

limits. You are an hon. Member of the House. It does not behave you.

(Interruptions) **

SHRI A. NEELALOHITHADASAN NADAR (Trivandrum): I want to know if you have seen this.

MR. SPEAKER: I would like you to give me in writing. I will find out the facts and then talk to you.

SHRI A. NEELALOHITHADASAN NADAR: We will give in writing.

MR. SPEAKER: You are always welcome.

श्री मनी राम बागड़ी (हिसार): यह पहले कह देते, तो इतना झंझट न होता।

अध्यक्ष महोदय: मैंने रोज कहा है। I have said so many times. You write to me.

श्री हरिकेश बहुरुर (गोरखपुर): आप आऊटराइट क्यों रिजेक्ट कर रहे हैं।

अध्यक्ष महोदय: मैं कहां रिजेक्ट करता हूँ। मैं कहता हूँ कि फीक्ट्स को पता करना चाहिए।

How can you say without ascertaining the facts? There are so many things in the newspapers—hundreds of items.

(Interruptions) **

MR. SPEAKER: You should always try to be very calm and quite, and follow the rules. That should be the way of doing things. This looks very bad.

Shri Kadiyan.

12.11 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO
MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC
IMPORTANCE

RISE IN PRICES OF ESSENTIAL
COMMODITIES

SHRI P. K. KODIYAN (Adoor): I call the attention of the Minister of Civil Supplies to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

“Rise in prices of essential commodities.”

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY): Sir, Government is concerned about the rising trend in the prices of some of the essential commodities since March, 1979. However, there has been some moderation in the rate of inflation during the past few months.

The rate of inflation has come down from 22.7% in January, 1980 to 7.2% in October, 1981. The wholesale price index in September, 1981 declined by 1% over the preceding month. There was a further fall of 0.3% in October, 1981. The prices of some essential commodities like sugar, gur, edible oils, pulses and potatoes have shown a declining trend.

With a view to dealing with a difficult situation effectively Government took a number of measures relating to the management of supply and demand for essential commodities. The policies adopted emphasised increase in production, strengthening of the public distribution system, import of essential commodities in short supply and appropriate monetary and fiscal measures. The State Governments are enforcing the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act and similar other legislations to curb the malpractices indulged in by anti-social elements.

In the contest of a continuing worldwide inflationary trend, a decline in the rate of inflation in our country indicates the effectiveness of the policies adopted by Government.

I assure hon'ble members that Government attaches considerable importance to the availability of essential commodities at reasonable prices and would seek the cooperation of Hon'ble members in the task of fair distribution and checking of malpractices. Further measures as and when felt necessary would be taken by Government.

SHRI P. K. KODIYAN : The hon. Minister has claimed in the statement that the rate of inflation has come down and he has given some figures. I do not want to enter into an argument with the hon. Minister with regard to the inflationary rate. But I only want to point out that this kind of point to point comparison of wholesale price index and then coming to a conclusion that inflationary rate has come down so much, is, in fact, an attempt to cover up the reality of the situation.

12.14 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

The rate of inflation was a steady high in the previous year. It came to more than 20.2 per cent in 1980. I am talking about the average rate of increase in the inflation because a common man purchases things throughout the whole year. Sometimes, the price will be low and sometimes high. Therefore, in order to get a correct picture of the inflationary rate, one has to take into account the average rate of annual increase in the inflation. If you examine this on the basis of an average rate of increase, then you will see that there has been an increase of about 15 per cent in the current year, 1981. This has been super-imposed on the average increase of 20.2 per cent registered in 1980. I do not deny that there has been a decline in the inflationary rate, but this decline has not been substantial. Whatever be the superficial decline in the inflationary rate, these are related to the wholesale price index. But, so far as the common man is concerned, he has to buy from the retail shops in the market, where this so-called decline in the wholesale price index is not at all reflected.

When the ruling party contested the elections in 1980, the retail price of essential commodities was taken as a major issue in order to attract the support of the voters. I have here with me a poster, which was then circulated by the ruling party, which pointed out that, while the price of onion in 1977 was Rs. 1.50 per kg, in December 1979 it rose to Rs. 5 per kg. The prices of various other essential items are also mentioned there. But what is the position of onion in November 1981? While in 1979 it had gone up to only Rs. 5 per kg, now it is Rs. 6 or even more than that. Only the other day, one hon. Member of the other House came to the House with a garland of onions to register his protest.

It was stated that in Delhi the Government had taken steps to distribute onion at the rate of Rs. 2.50 per kg through the fair price shops.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION AND IRRIGATION AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) :
Rs. 1.50 per kg.

SHRI P. K. KODIYAN : But it is not available at that price. When my people went to the Super Bazar to buy onion, it was not available at all. So, we had to purchase it from the open market, where the price is more than Rs. 5 per kg.

I may say for the information of the hon. Members that the price of not only onion, but other essential items also, have gone up considerably. I give you below the comparison :

Commodity	Ruling price	
	January 1980	November 1981
	Rs.	Rs.
Rice (superior variety)	5.75	6.75
Dhal	4.75	6.50
Vanaspati	9.15	14.25
Postman (refined groundnut oil) 4 kg.	53.50	90.92
Cooking gas	40.00	50.55
Kerosene (per litre)	1.54	1.82
Soap	1.40	2.20

So, when the hon. Minister comes with figures of the inflationary rate coming down and even describing it as an achievement, some people

even claim it to be a miraculous thing that when the entire world is suffering on account of this inflationary spiral, our country is able to bring down the inflationary rate so much that it has become a one-digit figure. In other words, it has been able to bring it down to one digit figure. It is, of course, a miraculous achievement according to them. But so far as the common people in this country are concerned, they continue to suffer from high prices and scarcity of essential commodities. What is your reply to this? I think it was during the last Session the hon. Finance Minister said that even though there has been a decline in the wholesale price index, it may not immediately get reflected at the retail level. That is a fact, it may take some months or even 8 months to 10 months. Suppose, after 10 months this gets reflected in the retail prices and the retail prices are reduced. Suppose for arguments sake we agree that prices are reduced after 10 months. During this period of 10 months what should the people do? Should they be eating the figures supplied by the Minister and seeing how the inflation is coming down from two digits to one digit, a miraculous achievement in the context of the world situation of high inflation? Sir, this is not a question of mere political propaganda. It is a question of just living, and a right to live. And with whatever means are available, so far as the common man is concerned, he has the right to live at least with two square meals a day. The Government has utterly failed to provide this, I should say. Why? Because they have deliberately abstained themselves from their responsibility of making available to the people of this country the essential commodities of life at controlled prices, at reasonable prices, by taking measures which would enable the Government to have full control over the production and distribution of essential commodities. It is here that the Government has failed, and failed miserably. Though in the Statement the hon. Minister talks

about the public distribution system and strengthening of that system etc. etc., as a matter of fact I should tell you that there is no such public distribution system in this country. Public distribution system does not mean the number of fair price shops opened. The Ministers have always been telling us, and especially the Finance Minister has been telling, that the number of fair price shops have been going on increasing. Now the latest figure given is 2,97,000 fair price shops. First of all, these 2,97,000 fair price shops in a vast country like ours are not enough to take care of the entire population. Apart from that, what is the guarantee that these fair price shops are supplied with essential commodities even in Delhi under the very nose of the Ministers of Civil Supply and Agriculture? When we go to the fair price shops, many things are not available in Delhi. There is a report which appeared in Yesterday's Times of India. It says that Delhi Administration is considering to reduce the quantity of items like wheat and sugar supplied through the fair price shops in Delhi. In the last few months also the supply has been less than the actual requirement in so far as wheat and sugar are concerned. I do not know the real position. If in the capital city of India i.e. Delhi we are not in a position to obtain the essential commodities through the fair price shops, then what would be the situation in the country side of India in the larger part of which there are no fair price shops at all? This is an attitude of complacency.

