

[Mr. Chairman]

Amendment No. 4 by B. P. Mandal and Amendment No. 6 by Shri A. K. Roy. All these three Amendments seek for the circulation of the Bill.

Do any of them wish to withdraw or should I put them to the vote of the House?

श्री हुकम देव नारायण यादव (मधुबनी):  
अब यह बिल सेलैक्ट कमेटी में जा रहा है इसलिए मैं अपना संशोधन वापस लेना चाहता हूँ।

सभापति महोदय : मैं सदन की राय जानना चाहती हूँ—अमेण्डमेन्ट नं० 1 जा श्री हुकम देव नारायण यादव का है— क्या सदन उन को इस अमेण्डमेन्ट को वापस लेने की इजाजत देता है ?

*Amendment No. 1 was, by leave, withdrawn*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now I shall put amendment no. 4 by Shri B. P. Mandal to the vote of the House.

*Amendment No. 4 was put and negatived*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is Shri A. K. Roy here? He is absent. Now I shall put amendment no. 6 by Shri A. K. Roy to the vote of the House.

*Amendment No. 6 was put and negatived*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now I shall put the Minister's amendment to the vote of the House. The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act, 1956, be referred to a Joint Committee of the Houses consisting of 30 Members, 20 from this House namely:—

Dr. H. Austin, Shrimati Kamala Bahuguna, Shri Dinen Bhattacharya, Shri V. Dhandayuthapani, Shri K. T. Kosalram, Shri Hari Shankar Mahale, Kumari Abha Maiti, Shri Rama Chan-

dra Mallick, Shri F. H. Mohsin, Shri M. N. Govindan Nair, Shri Narendra P. Nathwani, Dr. Sushila Nayar, Dr. P. V. Periasamy, Dr. Ramji Singh, Shri K. S. Ramaswamy, Shri Sidrameshwar Swami, Shri Brij Bhushan Tiwari, Shri V. Tulsiram, Shri Sharad Yadav, Shri George Fernandes,

and 10 from Rajya Sabha;

That in order to constitute a sitting of the Joint Committee the quorum shall be one-third of the total number of members of the Joint Committee;

That the Committee shall make a report to this House by the first day of the next session;

That in other respects the Rules of Procedure of this House relating to Parliamentary Committees shall apply with such variations and modifications as the Speaker may make; and

That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do join the said Joint Committee and communicate to this House the names of 10 members to be appointed by Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee." (18).

*The motion was adopted.*

17.18 hrs.

TOBACCO BOARD (AMENDMENT) BILL

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA): I beg to move:\*

"That the Bill to amend the Tobacco Board Act, 1975, be taken into consideration."

So far as this amendment is concerned, mainly it deals with the platforms or auction platforms to be created because under Section 13 of the Act, it is for the Tobacco Board to have its own auction platforms and to strengthen its hands both legally and practi-

\*Moved with the recommendation of the President.

cally. This Bill has come over before the House. Simultaneously, I have suggested one more amendment because the present Act suggests that the headquarters of the Tobacco Board shall be at Guntur.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You come to the amendments at a later stage.

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: I am just saying these things. I will take hardly 10 minutes. There is nothing like more speeches from my side because there won't be other speeches if I say about it. So far as the Act is concerned, it suggests that the headquarters shall be at Guntur. My suggestion is that instead of saying that it shall be at Guntur, we are deleting that provision. However, I would like to assure the House that at present there is no proposal to shift the headquarters of Tobacco Board from Guntur. Secondly, if, at all, the headquarters are to be shifted, I again assure the House that the headquarters will be located in the State of Andhra and that I would very much like to consult the Members of Parliament from Andhra State and then take a decision. So, naturally, there was some sort of opposition and I felt that if I clarified these points at the outset, then there would not be much criticism and this will be accepted by the House. The whole point is that in our country, we grow nearly 4.3 to 4.4 lakh tonnes of tobacco, out of which nearly 95,000 tonnes is virginia tobacco and the remaining tobacco is known as the country tobacco coming from various States including Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Bengal, Bihar and so many other parts of the country. And naturally Guntur is not a place from where the care of the whole of the tobacco could be taken. As far as Virginia tobacco is concerned, of course, 80 per cent of it is being produced in Andhra State around Guntur. So, under the circumstances, if we could have the headquarters at the place which is more accessible to the whole of the country, then it will be possible for us to empower the Tobacco Board to take care not only of Virginia tobacco but also

of the country tobacco. Therefore, it was felt necessary that in view of the likely possibilities of taking over or other tobacco by the Tobacco Board on which subject a committee has been appointed, and it will report in about six months, the Tobacco Board should extend its activity and take care of all other tobacco also. In that event we may have to think of shifting the headquarters. Hence, this amendment has been suggested.

