

क्षेत्र के आप फिगर उठा कर देख लीजिए, रिपोर्ट देख लीजिए। कोई भी आपको यथोचित स्थान पर नहीं मिलेगा।

मैंने प्रधान मंत्री जी से हरिजनों को हथियार देने के सम्बन्ध में पूछा तो उन्होंने कहा कि इससे अराजकता और फैलेगी। लेकिन मैंने उनसे कहा कि दूसरे लोगों पर इसका मनोवैज्ञानिक असर होगा। बिहार में जब बेलछी काण्ड हुआ था तो वहाँ की सरकार ने हरिजनों को हथियार देने का काम शुरू किया था। वहाँ पर एस० पी० और डी० एम० उन को सिर पर बिठाने का काम शुरू हुआ था। उसके बाद घटनाएं वहाँ की तहाँ रुक गयी थीं। अगर आप ऐसा नहीं करेंगे तो ये घटनाएं रुकने वाली नहीं हैं।

रोज इस तरह की घटनाएं होंगी और होती है। रोज हम लोगों को उनके बारे में इस सदन में हल्ला करना पड़ता है। रोज हरिजनों पर अत्याचार और महिलाओं पर रेप के बारे में हमें कहना पड़ता है। अगर आदिवासी मारे जाएंगे, हरिजनों पर अत्याचार होंगे, उनकी महिलाओं पर बलात्कार होगा तो क्या हम यहाँ हंगामा नहीं करेंगे। और तो हम कुछ कर नहीं सकते। हम उनके प्रतिनिधि हैं। जब हम अपने क्षेत्र में जाते हैं तो हम से कहा जाता है कि कम से कम आपको संसद में तो यह मामला उठाना चाहिए था। इसलिए मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि ऐसी घटनाएं रोज बढ़ती जा रही हैं। एक नहीं दर्जनों काण्ड हो रहे हैं।

हरीश रावत जी नहीं है। उनके यहाँ कफन्टा में एक बारात निकलती है और वहाँ पर 15 हरिजनों की हत्या हो जाती है थोड़ी सी भी कोई बात हो जाती है कि हरिजन और आदिवासी की हत्या हो जाती है। मैं होटल गया था। वहाँ एक हरिजन को फंसा दिया गया और उसको थाने में मार दिया गया। कह दिया गया कि वह पाखाना फिरने गया था और कुएं में गिर कर मर गया। एक सरकारी कर्मचारी को रुपया देकर उसको फंसा दिया गया।

सभापति महोदय : या तो अब खत्म कर दीजिए, नहीं तो दूसरे दिन बोलिये।

श्री राम बिलास पासवान : मैं दूसरे दिन बोलूंगा।

17.30 hrs.

HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION

MARKETING OF CARDAMOM

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now we take up the half-an-hour discussion. Shri M. V. Chandrashekara Murthy.

SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY (Kanakapura): I seek your permission to raise a discussion on the points arising out of the answer given by the Minister on 11th July, 1980 in reply to Starred question No. 504 regarding marketing of cardamom.

The current world production of the cardamom is of the order of 7,000 tonnes out of which our country contributes 57 per cent, the remaining 33 per cent by Guatemala and the remaining 4 per cent by Sri Lanka.

Sir, the Cardamom Board was constituted in 1965 with some objectives. I may be permitted to read the objectives:

"(1) For rendering financial and other assistance to cardamom planters and for increasing cardamom production and ensuring remunerative returns to growers".

This is the most important one. Even after the lapse of 15 years, they have not yet achieved anything and the Cardamom Board is sleeping over the matter.

The other is:

"Securing better working conditions for the cardamom workers."

This they are not doing. Now, I come to the point about the regulation of sales and exports of cardamom. In

this, I am sorry to say that the Cardamom Board is functioning like a private limited company propagating the interests of some traders and exporters who have some vested interests in the sale of cardamom. The sale of cardamom and marketing of it throughout the country is entirely controlled by these vested interests. These people are doing underinvoicing and also cheating the Government thereby amassing wealth and depositing the same in the foreign Banks.

The poor growers are at the mercy of these people. In 1973 Cardamom Board discussed elaborately and decided to introduce a pool and marketing system on the pattern of Coffee Board. They have sent the proposal to the Government of India for approval with some observations which I may be permitted to read:

"To eliminate numerous middlemen in the Cardamom Board, thus ensuring return to the cardamom growers".