In the statement made by the Minister it has been stated :

"The state Governments are enforcing the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act and similar other legislations to curb the malpractices indulged in by anti-social elements."

Will the hon. Minister tell this House, since this party came to power how many anti-social elements who indulged in malpractices, who made money out of the miseries of the people have been proceeded against? How many cases have been registered? How many people have been put to jail under the Essential Commodities Act and similar legislation?

I wish to emphasise the point again of public distribution system. The main defect in the public distribution system existing to-day is that the production of essential commodities has been left in the hands of the private sector. For example the production of food grains, edible oil and such other items is in the private sector.

On other essential commodities too Government have no control. Unless the Government come forward to take over the wholesale trade in foodgrains, take over the factories that produce soap and other essential commodities or unless the Government itself comes forward to start industries to produce essential items in the public sector and to build a net work of effective public distribution system to be supervised by the representatives of the consumers and officials together, there is not going to be a public distribution system at all.

In the end I would like to bring this to the notice of the hon. Finance Minister who is also here.

Now, as a result of massive borrowing from the IMF, the Government will have to take a number of steps. The discussion on that issue is coming up in the House. So, I will not go into the details. I want to mention one thing here. In the Sri Lanka Parliament, the Finance Minister of Sri Lanka had mentioned about India's Agreement with the IMF. There was a discussion in the Sri Lanka Parliament about the Agreement between

Sri Lanka and IMF. This is the newspaper report which I quote :

"When ex-Prime Minister, Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike's son, Mr. Anura Bandaranaike of the Opposition Freedom Party pointed out that according to Indian newspapers both the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi and Finance Minister, Mr. Venkataraman had said that no conditions derogatory to the country's self-respect or sovereignty had been accepted, Mr. Ronnie De Mel, the Finance Minister of Sri Lanka said, "don't talk nonsense of what you do not understand" and he went on to read what, he said, "were conditions imposed on India by IMF." These, he said, included adoption of realistic exchange rate in order to improve the balance of payment position, increase in taxation, increasing prices of public sector goods and services, cutting down subsidies...."

When the Government of India is forced to take these steps, the result will be further taxation and further increase in prices. Therefore, I find a very bleak future so far as the price level is concerned and so far as the common man's life is concerned:

In the end, I want to put some specific questions. I want to know whether the Government have any proposal to strengthen the public distribution system and, if so, in what manner and whether the Government are considering to take measures which would enable it to have real control over the production of essential commodities. Another question which he is anticipating is about the take-over of wholesale trade in foodgrains, etc. Lastly, I want to know whether in the village areas, the rural poor, the poorest of the poor, who are living below the poverty line, agricultural workers,

share-croppers, rural artisans, etc. who are getting some sort of relief through the "food for work" programme, whether this programme which was running satisfactorily in many States, particularly, in West Bengal will be re-started.

SHRI RAO BIRENDRA SINGH:
My friend Mr. Kодиyan has raised certain issues with which I agree.

I agree when he says that reduction in the rate of inflation point to point does not give a real indication about inflation being controlled wholly.

I also agree that wholesale price index does not prove that the common man, the consumer, has really benefitted from this reduction in the wholesale price index.

But I regret that he has failed to appreciate the fact that Government have been able to control the fast rising rate of inflation during the past. It has come down steadily. Some figures have been given by my friend in the statement.

Hon. Members also would perhaps be knowing that in January, 1980, the rate of inflation was 22.7%, as already stated. It came down to 15.6% in January, 1981, only a year after this Government had taken over and afterwards, it has been going down further, continuously, since, May, 1981. It has reached 7.2% in October, 1981. That is a significant achievement if the Hon. Member could only apply his mind and appreciate our efforts. Even in the prices of some essential commodities like rice, coarse-grains, pulses, edible oils, sugar, khandsari, gur etc., there has been appreciable fall in prices during the last ten weeks.

SHRI P. K. KODIYAN : Let us go and see in the market.

SHRI RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : I will go to the market with you.

SHRI SUNIL MAITRA : (Calcutta North East) : Where do you buy ?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You concentrate on the reply. The Minister is replying to Shri Kodiyān.

SHRI RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : The Government have announced during last session that an essential commodity like sugar, which is very sensitive, would be sold at around Rs. 6.50 per Kg. during the festival season this year—we have said so in advance—as compared to over Rs. 10/- last Diwali.

SHRI SUNIL MAITRA : The prices of all essential commodities have gone up.

SHRI RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : Kindly support me in my statement that all over the country, sugar was sold at less than Rs. 6.50 that was announced by us during the festive season, Dussehra and Diwali.

There was a steep drop, a crash, in the prices of edible oils, during the festival season. Hon Members know how the prices of groundnut oil, rapeseed, mustard oil and Vanaspati also, came down. We have been able to control the price of Vanaspati also. In Delhi, it has been selling ex-factory at Rs. 192/-, the rate that is fixed and, over and above that, there has been no difficulty in people getting it at around Rs. 210 or Rs. 209/- per tin of 16 1/2 Kg.

SHRI SUNIL MAITRA : What was the price in January, 1980?

SHRI RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : In January, 1980, we

had just come to power. We have been trying to rectify and control the mess that you had created.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : (Midnapore) What was the rate ? What was the price then ?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : The hon. Member has raised the question of the public distribution system not being effective. This large number of fair price shops that we have set up, to him, means nothing. About 63,000 new fair price shops have been opened since this Government took over, in less than two years' time. Out of these 2,98,000 shops, nearly 2,40,000 are in rural areas ; 80 per cent of these fair price shops are in rural areas and only 20 per cent are in urban areas, only 59,000 shops. Therefore, if any one says that the whole country is not being looked after, it is only the cities that are paid attention to, it is absolutely wrong and misleading.

Foodgrain is one essential commodity which is needed by everybody; nobody can live without foodgrains. We are distributing a million tonnes every month for the entire population of the country. This is not a small matter to be able to issue one million tonnes of foodgrains and to distribute them from day to day. Similar is the case with several other essential commodities. (Interruptions) You will go on criticising because this is your duty.