There is one more amendment, and that is regarding the permanent representation on the Tobacco Board. Today there are permanent representatives of Andhra and Karnataka States. Now Gujarat has also started growing virginia tobacco. Therefore, it has been suggested that there should be a permanent representative of that State also on this Board. Besides, for other States, the representations will be by rotation.

The other amendments are just consequential.

There is one more aspect. I had received telegrams after telegrams in the meantime regarding the glut of tobacco in the market. Naturally I had to ask the STC to intervene. Not only that, we have taken one more decision. We have asked the Marketing Federations and Cooperative Societies to enter into the market, and all possible credit facilities have been made available to them to protect the interests of the consumers. Of course, even after taking these steps, we shall have to assess the requirements of the country and the quantity of tobacco which could be exported outside, and to that extent we shall have to regulate the tobacco crop. While giving remunerative prices to farmers, care shall also have to be taken for exports—so far as quality is concerned. Besides, the whole House may be aware that, for the time being, because of the existing system, it is the grower who suffers like anything and it is the middlemen who

[Shri Mohan Dharia]

have earned massive profits, it is they who have been squeezing the growers. As we have done in the case of Coffee Board, similarly we can take care of the tobacco growers through the Tobacco Board.

Having these vital perspectives in mind, I would appeal to the House not to object to these amendments. My friends from Andhra can rest assured that the headquarters will necessarily be in Andhra State and that, for the time being, there is no proposal to shift it from Guntur.

With these words, I move.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to amend the Tobacco Board Act, 1975, be taken into consideration."

Shri Ajitsinh Dabhi.

SHRI AJITSINH DABHI (Anand): Mr. Chairman, I rise to oppose this half-hearted measure which is meant for ameliorating the conditions of tobacco-growing farmers. We all know that the Tobacco Board Act was enacted to help the agriculturists and secure remunerative prices for the tobacco they produce. It is very unfortunate that the Board established under the Act helps only those farmers who grow virginia tobacco. It aims at the well-being of only a very small section of the Indian farmers with the help of public money. The Act, therefore, make a discrimination between the farmers who grow virginia tobacco and those who grow non-virginia tobacco. This violates the equality of opportunity guaranteed by our Constitution. Of course, it is certain that the Treasury Benches would be provoked to say that this Act was brought into being by the previous Government, that is, the Congress Government. But this Janata Government is never weary of proclaiming that the previous Government, that is, the Congress Government, neglected agriculture and agriculturists for the last 30 years and that it is they who have brought de-

mocracy and equality to the people of this nation. Therefore, much more was expected of this Government and they should have come forward with a more comprehensive Amendment Bill so that the farmers whether they grow virginia tobacco or non-virginia tobacco can get remunerative prices for the tobacco they produced. The hon. Minister, Shri Mohan Dharia, who, to my knowledge, hails from Kaira district of Gujarat, is well aware of the fact that Gujarat is the second largest tobacco-producing State in India. Most of the tobacco grown in Gujarat is 'deshi tobacco', that is, non-virginia tobacco. So far as the official figures go, out of 2,00,000 tonnes of non-virginia tobacco produced in the whole of India, Gujarat produces, 1,86,000 tonnes of non-virginia tobacco.

17.26 hrs.

[SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN in the Chair]

But the tobacco growers in Gujarat are not getting even the price of their inputs—labour, fertilisers and so on. The tobacco merchants, traders and brokers purchase the tobacco at a very low price and sell it at a price five or ten times and sometimes even a hundred time of the purchase price, thus making huge profits at the cost of the poor tobacco growers. These tobacco merchants and brokers make payments for the tobacco purchased by them after one year or sometimes even after more than one year and that too, without paying any interest to the poor tobacco growers. Sometimes they devour the whole amount by declaring themselves insolvent. As a matter of fact, a racket of exploiting tobacco-growing farmers is going on in Gujarat. Farmers toiling and sweating on the land are not being rewarded for their toiling and they and their families remain starved or half-starved. Most of the tobacco merchants and brokers flagrantly and openly violate the various provisions of the Gujarat Agriculturists Marketing Act and get away with it. I will give you an instance. One tobacco



merchant-cum-broker purchased from a farmer tobacco worth Rs. 32,000/- and did not pay for it. Then that merchant was prosecuted in a court of law and he was fined Rs. 50/-. To get away with a booty of Rs. 32,000/- by paying just Rs. 50/- must be a lucrative business.

This year, i.e., in the year 1977-78 in Gujarat the tobacco merchants and brokers refused to purchase the tobacco of the small farmers and the farmers belonging to Scheduled Castes and minorities and Kshatriyas. What was the crime committed by them? The only crime committed by them is that, in the last Lok Sabha elections, they voted for the Congress and not for the Janata Party. These tobacco brokers and merchants tell these poor people 'Go to Indira Gandhi: she will get your tobacco sold.' If in any case, the tobacco of these poor farmers is purchased by these merchants, then they purchase it at throw-away price.

I will give you a very glaring instance. Some two months back, i.e., in the month of May, when this Bill was about to be introduced in this House—ultimately it was not introduced—in Nadiad Tehsil in Kaira District, the tobacco merchants and brokers purchased several hundreds of maunds of tobacco at 60 paise per 20 kilograms. I repeat for the benefit of the hon. Minister that the tobacco was purchased not at 60 paise per kg. but at 60 paise per twenty kgs. Such distress sales can only occur in this Janata Raj. The small tobacco growing farmers are now living hand to mouth because thousands of tonnes of their tobacco has remained unsold. If one goes in the countryside in my district, one can see hundreds of maunds of tobacco lying in the fields, farm houses and the warehouses. The poor tobacco growers are looking at these heaps of unsold tobacco and are weeping. These tobacco growers in Gujarat are shedding not tears, but blood. And this Government goes on

saying at the top of its voice that they are for agriculturists and the Janata Government is the savior of agriculturists and farmers. I would also like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the fact that though at the behest of this Government, certain cooperative societies and organizations are prepared to purchase and have declared their intention that they would purchase a few thousand maunds of tobacco, this purchasing of a few thousands of maunds of tobacco will not solve this problem. Nor the appointment of one Member from Gujarat on the Board will solve this problem. I, therefore, request the hon. Minister, in charge of this Bill to stop the passage of this Bill and come forward in this very session with a comprehensive amending Bill doing away with the discrimination between the farmers growing Virginia tobacco and non-Virginia tobacco and providing measures to minimise the exploitation of the tobacco growing farmers all over India.

In the light of what I have stated with regard to the exploitation of the small tobacco growing farmers, I would like to make one suggestion to the hon. Minister. The Excise Department issues TP-3 form for transporting the tobacco. I suggest that a new column should be added in this TP-3 form and it should be made compulsory to mention in this column the rate of the price at which the tobacco is purchased. This will serve as a very important documentary evidence protecting the tobacco growing farmers and this will also go a long way to minimise the exploitation of the tobacco growing farmers. I hope, the hon. Minister will not turn a deaf ear to the woes and wailings of tobacco growing farmers of Gujarat who are not reaping the fruits of their labour.

With these words, I request again to the hon. Minister that he should not go on this Bill, should withdraw it and come forward with a most comprehensive Bill in order to protect the interest of all tobacco growing

[Shri Ajitsinh Dabhi]  
farmers all over India. The passage of this Bill be stopped at the moment.

श्री हुकमदेव नारायण यादव (मधुबनी): इस विधेयक में बुनियादी बात जो कही गई है उसमें सरकार का मंशा स्पष्ट हो जाता है और वह यह है कि वह किसान के प्रति अच्छी दृष्टि रखती है और उसके लिए कुछ करना चाहती है। लेकिन मैं सरकार से यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि कानून में जो बोर्ड बनाया जाए या नीलामी मंच बनाया जाए, या उनके लिए कर्मचारी बहाल किये जाएँ और इसमें फिर यह कहा गया है कि गुजरात को आन्ध्र और कर्नाटक के मुकाबले में बोर्ड में राज्य सरकार का प्रतिनिधि मिले। तो मैं कहना चाहता हूँ हम लोग यह नहीं जानते हैं कि वर्जिनिया तम्बाकू किसकी कहते हैं और दूसरी तम्बाकू कौन सी है। लेकिन हमारे यहाँ बिहार में समस्तीपुर में बहुत ज्यादा तम्बाकू होती है। वैशाली में भी तम्बाकू की खेती होती है। छपरा तक वह रोज चला गया है। जहाँ खेती होती है वहाँ किसानों का जो सुविधा मिलनी चाहिए वह उनकी नहीं मिलती। अगर विधेयक की दृष्टि से यह साफ हो कि किसान की सुविधा मिले, उसको फसल की कीमत अच्छी मिले तब तो दृष्टि अच्छी है और काम प्रशंसनीय है। लेकिन अगर केवल नीलामी मंच बनाने के लिए है जहाँ माल आकर बिके और फिर किसान पर एक पैसा प्रति किला उत्पादन शुल्क लगेगा और दूसरी जगह भी शुल्क लगे तो यह सारे शुल्क किसान पर बढ़ते चले जायेंगे जो कि उचित नहीं है। एक तरफ आप तम्बाकू बोर्ड के काम का विस्तार करते हैं और कहते हैं कि नीलामी मंच बनाने में लगभग 8 लाख रुपये खर्च पड़ेगा और 4 लाख रुपये कर्मचारियों के वेतन पर खर्च होगा और आमदनी केवल 10 लाख रुपये को होगा तो मतलब साफ है कि आपको 2 लाख रुपये का सालाना नुकसान होगा। जहाँ सरकार ने झूठा वहाँ भ्रम। स्वयं आपने वित्तीय ज्ञापन में कहा है कि 8 लाख रु० नीलामी मंच पर खर्च होगा, 4 लाख रु०

कर्मचारियों के वेतन पर खर्च होगा और आमदनी 10 लाख की होगी; जिसका मतलब यह साफ है कि 2 लाख का घाटा होगा और ऊपर से एक नया पैसा प्रति किलो किसानों पर उत्पादन शुल्क लगेगा। तो ऐसा है कि टैक्स भी लगायें, किसानों पर बोझ भी लादिये, उनको उचित कीमत भी न मिले और सरकार को व्यापार में नुकसान भी हो जाए तो यह कैसे चलेगा इस पर सरकार को गहराई से सोचना चाहिए।

दूसरी बात यह है कि जो तम्बाकू बोर्ड बनाते हैं उनमें केवल सरकारी अधिकारी ही रखे जाते हैं। ऐसा मान लिया गया है कि सरकारी अधिकारी या सरकारी महकमे में परामर्श देने वाले ही सबसे ज्यादा बुद्धिमान हैं और जो उत्पादन करता है उसको उसमें रखा नहीं जाता। अगर तम्बाकू बोर्ड बने जहाँ किसान के माल के उत्पादन का सवाल है, उनकी वस्तु की कीमत के निर्धारण का सवाल है वहाँ किसान का प्रतिनिधि नहीं हो यह सबसे बड़ी दुखद बात है। इसलिए किसान की जहाँ वस्तु की कीमत का निर्धारण हो, आप कह रहे हैं जहाँ नीलामी मंच बनेगा उसमें जो रजिस्टर्ड संस्था है वही नीलामी मंच पर आ कर खरीद सकती है और बेच सकती है, बेचने और बिकवाने की शक्ति उसी की होगी, खरीदने और खरीदवाने की शक्ति होगी और आप अपने मंच पर बिक्री करायेंगे और किसान को उसमें किसी स्थान पर शामिल नहीं किया जाएगा, तो यह दुख की बात होगी। किसान के खेत में जो माल पैदा होता है उसकी कीमत का निर्धारण सरकार करती है। और सरकार तय कर दे कि तुम्हारे माल की कीमत यह होगी चाहे उत्पादन लागत कुछ हो, चाहे ओला पानी से उनकी नुकसान हो जाए जब काटने का समय आये, उस समय आकाश से अगर इन्द्र भगवान की कुदृष्टि हो जाए, दो, चार पत्थर और ओले गिर जायें तो तम्बाकू की खेती में सारा परिश्रम बेकार हो जाता है। तो जितने दिन किसान के बाल बच्चे और वह मेहनत, परिश्रम करें और अन्त समय में



घोत्रे गिरने के कारण सारी खेती बरबाद हो जाये तो उसकी गारन्टी सरकार नहीं लेगी लेकिन अगर काश्तकार अपनी फसल काटकर माल बेचने जायेगा तो सरकार कहेगी कि उत्पादन शुल्क दो, सेल्स टैक्स दो, इन्कम टैक्स दो, सरकार जो कीमत तय करेगी, उसी पर माल बेचना होगा। किसान की बरबादी हो तो उसकी जिम्मेदारी सरकार नहीं लेगी लेकिन अगर उत्पादन कर के माल बाजार में लाया जाये तो सरकार किसान के गले को दबोचती है।

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think you should come to the subject matter of the Bill. Time allotted is only two hours and there are a large number of speakers.

श्री हुकमदेव नारायण यादव : मेरा सरकार से यह निवेदन है कि सरकार ने जो यह थोड़ा सा संशोधन किया है, इससे लगता है कि सरकार की मंशा साफ है, नीयत साफ है, यह उस दिशा में आगे बढ़ना चाहती है लेकिन तम्बाकू विधेयक में जो संशोधन लाये गये हैं, उनमें ऐसे व्यापक रूप से संशोधन किये जाने चाहियें जिससे किसान को उचित मूल्य मिले, उसकी फसल की सुरक्षा की गारन्टी दे। मेरा निवेदन है कि सारे मामले में विस्मयपूर्ण कोई ऐसा नियम कानून बने जिससे किसानों की समस्या का समाधान हो। इतना ही मुझे इस बारे में सरकार से कहना है।

SHRI P. ANKINEEDU PRASADA RAO (Bapatla): I am opposing this Bill because this Bill was mainly intended to change the Headquarters from Andhra Pradesh i.e. from Guntur to some other place.

You are aware of the problems of the Tobacco growers. The previous Government had arrived at a decision after giving proper consideration to the matter. They accepted to have

Tobacco Headquarters at Guntur which is a centrally located place especially for the tobacco growers and tobacco traders.

Though the Minister assured that they were not contemplating to shift the Headquarters from Guntur yet the reason given in the Statement of Objects and Reasons is—a frivolous one—that there is no proper railway communication. Guntur is a place from where tobacco growers and tobacco traders were accustomed to deal and it is on the main line from New Delhi to Madras—20 miles from Vijaywada Railway station from which through trains run and Aerodrome is 35 miles from Guntur at Vijayawada. The reason given is that there are no facilities for the officers to go there and come from there. Some vested interest is acting in this regard. May be some members of bureaucracy do not want to travel the place by changing the place. Perhaps, they want to go to the place from where there is direct plane from Delhi. But I find no reason for changing the place from Guntur.

Andhra Pradesh grows 80 per cent of tobacco in the country. Out of this 80 per cent, 70 per cent tobacco is grown within 100 kilometers from Guntur. It is a centrally located place. The Headquarters should not be changed from Guntur. I request the Minister to withdraw the clause which enables the Government to change Headquarters from Guntur to any other place.

The other important aspect in this Bill is auction platform. I appreciate the idea of auction platform but with the necessary infra-structure built up to safeguard the interests of agriculturists. You are aware of the plight of the agriculturists when the voucher system was introduced in the tobacco trade. The same situation may arise after the introduction of the auction platform.

[Shri P. Ankineedu Prasada Rao]

When the voucher system was introduced against the will of the traders, there was no alternative mechanism for the Government. In case the trade is going to boycott in the season, the agriculturists would be forced to sell tobacco at throw away prices because all the traders would unite and oppose voucher system and compel the Government to withdraw it for the year. I do not know what the traders are going to do and how Government is going to react, after the introduction of the auction platform. In the absence of a governmental agency at least to procure 50 per cent of the tobacco in the country, and entering into the domestic market and the export market also, any regulatory measures that are going to be imposed, either through legislation or administrative acts of the government over the Tobacco Board, will, instead of being helpful to the local growers, act the other way.

Also, tobacco trade in the country is in the monopoly of a few houses which control the tobacco trade completely.

If you happen to go there in the tobacco marketing season, you will find this: Every tobacco trader, although he calls himself a tobacco trader, completely depends upon the pricing policy of one company which is having the monopoly of tobacco trade in this country and it is they who regulate the prices. Whatever may be the regulatory measures which the Government is bringing forth, they become useless. Moreover, they are becoming a sort of burden to the agriculturists. Such a situation has been faced by us this year.

Similar situations may arise if auction platforms are brought in, without necessary godown facilities for the agriculturists to show their produce. If the produce is left over in the auction platform, unless the Government is going to purchase the tobacco, assuring them of minimum price, and take over the tobacco from the agri-

culturists, the agriculturist will not be in a position to take back tobacco from the auction platform to his farm house or godown and then bring it to the auction platform. It will cause him not only a large sum, but, by the second time he brings it to the auction platform the quality of the tobacco will go down and his remuneration will also go down.

One important thing that you should understand in tobacco cultivation and tobacco trade is this. Tobacco is not a crop that can be stored by the agriculturists, just like any other crop. Unless the grower disposes it of within a week or 10 days after the tobacco is taken out, its colour will deteriorate, its quality will deteriorate—unless you have dehydration facilities, which only the big companies are having. Therefore, the quality of the tobacco cannot be maintained and remunerative prices cannot go to the agriculturists in this manner.

In the absence of a governmental system, if necessary, to keep it in storage for 6 months or 12 months, in the absence of a governmental agency to purchase tobacco that is left over in the auction platform, in the absence of a governmental agency to enter into the internal as well as the external market, the agriculturists will not benefit.

Today, the external trade is completely controlled by a few foreign buyers. Whatever they may say is law for this country. And the Government, now and then, in the name of STC, enters the market. For their operational or business purposes they buy 5 million k.g. every year. This year, the Government has proposed to enter into purchase of another 10 million k.g. Even that they are not able to meet from the agriculturists. Even now, after so many of assurances, after so much of interference by the Government, tobacco trade is in the hands of these middlemen. It is only from these middlemen that STC

is also buying. Now what has happened is this: They ask them to form themselves into some sort of Syndicate. They call them Agriculturists' Syndicate. From them the STC tries to buy tobacco.

If you go into the list of the members of this Syndicate, what you find is this. These persons who are offering tobacco to the STC are the same old traders and middlemen who used to trade on behalf of big companies.

May I put one question to the hon. Minister? I want to know specifically whether the STC is going to buy from any people who are the suppliers of tobacco. I want to know whether they will buy straight from the agriculturists and not from those dealers who are already suppliers to these big companies. What we find is that much of the tobacco is being given to them alone. This is not providing any relief at all to the poor agriculturists.

This year a particular situation arose in this country. Normally 1.50 million kgs. of tobacco is grown in this country. The cyclone came in November in Andhra Pradesh. Agriculturists were forced to take up tobacco cultivation. There was no other alternative remunerative crop which could be grown after the cyclone. That was why the acreage has gone up a little bit from 2 lakhs of k.g. this year. Due to weather condition, more moisture in the air etc. the quality tobacco grown was a little less. Local tobacco was grown more than the quality tobacco. So, the purchases were made by the monopolist countries rather to meet their own requirements. Most of the low grade tobacco was produced exceptionally more this year. This was still lying idle. The STC promised to purchase 10 million kgs. of tobacco. Another 20 million kgs. of tobacco are still lying idle with the agriculturists. Or that might have gone over in the hands of small traders or the middlemen or whatever that may be. They had to sell at low prices because the agriculturists cannot keep the stocks with them for a very long time.

There are so many governmental regulations. And they would be given warning if they are not able to dispose that of by 30th June of each year. The agriculturists have no facility for the tobacco grading. As a result that will become a waste. For this reason 20 million kg. of tobacco is lying idle in this country. So, some ways and means will have to be thought of to sell that tobacco. Everytime Government enters the market after tobacco crop comes in. But, by that time, most of the crops will go into the hands of the traders. Whatever relief is given by Government is going to the traders by way of profits and nothing is passed on to the agriculturists. If you take the price of last year and compare that with this year's price of tobacco, it will be 25 per cent less than last year's price at which the agriculturists got. That was why the whole system was opposed by many of the companies and finally Government was forced to accede to the request of the agriculturists. Coming to the excise, Madam, Chairman, you know how that is being levied.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You confine yourself to the Bill. There are large numbers of speakers who want to speak.

SHRI P. ANKINEEDU PRASADA RAO: This is connected with uniform levy of excise for all grades of tobacco in this country. In this country, the tobacco is sold at Rs. 7, 8 or so per lb. The exchange rate is the same. That is the reason why they are pushing up the tobacco. Agriculturists will not be able to make use of the concessions if we have too many regulatory measures. They are not going to help the agriculturists at all.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is time that you try to conclude now. Only two hours are allowed for this Bill.

SHRI P. ANKINEEDU PRASADA RAO: This is the only alternative remunerative crop that we can raise in some areas. So, if you restrict the areas, it will lead to a situation when the States, instead of exporting that,



[Shri P. Ankineedu Prasada Rao]

will be forced to import tobacco into the country. If you go to the extent of using the regulatory methods then you must also take into consideration the average consumption of tobacco and the average production of tobacco in this country. As compared to the last four or five years, this year it is exceptional so far as this crop is concerned.

The Minister has brought forth an amendment to the Bill with one particular clause. I request him to withdraw that. There should be proper godowns for storage and auction platforms in regard to tobacco.

With these few words, I conclude.

**डा० रामजी सिंह (भागलपुर) :** सभापति महोदया, तम्बाकू बोर्ड के गठन की मांग संसद में सन् 1972 से ही रही थी और सन् 1974 में इस का गठन किया गया था। यह बात ठीक है—अभी हमारे श्रेष्ठ धारिया साहब जो संशोधन यहां पर लाये हैं, अच्छा होता, जब विधेयक प्रस्तुत किया गया था और उस समय जो सारे मुझाव रखे गये थे, अगर उन को भी आज ध्यान में रख लेते। यह तो मानूम ही है—जैसा उन्होंने कहा कि कार्टिक और आन्ध्र के साथ गुजरात को भी उन्होंने एक जगह दी है, जैसे कि उन के पास प्रांकड़े होंगे, जहां तक विभिन्न प्रान्तों में तम्बाकू के उत्पादन का सम्बन्ध है—सन् 1976-77 में आन्ध्र प्रदेश में 710, बिहार में 813, गुजरात में 1659, कार्टिक में 718, तमिलनाडू में 1404, उत्तर प्रदेश में 850 और वेस्ट बंगाल में 1007 उत्पादन रहा, लेकिन यहां पर तो वर्जिनिया त-बाकू का सम्बन्ध है, और यह बात ठीक है कि जहां तक इस के उत्पादन का मवाल है, हम लोग सम्पूर्ण दुनिया के उत्पादन का छठा भाग भारत बर्ष में उत्पादित करते हैं, जिस का 80 फीसदी भाग आन्ध्रप्रदेश में होता है और गुण्डूर में सब से ज्यादा उपजता है। इसी लिए यहां पर इस का मुद्दालय रखा

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गया है। अगर उस को आप सुविधा के दृष्टिकोण से कहीं और रखना चाहते हैं, तो वह भी ठीक है। लेकिन आप ने यह भी अच्छा कहा है कि उस का मुद्दालय आन्ध्र में ही कहीं पर रखा जाएगा, क्योंकि आन्ध्र ही इस का सब से बड़ा उत्पादक है। लेकिन जब आप पिछली डिबेट्स को देखेंगे तो उस समय विभिन्न राज्यों के प्रतिनिधियों ने बताया था कि उन के राज्यों में भी इस प्रकार का उत्पादन होता है, और उस को भी ध्यान में रखा जाए। मैं समझता हूँ जब टुरको-बोर्ड के इस विधेयक का संशोधन किया जा रहा है तो इन बातों पर जरा और गम्भीरता पूर्वक ध्यान रखा जाये। इतना जल्दोबाजों में संशोधन न किया जाए। जैसा कि हमारे और कई मित्रों ने कहा है—कई बातें उस समय रखी गई थीं, जिन में एक मवाल यह भी है जो मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से कहना चाहूंगा, खास कर सर्टिफिकेट आफ रजिस्ट्रेशन देने का जहां तक सम्बन्ध है, उस समय जो विधेयक प्रस्तुत किया गया था, तब यह बात रखी गई थी कि सर्टिफिकेट आफ रजिस्ट्रेशन का अगर उठा दिया जाए तो लोगों को स्वतन्त्रता होगी और उत्पादन में भी ज्यादा वृद्धि हो सकेगी। यह तो मानूम ही है, जो बड़े दुब की बात है, हमारे कामरेड श्री उपनिर्माय बसु भी कह रहे थे, और जैसा मंत्री जी ने भी कहा है—पिछले वर्ष के समय में तम्बाकू के व्यापार में, खास कर जो इस का उत्पादन करने वाले हैं, उन को काफी घाटा उठाना पड़ा। इन लिए इस संशोधन में उन के लिए यह भी उपबन्ध हाना चाहिए कि किस प्रकार से तम्बाकू उत्पादकों को उचित मूल्य दिया जाएगा और जो बिचिलिए हैं वे उन के पैसों को बन्द नहीं कर सकेंगे।

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think you need more time. You may continue your speech tomorrow.

18 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, July 18, 1978/Asadha 27, 1900 (Saka).