This is the most important part of it. The highest value realised through export for the cardamom in 1979-80 was Rs. 203/- per k.g. The most important and unfortunate part of it is that this is not the real price. Whatever the growers receive, that is the price at which the traders and exporters receive, they are actually the middlemen. By this you can imagine how our growers, poor farmers are being exploited by these fellows.

Next is to check evasion of tax, smuggling and propaganda in regard to marketing. That they are not doing. The other one is to have a better understanding with the other exporting countries so as not to do suicidal act in regard to sales. The important objective is to achieve price stability. It is not happening in any of these five years. The other objective is to streamline the assistance given for the growers.

Actually, as I said earlier, the Board was constituted for some specific purpose. Here the Cardamom Board is

not at all looking after the growers or the small farmers interests. They are interested in only traders and the middlemen and exporters. The proposal was turned down by the Government by making some observations which I would like to quote:

"There would be inordinate delay in the small growers' getting their due price for the cardamom supplied to the Board."

I do not agree with this. I would like to quote an instance. In Karnataka, Coffee can even be sold by the small grower to the Board. The Board are taking the coffee from them and they are getting their payments. The Government says that the quality gets deteriorated. It is also stated that this system would eliminate all incentives for production of better quality of cardamom. This is not true. We can keep and preserve cardamom more than coffee. We can keep it in an air-tight containers. Then it is said:

"The administrative cost of pooling would be quite high and eat away substantial percentage of the income of the growers..."

This is one of the reasons where the Cardamom Board is not permitted to market on a pooling system. In the latter part of the observation they say:

"In arriving at the above conclusion, the Government have the benefit of the advice of the State Government of Kerala where 70 per cent of the cardamom lands are situated."

This is most ridiculous. For your information we in Karnataka produce 75 per cent of the total production of coffee in India and only the remaining 25 per cent is produced in Kerala and Tamil Nadu yet we are not dictating any terms. Our government is not dictating terms. All the coffee growers whether in Karnataka, Tamil

Nadu or Kerala are getting the uniform price.

In view of all these facts may I know from the Minister as to what prevents the Government from re-considering the pooling and marketing system on the pattern of coffee board or why the Government think of tagging this cardamom board, which is a useless one, to coffee board which is doing commendably well in the export market:

Secondly, whether the government is prepared to have a thorough probe for the mal-functioning of the Board during the last 15 years and to streamline administration so that the interests of the small growers can be protected.

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon'ble Member has made two queries. Firstly, why the pooling system which was contemplated once on the pattern of coffee cannot be introduced in case of cardamom and the reasons he himself has quoted. Apart from the two reasons he has given I would like to add one more. So far as the production is concerned it may vary. For instance, last year the production was 4,500 tonnes, and the year before, it was roughly of the order of 4,000 tonnes. If we presume that the production will be of the order of 4,000 to 4,500 tonnes, naturally, the overhead cost of pooling the small quantum would be more as compared to coffee. This is one of the reasons why pooling system was not introduced in the case of cardamom apart from the two reasons cited by the hon'ble Member himself.

Secondly, it is true—I am not going to the rationality of the objection—the Kerala Government objected to this idea and as the hon'ble Member is aware of the fact that nearly 70 per cent of the cardamom is coming from Kerala and more so as far as our exports are concerned the sizeable quantity is Kerala cardamom.

As a result of that, when they raised serious objections Government had to look into it. We cannot simply brush aside any objection raised by a major producing State. But I do agree with the hon. Member that we must try to help the growers. The question is, how we can do it. That is the question. One of the objectives of the Cardamom Board which the hon. Member might have noticed is this. It is to control the market. So far as Kerala and Tamil Nadu is concerned, it is controlled by the Central rule. That means, the growers are encouraged to participate in the auctioning. But, so far as Karnataka is concerned, there is dual control. Apart from the Central rule there is the State rule which is also there. It is found that a sizeable number of the people who purchase from the growers also take part in these auctionings and as a result the benefit does not pass on to the growers. We have taken up this matter with the Karnataka Government and I hope it will be possible for us to arrive at a solution whereby a uniform system could be introduced.

Apart from that, another major area where we must pay attention is to make these cardamoms popular in certain other areas. So far as our major exporting area is concerned, it is known to the hon. Member, it is mainly the middle-east; 90 to 91 per cent of our total exports go there. And they have a fancy for the Alleppey green variety. They don't have a fancy for the Coorg green variety and that type of cardamom only is being produced in Karnataka. But recently a delegation which we sent there also studied some markets and we are exploring the possibilities of other markets. If we make these varieties popular in other markets it will be easier for us to enhance the share of Karnataka so far as export market is concerned. If the quantum of our export increases, naturally, the growers would get the benefit.