Another essential commodity is edible oil. In the year 1977-78, the public distribution of imported edible oil was only 52,000 tonnes. In the year 1978-79—I am talking about the oil year, November to October—during the Janata regime or whatever it was, the distribution of imported edible oil for public was 93,000 tonnes, and as soon as we came to power, in the year 1979-80, upto the end of October, 1980, after we had been in power for only ten months, the public distribution of imported edible

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oil at a very low price of Rs. 8.30 or so per Kg. rose upto 3.5 lakh tonnes; and in the year 1980-81, it has risen to 4,13,000 tonnes. It is more than four times of what they were distributing in this essential commodity, namely, imported edible oil, and yet they dare say that nothing has been done for the consumer ;

SHRI SUNIL MAITRA : Prices are going up.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : Prices are not going up. It is being sold at the same price at which you were selling it.

SHRI SUNIL MAITRA : Your figures show that the prices are going up. (*Interruptions*).

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : I do not know which market you go to. There are several markets in Delhi. There are several prohibited areas too.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mr. Birendra Singh, You are only a wholesaler as far as edible oil is concerned. The distributor is the State Government. (*Interruptions*).

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : That is true. In the case of edible oil, we have been successful in keeping the price at a certain level. But you have raised one very important issue, Sir ; I am thankful to you. We issue foodgrains from our Central stocks at a low price. It is heavily subsidised. The Finance Minister is meeting a subsidy cost of anything from Rs. 500 to Rs. 600 crores on distribution of foodgrains only. The distribution cost comes to slightly less than Rs. 400 crores. But, Sir, I agree that we have not yet been able to persuade all the States not to earn revenue out of this public distribution system for which the Central Government is paying such a huge subsidy. They are charging much more and we

feel perhaps the State Governments could do away with the tax that they charge even on the issue of foodgrains from FCI depots to the retailers. That could reduce the price to the consumers.

Sir, everytime we talk about raising the remunerative price of foodgrains to farmers, there is an outcry from some sections of the House that the consumer will be killed and that the farmer should not be paid more. But, on the other hand, they do not realise that the benefit of this huge subsidy from the Central Government is not reaching the consumer. Some States are charging the consumer much more than what they should—over and above the issue prices of the Central Government....

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN (Barmer) : Which are the States?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Rao Birendra Singh, You may furnish some figures—at what prices you are supplying and at what prices the State Governments are selling.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : But now we are trying to streamline the whole system. We are trying that the States should not earn revenues out of this at the cost of the consumer. This is one thing we are seriously looking into. I am giving serious attention to this. These are matters about which we are really concerned. We share the concern of the Members that the consumer should get essential commodities like edible oils, foodgrains, sugar and other things at a reasonable rate. The Central Government is paying huge sums as subsidy but the need is that whatever is available should be fairly and equitably distributed all over the country and for this distribution the State Governments are responsible. We lay down the policy and we keep an eye on what they do. We try to take action wherever we find

malpractices of a large order. But we also need the support of hon. Members from the other side of the House. Wherever they can point out that things can be improved, we shall be very glad and we shall be thankful for their advice. This is the achievement...

SHRI P. K. KODIYAN : I put a definite question on further strengthening of the public distribution system and to have control over the production.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : As has been stated, the relief will come only through increased production. We are paying full attention to it. You know in the matter of agriculture our efforts are admired by the entire world. What happened when the Prime Minister went to Melbourne and Cancun? All the countries are interested in knowing how she was able to achieve the breakthrough not only in feeding this vast population but also in being able to export substantial quantities of foodgrains to needy countries, and even are exporting on an average 5 lakhs tonnes of rice annually and if the Opposition wants to close its eyes to what this Government has achieved...

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER (Durgapur) : At the cost of the Indian people you are exporting wheat and other things.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : We are strengthening the public distribution system and we want every nook and corner of the country to be covered under the public distribution system. We want to make the fullest use of all the laws that this Parliament has passed recently. You have helped us and you have supported the Essential

Commodities Amendment Bill which we brought and which was passed with the help of the entire House and all sections of the House. That was only with a view to curb malpractices. We shall take stringent action against people indulging in hoarding and black marketing and other things. You should realise that the system to be made perfect needs some time and co-operation and help from both sides of the House.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri R. P. Das. You put questions only. Otherwise it will take a long time. All the points raised by Shri Kodyian may be left out and only new questions can be put by you. You can also corner the Minister. I seek your cooperation.

SHRI R. P. DAS (Krishnagar) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the Minister has raised many points on a very limited question. All these lead to a regular debate. On such an occasion, I would like to confine to a limited sphere. Nevertheless; the Minister will be replied to as and when an appropriate time arrives.

Now I shall take up the statement laid on the table of the house in which it is said that Government is concerned about the rise in prices of all essential commodities. But, Sir, you will find that in spite of its being much concerned about the rise in prices of spiralling of prices, the common people, the people who live in the villages, do not derive any benefit from such high sounding words of the Government. In the second paragraph, it has further stated that the Government has been able to contain the price or it has at least been able to bring down the rate of inflation from 27% to 7% in September

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1981. The Government also claims that the wholesale price has declined considerably as compared to the preceding month. But, that has not been reflected in the consumer price. Sir, the all-India Consumers Price has been increasing ever since. You will find, that when the Janata Party came to power in March 1977, it was 321, but in January 1980, it rose to 371. There was a fifty-points rise in the régime of the Janata Government. But, within these 21 months after coming into power of Cong-I Government, it has risen to 456 points—the increase being 85 points so far. So, why should the Government say that it has been able to do something at least for the common people? It has not been able to do anything for those who live in the villages, the weaker sections of the society. Government exist for the benefit of these people of this country.

So, Sir, the Government should not take shelter behind the wholesale price index figure. The decline in rate of inflation has got nothing to do with the consumers price. Therefore, Sir, the government has lost credibility. Sir, at the end of the statement, the Minister further tried to convince this House that the Members have to play an important role in bringing down the prices of the Commodities. But I think an individual Member or Members have nothing to do with the spiralling of prices which phenomenon is beyond the control of an individual. Now I have of course two or three questions to put. My first question is:

Whether the Government would revive the food for work programme again which played a very significant role in providing relief to the lower strata of the society of this country?

As you know, Sir the food for work programme had played an important role during an unprecedented floods in West Bengal in 1978. There was no scarcity of foodgrains in West Bengal in 1978. At that time foodgrains were supplied in enough quantities through the food-for work programme to the flood affected people. That helped keep the prices at a low level. For the time being there was no price rise in West Bengal. Therefore, I would like to know whether Government would again revive the food-for-work programme.

