give to the farmers Rs. 1.73 p. as procurement price right in 1988. Now we are purchasing it for Rs. 4.50 p. in the market. With all these subsidies the average man is going to be affected. Therefore, I appeal to the Government and I ask the Government: What will be the position? With modernisation of the automobile industry and with the import of new technology, your

imports are going up, and what will be your deficit budget in the next few years? On all these I want a reply specially in what way the Government is going to curtail the rising prices. The value of the rupee has gone down to 12 paise. The average income of a family has gone down—per family it is Rs. 35 per day. Ninety per cent of the people of this country are not going to get the benefits of your economic policies. *(Interruptions)* I may say that the purchasing power of the average man is not going to accommodate him with whatever income comes to him. And therefore, I want three replies from the hon. Minister—whether all these wheat, rice and sugar stocks are going to be sufficient up to April. It is because you are going to rise the new crops. If the stocks are not adequate, are you going to import them? Are you going to change this economic policy on the non-Plan expenditure which I have referred to you repeatedly.

Thirdly, with the distribution system, there is a mere failure in this country. You are just taking the meetings of the State Government. People were arrested and about one lakh cases were launched. But nobody has remained behind the bars for more than 7 days. I have gone through the reply of the Minister given in the Upper House. The percentage is the same as regards last year and this year, about the cases launched under the Essential Commodities Acts and all these things.

Therefore, the Government has miserably failed. The economy of this country is really falling down. I am afraid there will be difficulties. There will be chaos. Unfortunately, we are fighting for religions and other things but economically we are going to the dogs. I want reply to all these points.

SHRI B.K. GADHVI: Before I answer to some of the points raised by the hon. Members, with regard to one query made by Mr. Rajhans, I would like to say. There is no

question of sending M.P. teams to the various States. But MPs are most welcome if they visit the States and find out some leakages and bring them to our notice. It is because M.P. can tour the whole country and also in the remote areas and in the rural areas, they can go and find out some difficulties in the distribution, or blackmarketing or leakages. Then, you are most welcome to bring to our notice and I assure you, in that case, if we receive complaints from the MPs about a particular area, surely we will ask the State Governments to look into them and in the monitoring also, we shall try to do something.

DR. G.S. RAJHANS: Unless you authorise them, the State Government would not cooperate with them. Please authorise them.

SHRI B.K. GADHVI: There is no question of State Government authorising. You can just go and find out these things from the people.

So far as Mr. Naik's points are concerned, these measures, consumer protection, consumer movement should be there, about the weights and measures and other things, the State Governments are being informed. As I stated earlier, we have got a Cabinet Sub-Committee on Prices. The Food and Civil Supplies Department is also taking interest and writing to all the Civil Supplies and Food Secretaries. As I stated, we have also called, the Finance Minister has called, the Chief Secretaries and impressed upon them these things. These are all in the direction of Co-ordination. Wherever we feel that there is some deficiency or some inefficiency, then because of this co-ordination, we try to remove it. Co-ordination is there not only between Finance and Civil Supplies but also between us and Commerce because we have to tie up certain things, say for instance, import of certain edible oil from STC or other areas. In agricul-

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ture also, NAFED and other people are in the picture. There is total co-ordination and we are trying to make it more active.

[*Translation*]

Shri Harish Rawat has said that foodgrains, cereals, etc. are either not available or available in low quantities in P.D.S. shops, I would like to say that we provide the State Governments with adequate quantities of these goods and it is their job to distribute them. You should also see this thing and let us know if there is any complaint. Whatever quantity we have been giving till now, I understand, is adequate in the context of the stocks. As far as sugar or edible oil or wheat is concerned we even give it in advance. In Himachal Pradesh, areas like Lahaul-Spiti are cut-off due to snowfall. In these areas we give advance supplies so that stocks can be maintained. We let them store in advance because transportation becomes a problem later on. Kindly point out those particular areas where it is not available. We will draw the attention of the State Government to those places. It is the responsibility of the state Government to evolve a good distribution system for whatever we release from here. Arrangements in this regard are made by the Civil Supplies Departments of the States.

[*English*]

Dr. Datta Samant has raised very many questions which could have been properly raised while there is a discussion on the Budget or something like that. It is regarding the whole economy and quite naturally, as usual, he has depicted a very pessimistic view.

DR. DATTA SAMANT: You are importing rice and wheat.

SHRI B.K. GADHVI: We are not import-

ing now.

DR. DATTA SAMANT: What is the stock, you tell me. There is a difference between whatever stock given by the Food Minister and what you are telling. This is an important topic for the public.

SHRI B.K. GADHVI: Presently there is stock sufficient to meet the requirement of the people including the drought-affected people.

DR. DATTA SAMANT: But that will not be sufficient to meet the requirements of the people.

SHRI B.K. GADHVI: Mr. Datta Samant has depicted a pessimistic and gloomy picture of the economy. It is not correct. I would give you just one example. You can compare the areas where the drought was very much less, not of this magnitude in 1979-80, you can compare that inflation figure with the inflation figure of this year when the drought is unprecedented for the last ten years. In some of the areas, the drought was there continuously for three or four years. At that time, you inherited the whole food stock, foreign exchange and everything in 1977. But when it came to 1979-80, inflation rate was more than 20. That was the management. This is the management in economic policies where we had a green revolution. Even today, although there may be stagnation in the agricultural growth and in food stock availability to the rising population. To say that the economy has gone havoc is not correct.

So far as the exports are concerned, we have an increase of 20% more than last year. We are trying to explore new areas. I told you that the economy of some of the developing countries can stand nowhere in competition with us. We are on much brighter side. But there is a gloomy picture in your mind to project before the people. Mr.

Shantaram Naik was very much right in saying that on every issue, there is misleading approach by the opposition to create confusion and chaos.

*(Interruptions)*

DR. DATTA SAMANT: Prices are rising. You see how the average man is living.

SHRI B.K. GADHVI: Nobody is dying of starvation. There is wishful thinking just like that of jackal who was longing to eat the leaf of the camel but the leaf of the camel never fell down. Jackal could never eat it. Just like

that, the leaf of power for which you are looking up. I do not think will come to your side.

DR. DATTA SAMANT: Prices are going up.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House is adjourned to meet tomorrow at 11 A.M.

**18.17 hrs.**

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, December 1, 1987/Agrahayana 10, 1909 (Saka)*