In regard to pricing, Sir, I can quite only the prices which are available from the auction centres. It is

not possible for us to indicate how much growers are getting. There is no minimum price recommended for Cardamom. But that matter can be looked into and we can examine it and try to evolve a mechanism through which we can ensure that growers get their due share.

We have got some figures. So far as last year is concerned, that is, 1979-80, in Karnataka the price was Rs. 120 per kilo. It was more or less the same as the previous auction. This is the figure which I have got. These are collected from the auction centres. The national average is 135; Kerala 142, Tamilnadu, 114. I think these are the two points which the hon. Member raised and I think I have covered those points.

SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY: I raised a question about probe.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: In regard to probe, if there are any serious allegations they can be brought to our notice and we can look into them. From these figures themselves, you will find out that exports are increasing. Even in the case of Karnataka you will find that they are increasing. In 1976-77 it was 74 tonnes. In 1977-78 it was 139 tonnes. In 1978-79 it came down to 78 tonnes and in 1979-80 it picked up a little; it is 107 tonnes. Therefore it is picking up. This improvement has taken place and we will try to do our best. But if any specific suggestions come from the hon. Member, we can consider them. If he is interested in figures of total production I can give these figures also. In 1975-76, the total production was 3,000 tonnes. The import was 1941 tonnes. In 1979-80 the production was 4500 tonnes. The export was 2671 tonnes.

श्री राम बिलास पासवान (हजिपुर) : सभापति महोदय, मंत्री महोदय ने कस्ट आफ प्रोडक्शन के सम्बन्ध में एक बात कही लेकिन उस दिन जब डिमंडेशन हुआ और जो मूल प्रश्न का जवाब आया उसमें कही नहीं बतलाया

गया कि कस्ट आफ प्रोडक्शन कितनी है। दूसरी बात यह कही कि बिचौलियों के सम्बन्ध में विचारविमर्श करेंगे लेकिन जब मंत्री महोदय कंविस्ट हैं इस बात से कि बिचौलिए मुनाफा ले रहे हैं और जो प्रोवर्स हैं, यानी किसान; उनके पास पैसा नहीं पहुंच रहा है तो इस सम्बन्ध में वे तत्काल क्या करने जा रहे हैं?

सभापति महोदय : आप प्रश्न पूछ लीं ए।

श्री राम बिलास पासवान : मूल प्रश्न जबाब में बतलाया गया था कि कर्नाटक में आल इंडिया प्राइस जो रखी थी वह 1977-78 में 134 रखी, 1978-79 में 166 रखी, 1979-80 में 136 रखी लेकिन कर्नाटक को जो मिला वह 1977-78 में 134 के बदले में 105 मिला, 1978-79 में 166 के बदले में 134 मिला और 1979-80 में 136 के बदले में 123 मिला। इस तरह से केरल की स्थिति तो अच्छी है लेकिन मेरा प्रश्न कर्नाटक के सम्बन्ध में था और कर्नाटक में जो कम दाम दिया जा रहा है, जो आपने एवरेज रख है उससे कम मिलता है, तो उसको मीट करने के लिए आप क्या कर रहे हैं। क्या आपके पास ऐसी कोई योजना है कि कुछ परसेंट अपने पास रखकर बाकी एक्सपोर्ट कर सकें जिससे अधिक से अधिक पैसा मिल सके और जो दूसरी स्टेट हैं उनके मुकाबले में आ सकें ?

दूसरी बात यह है कि जो फारेन मार्केट है वहाँ इलायची का क्या रेट है और हिन्दुस्तान में आपने जो रेट बतलाया है उससे अधिक है या कम है—यह मैं जानना चाहता हूँ।

क्या आपने कोई रिसर्च वर्ग रह की है क्योंकि आपने कहा है कि इसको लोकप्रिय करने के लिए दूसरे क्षेत्र खोज रहे हैं तो विदेश के अलावा देश में भी इसका अधिक से अधिक उपयोग हो क्योंकि यह स्वादिष्ट चीज है—इस सम्बन्ध में कोई रिसर्च करवाई है या करवा रहे हैं ताकि इसकी अधिक से अधिक खपत हो सके और किसानों को उचित दाम मिल सके ?