Secondly, Sir, we have been told at the moment there are 2.96 lakh fair price shops all over the country. But this number is much below the required number. It is not even half and, as such, the entire country is not being covered. This system has to be strengthened further. During 1980-81 through these fair price shops Government was able to supply not more than 14 million tonnes of foodgrains which was almost one-tenth of the total consumption in the country. So, this system as it is has not been working very effectively and efficiently. Therefore, the Government have to supply more foodgrains an other essential commodities through these fair price shops all over the country so that these can be available to all people.

Last but not the least, I would like to stress upon the point regarding internal procurement of essential items particularly foodgrains which cannot be a total success unless the whole-sale trade in foodgrains is taken over by the Government. When the government are coming out with this proposal, I would like to know, with this Sir, I conclude.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: Sir, I have already explained that when we talk about difference in the rate of inflation between months in the

previous year and months this year we do not claim that we have absolutely checked inflation or sufficiently brought down the prices. We only mean to say that the rate of inflation has been retarded. It is not rising so fast now and that is also a very big success in the present day when rising prices are an international phenomenon.

Sir, he has mentioned about food-for-work programme. I do not know what he means when he says that it should be revived. It was never stopped. It has continued. Only name has been changed. We call it now National Rural Employment Programme and now it is not only foodgrains but there is also cash component for purchase of material to create durable assets for the rural community. Even this year, if I am not wrong because I am speaking from memory, we have provided Rs. 360 crores for this National Rural Employment Programme.

But now it is on a 50:50 matching basis between the Central Government and the State Governments, so that, there is no wastage and the States feel their responsibility.

13 hrs.

Now, we have also provided that one K.G. of foodgrain will also be supplied to the worker. I appreciate the point made by the hon. Member, who rightly pointed out that the distribution of food under this programme helps to check the prices of foodgrains, makes for better supply of this commodity in the interior areas of the country and also reduces the pressure on the market. With that end in view, we have also maintained one foodgrains component under this programme.

SHRI R.P. DAS: You have supplied only 12,000 tonnes of foodgrains this year to West Bengal Government for Food-for-work programme; their demand was 40,000 tonnes of foodgrains.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: I am not going to enter into arguments. You always talk about West Bengal. I still maintain and I want to point out that West Bengal Government is the most-favoured Government by the Central Government in the matter of supply of foodgrains. They get more than 3 lakh tonne of foodgrains every month. We allot this to West Bengal Government; this is more than that of any other State in the country. And yet, they always have a grievance! In Food-for-work programme also they are getting their share; in fact, more than full share.

Then, the hon. Member talked about the Central Government taking full responsibility for feeding the entire population completely. That will mean taking over the foodgrain trade in the hands of the Central Government. We have time and again clarified this issue. We have said that it is not possible to completely eliminate private trade in this country. It is not possible for any Government to take the responsibility for feeding the entire population, for maintaining huge stocks of foodgrains, for feeding the whole population of 700 millions, to procure these foodgrains, to keep the stock of them, to move them into all the interior areas, all the destinations. And if they were so keen about it, why did they not press it when the Janata Government was in power for nearly 3 years? I don't know. You should have done it. Probably we would have learnt from you. You never talked about it when the other Government was in power. You kept quiet. You did not do anything. We have been steadily increasing the quantity of foodgrains distributed through the public distribution system at subsidised rates. During the Janata regime it used to be 10 or 11 million tonne. Now after this Government came into power, and particularly, to look after the population during the drought seasons, we have increased it to 15 million tonnes. This is 50 per cent

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more than what was being issued by the Janata Government. It is at a much higher scale than what was issued by the Janata Government. I think I have answered all the points. The system has been successful; it is working satisfactorily; wherever there is possibility of improvement, we are trying our best to improve it and streamline it, to make it more efficient.

AN HON. MEMBER : It is already One O' clock, Please adjourn the House for lunch.

(Interruption)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Order please. I am not going to adjourn the House; already we have taken one hour for this Mr Narayan Choubey. Please be brief.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my submission is this. No amount of jugglery of words or figures or statistics will help here. You can set aside the basic facts that prices of essential commodities are rising and rising. Same price of some commodity may, for some time, fall. But that is no credit for you. You have claimed that the price of onion has come down to Rs. 1.50 per Kg. It is sold only in 10 centres in New Delhi. I am staying in Vithalbhai Pate' House. I enquired from the man who is selling onion near Vithalbhai Patel House. He told me that the price of onion was Rs. 3.50 per Kg. So, it is not proper to say that the price of onion has come down. But are you not responsible to bring down the prices of essential commodities? There is one proverb in Bengali.

झड़े काक मोरे फर्क रेर किरामोती बाड़े ।

The crow dies due to storm, but the credit goes to the Fakir. Sometimes prices of some commodities come down, for that you cannot take the credit.

Some time back the price of potato had come down, but it is not due to your Government's policy. It is due to growers who have produced more potatoes.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: That was due to your effort.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY: If you are so powerful, as has been stated, you challenge these figures. Now, in the market good rice is sold at Rs. 6.75 per Kg. Dal is sold at Rs. 6.50 per Kg. You bring the price of rice down. Venaspati is sold at Rs. 14.25, edible oil is sold at Rs. 19.55 per Kg., Gas is sold at Rs. 50.75 per cylinder, Soap is sold at Rs. 2.20 per cake, Sugar at Rs. 6.50 per Kg. Kerosene oil is sold at Rs. 1.80 per litre. You bring down the prices of these essential commodities, if you are so powerful. But you are not powerful to do that.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: I am not claiming that I am powerful.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY: The policy which you are following has led to price rise. During the budget session we had warned you that the country will face severe crisis and that there shall be price rise due to your economic policies. You did not pay heed to our advice. The entire capitalist world is facing inflation and you are claiming that you have been able to control that. But whether you controlled inflation or not yes, you have controlled inflation—how does it help us help the common man in our country? How does it help the people in towns and villages?

One of the reasons why prices have risen is the policy adopted by the Government. Now, railway fares and freight fares were raised by you twice during this year. Price of coal has gone up, price of petroleum products has gone up, prices of steel and cement have gone up. Have you

taken steps to bring down the prices of these commodities? Where will all these lead up to? These commodities are all produced in public sector undertakings. You say that the I.M.F. loan will bring down the rate of inflation. The terms and conditions of the I.M.F. loan are detrimental to the interests of the nation. You say that the whole-sale prices have come down. No doubt. But in the case of retail prices you have yourself accepted that the position is not so. What is the use of keeping a cow if she does not give milk and give birth to calves? There is a proverb in Sanskrit.

किम् त्वया क्रियते घिन्न या या न
मृतः न दूषयः

AN HON. MEMBER: They are keeping cows for dung only.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY: You have yourself accepted that increased production is one of the ways to bring down and control prices. What have you got to say in the case of sugar? Although there is an increase in production of sugar compared to last year, and prices have come down in the open market, you in the Government sector have raised the price of sugar by Rs. 15 per quintal. Though the production has increased, how is it that you are yourself raising the price?