SHRI H. N. NANJE GOWDA (Hassan): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have to bring to the notice of the Government the drawbacks in the Cardamom policy. Then only the hon. Minister will be able to rectify them. Now, Sir, they depend on the report of the Cardamom Board whose statistics are absolutely incorrect. We cannot depend on their statistics because they have not conducted any survey so far to collect statistics. There are about 31 auctioners, 111 exporters and 400 big growers and about a lakh and odd small and marginal growers. The hon. Minister is aware that our policies and programmes are to help these small and marginal farmers. But what is happening here? These 31 auctioners, 111 exporters and about 400 big growers are exploiting these lakh and odd small and marginal growers. If the Government is earnest to helping these small and marginal farmers, it must change its opinion about the Cardamom Board. The Board is exploiting these small and marginal farmers, who are not getting a fair deal at their hands. The Board's function is only to issue licences to auctioners, dealers and exporters. Nothing else. They themselves have admitted that 95 per cent. of the Cardamom growers are small and marginal growers. What is happening to them? The hon. Minister was telling us that if this business was to be done like the Coffee Board, it would become a top-heavy administration. We are exporting about 70 to 80 thousand tonnes of coffee to get Rs. 140 or Rs. 150 crores. But we are exporting only less than 3,000 tonnes of cardamom and are getting more than Rs. 50 crores. We are getting that without anybody's efforts. The exporters are having under-invoicing. I am aware of the fact that the actual rate at which they are selling is more than Rs. 300 per kg.; the unit value of coffee is in terms of 100 kg. whereas the unit value of cardamom is in terms of 1 kg. But because there is under-invoicing, we are getting only Rs. 50 crores by way of exporting less than 3,000 tonnes

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of cardamom. For the kind information of the Minister, the cardamom in Kerala is called Mysore cardamom. If he is not aware, let him collect the information. Why I am telling is because the officers, the bureaucracy and the Board are all misleading the Government. They are happy because they are siding with the exporters, who have monopolised the business. They can have very good parties in big and five-star hotels at the cost of those exporters at Bombay, Delhi and other places. Let these duties be attached to the Coffee Board, let them look after cardamom also, and the expenditure will go down very much.

There is another important factor and I do not know whether the hon. Minister is aware of it. They are also cheating the Government by way of avoiding sales-tax, income-tax and excise duty. Usually, the big coffee growers are also big growers of cardamom. They do not give the account. A big grower may grow one thousand kg. of cardamom and may sell in the black market. What is the rate that a poor grower gets? On no occasion, in Karnataka, a small grower or marginal grower has secured more than Rs. 90 per kg. maximum. He will bring the cardamom he produces to the market because he is in need of money, he is in debts. If one acre of new land is brought under coffee cultivation, he will get Rs. 1000 as subsidy in addition to Rs. 5000 of loan. What is the subsidy that you are giving to the cardamom grower? What is the value of cardamom in the international market. We are contributing to the international market 70 per cent of the total commodity and with all that we can control them. Can they not dictate the international market about the prices? And we are pleading helplessness. This is all because of the inefficiency of the Board. The Board is not serving any purpose except catering to the needs of the smugglers and cheats, who want to exploit this small holder. I would earnestly request the hon. Minister to consider this. I want a categorical

[Shri H. N. Nanje Gowda]

answer; heavens are not going to fall on us. The hon. Minister can see the change within five years. The figures about the production of cardamom as given are wrong. So much of cardamom is smuggled outside the country and inside the country. It is anywhere 10 to 12 thousand tonnes a year. They are not giving correct figures. This is happening under the very nose of the Cardamom Board and they are the partners. I would appeal to the Minister, let him not sit on—prestige, let him face facts, realise the truth and scrap this Board and entrust the functions to the Coffee Board.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA (Tumkur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I was also associated with the Cardamom Board for some time and as pointed out by Shri Chandrashekhara Murthy, the Board has not been able to achieve its objectives for the last so many years. I have got personal experience because I was a Member of the Board. The entire Board is controlled not by the members of the Board, but it is controlled by outside forces like exporters and traders, and the people who are manipulating trade in export. Even the Chairman and the Director are sometimes susceptible to pressure. Then how can this Cardamom Board in Kerala function? I would like to say that the concept of Commodity Board, its composition, its objectives and reasons and its location has to be changed, because there is an agitation going on in Karnataka. The participation of the growers who are there at present, the people who are interested in growing cardamom and the people who are contributing to the Cardamom Board and are participating in the administration, first, they all should be wiped out from the Cardamom Board.