There is another area where you have failed. When the potato growers bring their produce in the market, the prices go down but you do not procure potatoes; when the onion growers demand that fair price should be given to them, you fall upon them, you pounce upon them and even kill them, but you do not give them proper remunerative price. However, when these commodities reach the hands of the traders and hoarders, the prices go up, but you do not come heavily on them. In such a situation, how can you control the prices? You

have recently failed in Punjab and Haryana to procure rice. As about wheat. . . .

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: They are doing very well; very good procurement is going on.

SHRI NARAYAN CHAUBEY: you have failed in procurement in the last year.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: You should give credit where it is due. Punjab and Haryana are feeding the country.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY: They should feed the county better.

While in Haryana and Punjab, you have not given the farmers Rs. 1.50 per quintal rise in prices, you are importing American wheat at the rate of Rs. 200 per quintal. This is your policy?

There is another point. How can the prices come down? You are giving political support to such persons who are responsible for rise in prices of certain commodities. Antulay case is the recent case in point. You know, how people were compelled to pay more in order to procure cement. You are giving political support to such people. You will allow such a man to be the Chief Minister of a State. Even Mr Rajiv Gandhi had to speak something about that. We do not believe you when you say that you will bring down the prices.

From our own experience, we know that in the rural Bengal and in such places of West Bengal where there is modified rationing, wheat and other things are rare commodities. Further, is Tripura not a part of India? Or is it that since it is ruled by the left, you regard it as 'Paraiya'? Why don't you supply rice, wheat and edible oils there? You speak of national integration and you have

[Shri Narayan Choubey]

have taken up the responsibility of feeding the entire nation. Tripura is also a part of India, but you have failed to supply these things to that part of India.

You have stated that you are supplying these items through fair price and other shops on subsidy. You have got to pay subsidy and you are paying huge amount for that—400 to 500 crores annually. I would like to know if you are going to continue with this subsidy. I would be glad if your answer is in the affirmative. One of the conditions of loan from the International Monetary Fund is that you have to stop this subsidy. I would like to know if you are going to continue the subsidy so that the people can get their rations from the fair price shops at the controlled prices.

You have answered the question that you are not doing to take over the wholesale trade of food etc. But how can you control the price without taking over the wholesal trade? Sugar will be in my godown and you fix the price and we abide by that? So, naturally there is no other go. If you want to control the prices you have to enter the market. And once you ventured to enter in the year 1970-71, but perhaps you had been given a good rebuff. But I don't know whether you are going to take over the wholesale trade of food or not, including that of sugar, and also to spread the public distribution system in a fair manner. I don't disagree, you have given us many shocks. But then Sir,

मुर्गी केरकराए केरकराए झंडा पाड़े ना—

—the hen gives sound, but never lays eggs. I don't know your Haryana; I don't know your Punjab; but you go to Bihar, you go to Orissa, you go to West Bengal—In West Bengal you will find something sometimes, Sir, — but you go to Bihar or you go to

Orissa in the villages you will find nothing. Shops are there. So, kindly ensure that

मुर्गी केर करारए केरकरारए झण्डा पाड़ो ।

Another point I want to know Sir. What measures are you going to adopt to give remunerative prices to the peasants and how do you want to have your procurement; and how do you implement them? Without that you cannot do anything. And again what are you going to do to supply diesel, fertilisers, pesticides to the farmers throughout the season at controlled prices? They suffered a lot. They suffered from two sides.

My last question is: when ever you speak of take-over of wholesale trade, whenever you speak of nationalisation, lots of questions arise.

Corruption; bureaucratic methods, this thing and that thing comes in. It is natural, they come there. So, naturally whenever there is demand that you may take-over these things we ask are you going to do to end bureaucratic red-tape in the public distribution system? And whether you are able to form all-Party committees for checking up in all sectors of distribution system? These are my questions.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: Sir, the Hon. Member has not been able to get over his obsession with onions, although it was made abundantly clear earlier and many of the Hon. Members who spoke, agreed that prices of onions had come down: In the first week of November, there was a sudden spurt in the price of onions in the market. That was on account of short supply and nothing else; Because suddenly the stocks which NAFED was holding in Delhi were finished and it took some time for procuring onions from other parts of the country. But compared to the price of onions in 1979

December, even during this period, the prices did not go so high. The wholesale price index for onions in December 1979 was 750 and at a point when the prices of onions were the highest in Delhi in the beginning of this month, the wholesale price index went up to 640. But within a few days it came down to 488. That is the figure for 14th November, 1981. We rushed supplies of onions from Nasik, from Rajasthan areas, Alwar district and other places and we dumped Delhi market with onions. Even now, if there is any difficulty, and if the hon. Member is not satisfied with the announcement of Delhi Administration that onions will be sold at ten points in Delhi covering the entire area at Re. 1' 50, I am prepared to assure the hon. Member than wherever he wants, I shall arrange to send a truck load of onions every day at Re. 1' 50—wherever he might be having difficulty. There is no difficulty anywhere else. He was talking about Delhi; and the difficulties of the people in Delhi. (*interruptions*). If you want to have truck loads in South Avenue or North Avenue. (*interruptions*) That means the position is comfortable.

Another point which the hon. Member raised was about the decline in prices at the retail level not having taken place. But wholesale prices do affect prices at the retail level; and there has been a decline in wholesale prices of several essential commodities. If the hon. Member is interested I will give some figures in respect of essential commodities.

During the last ten weeks ending 7th November, wholesale price index of rice came down by 3' 1%, gram by 3' 2%, moong dal by 5' 7%, fish by 20% and potatoes by 10' 3%. And the index for groundnut oil declined by 7' 4% and for mustard oil by 4' 4%.

श्री नारायण चौबे: जो 4 रुपये दाल थी उसका भाव 8 रुपये तक बढ़ गया और

अब आठ रुपये से कम कर के 7 कर दिया तो क्या यह प्रोडस कम हो गये ?

राव बहरेन्द्र सिंह : जब होल स्टेल प्राइस घटेगी तो रिटेल में भी घटेगी ।

श्री नारायण चौबे : 8 रुपये से कम कर के पौने आठ रुपये कर दिया तो क्या यह कम हो गया ?

राव बहरेन्द्र सिंह : कम तो हो गया ।

Retail prices in the market differ from market to market. If you go to a posh market like Khan Market, you will get things at a much higher price. If you go to Super Bazar, you will get at a cheaper price. There might be some markets, which might be selling even cheaper than Super Bazar. It also depends upon the quality of goods that you buy. Onions of a better quality may be higher in price, and so is the case with dal. Medium quality would certainly be cheaper, and inferior quality will be much more cheap. It is very difficult to quote any figures about retail prices. That is not possible. We can give retail prices from market to market, from *mohalla* to *mohalla*, shop to shop and *patri* to *patri*.