There is discrimination even with regard to recruitment and promotion and it should be changed. According to the statistics, we grow 25 per cent, but it is more than that. Still, we are not participating in this Board. I would like to know how many boards

you want to locate in Kerala. Even the Coconut Board should also be located there. It is not possible on the basis of what we grow, as far as participation is concerned. A number of boards are located there. Even the growers are not properly represented in the Cardamom Board. They say that the quality of cardamom in Karnataka is not even fit for export, but it is not so. I know it. The Cardamom Board and its functions are completely not within the purview of the objectives and reasons; and it is absolutely an irrelevant Board. I can say that. Unless we take into consideration all the factors, this serious situation cannot be improved. According to the objectives of the Cardamom Board and the export system provided, more representatives are from the export side. They are also called growers. They say, they are all big growers. All the members were there when I was there. I was the only Member of Parliament. We cannot exercise any control over their overseas activities. When we passed a resolution, I insisted that there should be a polling system. But the Director, the Chairman and even the officers and these monopoly houses of cardamom exporters, they came together and saw that the polling system should be prevented. It is the only system where we can exercise control over them. It is obvious that you have quoted two reasons. The third reason is in favour of 1½ lakh growers. The polling system has to be applied. Otherwise, we cannot break the monopoly houses and the exporters and their manipulations, because in doing things, they are manipulating, doing under-invoicing, over invoicing. Therefore, what facts have been furnished by the Board are not correct: it is not a correct picture. Even the statistics are not correct.

I know that we get cardamom at Rs. 30, Rs. 40, and Rs. 50 per kg. in Karnataka and they are selling it at the rate of Rs. 250, Rs. 300 to Rs. 400 per kg. to other countries. Then what

is a grower getting? The Board has no control to take over the entire stock from the agents, what they grow, distribute and get prices for the farmers. Only the middle men are exploiting. We have passed a resolution saying that there should be an equitable representation and the office should function in research and development. As far as exercising control is concerned, it is one of the dirtiest diseases which is killing all the farmers. I told them that an office should be opened in Bangalore. They have opened one office there, but the officers have not been posted, because all officers there are preventing participation from the Karnataka side. I am not saying that we should have, "sons of the soil theory."

This is the letter I have received. I will submit it to you. You will see how discrimination has been going on in the administrative matters. Therefore, I suggest this giving this reply will not suffice. I would like to ask a straight question, whether the hon. Minister would find out the realities of the situation and streamline the entire administration and the composition of the committee and the powers of the board of directors. Otherwise, it is better to scrap it and it should be tagged on to the Coffee Board, because wherever coffee grows, cardamom grows; there need not be any separate board with all top heavy administration and other things. There is a director who is sitting there for so many years in Kerala. This kind of administration cannot run for ever. Commodity boards are meant for export and we get more foreign exchange earnings. But we are losing; the farmers are losing. I suggest that the hon. Minister should have a full probe and structural change in the administration and this board should be scrapped; pooling system should be agreed to as per the resolution; Bangalore office should be there and it should be streamlined and promotion should be given to officers.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY (Mangalore): I fully share the feelings expressed by the previous speakers. We have to widen the export market and we have to improve the quality and even exporters have to find out a market for better quality. In foreign markets we have found Guatemala emerging as a country which is selling cardamom at lower rates. They are practically under-getting the Indian price. I may go to the extent of saying that it amounts to a declaration of war. Why? Because, unless we find out a solution and unless we come to an understanding with that country, we will not find any market for our products. Therefore, it is our duty and the duty of the government. Therefore, I am asking the hon. Minister whether the Government of India is going to have an understanding with that country on cardamom price. What steps have been taken to improve the quality of our cardamom?

Further, there is discrimination so far as Karnataka is concerned. From the reply given by the hon. Minister on the floor of the House on 11 July, 1980 it is seen that there was discrimination done by the cardamom board. According to his statement on 11th July, the growers of Karnataka are realising a lower price. The hon. Minister has clearly stated that so far as export is concerned, Kerala is contributing 70 per cent. Why? Because there is no proper representation from that area, including Karnataka.

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): There are two types; the cardamom of Kerala is different from that of Karnataka.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: There are middlemen and they are supporting smugglers from Kerala. Cardamom is being smuggled to foreign countries, including the Arabian countries. What steps have been taken to prevent smuggling from Kerala? I hope the hon. Minister's reply will cover all these points.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: I would start from the questions of the last Member who participated—whether we are going to have any discussion with Guatemala which is the other major producing country, in order to see that we do not undercut each other's interest? This sometimes happens in international trade. But it is always our effort to arrive at some sort of understanding and in respect of this item also we are trying to have understanding with Guatemala. But it is not always very easy to arrive at. It is not merely in case of Cardamom but in case of other commodities too we are finding difficulties. Hon. Members are aware of the difficulties that we have in case of iron ore, tea, jute, etc. So, this is the problem. But I agree with him that we should explore the possibilities of reaching better understanding with other producing and exporting countries.