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV: (Azamgarh): Why does it happen that prices differ from *mohalla* to *mohalla*?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : It depends on various factors. Mr. Yadav, you know this very well. You also sell your foodgrains at a different price. I sell them at a different price. One shop-keeper will sell at one price, and the other at another. The rent of the shops also differs. The consumers' capacity to pay also differs. There are some fashionable people like yourself who will not compare prices with other shops, and will pay any price asked for.

[Rao Birendra Singh]

The hon. Member objected to a slight increase in the price of levy sugar, i.e. by 15 paise per Kg.

He knows very well that conversion charges increase on account of various factors. The price of levy sugar is still much lower than the price of sugar in the free market. Whatever additional price has been given to the factories, it is on account of our desire to have better prices paid to the farmers, to the cane growers by the factories. Unless we give the factories enough margin, they would not be able to pay farmers well. The production of sugar has increased because of the hard work of the farmers. You will agree with that. We have to ensure that sugar cane cultivator does not go down as it did two or three years back on account of the wrong policy of that different Government which was in power at that time.

We want to ensure that production is stabilised, production of sugar continues to increase and farmers continue, to get remunerative prices for their produce. We have not discriminated against Tripura or any other State for that matter. If we are looking after West Bengal so well, there is no reason why we should not look after Tripura equally well. But there might be at times some difficulties about movement.

We are looking after them well.

When we receive report from them that their stock has declined, diminished, we always rush foodgrains to Tripura or any other part of the country. I can assure the hon. members that we shall see that foodgrains are kept in supply to Tripura, according to the need of the State.

The subsidy on some items for the benefit of consumers and producers has to continue. It is very difficult to say now that it will stop or that it will never stop, but the policy of the

Government has been announced earlier. The hon. members know very well that we want to reduce the quantum of subsidy by and by, but it is not possible at this time to say how long it will continue. So far as my personal opinion goes, we will not be able to do away with subsidy altogether in the interest of consumers and producers.

Diesel, kerosene and all essential commodities like that are essential inputs for farmers in agriculture. We have seen to it that there is enough supply in all the States and there is no complaint. Kerosene is being allocated by the Government of India. Diesel is also available easily at the prices fixed and there is no difficulty in that behalf.

श्री जयपाल सिंह कश्यप : (प्रांशला) :
उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, माननीय मंत्री जी देश के लोगों को आंकड़ों से संतुष्ट करना चाहते हैं। मैं उन्हीं आंकड़ों के आधार पर पहला प्रश्न यह पूछना चाहता हूँ कि क्या आप का सरकार इन आवश्यक वस्तुओं की कीमतों को उसी सीमा तक ले आएगी जिस सीमा पर उस तारीख को वह था जिस तारीख को जनता पार्टी ने शासन छोड़ा था और लोक दल ने छोड़ा था ? उस समय जो रिटेल प्राइसेज थीं, क्या उस सीमा तक आप की सरकार कीमतों को ले आएगी ? क्या उस के लिए कोई प्रयास करेगी और उस में कब तक सफल होगी ? इस पर विशेष रूप से देश के लोग जानना चाहते हैं।

आंकड़ों से तो वही स्थिति हो गई कि पटवारी साहब जा रहे थे, रास्ते में नदी पड़ी, पूछा कितना पानी है ? किसी ने कहा घटनों तक है, किसी ने कहा कमर तक है, 6 फुट है, बोले औसत हो गया साढ़े चार फुट, पार हो जाएंगे और बीच में डूब गए क्यों कि औसत निकालते रहे। देश आंकड़े नहीं चाहता है और होलसेज

प्राइसेज जनता की प्राइसेज नहीं हैं। रिटैज प्राइस जनता की प्राइस है, जना रिटैज प्राइस पर चाहती है। आज सरकारी कर्मचारी जिन को निश्चित तनख्वाह मिलती है, मजदूर जिन की तनख्वाह नहीं बढ़ी है, जिन की तनख्वाह निश्चित है उन के लिए आज बहुत बड़ी समस्या है।

कीमतों में भी एक इम्पलाइड कीमत और है जिस का आप के पास कोई आंकड़ा नहीं है। आवश्यक वस्तुएं जो आप की वितरण प्रणाली से मिलती हैं उस में जो भ्रष्टाचार और मिलावट होती है उस से जो कीमतें बढ़ती हैं उस का कोई आंकड़ा आप के पास नहीं है। आज भी आप की फेयर प्राइस शाप से जो गेहूं मिलता है उस में 16 किलो गेहूं के अन्दर करीब 8 सी ग्राम यह कूड़ा मिला है, इस को मंत्री जी, आप देखिए, सोलह किलो गेहूं के अन्दर से यह कूड़ा निकाल कर के लाया हूँ . . (श्रवधान) . . यह हमने घर पर छाना है। यह कूड़ा 16 किलोग्राम गेहूं में निकला है जो गेहूं हमने फेयर-प्राइस-शाप से लिया है। यदि 16 किलोग्राम में इतना कूड़ा निकला है, तो एक क्विंटल में कितना निकलेगा ?

राव बीरेन्द्र सिंह : कहीं से लाकर मिला दिया होगा।

श्री जयपाल सिंह कश्यप : मंत्री महोदय एक सदस्य पर इस तरह से शक करते हैं, यदि आप इस बात को गलत साबित कर दें, तो मैं इस्तीफा देने के लिए तैयार हूँ। आप मेरे साथ फेयर-प्राइस-शाप पर चलिए, इस तरह से किसी सदस्य पर इस तरह का आरोप लगा देना कि कहीं से ले लिया होगा या इस तरह की बात करना आपको शोभा नहीं देता है, आप जैसे जिम्मेदार व्यक्ति के लिए।

जहां तक कीमतों की स्थिति है, आप होलसेल प्राइस की बात करते हैं, आप क्या लोगों को सस्ती चीजें देंगे। आप आगरा से थोड़ा आगे चले जाइए, वहां गेहूं 200 रु० हो जाता है। उत्तर प्रदेश के कुछ मध्य जिलों में जाइए, तो वहां गेहूं की कीमत 130 रु० से 140 रु० हो जाती है। घी की तो यह हालत है कि लोग लाइन लगाए रहते हैं और हम लोगों से यहां पर कहते हैं कि हमको भी एक डिब्बा घी का दिलवा दीजिए। एक-एक किलो घी के लिए लोग परेशान रहते हैं। बाजार में घी की कीमत क्या है, तेल की कीमत क्या है, क्या आप को यह मालूम है ?

मैं खास तौर से मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि आप जो आई० एम० एफ० लोन ले रहे हैं, क्या इससे इस देश की एसेशियल कॉमोडिटीज की कीमतों पर कोई अनुकूल प्रभाव पड़ेगा या प्रतिकूल प्रभाव पड़ेगा ? इसके अलावा हम यह भी जानना चाहते हैं कि आपका जो फेयर-प्राइस-शाप के डिस्ट्रीब्यूशन सिस्टम में जो भ्रष्टाचार है, उसको रोकने में क्या आपकी सरकार कोई प्रयास करेगी ? देहांत में एक आदमी एक किलो चीनी लेने जाता है, तो सुबह दस बजे से और शाम तक लाइन में लगा रहता है, जब जा कर कहीं उपको एक किलो चीनी मिल पाती है। कितने करोड़ों घण्टे हमारे लोगों के खराब होते हैं, लेकिन इस तरह सरकार का ध्यान नहीं जाता है। आप दुकानें बढ़ाइए, डिस्ट्रीब्यूशन में कुछ ऐसा सिस्टम लाइए, ताकि लोगों को सामान्य सामान जल्दी मिल सके। लोग अपने दफ्तर का काम छोड़ कर जाते हैं, अपने बच्चों की पढ़ाई को छोड़ कर जाते हैं—क्या सरकार इन लोगों का समय बचाने के लिए कोई प्रयास करेगी कि लाइन में लगने की नوبत न आए, घण्टों उनको लाइन में न खड़े रहना पड़े और उनको सही समय पर, जो भी आवश्यक वस्तुएं हैं, जो कि फेयर-

[श्री जयपाल सिंह कश्यप]:

प्राइस-शाॅप से बांटी जाती है, उनको मिल सकें ?

आप यहां बैठे हुए हैं, आप हमसे कहते हैं कि शिकायत करिए । हमने डिस्ट्रिक्ट मजिस्ट्रेट और न जाने कहां-कहां शिकायत की, लेकिन एम० पी० जी० की शिकायत को नहीं सुना जाता है । हमने, गांवों में जा कर देखा है कि जहां दो किलो चीनी मिलनी चाहिए, वहां एक किलो दी जाती है लेकिन रजिस्टर में दो किलो चढ़ाई जाती है । गरीब आदमी के यहां कोई शादी व्याह होता है या और कोई उत्सव होता है, तो उसको चीनी उपलब्ध नहीं हो पाती है और आपके बाजार में आज भी 7-8 रु० किलो चीनी मिलती है । सब्जी मटर और आलू की हालत को देखिए, सीजन होने की वजह से थोड़ा उत्पादन हुआ है, लेकिन आज भी नार्थ-एवेन्यू और साउथ एवेन्यू में, जहां संसद् सदस्य रहते हैं, वहां उनको सब्जी किस भाव पर खरीदनी पड़ती है । प्याज पर तो सरकार को शर्म आनी चाहिए थी । उस समय राम-लीला मदान में रो-रो कर कहा था कि प्याज इतना तेज हो गया है कि लोग कैसे अपना जीवन निर्वाह करेंगे । पिछली सरकार को प्याज की वजह से ही हटना पड़ा था, लेकिन यदि आप में शर्म होती तो सात रु० प्याज होते ही कम से कम आपको इस्तीफा दे देना चाहिए था । चीनी आप 6.50 रु० में दिलाते हैं, लेकिन जनता पार्टी और लोकदल की सरकार में 2.75, रु० या 3.15 रु० के भाव से ज्यादा नहीं बिकी थी । कीमतें बढ़ा कर और उस के बाद थोड़ी सी घटा कर आप आंकड़ों से सिद्ध करना चाहते हैं कि कीमतें हमने घटा दी हैं, इससे काम चलने वाला नहीं है ।

म भाननीय मंत्री जो से जानना चाहता हूँ—क्या वह इस प्रकार की व्यवस्था

करेंगे कि जो उत्पादक हैं, किसान हैं दस्तकार हैं, जो भी इन आवश्यक वस्तुओं का उत्पादन करते हैं, जब उन का उत्पादन बाजार में बिकने जाता है, तो उन की कास्ट-आफ-प्रोडक्शन और डिस्ट्री-व्यूशन-सेल की प्राइस में 10 परसेण्ट से ज्यादा का अन्तर साल में नहीं होगा, ताकि देश शोषण से बच सके और इस देश में एसेन्यल कमाडिटीज को सही कीमत बनी रह सके । आप आज के ही अखबार को देखिए—चना वहीं पर 300 रुपये क्विंटल है, वहीं 400 रुपये क्विंटल है और दिल्ली में तो 500 रुपये क्विंटल खरीदना पड़ रहा है ..

एक माननीय सदस्य : 600 रुपये क्विंटल बिक रहा है ।

श्री जयपाल सिंह कश्यप : हमारे एक माननीय सदस्य कह रहे हैं कि 600 रुपये क्विंटल है । आप देखिए, उत्पादक को कितना घाटा हो रहा है, यह पैसा उत्पादक को नहीं पहुंच रहा है । सरकार को कोई ऐसी नीति बनानी चाहिए जिस से उत्पादक को सही पैसा मिल सके । जनता पार्टी और लोक दल की सरकारें जब सत्ता से हटी थीं, कीमतों को उस सीमा तक लाने का प्रयास सरकार को करना चाहिए । डिस्ट्रीब्यूशन में व्याप्त भ्रष्टाचार और मिलावट को दूर करने के लिए कोई मजबूत मशीनरी कायम करनी चाहिए ।

राज बोरेंद्र सिंह : भानरेबिज मेम्बर ने जो फरमाया है, मैं उस से इन्कार नहीं करता कि हमारे वितरण के मामले में कुछ खराबियां हैं घांघली भी चलती है, माल-प्रेक्टिसिज भी हैं । उन को रोकने के लिए हम पूरी कोशिश कर रहे हैं । इसी लिए मैंने अर्ज किया था कि हमें मेम्बर का सहयोग चाहिए । आप की और हमारी नीति एक ही है कि ये खराबियां दूर हों और

सरकार का भी इन को दूर करने के लिए पूरा प्रयास जारी है ।

अभी आप ने कहा—किसी दुकान से आप को सब-स्टैंडर्ड गेहूं मिला था, उस को यहां हाउस में लाने से मैं नहीं समझ सकता कि मैं क्या कर सकता हूं । जैनरली जो बनेगा वह हम करेंगे, लेकिन आप इस की इतिला हमें पहले देते, खामोशी के साथ, . .

श्री जयपाल सिंह कश्यप : आप हमारे साथ चलें ।

राव बोरेन्द्र सिंह : मैं चलने को तैयार हूं—दिल्ली एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन के अफसरों को साथ ले कर, उनको खिंचाई करने को तैयार हूं, डिपो वालों के खिलाफ एक्शन लेने को तैयार हूं और देखता कि कहां से ऐसा गेहूं मिला था, कहां रुकावट है, क्योंकि एफ० सी० ग्राई० के गोदामों में ठीक भाल मिलता है, इस लिये उसमें अगर खराबी आती है तो कहां को जाती है . . .