In regard to the representation of Karnataka in the Board, it has been mentioned by most of the members, I may mention, so far as the present composition of the Board is concerned, there are two *ex-officio* Members. Three representatives are of three State Governments which are producing Cardamom—Tamilnadu, Karnataka and Kerala; six are growers' representatives and three are Central Government representatives. That means every producing State will have minimum two representatives—one representing the Government and one representing the grower. Two officers are there—Chairman, Cardamom Board,—the Director and two labour representatives, three Members of Parliament, one of consumer interest and one representing others. This is more or less the composition. Therefore, it cannot happen that in any Board so composed, it will have at least two, two. So, far as the present Board is concerned, Karnataka has three representatives. Last time it had four, because Mr. Lakkappa...

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: No powers also. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: I am coming to that.
(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: I am grateful to Shri Lakkappa, from his experience on serving in the Board he has come to the conclusion that the Board has no powers, and he wants us either to enhance the power or to scrap the Board. I am coming to that part.

In regard to location, for obvious reasons it is located in Kerala. Even if you look at the production and if you look at the export figure, it is a major producing area, apart from variety. It depends upon the taste of the purchaser. After all, I am not going to consume. If they prefer Alleppey green and if they do not like so much of Coorg varieties, after all we have to sell our production in certain other markets. Therefore, that exercise is being made.

In regard to the possibilities, how we can help the small growers, Shri Nanje Gowda made an eloquent speech, I tried to get some facts from him. One basic fact which he has mentioned is that nearly 1 lakh small growers are there in Karnataka. (*Interruptions*). The total production is 4,500 tonnes. Apart from that, 400 big growers have also some share. What would be the actual share of these small growers in 4,500 tonnes? That is to be looked into. We want to help the small growers. One of the difficulties which we are facing, particularly in Karnataka is that in the present arrangement of auctioning, a middleman can take part. We are trying to bring uniformity by extending the Central rule which we should do and legally we are competent to do. We have taken up with Karnataka and it would be possible for us to remove the existence of the middleman. If the growers can participate directly in the auction centres, at least they will get a little more than what they are getting now. In regard to research, it has already been decided to establish one research

centre. The alternative is either to diversify the market or to diversify the end-use. For that, we have already taken certain steps and we are exploring the possibilities. In the first reply, I have said that in the various study teams which were sent to different parts, there too there was one representative from Karnataka, who is presently a member of the Board. We thought we must have a representative of the growers or of the exporters. But if you have a large number of growers and if they are not organised in any forum, it is not very easy to select a particular grower for inclusion in the study team. But there was one member represented in the group which was sent last May to visit various countries and explore the possibilities of getting new market. Therefore, we are trying to do that.

In regard to the functioning of the Board, even on 11th July I said, I am prepared to discuss with the hon. members if they have any suggestions. It is no use saying, scrap the Board. It is no use saying, there should be a thorough probe. Thorough probe on what account? Thorough probe in what area? If you find that these people are doing some under-invoicing or indulging in some sort of racketeering, definitely I am prepared to look into it. Definitely I am prepared to send the matter to an investigating agency to find out whether there is any substance or truth in it or not. But I must have certain positive allegations instead of saying merely that they are

not functioning all right. If hon. members have any specific information, if they feel that this is the area where investigation should take place or a probe should take place and if hon. members come forward with a suggestion saying, "Let us look into to what extent they have contributed in building up research or in helping in marketing" etc., I am prepared to examine that. That is why I sought the cooperation of the hon. members and said that any specific suggestion received from them will welcome and I can discuss it with them. But it is no use saying, a thorough probe should be there. Thorough probe for what? You give me some information whether there was under-invoicing or give some indication. Then I am prepared to send it to the investigating agency, so that they can find out. It is not my job to investigate. If you find that they are colluding with the exporters or with the big growers in order to deprive the small growers, if you can give some indication, then we can send it to certain agencies who can investigate and find out. I am prepared to do that. I am prepared to consider any suggestion which the hon. members can give for improving the situation and extending help to small growers.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned till 11 A.M. on Monday. 15 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, August 4, 1980; Sravana 13, 1902 (Saka).