श्री बोलत राम सारन (चुरू) : जहां से यह निकलता है वहीं ज्यादा गड़बड़ होती है । एफ० सी० ग्राई० के गोदामों में फर्स्ट क्वालिटी को कोमत पे करते हैं और बोलच वालों से मिल कर गेहूं में मिलावट कर दो जाती है, उस गेहूं को खराब कर दिया जाता है । हरियाणा में जो घोटाला हुआ—वह आप को मलूम है ।

राव बोरेन्द्र सिंह : एफ० सी० ग्राई० के स्टेट गवर्नमेंट को एजेन्सी उठाती है, अगर गेहूं खराब है तो नहीं उठाना चाहिए, उन को पकड़वाना चाहिए । इस खराबी को दूर करने में आप भी मदद करें ।

श्री बोलत राम सारन : हम चिट्ठी लिख सकते हैं, वहां को कमेटी में इस प्रश्न को उठा सकते हैं, लेकिन उस के बाद भी कार्रवाही नहीं होती है ।

राव बोरेन्द्र सिंह : उस के बाद कार्य-वाही नहीं हुई तो मुझे बतलाए ।

श्री बोलत राम सारन : किस को बतलायें, सरकार है कहां ? प्रशासन है कहीं ?

राव बोरेन्द्र सिंह : फिर आप सवाल किस में पूछ रहे हैं ?

श्री बोलत राम सारन : किसी भ्रष्टाचार के खिलाफ कोई एक्शन लिया ?

राव बोरेन्द्र सिंह : मैं तो यही समझ रहा था कि आप सरकार से प्रश्न पूछ रहे हैं । अगर आप को सरकार दिखाई नहीं देती तो बँठ जाता हूं ।

बोलत राम सारण : इन के नीचे पैर नहीं हैं ।

राव बोरेन्द्र सिंह : कीमतों को हम उससे भी नीचे लाना चाहते हैं जितने नीचे आनरेबिल मेम्बर लाना चाहते हैं । हमारी लगातार यह कोशिश है कि कीमतें कम से कम हों, जगह-जगह पर कीमतों का फर्क भिटे, किसी जगह पर दाम बढ़ जाते हैं, किसी जगह पर कम हो जाते हैं । हिन्दुस्तान के अलग-अलग हिस्सों में कीमतों का फर्क दूर हो । इस सम्बन्ध हम अपनी एजेन्सी बना रहे हैं, मार्केटिंग के इन्तजाम को तेज कर रहे हैं । ऐसा न हो कि कहीं पर कोई चीज पैदा हो कर सड़ जाय, जैसे ग्वाज, भालू और दूसरी जगह पर उन के दाम ज्यादा हो जाय । जहाँ तक इन के मूवमेंट को ठीक करने और इन के मार्केटिंग का इन्तजाम करने की बात है, उस की तरफ हमारा लक्ष्यतार ध्यान है ।

श्री जयपाल सिंह कश्यप : मैं एक प्रश्न पूछना चाहूंगा । प्रखबारों में एक न्यूज है कि दिल्ली में राशन और चीनी

का कोटा कम किया जा रहा है। मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहूंगा कि क्या सरकार की ऐसी कोई नीति है?

राव बीरेन्द्र सिंह : हर एक सूबे को हम बड़े हिनाब-किताब से देते हैं और मैं इतना ही कह सकता हूँ कि दिल्ली के लोगों को खास तौर से रियायत है, चीनी भी ज्यादा मिल रही है हर शहर के मुकाबले में और गेहूँ भी ज्यादा मिल रहा है और चावल भी ज्यादा मिल रहा है। यहाँ किसी चीज को कमी नहीं है। अगर हम को यह नजर आया कि ज़रूरत से ज्यादा कोई चीज जा रही है और उस से लीकेज होने की सम्भावना है, तो उस को कंट्रोल करना पड़ता है लेकिन जो पहले मिल रहा है, उसे घटा नहीं रहे हैं।

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia) : The Government and their sweet-worded Finance Minister are trying to befool the people of this country by supplying poison through the sugar-coated price policy. The people of our country are suffering because of their conspiracy against our economy. The hon. Minister explained the policies or tried to answer our questions, but none of his answers is satisfactory. They have admitted that they have failed to check the increase in consumer prices; they have confessed that they have failed to bring down the prices to the level of the Janata regime.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : We never agreed.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : You said you are trying to do it.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : We have been successful.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : You are not able to bring it down to that level.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : Perhaps not to your level, the level you wish for.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Government always try to take shelter under the wholesale prices. The Minister tried to convince us that it is difficult to find out the prices. The consumer price is published in the labour journal after collecting data throughout the country. It is prepared by the Government. So, there is no difficulty in getting it. It is true that the price is increasing day by day. They are only sugar-coating it with statements like this. But they should realise that the people will not be satisfied with these statements. They know what is happening. I do not want to deal with other things. We know what is happening behind them. They want to satisfy their lords, both inside and outside the country. That is the reason behind this growing price rise.

In the context of this discussion, in the context of the present state of our economy, I want to ask some questions. Is it a fact that in the years 1981 to 1983, in these three years, the Government of India has committed to IMF that additional resource mobilisation on fertilizer will be Rs. 800 crores....

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : How will he reply to it. The Finance Minister has to reply to it.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : ... on petroleum Rs. 340 crores, rail ways Rs. 50, crores and coal Rs. 300 crores. Let him deny it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He must put a question concerning the subject.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : In the name of additional resource mobilisation, have they committed themselves to the IMF. If so, is it not a fact that such a massive so-called additional resource mobilisa-

tion will add fire to inflation, turning it into a conflagration. Is it not a fact that, as a consequence, the prices of all essential commodities will rise at a tremendous pace. If so, what measures do the Government propose to take to tackle such a potentially grave situation

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : Sir, I have explained in considerable detail to what extent we have been successful in checking inflation. I do not agree with the hon. Member that we have not been able to control prices to a considerable extent. We have done it. Even retail prices have come down, they have declined. And it was proved just now. There was so much noise about onions, but when I offered to send a truckload of onions to any destination in Delhi indicated by the hon. Members, the refused to accept onions at Rs. 1.50, and yet they are still harping on the same thing. (*Interruptions*).

As regards IMF loan and its implications, my esteemed friend, the Finance Minister, has already explained things in detail in both the Houses and I do not think I can go into those questions. But there is nothing specific which needs to be replied and which the hon. Member wanted.

1347 hrs.

The Lok Sabha adjourned for Lunch till fifty minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at fifty four minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[**MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER** in the Chair].

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shrimati Sheila Kaul may move Motion for Election to Committee.

SHRI MANI RAM BAGRI : I am on a point of order.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Let her move this Motion.

ELECTION TO COMMITTEE

COUNCIL OF INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE, BANGALORE

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE (**SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL**) :

I beg to move :

“That in pursuance of sub-clause (e) of clause 9(1) of the scheme for the Administration and Management of the properties and funds of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, read with regulations 3.1 and 3.1.1 of the Regulations of the institute, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Council of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, for the next term commencing from the 1st January, 1982.”

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

“That in pursuance of sub-clause (e) of clause 9(1) of the scheme for the Administration and Management of the properties and funds of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, read with regulations 3.1 and 3.1.1 of the Regulations of the Institute, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker