

15.02 hrs.

RESOLUTION RE: PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM TO CHECK RISING PRICE—Contd.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we take up further discussion on the following resolution moved by Shrimati Ahilya P. Rangnekar on the 28th July, 1978:—

'This House expresses its grave concern at the steep rise in the prices of all essential commodities like pulses, edible oils, milk, cloth, footwear, soap, etc. and fall in the prices of all commercial crops like sugarcane, cotton, tobacco etc. and recommends that, with a view to protect the primary producers as well as the consumers, all essential commodities be procured through the State Governments at fair price from the producers and distributed to the consumers through an effective public distribution system supervised by People's Committees to be set up for this purpose'.

Shri Rajagopal Naidu will continue this speech.

श्री विनायक प्रसाद यादव : इस पर पहले प्रमोटर्स को सूच करके दिया जाए।

समाप्ति सहोदय : इसके प्रमोटमेंट हो चुके हैं।

Mr. Naidu, you please continue .

SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU (Chittoor): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have already told you that the peasant's interests were very much affected because of the policy of this Government.

When we take the case of sugarcane growers, tobacco growers or the jute growers and cotton producers or producers of any other agricultural commodity, they are undergoing many difficulties because of the downfall in the prices. Government has not taken any interest to protect the agriculturists by declaring the minimum prices and guaranteeing those prices, the

minimum prices which have been declared as the remunerative prices.

Therefore, we have not defined what is the minimum price. The minimum price must be a remunerative price. Unless the minimum price is remunerative, it will be very difficult for the agriculturists to get back even the expenditure that they are incurring. In the absence of the crop insurance, the agriculturists are put to a great loss. Recently, there were floods in Northern India; there was a cyclone in Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Tamilnadu Kerala and Laccadive. There was no protection given for the agriculturists. When natural calamities take place, Government should take steps to see that they are protected. Also they should see that the prices will be guaranteed to them. Government is restricting the exports of various agricultural commodities saying that unless the consumers are satisfied here, it may not be possible for them to export any agricultural commodity. Let us take for instance the conditions of the consumers. Consumer's prices are rising very rapidly and Government is not able to stabilise even the consumer prices. Therefore, in the name of consumers, they are hitting hard the agriculturists. Neither the consumers are benefited nor the agriculturists are benefited.

Therefore, there must be a way-out. With regard to the agriculturists, there must be an Agricultural Commodity Price Stabilisation Corporation, which will declare minimum prices which are remunerative and Government should guarantee those prices by purchasing all the surpluses. For example, there is Gur. Price of gur has fallen down and government was not able to do anything. When government is not capable of doing anything, then it must leave it to be the private traders to find market for it in other countries.

I must tell the Commerce Minister that today we are surplus in wheat

and in rice also we are going to become surplus. I have been to Hissar and found a great development there. A new variety for rice has been developed which will have 24 spikes in place of 12 earlier and each spike will have five grains in place of the traditional three grains. When this variety is popularised the production will get trebled. I was told by the Hissar and Ludhiana universities authorities that they can popularise this new variety in three years. We may take it as five or six years, even then by the end of Sixth Five Year Plan our production will get trebled. Further another 8 million hectares of land will be brought under rice cultivation. We will also be becoming surplus in other crops as well. So, my point is what is the Government going to do in respect of these commodities. Whether the Commerce Minister is contemplating of finding external markets. Unless external markets are found out and we export agricultural commodities, it is not possible to maintain the price level. Therefore, I urge upon the Commerce Minister to see that external markets are found out and minimum prices are declared at remunerative level and surpluses are purchased without any hesitation.

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat): Sir, the Resolution deals with three very important and major aspects, namely, the steep rise of the prices of essential commodities; fall in prices of the commercial crops; and expansion of the public distribution system.

Since you have put a time-limit on my speech I would not like to discuss all the three aspects. I shall make an endeavour to highlight a particular aspect, namely, the fall of prices of commercial crops.

Sir, you will find that there is crash of prices of commercial crops and if I have got enough time I can show from the press reports that there has been a tremendous opposition and popular protest against the Govern-

ment policy. Further, Sir, you will find that Government's policies have resulted in the fall of prices of commercial crops. My point is that there is a paradox in it in economic terms. This paradox is revealed by the fact that while the prices of sugarcane have fallen, the prices of levy sugar have been increased; while the prices of raw cotton have fallen, the price of cotton cloth has increased; while the price of raw jute remains today more or less stagnant, the prices of jute manufacture continues to increase. This is the paradox and this is the reality also.

My second point is to quantify how this kind of disparity operates between the agricultural products and the industrial goods. I want to quantify these things. I have got these figures. I have got the index of the manufactured goods and the agricultural products. May I have the hon. Minister's attention to this point? All along we find that there has been this disparity in respect of the index of agricultural products compared with industrial products. Look at this figure. In 1971-72, the index of manufactured goods was 109.5. The agricultural products index was 100. In 1972-73 the figures were 121 and 110 respectively. In 1973-74 these were 139 and 139.2. In 1974-75 these were 168 and 169. In 1975-76 these were 171 and 157. In 1976-77 these were 175 and 158. I quote it from the Economic Survey of 1977-78. It will be evident from this chart that except for the drought years of 1973 to 1975 (when agricultural production speedily declined and prices showed sharp increase) in all other years, the wholesale prices of agricultural commodities have all along been lower than those of industrial commodities.

I also like in this connection to mention certain facts regarding the year 1977. I will give it month-wise. In April 1977, the figures of manufactured products and agricultural products remained at 177 and 171. In

[Shri Chitta Basu]

May, this was 180 and 178. For all months upto December 1977 it will be found that the index of manufactured products were higher than that of agricultural products. Sir, this divergence was there. This continues to grow. This is one of the mechanisms by which the industrial and commercial bourgeoisie exploits sharply and fiercely the poor peasants of this country. What are the basic reasons? I don't want to dilate much as my time is short. My charge against this Government is this. Instead of reducing this gap between industrial and agricultural products, the Government is increasing this gap. This is because of the fact that the Government wants to continue free trade. The result has been much more disastrous. Of late, during the past few months, the Government has taken a policy which will ultimately increase this gap. They have resorted to the policy of removal of controls, dismantling of food zones, abandoning levies, relinquishing procurement quotas curtailing the operation of State Purchase Agencies, winding up the cotton monopoly purchase scheme in Maharashtra, liberalising credit to the hoarders and speculators and finally, giving full scope to free trade to freely loot the people. Yesterday, the announcement was made on decontrol of sugar. While the hon. Minister says about expanding the public distribution system, the Government policy is to contract it, to narrow it further down. Therefore, this is my charge. The Government should revive and expand its public distribution system and these objectives should be kept in view while deciding on that:

(1) Remunerative price for peasants' produce guaranteed through the operation of State purchase agencies.

(2) Complete parity between prices of industrial commodities and agricultural products.

(3) Reduction of retail prices to a level not exceeding fifteen per cent of the wholesale price.

(4) State take-over of wholesale trade in foodgrains.

(5) Extension of public distribution system for essential commodities including the agricultural inputs.

Finally, this can only be done if we have the nationalisation programme for textile, sugar, jute and foreign drug industries.

I hope, the hon. Minister will take note of my suggestions and accordingly review his policy so that the prices can be brought within the reach of the common man.

PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR (Gandhinagar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, this Private Members' Business gives us an opportunity to discuss important issues which are basic to the lives of the people, and I might be permitted to say that we should congratulate ourselves that at least through the agency of Private Members' Business, we can focus the attention of this Parliament and of this Government to some of the important economic problems of the country. And, therefore, I would like to congratulate my good friend, Shrimati Ahilya P. Rangnekar for not only bringing before this House a very comprehensive Resolution, but for doing so in a very neat and concise and balanced way bringing in all the important aspects of the matter and in drawing the attention of the hon. Minister for Commerce and Civil Supplies to this important matter.

It is a great tragedy, we in this Parliament—at least I am watching this for the last some months with great pain—are giving an impression to our fellow countrymen that we seem to be interested more in politically hot issues rather than the fundamental issues which concern the

lives of the people and that is why, although this is a Private Members' Business, we should take this occasion to assert this point that we as people's representatives are concerned more about their fundamental problems of life and death rather than making a political point and playing a game at somebody's expense.

Having said that, I must also say, during the limited time at my disposal that let the Minister of Commerce and Civil Supplies, Shri Mohan Dharia, not believe as, I am afraid, many of his colleagues in Janata Party Government are believing that everything is all right, that prices are going down and people are not suffering from rising prices. It is one thing to say that the people are not suffering from rising prices, but it is totally different to feel a pinch of the thing when you go to the people. My speech and your statement will not satisfy them. It is only when they go out and literally pay less and get more and get better quality in the market, that they will be satisfied that what the Janata Government is doing is right and honest. I am sorry to say, that although it is almost one and a half years since Janata Party and my friends have come to power, I must say with great regret that the change is not appreciable and visible.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: And the change is also not on correct lines.

PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR: I shall not go into that aspect, because the time at my disposal is very short.

The point is that the difference between what happened before March 1977 and what is happening now since this Government came in power,—the difference in terms of what they claim—is not appreciable and visible. And it is true, perhaps, that compared to the Emergency situation, goods are available today, in some respects. But it does not necessarily make them cheaper. The cost of the goods avail-

able is very much high and beyond the reach of people who want to buy them. Therefore, until you see to it that supplies are not only increased, but that even the prices of the commodities are lowered in such a way that the producer also does not suffer, you will not be helping the people. The Resolution is good in this respect. It talks about both the producers as well as the consumers. Not only the consumers, but the producers also are suffering. I can understand it if producers are suffering, but the consumers are benefited. But, here, both suffer while the bureaucracy and the middle-men make the most of the situation. It is no use the Minister telling us: "Don't blame bureaucracy all the time". He has to deal with bureaucracy; and so, he may say that. I don't blame him for it. But he should not forget that his own reputation is at stake.

My complaint about Mr. Mohan Dhari is that he has all along, for the last 15 months, been giving warnings after warnings. My question is whether we should call him Minister of Commerce and Civil Supplies, or as Minister of Warnings also, in addition. My warnings and his warnings are two different things. My warning has only a limited connotation. But his warning is backed up by his being—and his Janata Party being—in power. Why should he not use that power and see that hoarders and middle-men—people who hoard not merely because of selfishness but also because of anti-social tendencies—are brought to book? Has he forgotten his reputation as a Young Turk? If not, he should take steps and set right things, and not plead helplessness in the matter. If he pleads helplessness, I will only say that he should improve. He must improve, because I feel that both the producers and consumers are suffering; and both of them are not getting their due shares.

There is a good emphasis in the Resolution, on making the public distribution system effective. I am afraid

[Prof. P. G. Mavalankar]

the impression that I get—judging from the position in my own State; perhaps it is true of all the States also—is that many things are happening in the name of public distribution, but that in actual practice, they are only on paper. The benefits do not reach the people. In large cities and bigger towns, where the economically weaker sections and poor people are expected to get the benefit of this public distribution agency, they are not getting it. Part of the reason for this is the attitude of the bureaucracy, and another part of the reason is the built-in-weakness of the people belonging to weaker sections themselves. They do not have the strength and power to get united. There is no strong consumer movement even in big cities like Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi and Madras—as also Ahmedabad and Bangalore—what to talk of such a movement in small towns and villages! Let him, therefore, not take advantage of the unorganised character of the weaker sections among the consumers. Wherever bureaucracy needs improvement, he should take steps to bring it—about, and make the public distribution system effective.

I am very happy that the Resolu-

tion also mentions, at the end, that this system should be supervised by people's committees to be set up for this purpose. It was Lok Nayak Jayaprakash who has given this idea to us. Of course, beginning from Gandhiji the idea is there; but J.P. has made it relevant to the situation. Until people are made alive to this and are made conscious about this no Government, not even the Janata Party Government can do much. We must also take it up as a challenge, not only for Mr. Mohan Dharia, but also for each one of us. We should see that in our respective areas we do our best to see that good supervisory committees are there, which will go into the working of this system and give advice and warnings, and give information to the Government, and tell Government as to where things

have gone wrong, and what steps should be taken. —

If the government does not take steps, then people's committees can sit in judgement over them. Every party has to take heed; at the time of the next elections, people will sit in judgement over their performance and that will be really control of the people over the government. I hope this Resolution pinpoints not only government's responsibilities but also our responsibilities, people's rights and duties in respect of these very important matters concerning economic betterment of the people of this country.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This motion was given 44 minutes for today's discussion and only 18 minutes are left in which the hon. Minister is to speak.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Time may be extended by one hour.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is it the pleasure of the House that time should be extended for this motion by one hour.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: So we have one hour more for this resolution.

SHRI P. K. KODIYAN (Adoor): As the time at my disposal is short, I will not go into details by quoting figures, etc. I really feel sympathy for the hon. Minister my good friend Shri Mohan Dharia. He had been waxing eloquent over the public distribution system almost over since he took over civil supplies. In the last one year, as Prof. Mavalankar had pointed out no distribution system has come into existence. I am reminded of a story; a villager kept all the valuables in a trunk; a thief stole that trunk. When neighbours went and expressed their sympathies to him, he told them don't worry; I have got the key though the trunk had gone. Like that our hon. Minister has got only the public distribution system; he has failed to commandeer essential items

that are to be supplied through that system.... (Interruptions). I am saying that unless essential items of consumer goods are procured by the government, there cannot be a public distribution system worth the name; so long as government fails to take possession of the articles of mass consumption, it will remain only on paper. Therefore, I request the hon. Minister to persuade his own colleagues in the Cabinet to help his proposal for a public distribution system by reversing the policy now being pursued by the governments, i.e., a policy of free trade and decontrol. The Financial Express comments about the public distribution system in these terms:

"According to available information the new policy will not in any way improve the lot of the hard pressed consumer for the simple reason that the government has not been able to commandeer any essential commodity for distribution through the vast fair price shop network."

The paper gives examples. The hon'ble Minister had a proposal to distribute pulses through the public distribution system and that proposal was turned down by the Ministry of Agriculture saying that there were not enough pulses.

Similarly there was a proposal to distribute edible oils. But the only thing he has in his possession is rapeseed oil, which is not very much in demand by the consumers. He had much expectation of distributing sugar, but that has been taken away by Shri Barnala by decontrol of sugar. If you go on like this, the public distribution system will remain only on paper. Of course, the Minister has recently been speaking about cooperative societies and marketing societies entering into the field and procuring various commodities. But in a vast country like ours the cooperative and marketing societies have not yet come under a reliable working sys-

tem so as to be able to procure all essential articles. Therefore, I would again plead with the Minister to concentrate on this vital aspect of commandeering and procuring goods so that the public distribution system will work. Otherwise, it will definitely fail.

डा० रामजी सिंह (भागलपुर) : समापति महोदय, श्रीमती प्रहिल्या जी का जो संकल्प यहाँ प्रस्तुत है, वह सब से ज्यादा गृहिणी महिलाओं की चिंता के विषय में सम्बन्धित है और उन्हीं की चिंता को दूर करने के लिए यह लाया गया है। आवश्यक वस्तुओं की जब तक उपलब्धि नहीं होती है तब तक घरों में कुछ चीज तैयार नहीं हो पाती है।

1973 में प्रॉग्नोसिस कमोडिटीज एंड घ्राटिकल्स घ्राफ मास कंजम्पशन पर एक कमेटी बैठी जिसके चैयरमैन हमारे वर्तमान वाणिज्य मंत्री श्री मोहन धारिया जी थे। उसने अपनी रिपोर्ट दो घ्राइय व्रव से भी सौभाग्य की बात है कि स्वयं धारिया जी व्रव देश के वाणिज्य मंत्री हैं जिनको उस रिपोर्ट को लागू करना है। अगर व्रव भी वह रिपोर्ट लागू नहीं होती है तो हम क्या मानेंगे, इसको वहाँ समझ सकते हैं।

जहाँ तक आवश्यक वस्तुओं की उपलब्धि का प्रश्न है, इस के तीन उद्देश्य हैं। एक तो यह है कि आवश्यक चीजों का प्रभाव न रहे और वे हमें मिलती रहें ताकि गरीबों को राहत मिले जिससे विपत्तता कम हो। दूसरा यह है कि यह जो कीमतों का बढ़ाव होता है, उसके बाद फिर मंहगाई भला उसके पीछे चलता है और फिर उसके कारण मुद्रास्फीति होती है। इस सब से देश में घ्रायिक संकट उत्पन्न होता है। इस तरह से घ्रायिक दुष्चक्र चलना है और चीजों का प्रभाव होता है। जब आवश्यक चीजों की उपलब्धि निश्चित और सही मूल्य पर नहीं होती तो फिर सरकार मंहगाई भले की मांग को भी नहीं रोक सकती। जब सरकार इस मांग को नहीं रोक सकती तो फिर मुद्रास्फीति भी नहीं रुक पाती। जब मुद्रास्फीति नहीं रुकेगी तो फिर घ्रायिक संकट भी दूर नहीं हो सकता है। इसलिए यही आवश्यक है कि प्रॉग्नोसिस कमोडिटीज की सही मूल्य पर उपलब्धि हो। यह चीज देश में घ्रायिक संकट को दूर करने के लिए परमावश्यक है।

समापति जी, स्पष्ट है कि हिन्दुस्तान में मुद्रास्फीति के घ्रांके बराबर बढ़ते गये हैं। 1970-71 में रेट घ्राफ इन्फ्लेशन 5.5 परसेंट था, 71-72 में 4 परसेंट और 76-77 में यह 8 परसेंट था। इस तरह से जब मुद्रास्फीति बढ़ी तो मंहगाई भी बढ़ती गयी। इसी तरह से होलसेल की प्राइसिंग भी बढ़ती रही। जनरल

[810 रायची विधि]

जनरल इन्फ्लेशन आफ् होलसेल प्रोड्यूसिस् को ध्यान देखें। 1971-72 में यह 105.6 था 1972-73 में 116.2, 1973-74 में 139.7, 1974-75 में 174.4, 1975-76 में 173.7 और 1976-77 में 176.8। इस तरह से धाप देखें कि यह बढ़ता ही चला गया है। ऐसी स्थिति में नोकरी बेधा जो लोग हैं वे क्यों न महंगाई भत्ते की मांग करें? तब धाप कहीं बे हड़ताल करते हैं ठीक नहीं होगा। इसलिए अगर धाप प्राथिक संकट को दूर करना चाहते हैं तो सांभजनिक इस्तेमाल की जो—वस्तुएं हैं उनकी उपलब्धि की धोर धापको ध्यान देना होगा धोर उचित कीमतों में वे उपलब्ध हो सकें इसको देखना होगा। हर एक जगह इसको धापको प्रबन्ध करना होगा। बुध्दार्थ से जो कंट्रोल की चीजें हैं, सार्वजनिक वस्तुएं हैं वे शहरों में ही उपलब्ध कराई जाती हैं। नायडू साहब को कृषि से बहुत स्नेह है। वे मानते कि गांवों में यह भयवस्था नहीं क बराबर है। जो ग्रामीण वस्तुएं हैं, कृषि की वस्तुएं हैं उनकी कीमतों का धापको प्रौद्योगिक उत्पादन के साथ सन्तुलन रखना होगा। जब तक यह नहीं होता है तब तक धाप चाहें कि कृषि अन्य वस्तुओं के मूल्य कम रहें तो यह नहीं हो सकेगा।

Prices of agricultural commodities cannot be stabilised without stabilisation of the prices of fertilisers pesticides and other inputs and manufactured goods.

ध्राज तक होता यह रहा है कि प्रौद्योगिक उत्पादनों के दाम बढ़ते चले गए हैं लेकिन कृषि जन्य वस्तुओं के दाम बहुत ही कम बढ़े हैं उन दोनों में बहुत अन्तर रहा है। सबुन के दाम तथा दूसरी चीजों के दाम तो बढ़ा दिए गए लेकिन ध्रनाज के दाम कम कर दिए गए। इस बास्ते अगर प्रौद्योगिक वस्तुओं और कृषि जन्य वस्तुओं के दामों में ध्राप सन्तुलन बनाए नहीं रख सके तो भारत का जो प्राथिक संकट है इसको ध्राप कभी दूर नहीं कर सकेंगे।

मैं यह भी समझता हूँ कि जो पब्लिक डिस्ट्रीब्यूशन सिस्टम है इसके लिए ध्राप पंचायती राज सिस्टम, लोकल आथोरिटीज, कोप्रोप्रेटिव ग्रुपमेंट, सब को ध्राप संगठित करें। ग्रहिल्या बोदी ने जो सुझाव दिया है कि जन समितियों को ध्राप संगठित करें वह भी बहुत अच्छा सुझाव है ध्रोर उसको भी ध्रापको कार्यान्वित करना चाहिये। ध्राज कंट्रोल की दुकानों गांवों में छंटाचार का एक केन्द्र बन गई हैं। गरीब लोगों को बड़ा से कुछ मिलता ही नहीं है। ध्रमीर लोग जो सकेवपोषा हैं उन्हीं को मिलता है। चीनी तथा हर दूसरी चीज जो बड़ा उपलब्ध है वह उन्हीं को मिलती है। ध्रब तो चीनी पर से कंट्रोल को ध्राप खत्म कर रहे हैं। एक तरफ ध्राप बह कर रहे हैं ध्रोर दूसरी तरफ सांभजनिक उपयोग

की वस्तुओं की उपलब्धि की कम बोधक बन रहे हैं। इन दोनों में लगता है कि स्वीडियोकेनिक ध्राप-विधियोंकी बच रही है। ध्रापको सोचना होगा कि क्या हम डिस्ट्रोल करके पर्याप्त मात्रा में ध्रोर उचित दामों में उस चीज को उपलब्ध करा सकते हैं? अगर ऐसा न हुआ तो सबभूष में बहुत नुक्सान होगा। ध्रापको देखना होगा कि डिस्ट्रोल करने से किसी तरह का नुक्सान न हो। एसेशियल कमोडिटीज ध्राज दिल्ली में तथा दूसरे शहरों में मिल जाती है। हम यहां से सुपर बाजार से उनको गांवों तक में ले जाते हैं जहां यह सुविधा उपलब्ध नहीं है। ग्रामीण इलाकों में ध्रापको इस चीज को फैलाने को प्राथमिकता देनी होगी।

यह बहुत ही महत्व का विषय है। हम लोग जब कहते हैं कि सरकार द्वारा सार्वजनिक उपयोग की वस्तुओं की उपलब्धि की व्यवस्था की जानी चाहिये तो कुछ लोग हैं जो कहते हैं कि इससे डिस्ट्रोरिपि ध्रा जाएगा। ऐसी बात नहीं है। इंग्लैंड में भी सेंसस ध्राफ डिस्ट्रीब्यूशन सिस्टम के मुताबिक 2.6 मिलियन लोग केवल एसेशियल कमोडिटीज की दुकानों में काम करते हैं ध्रोर वहां 4 लाख 7 हजार रिटेल एस्टेबलिशमेंट्स हैं। वहां मल्टीपल ट्रेडिंग सिस्टम है, कोप्रोप्रेटिव सेक्टर है, डिपार्टमेंट स्टोर हैं, सुपर मार्केट्स हैं, हाइपर मार्केट्स हैं, जहां एक लाख एस्केयर की फत की दुकानें हैं, मोबाइल शॉप्स हैं, ध्राटोमेटिक बंडिंग मशीज हैं। यह कहना कि केवल समाजवादी देशों में ए एस एस ध्राप में ही है, ठीक नहीं होगा। कनाडा में, जापान में इस तरह की दुकानें हैं। जापान में 64 परसेंट रिटेल इस्टेबलिशमेंट्स हैं जिन में केवल एक ध्रादमी रहता है, 3.7 परसेंट ऐसी दुकानें हैं जिन में दस दस ध्रादमी रहते हैं। जापान में भी डिपार्टमेंटल स्टोर हैं, सुपर मार्केट्स हैं, सेंफ सर्विस स्टोर हैं।

जैसा उन्होंने सुझाव दिया है जिसका मैं समर्थन करता हूँ, इसको ध्राप को ज्यादा से ज्यादा फैलाना चाहिए। ध्रोर हर दुकान पर एक पीपुल्स विजिलेंस कमेटी को उसके साथ रखें। यह नहीं जैसा पिछली सरकार कर्ती थी ध्रपने एजेन्ट्स को लगा देती थी। इसलिये सर्वदलीय भावना से इस पर विचार करना चाहिये।

SHRI BEDABRATA BARUA (Kaliabore): Mr. Chairman, the Indian situation is full of exploitation of an extent which we hardly find anywhere in the world. The traditional imperialism was to purchase raw materials at low price and sell manufactured goods at high prices. The Indian industry has continued that tradition of imperialism of selling manufactured goods at high prices in the world and purchasing agricultural commodities at very

low prices. Therefore, any parallel with other capitalist countries would not arise, because in other capitalist countries manufactured goods are sold at the lowest possible prices... (Interruptions). Today they sell manufactured goods to our own people at fairly good prices, competitive prices because of world competition. They get the agricultural commodities at the lowest price possible and process them and sell the manufactured goods at a very high price.

It is beside the point to say that what we are trying to do is something which is not found outside the socialist countries, as the hon. Member who spoke before said. Once an agricultural good is slightly processed, be it sugarcane or tobacco, they sell it at the highest price. In fact, it cannot be sold in the outside world without subsidy, as in the case of sugar.

What is the reason for this? Where does this huge amount go? This huge amount goes into the biggest cesspool of corruption. This goes to the middlemen. The Indian middlemen are the most despicable of all the middlemen in the world, because their margin is not 1 per cent, 2 per cent or 4 per cent, but 200 to 400 per cent; this is the nature of the Indian middlemen. We have developed the institution of black money which facilitates the functioning of middlemen. When the manufacturer buys the raw material, he pays to the middle men both under the table and over the table; when the finished goods are sold in the market, then also he pays the middlemen both over and under the table. The manufacturer sells it to the middlemen at a higher price and because of the sheltered nature of the market they reap huge profits. Therefore, black money is continuously created in the industrial sector. It is not even a few hundred crores but literally thousands of crores of rupees.

Therefore, this exploitation is there, and it can be ended only if there is political will. The money in the hands

of the companies, which are now being converted into black money, that can be stopped if there is public distribution system. Because, when the companies purchase from the public distribution system, or sell to the public distribution system, money cannot pass under the table. So, the whole black money economy would be paralysed.

Now, so far as luxury goods are concerned, it is a good device for transfer of black money. A man who purchases a motor car pays in black money and in that way, black money is transferred from one area to another. Nearly 80 per cent of the motor cars are purchased only with black money. So also, in the case of air-conditioners there is black money transference.

I know that this is a very difficult problem. The ruling classes—I do not exclude the party to which I belong—in India are true and true with feudalism under these traders' control and all these type of things. We also in this Parliament have failed to understand the basic urges of the people because we represent sometimes the landlords, sometimes the caste and this and that factor. Because of that type of character, we have never had the political will to implement this. That is why whenever this type of public distribution system is created, we see to it that it gets sabotaged. I am sorry to say that. It is because of the sabotaging of the public distribution system continuously over the years that it has been discredited; the worst goods will be purchased, they will be sold in a bad way, they will be spoiled, worst commodity, worst wheat, after one or two years of stocking, when it gets spoiled, it will be sold through the public distribution system, which as a result gets discredited.

All that I would say is that it should be done, it must be done, it can be done, it will have to be done. If there is any political challenge before us, this is the one. This one system can sweep away all the experiences of a

[Shri Bedabrata Barua]

dirty system that India had and all other talk is a mere talk and this is the real thing that can bring about a massive change in our economy.

श्री सुबराज (कटिहार) : समाप्त महोदय, आवश्यक वस्तुओं के भावों में वृद्धि और उन के वितरण के सम्बन्ध में जो प्रस्ताव सदन में प्रस्तुत किया गया है, मैं उसका समर्थन करने के लिए बड़ा हूँ।

माननीय मंत्री श्री मोहन धारिया, ने एक राष्ट्रव्यापी कार्यक्रम की घोषणा की कि किस प्रकार वितरण की प्रणाली को समुचित व्यवस्था की जायेगी और मूल्यों को स्थिर रखा जायेगा। लेकिन इस के बावजूद भाव तेजी से बढ़ रहे हैं और थोक भावों के सूचकांक में भी काफी वृद्धि हुई है—20 मई को समाप्त होने वाले सप्ताह में जहां उन का सूचकांक 182.3 था, वहां 24 जून तक वह 184.8 हो गया है। इससे प्रकट होता है कि डेढ़ दो महीनों के दौरान थोक भावों के सूचकांक में काफी वृद्धि हुई है। औद्योगिक कच्चे माल के थोक भावों में भी काफी वृद्धि हुई है। सामूहिक भावों के सूचकांक में गत साल की अपेक्षा निश्चिन्त रूप से कुछ कमी हुई है—जून, 1977 में वह 188 था और जून, 1978 में वह गिर कर 184 हो गया है। लेकिन खाद्यान्नों के भावों का सूचकांक 164.7 से बढ़ कर 171.4 पर आ गया है। दाल की कीमतें तो बतहाशा बढ़ी हैं। उन का सूचकांक 178.5 से बढ़ कर 236.6 पर आ गया है। इसी प्रकार खाद्य तेल के भाव का सूचकांक 105 से बढ़ कर 161.7 पर आ गया है। निमित्त वस्तुओं के भाव में 77 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि हुई है। दूध के भाव का सूचकांक 105.9 से बढ़ कर 301.9 पर आ गया है।

यदि हम वर्तमान स्थिति की तुलना 1976 से करें, तो उपभोक्ताओं की दुर्दशा का अनुमान लगाना बहुत आसान होगा। दूरवर्ती ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में रहने वाले लोगों की स्थिति बहुत भयावह है। सरकार की ओर से कहा जाता है कि 2 लाख 30 हजार के करीब दुकानें चलती हैं। लेकिन गांवों में कितनी दुकानें चलती हैं? गांवों में जिन दुकानों के द्वारा खाद्यान्नों, फेरोसोन धातु और चीनी प्रादि की आपूर्ति की जाती है, वे दुकानें प्रायः बंद हैं। हम दिल्ली में रहते हैं। बड़े नगरों, जिला नगरों, सब-डिविजनल स्तरों और ब्लॉक में केवल मुखिया तक तो ये चीजें पहुंच जाती हैं, लेकिन देहात में न साबुन मिलता है, और न रेपसोड का तेल मिलता है। छः महीने में 200 करोड़ रुपये का रेपसोड धातु धायाव किया गया था। अब स्थिति यह है कि कुछ सरसों का तेल नहीं मिलता है। दोनों मिला कर लोग बेचते हैं और नतीजा यह है कि बंगाल, बिहार, उड़ीसा जहां सरसों के तेल से हमारा एक सांस्कृतिक संबंध है, जन्म से लेकर मृत्यु तक जिस का उपयोग हम करते हैं, वह आज बाजार

में नहीं मिलता। दाल की स्थिति यह है कि कोई गरीब धारणी धातु दाल खरीद नहीं सकता। दाल की कीमत धातु देखें, दिल्ली के धातु जो सब से सस्ता धातु बाजार है उस के धातु 1978 में मूंग की छली दाल मिलती थी 8 रुपये 20 पैसे किलो, धातु उस का भाव 4 रुपये 50 पैसे किलो हो गया। दाल उड़द 3 रुपये 40 पैसे से 3 रुपये 60 पैसे की वह धातु 4 रुपये 30 पैसे से 4 रुपये 80 पैसे किलो बिकने लगी है। काबुली चना 3 रुपये 40 पैसे किलो के भाव बिकता था, वह धातु 4 रुपये 50 पैसे से 6 रुपये 50 पैसे किलो के भाव बिकने लगा है। मसूर का भाव 2 रुपये 25 पैसे से 2 रुपये 40 पैसे प्रति किलो था, वह धातु 4 रुपये प्रति किलो बिक रहा है। राज में का भाव 2 रुपये 30 पैसे था, वह धातु 5 रुपये 90 पैसे किलो हो गया है। चावल का भाव भी बढ़ गया है। बासमती चावल का भाव जो उस समय 3 रुपये 50 पैसे से 3 रुपये 90 पैसे प्रति किलो था वह धातु बढ़ कर 4 रुपये 50 पैसे से 6 रुपये 50 पैसे प्रति किलो हो गया है। जीरा जो 10 रुपये किलो था वह धातु 22 से 24 रुपये किलो हो गया है। हल्दी का पैकट जहां 6 रुपये में मिलता था वह धातु 13 रुपये में मिलता है।

मैं हम धातु से यह कहना चाहते हैं कि यह स्पष्ट है कि अपेक्षाकृत स्थिरता का दावा वास्तविकता की प्रसिद्धि मात्र है। कोयले का भी धातु जानते हैं क्या हान है। कोयला धातु 400 रुपये टन बाजार में मिलता है जब कि 225 रुपये से 230 रुपये टन सरकारी दर कोयले की है। लेकिन बाजार में जाइए तो कोयला गायब, तेल गायब, साबुन गायब। ये जितने जीवन के लिए उपयोगी सामान हैं वह सामान धातु को नहीं मिलेंगे और यह विजिलेंस कमेटी की बात करते हैं। देहातों में कहाँ विजिलेंस कमेटी फंक्शन कमेटी करती है। ज्यादातर लोग देहातों से आते हैं। जो गहर के रहने वाले हैं उन का भी सम्बन्ध देहातों से है। कोई समिति देहातों में फंक्शन नहीं करती है। जब तक एसंशियल कमेडिटीज एक्ट में संशोधन नहीं करेंगे और जो विजिलेंस कमेटी फंक्शन करती है उस को कोई अधिकार नहीं देंगे तब तक उन के द्वारा कोई काम नहीं होगा। केवल जो बेचने वाले लोग हैं उन के बहोखाते में इस्पेक्ट्र और विजिलेंस कमेटी के सदस्यों के दस्तखत से कोई कंट्रोल नहीं होता और न इस की कोई सही व्यवस्था हो पाती है। केवल दुकानों का बढ़ना या कमेडियों का बढ़ जाना, इस से आपूर्ति की नियमित व्यवस्था या समुचित व्यवस्था हो जायेगी, यह नहीं माना जा सकता।

नये बजट में सरकार ने कई चीजों के उत्पाद शुल्क में भारी वृद्धि की जिस का मूल्य पर असर हुआ और साथ साथ इस वर्ष मई से जून तक के बीच में 1106 करोड़ रुपये

का मुद्रा प्रसार हुआ। मुद्रा प्रसार में 6.1 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि हुई। तो एक तरफ तो नोट छापते चले जायें और सारे सामानों पर उत्पाद शुल्क बढ़ाते जायें और दूसरी तरफ यह कहें कि मूल्य स्थिर रहेंगे, यह दोनों चीज नहीं चल सकती। इन तमाम बातों का समाधान निकालने की जरूरत है। आज आप बिलों पावर्टी लाइन के लोगों की हालत देखें। वह गरीब ग्रामिनी जिस की ग्रामदनी स्थिर है या जिस की कोई ग्रामदनी नहीं है जो मुश्किल से एक बक्तर सूखी रोटी नमक के साथ खा कर रहता है, उस की दशा जा कर देखें।

ईई जो हम बेचते हैं 30 प्रतिशत उस के दाम में गिरावट आ गई और मोटे कपड़े की कीमत 30 प्रतिशत बढ़ गई।

इन शब्दों के साथ मैं यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि यह मूल्य वृद्धि की जो परिस्थिति है उस न आज ईंसान को सोचने के लिए मजबूर कर दिया है और इस से भी बड़ी बात है कि भ्रष्टाचार का आवश्यक जीवनापयोगी वस्तुओं के वितरण में राज्य है।

*SHRI A.V.P. ASAITHAMBI (Madras North): Mr. Chairman, Sir, on behalf of my party, the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, I rise to welcome the Resolution of my hon. friend Shrimati Ahilya Rangnekar about the imperative necessity for establishing an effective public distribution system which alone can arrest the steep rise in prices of essential commodities.

Sir, at the very outset I would say that this question involves the very survival of the nation. If the essential commodities do not reach the common people at reasonable prices, naturally chaos will envelop the entire country. It is not necessary to reiterate that every one works for getting two square meals a day. India is predominantly a poor country, and out of 60 crores of people 42 crores live in rural areas. The average daily income of 28 crores of people in the country is just a pittance of 70 paise. I am sure that the hon. Minister will not be able to controvert this statement because I am quoting him.

You can very well imagine to what extent the prices of essential commodities should decline and to what extent the Government of India should implement a well-defined plan of action to bring down the prices of daily necessities of the people if they are to keep their skin and bones together with the income of 70 paise a day. Sir, it must be constant endeavour of the Government to procure the essential commodities at subsidised prices and then sell them through fair-price shops at reasonable prices to the people. It is essential that there should be a fair price shop for every 2000 families and then only the price-spiral can be kept under check.

Sir, the hon. Minister of Commerce, Shri Mohan Dharia, known as the Young Turk in the hey-day of Congress, who preferred prison rather than office under the anti-democratic Prime Minister Mrs. Gandhi, has progressive views. He is in charge of the Civil Supplies for the past one year. I would like to know from him what steps he has taken to strengthen the public distribution system during the period of one year he is in office. He may say that a well-chalked out scheme for public distribution system has been circulated to the State Governments. He may also refer to the idea of constituting high-powered committees both at the Central and the State levels for supervising the public distribution system. But I would like to know what purpose will these high-powered Committees serve in the absence of fair-price shops. Without a network of fair-price shops throughout the country, there is no need for such high-powered committees.

India is a nation of villages. We have about 5 lakh villages in the country. It must be ensured that there is one fair-price shop per village in the country. 5 lakh fair-price shops are the minimum requirement and this should be the basis of any plan that is

*The original speech was delivered in Tamil.

[Shri A. V. P. Asaithambi]

formulated. I would like to give an example to show that without the financial assistance of the Central Government the State Governments on their own will not be able to undertake this gigantic task. In this year's Budget of Tamil Nadu the hon. Finance Minister announced the proposal to open 16000 fair price shops throughout the State of Tamil Nadu. But, unfortunately no amount was provided for this purpose in the Budget. Not even 160 fair price shops have been opened till today. If the idea of giving one fair price shop for every 2000 families in the country then the Central Government must formulate a plan of financial assistance also to be given to the States.

I would like to recall the reasons for the crushing defeat of the Congress Party in Tamil Nadu in 1967 Elections. There were fairprice shops but they were without foodgrains for selling at fair prices. The Government should have had 5 lakh tonnes of foodgrains in their stocks, but they had only 500 tonnes of foodgrains. The starving people starved the Congress Party of their votes. Now there are huge stocks of foodgrains with the Government but there are not enough fairprice shops for distributing them.

Sir, it is inexplicable to me how the Government of India propose to tackle this vital question of distribution of foodgrains, when I see that the Government of India have removed the wheat and rice zones. From 16th of this month the control on sugar is being lifted. The Textile Mills in the private sector have been exempted from the compulsion of producing standard cloth. I welcome the removal of controls and constraints. But these steps must have been taken after bringing into existence a network of retail outlets for essential commodities throughout the country. In the absence of such an arrangement the entire country becomes a fertile field for hoarders and black marketeers and the prices of primary necessities will

continue to rise. No Government will be able to check the price rise in these circumstances.

I would appeal to the hon. Minister that the Centre must not only formulate a scheme of public distribution system but also help the States, financially and technically, in implementing such a scheme of public distribution forthwith. Then only the common people of the country can be saved from this scourge of price-rise. This is being emphasised effectively by the hon. Member, Shrimati Ahilya Rangnekar in her Resolution which this House should unanimously adopt.

With these words I conclude my speech.

16.00 hrs.

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY (Nizamabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, we have to take the present position into account. You see that without producing an ounce of sugar next year, the present stock which we are having can feed the nation for one more year to come. Same is the position with regard to rice and wheat. For all this, the government deserves our congratulations.

Sir, without any effort this has not been achieved. For the last thirty years we have been struggling to feed our nation and we have achieved this success. Now, Sir, only in a few things we are in short supply. That you can safely leave to the Minister to tackle and take all steps necessary to produce more in those commodities and not to import anything.

Now, coming to oils and pulses, the pulse season in Andhra Pradesh is coming to an end and in another 15 days new pulses will come into the market. Then the prices will go down....

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYA: Go down?

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY: Yes, You will see that.

Now, Sir, I want the Minister to see that the prices do not fall beyond a certain level as it will hit the produce hard.

This year, Sir, sugar cane production has gone up by 33 per cent. I want to know in any country in the world in one year has any commodity's production gone up by 33 per cent Sir? That we have to appreciate and this Government has instructed the sugar factories to crush the sugar cane even if it yields a recovery of 1.5 per cent as against the usual 9 to 10 per cent recovery. Yesterday there was a meeting and I told the sugar factory-owners, that 'Instead of crushing the sugar cane, you pay the money to the growers because that would you in lessening your losses.'

Sir, in season and out of season if somebody wants to condemn the government and Mr. Mohan Dharia or Mr. Bhanu Pratap Singh for political reasons, I have nothing to say. But regarding the economic factors, the Minister has done well and Mr. Mohan Dharia is sitting there. He is a sincere, very honest and a very dynamic Minister and everybody thought that this Minister will be crushed with the rise in prices of so many commodities. He was making so many speeches that he was going to bring down the prices. When the prices have come down now, we are pleading with the government that they should see that the prices should not fall further.

The tobacco case is there. There the STC has promised to purchase tobacco from Andhra Pradesh and they were asked to grade it and the Agmark was obtained. But, all of a sudden, somebody has discovered that this tobacco is substandard. I would therefore request the hon. Minister, Mr. Mohan Dharia to kindly personally look into the matter and see that justice is done to the Andhra Kisans. For the fault on the part of the STC they should not penalise the poor kisans.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYA:
It is not an essential commodity.

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY:
But, Sir tobacco is one commodity which is earning us a sizeable and substantial foreign exchange. Mr. Bhattacharyaji, your Mr. Jyotirmoy Bosu is pleading our case.

So, Sir, if you are not going to help the tobacco-growers, we are going to be out of the world tobacco market. That is why I request you to kindly personally see this and write to me what action you have taken.....

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYA:
Send a letter to him.

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY: A representation has been given to you also and also to the Prime Minister. They have sent a representation to the Members of Parliament also, including Mr. Jyotirmoy Bosu who is pleading the case of Andhra Kisans day in and day out and he has got great regard for Andhra Kisans because they are a hard-working people. That is why, Mr. Dinen Bhattacharyaji, if you kindly keep quiet, it will be very good of you.

I never take more time. I welcome the performance of this government which is very good. They have contained the prices as they have promised... (*Interruptions*). Yes. They are also protecting the Kisans and the cane-growers. Now it is your duty to protect the tobacco-growers also.

***SHRI A. MURUGESAN** (Chidambaram): Mr. Chairman, on behalf of All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, I extend my wholehearted support to the Resolution of Shrimati Ahilya Rangnekar which stresses the need for an effective public distribution system for the exclusive purpose of making available

*The original speech was delivered in Tamil.

[Shri A. Murugesan]

the essential commodities at reasonable prices to the common people.

Our talented Minister of Commerce Shri Mohan Dhari, may claim that he has already circulated a 7-point tentative plan of public distribution to the States. Let us have a look at these 7 points.

1. Besides the distribution of rice, wheat and sugar through fairprice shops, other primary products like pulses, kerosene, cloth, oil, soap, basic drugs etc. should also be made available through fair-price shops.

2. The Central Government as also the State Governments should undertake the responsibility for production, price and distribution of commodities like soap, basic drug, salt, matches, tea, note-books etc.

3. There should also be a buffer stock of these commodities.

4. In the matter of availability and price of these primary commodities, there is an imbalance between rural and urban areas. This imbalance must be eliminated forthwith.

5. The productive capacity both in the private and public sector must be tapped in full and if necessary it must be augmented also in order to ensure abundant supply.

6. For every 2000 people there must be a fairprice shop.

7. There must be High-powered Committees both at the Central and the State levels to supervise the public distribution system. Vigilance Committees with statutory support must be constituted for checking malpractices.

I wish to stress the need for an effective plan of action and not mere platitudes in the matter of public distribution of primary products. I wonder whether the Janata Government will become a Government of people in regard to this at least.

I would like to illustrate how the Essential Commodities Act are not being implemented forcefully and effectively. Continuous scarcity of essential commodities — the price rise of primary requisites of day-to-day life—the conviction of just 1239 hoarders and blackmarketeers during the 10-month period between January and October, 1977; in other words just 124 culprits convicted throughout the country in one month—detect-out the country in one month—detect-throughout the country in this period—these reveal the ineffective implementation of the legal provisions meant for making available the essential commodities to the common people at reasonable prices.

The removal of wheat and rice zones, lifting of control on sugar and the exemption of textile mills from producing standard cloth—these actions of the Janata Government have enabled the self-seeking traders to make India a play-ground for their free play. The Government have not been armed with legislative powers also to compel them to supply essential commodities to the fairprice shops. They can create artificial scarcity in commodities like standard cloth, soap etc. when their demand is picking up by cutting down production; this will consequently rise the price and the Government will only be helpless spectators.

Before I conclude, I would like to say that the Government have not done well in abolishing the wheat and rice zones, the control on sugar, the compulsion of producing standard cloth etc. before establishing an effective public, distribution system. I request the Government to come to the succour of suffering millions of our countrymen by setting up a network of fairprice shops so that they can get essential commodities regularly at reasonable prices.

बीबीरो बलबीरो सिंह (होशियारपुर) : यह प्रस्ताव सरकार का ध्यान इस विषय की ओर

प्रापित करने के लिए पेश किया गया है । इसके दो उद्देश्य हैं । एक यह है कि जो प्रोड्यूसर है उसको सही कीमत मिले और जो खरीदार है उसको भी सही और मनासिब भाव पर चीज मिले । सबाल यह है कि क्या प्रोड्यूसर को पूरा दाम मिलता है ? नहीं मिलता है । कपास हो, काटन हो, मूंगफली हो, गन्ना हो उसका सही दाम नहीं मिलता है । जो खरीदार है उसको भी मनासिब भाव पर ये चीजें नहीं मिलती हैं । समझ में नहीं आता है कि किस तरह से मूंगफली तो सस्ती और खाने का तेल महंगा बिकता है या कपास सस्ती और कपड़ा महंगा मिलता है या गन्ना सस्ता और चीनी महंगी बिकती है ? और फिर इसके साथ एक मुद्दाय देना चाहता हूँ मंत्री महोदय कि जो मल्टिप्लोमिटी है जैसे फंयर प्राइस शोप है, एक कोई और पंजाब में शुरू हो गई है, मार्केट है प्रादि प्रादि, इन सब का कोऑर्डिनेशन होना चाहिये ताकि सारे सामान का ठीक ढंग से दे सकें । जितनी भलग भलग सांसाइटीज हैं, उनके हैडम को तो 2 हजार, 3 हजार तनकवाह मिलती है, लेकिन जो दुकान पर काम करते हैं उन्हें 150 या 200 रु० मिलती है । जितने कंज्युमर स्टॉर्स हैं वहाँ फेल हो गये, सुपर बाजार फेल हो गये, कोऑपरेटिव स्टॉर्स घाटे में हैं । होशियारपुर कोऑपरेटिव कंज्युमर स्टोर का एक साल का 50,000 रु० का घाटा है । हम कहते हैं कि लोगों को ज्यादा सस्ती चीजें देंगे । लेकिन जो मोनोपली की चीजें हैं जो उनको कोटे के आधार पर मिलती हैं ऐसे सामान में भी स्टॉर्स को घाटा होता है । कारण क्या है ? मिममैन्जमेंट है । कोऑपरेटिव मूवमेंट में काफ़ी कर्रप्शन है । मैंने अपने जिले में 4, 5 कैसेज पकड़वाये और वह चल रहे हैं । लेकिन दो, दो साल तक फैमले नहीं होते हैं । फिर कैसे कोऑपरेटिव मूवमेंट चलेगा अगर कर्रप्शन करने वालों को पकड़ा नहीं जायगा और उनको सजा नहीं मिलेगी ? जिनके जिम्मे चलाने का काम है वही खा जाते हैं । नतीजा यह है कि जिम जगह पर जा कर कंज्युमर को सामान खरीदना है वहाँ वह चीज पहले ही महंगी जा कर पड़ती है और उसको महंगी मिलती है । तो एडमिनिस्ट्रेटिव शंके को प्राप ठीक करो । प्रोड्यूसर का संयानांश हो गया । गन्ना ज्यादा हो गया तो सरकार कहती है कि कम पैदा करो । भगली मास जब कमी आयेगी तो कच्चे ज्यादा पैदा करो । तो यह कोई अलानादो का चिराग तो नहीं है कि बिस दिया और मास पैदा हो गया । ऐडमिनिस्ट्रेशन में जो गड़बड़ है उसको प्राप ठीक करें, किसान को पूरा पैसा दें और खरीदने वाले को मनासिब दाम पर चीज मिल गये, और यह नभी होगा जब ऐडमिनिस्ट्रिव शंके में से कर्रप्शन को निकाल सकेंगे ।

श्री राम बिलास पासबाण (हाजीपुर) : सभापति महोदय, दो, तीन बातों की और मैं प्रापका ध्यान खीचना चाहूंगा । मेरा जो संशोधन

है वह इतना है कि जो कारखाने से बस्तुएं उत्पादित होती हैं और जो किसान पैदा करता है उन दोनों के दाम में एकरूपता रहनी चाहिये । अभी प्रापने सुना किस प्रकार से दाम बढ़े हैं, और जो बढ़े हैं तो किसान द्वारा उत्पादित बस्तु जो है और जो कारखाने में बनती है उन दोनों में कहीं भी एकरूपता नहीं है । कुछ दिन पहले मैं देख रहा था सीमेंट का दाम बढ़ा, लोहे का बढ़ा, मोटर टायर का दाम बढ़ा, प्रोमियर मोटर गाड़ी का दाम बढ़ा । वे भाव बहुत बढ़े पैमाने पर बढ़े हैं । मेरा सुझाव है कि दोनों के दामों में एकरूपता होनी चाहिए । लेकिन वह कैसे हो ? लोहा और इस्पात तो इस्पात मंत्रालय के अंतर्गत हैं, कुछ चीजें इंडस्ट्रीज मिनिस्ट्री के अंतर्गत और कुछ चीजें कामर्स मिनिस्ट्री के अंतर्गत हैं । अगर इस प्रकार भलग भलग डिपार्टमेंट यह काम करेंगे, तो दाम कैसे कम होंगे ? मेरा सब से पहला सुझाव यह है कि बितरण की प्रणाली और दाम तय करने की प्रणाली को एक जगह रखा जाये और विभिन्न चीजों के दाम निर्धारित करने के लिए एक डिपार्टमेंट को जवाबदेही सौंपी जाये, चाहे वह कामर्स डिपार्टमेंट हो या कोई अन्य डिपार्टमेंट । अगर एक डिपार्टमेंट पर इस की जवाबदेही होगी, तो उसका मिनिस्टर इसके लिए जिम्मेदार होगा । भलग भलग चीजों को भलग भलग विभागों के अंतर्गत रखने से उन के दाम बढ़ने की जवाबदेही किसी की नहीं रहती है ।

मैं शुरू से यह मांग करता आ रहा हूँ कि हर चीज के कास्ट प्राफ़ प्रोडक्शन का पता लगाया जाना चाहिए । किसी भी मूल्य को मापने के लिए सब से बड़ी बात कास्ट प्राफ़ प्रोडक्शन है । मैं सरकार से प्राप्रह करता आ रहा हूँ कि जब हमें यह पता नहीं है कि किसी चीज का कास्ट प्राफ़ प्रोडक्शन क्या है, तो हम उसके दाम के बारे में सही ढंग से बहस कैसे कर सकते हैं, और इस लिए यह जरूरी है कि विभिन्न बस्तुओं के कास्ट प्राफ़ प्रोडक्शन का पता लगाया जाये । दाम नीति कि टायर का दाम बढ़ गया है या बड़ेगा, तो हमें यह मालूम होना चाहिए कि उसका कास्ट प्राफ़ प्रोडक्शन क्या है और वह किस दाम पर मार्केट में मिल रहा है । दाम नीति का आधार यह होना चाहिए कि चीनी, टायर और सीमेंट प्रादि कारखानों में पैदा की जाने वाली चीजों का कास्ट प्राफ़ प्रोडक्शन क्या है और उस में कितनी रकम और जोड़ कर वह कितने दाम पर मार्केट में लेवेनेबल है । इसी दृष्टि से यह देखना चाहिए कि गेहूँ और चावल प्रादि पैदा करने वाले किसान को उसकी प्रावण्यकता का सामान प्राज से बीस पच्चीस साल पहले किस दाम पर मिलता था और प्राज किस दाम पर मिल रहा है । यदि इन बातों को देख कर मूल्य नीति को तय किया जायेगा, तभी इस समस्या का निदान हो सकेगा ।

*SHRI K. KUNHAMBU (Ottapalam): Mr. Chairman, I support the resolution moved by hon. Member Smt. Ahilya P. Rangnekar. Let me at the outset congratulate her for bringing this resolution before the House which deals with certain very serious problems affecting both the producers and consumers of essential commodities.

As has been pointed out in the resolution the prices of essential commodities are rising day by day. One need not go into the statistics supplied by the Labour Bureau or the wholesale price index to find out the extent of price rise. Anybody who goes to the market and buys the essential commodities knows very well to what extent the prices have gone up. The hon. mover of the resolution said that during the period from February to March 1978 there has been an increase to the extent .68 in the whole sale price index. She is right. But all of us know that whatever be the whole sale price index one has to pay four times or five times more price at the retail points. According to an estimate the wholesale price index for foodgrains went from 172 in February to 173.1 in March, 1978. This increase in the price index is continuing. Similarly, the prices of pulses, edible oil, soap, cement and almost all other essential commodities are rising.

Sir, what is the reason for this increase in the prices. The Government comes out with an explanation that production of certain commodities has declined. That, according to the Government, is the basic reason for the rise in prices. But Sir, in the case of many commodities it is not because of the decline in production that the prices have gone up. Statistics about the production of various commodities will bear me out. The real reason for price rise is hoarding. I would ask the hon. Mi-

nister whether he has taken an action against the hoarders. I would also like the Minister to tell us how many hoarders and black marketeers have been arrested and punished after the Janata Party came to power.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please wind up.

SHRI K. KUNHAMBU: Sir, I would say a word about the paddy growers in my constituency of Palghat. As you know, Palghat is the granary of Kerala. Unfortunately, the paddy growers are not getting the remunerative price for the paddy that they produce. They are facing a lot of difficulties. On the one hand the price of pesticides and fertilizers has steeply gone up on the other wages of the agricultural labourers have also gone up considerably but the price of paddy has come down. The Central Government is not giving any subsidy to them. In Northern India the wheat growers are enjoying the benefit of Governmental subsidy whereas the poor paddy growers in the South especially in Palghat are getting a very low price for their paddy. I hope the Central Government will consider this question and take necessary steps to help the paddy growers in South.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister.

श्री कल्याण जैन (इंदौर) : समापति
महोदय, इस के लिए समय बढ़ाया जाय ।

कई माननीय सदस्य : समय जरूर बढ़ाया
जाय ।

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYA:
If we extend the time of this discussion, will the prices come down?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is it the sense of the House that the time for this Resolution should further be extended by an hour?

*The original speech was delivered in Malayalam.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time for this Resolution is further extended by one hour more.

Shri Kalyan Jain.

श्री कल्याण जैन : सभापति महोदय, मैं मंत्री महोदय से निवेदन करूँगा कि वह मेरी बात पर ध्यान दें। चाहे सरकार व्यापार करे या व्यापारी करे, मैं दोनों से महमन हूँ, कोई भी व्यापार करे, लेकिन एक नीति के अंतर्गत करे खाद्यान्न के भाव में एक फमल से लेकर—दूसरी फमल के बीच में 20 प्रतिशत में ज्यादा अंतर नहीं होना चाहिए और कारखाने में बनने वाली चीजों की कीमत लागत के ह्यूबे में ज्यादा न हो। उसके लिए वह अपनी कामर्स मिनिस्ट्री और इंडस्ट्रीज मिनिस्ट्री में मूल्य प्रायोंग की स्थापना करे ताकि किस चीज के उत्पादन की लागत क्या है मालूम पड़ सके। दाल के बारे में होलसेल व्यापारी की सीमा प्राप ने निश्चित की है लेकिन प्राप ने प्राइवियों को छूट दे दी है। मेरा मुझाव है कि प्राइवियों को छूट मन दीजिए। वह छूट प्राप बन्द कर देते तो दाल के भाव चार, छ. या आठ प्राने कितना कम हो जायेंगे। मैं व्यापार जानता हूँ इसलिए प्रापको मुझाव दे रहा हूँ। मिल मालिक को छूट दीजिए। होल सेल व्यापारी की सीमा निश्चित कीजिए। प्रापने जो प्राइवियों को छूट दी है, नमाम मिल मालिक लोग उसका फायदा उठाते हैं, वे प्राइवियों के माध्यम से व्यापारी को काम भी करते हैं और उसका उपयोग करते हैं।

इसी तरह दूध के भाव उत्पादक और उपभोक्ता के बीच में चार प्राने कितने में ज्यादा अंतर नहीं होना चाहिए। कपड़े में भी काटन की कीमत निश्चित कीजिए। 300 करोड़ रुपये का याने प्राप विदेशों से मंगाते हैं। उससे किमानों का नुकसान हो रहा है। हिन्दुस्थान में जो चीज पैदा होती है उसको प्राप प्रोटेक्शन नहीं देते तो उस से उन का फायदा नहीं हो सकता। ठीक इसी प्रकार बड़े बड़े वनस्पति धी के निर्माताओं को जो प्राप ने साबुन बनाने की छूट दे रखी है वह खरम कीजिए। साबुन के अन्दर वह भारी मुनाफा कमा रहे हैं और उस से साबुन का छोटा उद्योग खरम हो रहा है। वह प्राप बन्द करे तो इस से लाखों लोगों की काम मिल सकता है।

इसी तरह गन्ना कृषाम और तम्बाकू इन की कीमत फमल की बोर्ड के पहले ही निश्चित कर देनी चाहिए ताकि किसानों को जेते समय मालूम रहे कि उनको क्या दाम मिलेगा।

छोटे दूकानदारों की जो प्रापने सीमा निश्चित कर रखी है 10 बिबटल दाल की उसे 15-20 बिबटल कीजिए और तेल और धी, दोनों की

मिला कर जो 5 बिबटल कर रखी है उसको घलम घलम 5 बिबटल तेल की और 1-2 बिबटल धी की करिए ताकि जो घन्धा करने वाले हैं उनको लाइसेंस लेने की घनावश्यक परेशानी न उठानी पड़े।

मध्य प्रदेश की सरकार ने मसालों को प्रावश्यक वस्तुओं के अन्दर निर्धारित कर रखा है। उसका नतीजा यह होता है कि पचास चीजें मसाले में प्राती हैं और प्रावश्यक वस्तु होने के कारण उसको उनके भाव और उनका स्टॉक लिखना पड़ता है, साथ ही उन के मुनाफे का निश्चित निर्धारण हो जाता है। उनको उसे साफ करना पड़ता है जिस के कारण रेट ठीक नहीं पड़ता। ये मेरे कुछ ब्यावहारीक मुझाव हैं, इनसे हिन्दुस्तान की जनता को, दूकानदारों को और सरकार को, तीनों को फायदा होगा और घनावश्यक अष्टाचार को खत्म करने में मदद मिलेगी। ये मेरे कुछ मुझाव हैं। इनको कह कर मैं अपनी बात समाप्त करता हूँ।

श्री लखन सास कपूर (पूर्णाया) : सभापति महोदय, मैंने जी ने 17 जुलाई को राय्य गभा में एक घोषणा की थी और उसमें यह बताया था कि निम्नलिखित प्रावश्यक वस्तुओं के मूल्यों में वृद्धि हुई है ; दाल, प्याज, प्रालू, दूध, चावल, खंडमारी, गूड़, ट्यब, सोडा-राख, साबुन, हरमोन लायटन जैसे निर्मित वस्तुएं। उन्होंने यह स्वीकार किया था कि इन वस्तुओं की कीमतों में वृद्धि हुई है और अभी हमारे सामने प्राकड़े पेश किये गये हैं जो कि सरकारी प्राकड़े हैं। मैं भी कुछ प्राकड़े प्राप के सामने पढ़ कर मुनाना बाहता हूँ, जिन से पता चलेगा कि कोमोडिटोज की प्राइसेज में कितनी वृद्धि हुई है। 1978 के जून महीने में होलसेल प्राइम टनडेक्स सब कोमोडिटोज का 184.5 था और जुलाई में वह बढ़ कर 186.4 हो गया। प्राइमरी प्राटिकल्स का इन्डेक्स जून में 181.2 था और जुलाई में वह 184.8 हो गया, फूड प्राटिकल्स का जून में 173.6 था और जुलाई में 178.2 हो गया, फूडप्रेम का जुलाई में 173.3 हो गया जबकि जून में वह 171.6 था और सीरियल्स का जून में 158.1 था जोकि जुलाई में बढ़ कर 160.4 हो गया। दालों के बारे में जो यह रिपोर्ट है कि दालों के मूल्य में कमी हुई है, वह सही नहीं मालूम पड़ती है क्योंकि जो वास्तविकता है, उस को देखते हुए बाजार में दालों के मूल्य बहुत प्राधिक बढ़े हैं। हमकं सलत प्राकड़े हमारे सामने पेश किये गये हैं ; मिल्क और मिल्क प्रोडक्ट्स का जहाँ तक प्रश्न है, वह जून में 165.0 था जोकि जुलाई में बढ़ कर 171.1 हो गया है और अदर फूड प्राटिकल्स का जो जून में 193.7 था, वह जुलाई में बढ़ कर 197.9 हो गया और नान-फूड प्राटिकल्स का जो जून में 168.3 था, वह जुलाई में बढ़ कर 168.8 हो गया। काइब्स का ठीक है। मैं कहना बाहता हूँ कि प्राप इन प्राकड़ों को देखें तो प्राप को पता चलेगा कि चीजों के मूल्य इस तरह से बढ़ रहे हैं।

[श्री लखन लाल कपूर]

दूसरी तरफ जहाँ तक जूट का प्रश्न है, उनको ध्राप देखिये। जूट किसानों के लिए नकद फ़र्मन है और उसके उनको कितने दाम मिलने हैं। उन किसानों को बाजार से अपनी आवश्यकताओं की चीजों को खरीदना पड़ता है और कितना पैसा उनको देना पड़ता है। जूट के बारे में मैं ध्राप को बताऊँ कि 30 जून, 1977 तक जूट कारपोरेशन ने जो जूट मिलों को उधार सप्लाई किया है, उस सौदे का 22.66 करोड़ रुपया उन पर बकाया था और 28 फरवरी, 1978 तक 10.36 करोड़ रुपया बकाया था। यह उन का रुपया बमूल नहीं हो रहा है? इस के भलावा मैं यह भी बताना चाहता हूँ कि 12वीं रिपोर्ट जो सार्वजनिक प्रतिष्ठानों की उपभ्रम समिति ने दी है, उममे यह बताया है कि इस प्रकार से उधार प्राप्त कच्चे जूट को मिल मानिकों ने बैंकों को गिरवी रख कर भ्रमिम रुपया प्राप्त किया है और साथ ही जो मान जे0 सी0 घाई0 ने उधार सप्लाई किया था, उधार किया था, उधार लेने के बाद मिल-मानिकों ने बैंकों से भ्रमिम ले लिया। क्या इसमें कोई धर्रगुनेरिटो नहीं है? जितना चाहो लूट लो, भ्रमी भी यह चल रहा है। इसके भलावा किसानों को इस का मूल्य कितना देंगे। जूट कमीशन की ध्रोर से जो मूल्य मुकरर किया गया है वह 150 रुपये प्रति क्विंटल है जबकि सार्वजनिक उपभ्रम की जो संसदीय समिति की रिपोर्ट है, उममें यह कहा गया है कि एक क्विंटल जूट का लागत मूल्य 377.34 रुपये होता है और ध्राज जूट का मूल्य जूट कमिश्नर ने निर्धारित किया है, वह 150 रुपये प्रति क्विंटल है। यह कहाँ तक ठीक है, यह सोचने वाली बात है। यह मोचने वाली बात है कि यह देश कभी बचने वाला है, किसान कभी खड़ा होने वाला है? पूर्वी भारत में 6 प्रांत हैं जहाँ कि 75 से 80 लाख टन जूट होता है। वहाँ से जूट प्रोभ्रसे के साथ मरदियों से और पिछले तीस वर्षों से लूट होती ध्रा रही है। इस के कारण उनको ध्राधिक कमर टट्टी हुई है। वहाँ सबसे भ्रंयकर गरीबी है। इसको रोकने की ताकत न ध्रापमें है और न पिछली सरकार में थी। भले ही ध्रापके मूलाभ्रिम वहाँ बेटे हों। वे कमीशन लेकर किसानों को लुटवा रहे हैं। यह बात मैं ध्रापके ध्यान में लाता हूँ।

जे0 सी0 घाई0 ने मिल मानिकों के माथ वेक टू बेक ध्ररेजमेंट किया और 22.66 करोड़ का जूट उधार दिया। भ्रमी भी यह बकाया उनको तरफ 15.36 करोड़ रुपये है। क्या सरकार के पास इसको बमूल करने का कोई उपाय है? यदि नहीं है तो ऐसे मिलों को भ्रमी भी सन्सीडी बाहर एक्सपोर्ट करने के लिए सेन्ट्रल गवर्नमेंट की तरफ से क्यो दी जा रही है? लूट नहीं है तो क्या है? मैं ध्रापको मुझाब दंगा कि ऐसे मिलमानिकों के बिबद्ध सरकार के कार्यवाही करनी चाहिए। जूट कारपोरेशन ने मिल-मानिकों से बकाया धन बमूल करने

का कोई भी प्रबन्ध भ्रमी तक नहीं किया है। वह बकाया बमूल करने का प्रबन्ध होना चाहिए और मिल-मानिकों को जो राहत या सन्सीडी दी जा रही है वह बन्द होनी चाहिए। प्रति वर्ष 70 करोड़ रुपया जूट की ट्रेड से काला धन बनता है।

चीनी के सम्बन्ध में कहना चाहता हूँ। ध्रापने चीनी का डीकट्रोल कर दिया है। ध्रब तक 6 करोड़ लोगों को राजान द्वारा चीनी मिलती थी। ध्रब उनके हितों की रक्षा कैसे हो सकती है जबकि उन्हें चीनी का ज्यादा दाम देना पड़ेगा? खले बाजार में चीनी मंहगे भाव में मिलेगी। पिछले दो वर्षों में चीनी उद्योग से 103 करोड़ रुपया ब्लेक मनी जेनरेट हुआ है। इसको कौन रोकेगा?

कागज भी ध्राधिक मूल्य पर बाजार में बिकता है। ध्रनुमान लगाया गया है कि 8.50 मीट्रिक टन कागज की आवश्यकता है। इन सब बातों को देखते हुए भी कागज के मूल्यों में वृद्धि हो रही है। इस वृद्धि को रोकने के लिये ध्राप क्या करने जा रहे हैं जिससे कि कागज सन्ने दाम पर, उचित मूल्य पर लोगों को ध्राप दें सकें?

एक बात मैं और कहना चाहता हूँ। मौजूदा भावों में तेजी इमलिए भी चिन्तनीय है कि 1974 के विपरित ध्राज के सभी ध्राथिक संकेत ध्रनकूल हैं। खाद्याभ्रों का विशाल भंडार बिद्यमान है। विदेशी मुद्रा का भी लगभग 50 ध्रब रुपया मौजूद है। इतना पहले कभी नहीं था। फिर मूल्य वृद्धि क्यो नहीं रोकी जाती है? इसका क्या कारण है?

मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि एक बहुत बड़ी बात हुई है जो पहले कभी नहीं थी। हमारे ध्रापुति मंत्री समाजवादी हैं। उनमे हम बहुत उम्मीद करते थे कि जो जनता पार्टी की सरकार ने वायदा किया था कि जनता को उपभोक्ता सामग्री सही मूल्य पर, सही समय पर उपलब्ध करायेगे, और देश के मुद्र देहानों में इसको पहुंचायेगे, वे उस वायदे को पूरा करेंगे। लेकिन यह भ्रमी तक नहीं हुआ है। ध्राज जिन गांवों तक सड़कें नहीं ध्राती हैं वहाँ, जताने के लिए, कैरोसीन तेल नहीं मिलता है। जहाँ बिलो पावर्टी लाइन के नीचे वाले लोग रहते हैं वहाँ सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली में मुधार करने का क्या उपाय कर रहे हैं?

सभापति महोदय, मैं उत्तर बिहार के पूर्णिया जिला, नेपाल के बाईर से आता हूँ। वहाँ 23 फीमदी भी गांवों में पक्की सड़कें नहीं हैं। वह क्षेत्र नरदियों के जाल से घिरा हुआ है वहाँ बिजली नहीं है। कैरोसीन तेल वहाँ मंहगा नहीं हो रहा है। एक-एक बोतल तेल लेने के लिए लोगों को तीन-तीन, चार-चार किलोमीटर जाना पड़ता है और बजाय एक रुपये के तीन-तीन, चार-चार रुपया बोलत चुकाना पड़ता है।

उनको नमक का भी भारी मूल्य चुकाना पड़ता है। मैं आप से जानना चाहता हूँ कि उसके लिए कौन सी वितरण प्रणाली आपने अपनाई है, उनको भी मुनासिब दामों पर आवश्यक वस्तुएं उपलब्ध हों, इनके लिए आपने क्या प्रबन्ध किया है ?

मूल्य सूचकांक के जो घाटके आप बनाते हैं, आपके एकसपट बनाते हैं, मैं समझता हूँ कि उनमें आप देश को धोखा देते हैं। आप कहते हैं कि इन घाटकों के मुताबिक मूल्य वृद्धि नहीं हो रही है, मूल्य गिर रहे हैं जबकि वास्तविकता बिलकुल इसके विपरीत होती है। मैं चाहता हूँ कि इसको भी आप दुस्त करें। इसका भी आप पता लगाएं। मूल्य वृद्धि क्यों होती है, इसके कारणों की खोज करने के लिए और सही घाटकों का पता लगाने के लिए मैं मंत्री महोदय को एक मुद्दा देना चाहता हूँ। मैं चाहता हूँ कि इसके बारे में एक संसदीय समिति बनाए जाय जो इन बातों में जाए और आपको रिपोर्ट दे। हमी तरह से मेरी आप से यह भी प्रार्थना है कि देश में सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली को ठोस रूप आप दें और जितनी भी दैनिक आवश्यकता की वस्तुएं हैं उस सब को एक बरस के अन्दर अन्दर लोगों को उपलब्ध कराने की आप व्यवस्था करें।

SHRI K. A. RAJAN (Trichur): Sir, first of all I congratulate comrade Ahalya Rangekar for having brought an important resolution on essential commodities, their procurement and distribution and giving a popular organisational set-up for the effective implementation of the public distribution system. Before dealing with the various aspects of the problem, let me point out the trend in the development of the price structure of manufactured products vis-a-vis agricultural products. According to the Economic Survey, 1977-78, taking the base 1970-71=100, the figures are as follows:

	Index for manufactured products	Index for agricultural products
1971-72	109.5	100.4
1972-73	121.9	110.3
1973-74	130.5	139.2
1974-75	168.8	169.9
1975-76	171.2	157.3
1976-77	175.2	158.5

These figures indicate the disparity in the price structure between manufactured products and products produced by the vast millions of agriculturists in this country. The earlier Government had a slogan for the agriculturists: "Produce or perish!" This Government has got the slogan: "Produce and perish!" for the agriculturists. This is the real aspect of the problem.

For an effective distribution system, the guarantee is the procurement of essential commodities. Unless enough essential commodities are at the command of the Government, an effective distribution system cannot be guaranteed. Our Minister has made so many statements. I do not question his motives or intentions. But without going deep into the problem, in a country where the economic structure is such that the means of production are at the command of private industrialists and traders, however good his motives may be, I am sorry he will be disappointed and the outcome will be that the people will be at the mercy of black-marketeers and hoarders. The Janata Government has set for itself the course of removing 'controls', dismantling food zones, abandoning levies, relinquishing procurement quotas, curtailing the operation of state purchase agencies, winding up cotton monopoly purchase scheme in Maharashtra, liberalising credit to the hoarders and speculators and giving full scope to the free traders to freely loot the people. The result is profiteering, black-marketing and hoarding in ordinary general materials like steel, soda ash, paper and so many other things.

While supporting this resolution, I would like to tell the experience of my State. My State is the only State which has got a vast distribution system. Every village has got a fair-price shop and we could stabilise the price of rice. Our State is scarce in rice, but the Government helps us

[Shri K. A. Rajan]

with five lakh tonnes of rice every month. Thereby we could stabilise the price of rice and it never goes beyond the reach of the common man. For a distribution to guarantee that there should be people's vigilance committees, as mentioned in the resolution by Shrimati Rangnekar. Private trade is there on the other side, and hence blackmarketing and hoarding come into the structure and affect distribution. So, for proper catering to the people, people's vigilance committees at all levels is necessary, so that whatever products are produced by the Government are distributed through these agencies properly and the people get them.

श्री कचरू लाल हेमराज जैन (बानाघाट) : सभापति महोदय, हमने 15 दिन पिछले नाम दिया था। हम पानी पीने चले गये उस बीच में हमारा नाम पुकार लिया गया।

सभापति महोदय : जो सूची मेरे पाम है मैं उमी के अनुसार चल रहा हूँ।

श्री राम सेवक हजारी (रोसड़ा) : सभापति महोदय, जो चर्चा चल रही है उस पर मैं अपने विचार प्रकट करना चाहता हूँ। मंत्री जी आज जिस पद पर घासीन हैं और जनता ने जिन भावनाओं के साथ इनको पदस्थित किया था आज वह उस भावना को भूल रहे हैं। मालों से हमारी यह भावना थी जब सोशलिस्ट पार्टी में थे कि जो जरूरत का सामान है जो उत्पादक खर्च है उसमें डेढ़ गुने से ज्यादा कीमत नहीं होनी चाहिये। लेकिन जो कांग्रेस सरकार करती थी वही आज की सरकार भी कर रही है। पता नहीं हमारे मंत्रियों को उन अधिकारियों ने अपने वज्र में कर लिया है, और जो वज्र चाहते हैं वही कूच निर्धारित करते हैं। आज बड़े-बड़े गुंजीपतियों के साथ उनकी साठ-गाँठ है। आप सबक पर, होटलों में सभी जगह यही बात नहीं कही जाती है। जब तक आप जनता की जरूरत की चीजों का दाम सही निर्धारित नहीं करेंगे और सही मूल्य पर नहीं लेंगे तब तक आप जनता के दिल को नहीं जीत सकेंगे और वही भावना हमको यहां से हटा देगी। आप एक बड़ी समिति बनाइये और एक, दो महाने बैठ कर सोचिये। हम इन्दिरा जी को कहते थे कि जिस चीज पर हाथ रख दिया वही गायब हो जाती थी। आज माननीय धारिया जी का भी यही हाल है। सीमेंट, तोह्रा गायब है। हम अपने क्षेत्र में नहीं घुम सकते हैं। यदि समस्या का समाधान चन्द दिनों में आपने नहीं किया तो जनता का आक्रोश, और जन प्रतिनिधि होने के कारण हमारा आक्रोश आपके ऊपर होगा और आम अपने पद पर

नहीं रह पायेंगे। इसलिये आप एक कमेटी बनाकर ठोस कार्यवाही कीजिये और मूल्य निर्धारित कीजिये। जो 5, 7, 8 वर्ष पहले मूल्य थे वही मूल्य निर्धारित कीजिये।

सभापति महोदय : माननीय जैन जी जब आपका नाम बुलाया गया था तब आप थे नहीं। समय कम है इसलिए संक्षेप में ही आप बोलें।

श्री कचरू लाल हेमराज जैन : सभापति महोदय, 17 तारीख के बाद मदन में पहली एक ऐसी चर्चा है जिसमें देश की जनता के विषय में चर्चा हो रही है। इसलिए इस प्रस्ताव का मैं स्वागत करता हूँ और मंत्री जी को याद दिलाता हूँ और उनको याद होगा कि यह जो प्रस्ताव आया है वह अद्विष्टा दोषी की तरफ से आया जिसका मतलब है कि यह पूरे देश की भावना है और इस पर गम्भीरता से सोचना है। कुछ मुद्दे जो मैं बताना चाहता हूँ और जो गड़बड़ हो रही है उसको कैसे रोका जाय यह भी मैं बताऊँगा। आपको एक चीज याद होगी कि मछली को तैरना नहीं सोचना पड़ता है। तो हम बतिये हैं आपकी सारी योजनाओं को हम तोंग ही साफ कर रहे हैं। किस तरह से साफ हो रही है उसके कुछ मुद्दे बता देता हूँ। आप देखिये कि कपड़े की हमारे देश में क्या हालत हो रही है।

कपड़ा उद्योग में हमारे व्यापारी बंधु बड़ी मौज के साथ मुनाफाखोरी करते हैं। सरकार ने रेट निर्धारित किये, तो उन्होंने रेटिन रेट 50, 60 परसेंट ज्यादा छाप दिये। सरकार ने एक्स-मिल रेट छापने के लिए कहा तो कपड़े की बर्बादती बेहद बिगड़ गई। आज कपड़े के मामले में पूरे देश की जनता परेशान है। हर परिवार को कपड़े की आवश्यकता होती है और उमका मान का 40 परसेंट बजट कपड़े पर लग जाता है। इसलिए हम तरफ विशेष ध्यान देने की जरूरत है।

प्रधान मंत्री को भी देश के व्यापारियों ने एक शानदार धक्का दिया था। आपने मुना होगा कि शुरू में प्रधान मंत्री ने व्यापारियों को बेतावनी दी थी कि वे मूल्य बढ़ाने, मुनाफाखोरी और जमाखोरी करने के बारे में सावधान हों, वना सरकार कड़े कदम उठायेगी। प्रधान मंत्री द्वारा बार बार खुली बेतावनी दिये जाने के बाद भी इस देश के व्यापारियों पर कोई प्रसर नहीं हुआ है। मुना जाना है कि वे लोग कहते हैं कि जो कोई भी सरकार आयेगी वह हमारी जेब में ही रहेगी; हम जो चाहेंगे, वही होगा।

मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि हम इमर्जेंसी और पिछली सरकार का बिल्कुल विरोध करते हैं और जब तक जिन्दा रहेंगे, उसका विरोध करेंगे। लेकिन उस सरकार ने कभी कभी छापे मार कर व्यापारियों को प्रकृश में रखा था। मन्त्री महोदय एक भी उदाहरण दें कि इस सरकार के रेजीम में कन्याकुमारी से हिमाचल तक

श्रीर बम्बई से ले कर कलकत्ता तक भ्रमूक जगह पर छापा मार कर भ्रमूक मुनाफाखोर को पकड़ा गया है । ऐसा कोई उदाहरण नहीं मिलेगा । इस लिए उन लोगों के हासले बड़ गये हैं ।

मुझे मालूम नहीं है कि दिल्ली में भ्रवी महोदय को खुद सामान खरीदने के लिए जाना पड़ता है या नहीं । लेकिन हम देखते हैं कि व्यापारी जो कीमत बताये भ्रगर भ्राप उससे चौथाई कीमत भी दें, तो वह तैयार हों जाता है । वे लोग एक रुपये की चीज के चार रुपये बताते हैं । राजधानी में जितनी लूट है, उतनी देश के किसी कोने में नहीं है । भ्रगर व्यापारी निरंकुश रहे, तो स्थिति बहुत गम्भीर हो जायेगी । जैसे कि श्री हजारी ने कहा है, मारा देश महंगाई के विरुद्ध बोल रहा है । हम लोग तो बिल्कुल घबरा गये हैं । कई लोग तो तीस साल में भी नहीं बके, लेकिन हम तो सालह महोनों में ही बक गये हैं । हमें मालूम नहीं है कि हम पब्लिक को क्या बतायें । भरे क्षेत्र में गरीब मजदूर रहते हैं । दामों के बढ़ने से उन की दशा बड़ी खराब है । इस लिए इस महत्वपूर्ण विषय पर गम्भीरता से विचार किया जाये और सही निष्कर्ष निकाले जायें, ताकि जनता को लाभ मिल सके ।

SHRI PURNANARAYAN SINHA (Tejpur): Mr. Chairman, I am not using the same language which has been used by some of my friends with respect to the policy of my friend, the Minister. I quite appreciate that he has been making an effort but, I am afraid, at the same time, the Government is governed more by the barometer of the wholesale price index. When they find that it has fallen by two points, they immediately say that the prices have come down. They do not consider the viewpoint of the man of the street. When we go to the market, even in Delhi and meet the people, we try to learn from them their reactions to the various measures taken by the Government in relation to prices. They are dissatisfied. They criticise and blame the Government for having allowed the prices to continue to rise. Therefore, the man in the street, the consumer, the housewife and the small wage-earner is not satisfied with the retail prices of different consumer goods, including foodstuffs, in the markets. As it is being said about independence that eternal vigilance is the price of liberty, I would request the Minister to be vigilant about the fixation of price of

the raw materials and consumer goods by the traders. Now the traders say that they will voluntarily fix the prices. I can give you the example of the Chamber of Commerce of my district. They declared that they are going to fix the prices voluntarily but then they did, they did it with a big margin.

But when we actually assess from the Bill of Indent and the Railway Receipt the landed cost of a particular consignment of dal or other consumer goods in the city, we find that the price fixed by them voluntarily is sufficiently higher than, rather enormously higher than the price at which they can easily sell, by observing the moral standards in business.

I suggest that our Commerce Ministry, the Ministry of Civil Supplies, everywhere from the Centre to the District level, should keep an eye on the fixation of price and maintain parity between the landed cost or the production price and the ultimate selling price to the consumer.

I may tell you a story. In my State, Assam, the new Janata Minister promised to the people that he would supply dal at Rs. 3/- a kg. Everybody said that it will be Janata dal. Our Supply Minister announced this and arranged with some of the traders that a particular consignment of dal will be sold at Rs. 3/- a kg. in the retail market. To ensure that, what did he do? According to Ahilyaji's suggestion that the public distribution may be geared up in order to make it effective, he started retail shops of the State Federation of Cooperatives, parallel to the Consumers' Fair Price Shops. Through them he offered to sell dal. For a fortnight only he could sell the subsidised dal at Rs. 3/- a kg. The other day when I went to my constituency and toured the whole of the State, the people asked "what about the Janata dal, which your Janata Supply Minister promised us?" They said: "we got it only for a fortnight." Since the Minister has cut a

[Shri Purnanarayan Sinha]

sorry figure. There should be, therefore, some coordination between producers and buyers. You ask the traders as to why the price is so much, you ask the District Officers, Deputy Commissioners as to why the price is so high. They say the price is high at the source in Haryana, Hapur, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, from where the stores go to other parts of the country. If it is priced high at source, in between, there is pricing in addition by the different wholesalers at different stages. Therefore, I say that if the price at source of dal is one rupee, then another one rupee may be added and it should be sold to the consumer at Rs. 2/- a kg.

Though, by and large, we support whatever the Minister has been trying to do, I would request him that they should be more vigilant and there should be some parity in pricing consumer goods.

The paddy price is fixed at Rs. 74/- a quintal as support price. That has to be revised. That has to be made higher because rice price is continuing higher, much higher than that can be allowed even after allowing for milling and all that costs. The paddy price should be raised and it reasonably should be at least Rs. 85/- a quintal so that the agriculturists could get a little money.

So far as jute is concerned, it has been fixed at Rs. 150 a quintal, which is very much low. There has been a demand even in Bihar and the Bihar Chief Minister has said that it should be fixed at Rs. 190 to Rs. 200 per quintal. The jute growers should also be given the support price. It should be fixed between Rs. 190 and Rs. 200 a quintal, I also feel.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: Even higher.

SHRI PURNANARAYAN SINHA: My friend, Mr. Basu wants that it should be made even higher. Hessian price will be still higher. At the same time, they will raise the fertilizer bag-

ging price pro-rata so that the agriculturists cannot buy fertiliser. I hope that our Minister will tackle the situation in such a way that the man on the street does not get any more chances to call bad names to the Janata Government.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Minister.

SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF: I am not making any speech.

All that I would like to submit is that every section of the House shares concern on this vital issue. I think, my hon. friend, Mr. Mohan Dharia, is not incapable. He is a very capable person. If he can firmly deal with the traders, not only the prices will come down but even the adulteration will stop. I want the hon. Minister to deal with them firmly.

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am happy that at least this House could spare a few hours to discuss a matter of great national importance.

I appreciate the concern shown by the mover of the Resolution, Shrimati Ahilya P. Rangnekar, for this vital issue and also the various suggestions that have come forward in this House during the course of the debate.

I must say, by and large, the suggestions that were made by the hon. Members have come out of their concern for the country and the people. I cannot afford to take no notice of that concern. On the contrary, I would like to assure the House that, when I think of this problem of prices, when I think of the essential commodities and articles that are needed by the common man, right from the morning till late at night, it cannot be a party issue. It is a national issue. I would very much like that this debate must be lifted up above the petty partisan approaches and the party criticisms.

So far as the whole range of price line is concerned, as the hon. Members are well aware, there are various issues

involved,—the monetary and fiscal policies; production; the international situation and the national system, right from production to distribution. Every aspect contributes so far as the price line is concerned. It is in this context, the serious efforts are being made, I have decided today to take the House absolutely into confidence because when the Government has been trying to tackle this issue, the Government has taken note of the seriousness of this problem.

We are dealing with 63 crores of our brothers and sisters and, particularly, when nearly 60 per cent of our population is below or around the poverty line. It is perhaps they who are the worst sufferers. It is they who have to face the most agonising situations. Under the circumstances, if these essential commodities and articles are not made available to them at reasonable prices, the miseries are much more accentuated. It is in this background—I have no doubt in my mind—that I can say, on behalf of the Government that it is the approach of the Government, it is the policy of the Government that essential commodities and articles of the common man as are required right from the morning till late at night must be made available to him at reasonable prices. And the Government shall have to take this burden of making them available to the poor people.

I am not here to shirk the responsibility. But then please do not forget that when I use the word "Government", it is not only the Central Government but it is also the State Governments. Whatever may be the decision that we may take here, ultimately, by whom is it going to be implemented?

श्री विनायक प्रसाद यादव : मैं आप के माध्यम से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि रोजनेबिल प्राइस फिक्स करने का क्या क्राइटीरिया नय किया है, मंत्री जी इस के बारे में बताएं ?

श्री सखन लाल कपूर : मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि आप धाम चर्चा यह है कि जनता सरकार बर्षियों की सरकार हो गई है ।

17.00 hrs.

सभापति महोदय : मैं माननीय सदस्यों से प्रार्थना करता (स्वच्छदान) । मुझे बड़ा अफसोस है कि माननीय मंत्री महोदय ने धामी अपना भाषण प्रारम्भ ही किया और आप धामी से कुछ रुड़े हैं । कोई बात रह जाए तो बाद में तीजिया । यह कोई तरीका नहीं है ।

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: Sir, I have just begun, and I would like to reply to his question also. What is the problem today? The problem is: first, the essential articles and commodities that are needed by the common man should be identified; second, all possible efforts shall have to be made to produce these essential articles and commodities within the country, and to that extent, the highest priority shall have to be given in our Plans to production. After this production is made, the further operations are also equally important. What are those operations? Production, procurement, storage, transport and distribution—these are the five operations. The moment we think of production, how can we forget that, without proper incentives being given, our farmers will not produce adequate and will not produce with enthusiasm? And here comes the question of remunerative price. I have no doubt here again, that, when a remunerative price is to be fixed, it is not only the labour put in by the poor farmer that should be taken into consideration his wife also works, his children also work; all this labour put in for the production shall have to be taken into consideration if a remunerative is to be given. It should be possible for the farmer to live, out of his efforts, a decent living. He has committed no crime; he lives in far-flung areas and produces for the country. (Interruptions)

When I say that the labour should be taken into consideration, naturally the question of the inputs required by the farmers has also to be taken into consideration. When we want to fix a remunerative price for each commodity, we cannot forget the inputs

[Shri Mohan Dharia]

required by him — it may be fertilisers, it may be pesticides, it may be seeds, it may be the credit requirements, it may be the interest on that credit, it may be the storage charges. Not only these, for his living, he has to purchase several other articles: he requires clothes, he requires several other articles in his house—it may be edible oil; it may be several other articles that are required from day to day, right from wheat, foodgrains, to the industrial articles including exercise book, books, chappals, and so on. All these things are required. Therefore, I say that, whatever is required for the common man, right from the morning till late at night, should be treated as essential commodities and articles, and care shall have to be taken to see that, right from the inputs that are required for the farmers for his agriculture, for his farming, to whatever is required by him for his decent living, all these things are taken into consideration. On the basis of these, the reasonable prices should be calculated. This is my definition of 'reasonable prices'.

When I look at the present price, what do I find? You can ask me this question. APC decides the prices. Are we happy with those? I must say that it has not been possible for us to render equitable justice to the farmers as is done in the case of industries. In the case of industry, for fixing prices, we take into consideration the capital involved, the depreciation involved, the interest and other charges; so many things are taken into consideration; and besides these, also what should be a fair return. If this is the norm that is being applied to industries, I think, the same norm shall have to be applied so far as agriculture is concerned; that is also an industry for these purposes.

So, now a question has been put to me—is the Government willing to do anything? I know, Sir, the steps that

we have taken so far are not adequate. But please try to understand and bear with me. The price of cotton which was Rs. 220 in earlier years—we took that to Rs. 255. For groundnuts the price was Rs. 120 and it was taken to Rs. 160 and perhaps it is possible and it may be that we may like to add to is that price because we are not interested in importing oils that we have to do now. It is true that we have taken care of the price line so far as edible oils are concerned. But if you tell me every time that foreign steamers come to our country, it pains me. It does not give me any relief. I can assure you on that. When this country is competent enough to produce these things, why should it not be possible? Why should we not produce? Why should we not pay to the farmers here instead of paying to the foreign farmers? It pains me, but I have to do it when the country needs 34 lakhs tonnes of oil every year and when the production is only 24 lakh tonnes. Naturally I cannot say, as it happened last year when the prices were soaring from Rs. 6 per kg to Rs. 10 per kg. for groundnut oil, we should allow it to go up. It is not possible. Therefore, some concrete steps have to be taken. In the meantime, I can assure the House that in consultation with the Planning Commission and in consultation with the Agriculture Ministry, we have already taken steps, both short-term and long-term steps as to how we can make this country self-sufficient so far all these things are concerned. And it is here, as I was just saying, for instance in regard to pulses it is true, I do share the agony of the hon. Members that the prices of pulses have gone up. But nobody has taken into consideration that the production of pulses has remained stagnant for the last 20 years. Particularly, for the last 12 years the production of pulses have remained in between 110 lakhs tonnes and 120 lakhs tonnes. Again it has come down to 110 lakhs tonnes. Now we have taken several steps to augment the production of pulses. We could make a dent in the case of wheat

and rice because of the high-yielding varieties that were invented in our country. But we have not been able to make any research and development effort so far as pulses are concerned.

श्री उपसेन (देवरिया) : प्राई० ए० ग्रा० प्राई० को इसके बारे में कहे ।

श्री मोहन धारिया : उनको बोल दिया है । उनको कह दिया है कि जितना पैसा चाहिये उतना मिलेगा । इस काम को हम को करके दो । इतना ही नहीं । We have now asked them.

But this House will be happy to know that Uttar Pradesh has taken up a scheme this year for the production of Moong and as per information received by the Agriculture Ministry, this House will be happy to know that the production of summer pulses will be of the order of 1 million tonnes more this year. When that production comes, it will be possible for me to give some relief.

Then again a question has been put to me: what has the Government done for incentive. Sir, it is again a matter of agony for me that Moong and Arhar no support price was given to the farmers so far and it is this Janata Government which has already announced Rs. 155 per quintal for whole Arhar and Rs. 165 for whole Moong. I am not speaking of the split Arhar. For the split Arhar it crosses Rs. 200.

श्री उपसेन : एक अरहर वह होती है जो जुलाई में बोई जाती है और नवम्बर में तैयार हो जाती है और एक वह होती है जो मार्च में तैयार होती है । यह जो नवम्बर में तैयार हो जाती है इसके बारे में भी प्राई० ए० ग्रा० प्राई० को कहे कि इसको मल्टीप्लाई करके दे ।

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: You are perfectly all right. Similarly for these grams... (Interruptions)

Sir, I can give one more assurance to the House. Those of my friends who are interested in this discussion—with them I am prepared to have a separate meeting and we can fix up a day and discuss it. I am ready for that because it will cut short the discussion.

Now, I was saying that for Arhar and for Moong it is Rs. 155 and Rs. 165 per quintal. That is the support price given by the government

Similarly, in the case of grams, the price which was to the tune of Rs. 90 to 95 was raised to Rs. 125 immediately. You take it from me that it shall not be changed. At the most it will be upgraded, it cannot be brought down at any cost. We should also see that there must be some guarantee to the agriculturists. Otherwise, how can they offer it?

To-day what is needed is the identification which the Committee has already done. It is on the basis of that, perhaps, it is for the first time in this country, that not only the Planning Commission has taken cognisance of it but also this new Plan document incorporates that essential commodities/articles must be made available to the commonman at a reasonable price. This scheme has been approved. On the basis of that, whatever programmes of production are to be given priority that will be given priority. This is again a new change.

On 20th March, 1978 there was a meeting of the National Development Council attended by the Chief Ministers and in that meeting the resolution on the public distribution-cum-production scheme has been again upheld and supported by all the Chief Ministers. I shall share with this House that—Yes, my friend Dr. Ramji Singh has brought to my notice and he has remained me—it was Mr. Dharia who was the Chairman of that Committee on the essential commodities when he was there in the Planning Commission who brought forward this scheme. I am well aware of it. It was on the basis of that report which was placed somewhere in the Cell, we came together; we had a full discussion. Discussions are necessary not only in the planning ministries but also with the other concerned ministries. Afterwards, it was also necessary to have discussions with the State Governments because, without their cooperation,

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 tion, it cannot happen and so, we consult them. It has taken some time. But, this House will bear with me that if you want to have a scheme to take care of all the sixtythree crores of people—and this House is also interested to know that right from the production stage till the distribution, for all the operations, a scientific base has to be created. You are interested also in breaking this vicious circle. What is that vicious circle? When the prices go up, there is a demand for D.A. from those who are organised but those who are in unorganised sector have nothing to have except sufferings. Nothing is given. Those who are organised have their strikes and all that and then the Government is forced to pay the D.A. No sooner the amount of D.A. goes into the market, then the Prices again go up and a further demand again for the D.A. comes up. That vicious circle has to be broken. The only way is to tell the commonman, to tell the working-class, to tell the farmers and to those who are in unorganised sectors or in organised sectors that these are the essential commodities that are required for you right from the morning till the night. We have taken steps, right from the production till the distribution of these particular items to make them available at certain prices. So, there should be no question of D.A... I am careful. I do not think it will happen immediately. But, this is the scientific approach and to create that sort of scheme requires some time. I can assure the House that I shall try my level best. Naturally I want the comments from the State Governments. I went on sending my circulars and reminding them. Naturally I have also to wait for some time. I am happy to tell the House that the comments from all the State Governments have been received. We have also received comments from the concerned ministries. On the basis of these we have now finalised the scheme. Now that scheme is not with the ministry but it is before the Cabinet for its consideration. And it is for the Cabinet to take

a decision. I do share the anxiety with this House and I have sent the scheme that has been prepared to the Cabinet for the final decision of the Government. I can assure this House that the decision will be taken soon because this is the commitment of the Government.

One of my hon. friends has reminded me:

धरिया साहब बैठे हैं मगर जो बायदे किये हैं जनता को उनको भूल गये, ऐसा कहा गया । मगर मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि पूरी जिन्दगी में अगर मैंने कोई राजनीति की होगी, तो दूसरी राजनीति में तो मैं कभी फंसता नहीं, मैं चाहता हूँ कि वचन पूति की राजनीति हों । और मैं इसी में विश्वास करता हूँ ।

This is not the politics of some unions that is necessary. It is not the politics of convenience; it is the policy of the commitment which is necessary. It was in the year 1975 that Shri Jayaprakash Narayan and various youngsters came before this country for the policy of the commitment. I had the courage to tell Mrs. Gandhi, the then Prime Minister, that 'this was the need of the hour. Please have your dialogue.' But, at that time, to make a demand for a dialogue became a crime. You all know that I had to quite the Ministry. (*Interruptions*). It was a long travel right from the Central Government to Central Prison at Nasik. It was a long travel but I want to assure the hon'ble Members that so far as our commitments to the people are concerned we are in the government to fulfil those commitments. The moment I feel I am not able to fulfil the commitments from that moment onwards you will not see me in the Chair. I am not interested in the Chair (*Interruptions*).

Sir, so far as prices are concerned, I donot want to go in to the figures. I am avoiding it knowing full well that if you compare against 29th July, 1977 the whole-sale price index was 188.3 and on 29th July, 1978 it was 185.8. But I agree with Mr. Mavalankar and other friends that generally people are least worried with these figures. They are

concerned with what they get in the market. So, I am not going into the figures. But, with your permission I want to say that recently I was in Russia, a socialist country. Prior to that I was in several West Asian countries. This House may not believe me but the question that was put to me, if I am to put in their language:

"Your Excellency, May we know the magic applied by your Government and your country that while in our country the prices have gone up by 5 per cent, 10 per cent or 15 per cent—I am not speaking of Russia at the moment—how it has been possible to contain this price line in your country?"

That was the question put to us. I do not want in any way to hurt the feelings of the people or the agonies and the anxieties expressed by the members but I am putting it to you while in other countries—developed countries—and prices inflationary trends have gone up by 10 per cent or 12 per cent. India is one of the countries where it has been possible to contain the price line in spite of the fact that those oppressive measures are now no more. (*Interruptions*).

AN HON. MEMBER: It is at the cost of the peasantry.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYA: You cannot expect from those capitalist countries. Forget!

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: Sir, let us try to understand the developing world. Let us try to understand every country. Even socialist country like Russia is having collaboration with capitalist countries. Even Nippon Steel Ltd., a private limited steel company is going to have collaboration with China. A new steel plant of 6 million tonnes is coming up in China with the collaboration of this company. So, when we think of these dogmatic philosophes... (*Interruptions*).

Please do not involve me in that. Here the point is how we can produce the essential articles and commodities

if there is short supply. What sort of other measures including imports could be done? In the meantime how are we going to usher production? What sort of schemes we are prepared to take? I can tell the House that my colleague—who is sitting here—Shri Barnala has been taking keen interest in producing pulses, oilseeds of various types—cotton, jute and other things that are necessary.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: We produce jute and perish also.

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: So far as support price is concerned my friend, Shri Chitta Basu, knows perhaps better than any body else that while I was in charge of jute last year when lot of trouble was there I had taken adequate care of growers first. He will bear with me. That is the policy of the Government. That is not my policy. That is the policy of the Government. Without going into further details I can assure my hon. friend Mr. Mavalankar that in the beginning when we took charge, we had to issue warnings. But now I do not issue any warning at all. I am an 'Action Minister' I don't want to be a Warning Minister'.

Now, so far as Cement is concerned, you may be well aware of the situation. Mr. George Fernandes and I had an hour-long meeting. We met the Cement Manufacturing Association's representatives, the representatives of the State Governments, Government officials and others concerned in the matter. We have made our policy very clear. They have assured us that they will discipline their traders. If there is shortage of cement, instead of 100 bags you may give 80 bags or instead of ten bags you may give eight bags. That one can understand. But I cannot understand anybody charging Rs. 40 extra or Rs. 35 extra. They cannot charge even a single paise more than what is prescribed by the Government. Therefore, we have already written to the Chief Ministers saying that we cannot afford to be complacent in this matter. If their association

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fails to discipline their traders, we are not going to count on them. We have told them about this. We have told the Chief Ministers, prepare your mechanism, and from 1st of October, if this Association fails, let the whole distribution of cement be taken over by the State Government and that we will give them all possible cooperation. We have already cleared the scheme of the West Bengal Government.

So, Sir, let them not make a charge again and again saying that we are a government of traders and so on. This is not a Ministry of Traders. Our sympathies are always for the poor people. We always want to improve the lot of the poor. Why should we go on defending the traders? We don't do it. But at the same time we do not want to create any unnecessary atmosphere where there is nothing but distrust. We don't want that at all.

Under our public distribution system till today we have 2,40,000 fair price shops of which 1,80,000 are run by private traders. They are small traders. Now, under the new scheme which is before the Cabinet, we have made it very clear that there will be a vigilance committee for every fair price shop. They will discipline the fair price shops. If the small traders accept the discipline, if they display the price list and so on, if they deliver the goods as prescribed by the Government, if they go according to the advice of the Vigilance Committee, we would not like to disturb them at all. But if they don't do it, if the Vigilance Committee say that they are not behaving properly, their licences will be cancelled and these will go to the cooperative societies of the consumers. That is what we have proposed. So far as further expansion is concerned, at present, we are having only 2.40 lakhs shops and, as my hon. friend said, they are not adequate. We shall require more of fair price shops. Now, to whom should they go? We have made it very clear. They should go to the cooperative societies and not to private traders because...

SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: One hour is over, Sir, I am moving my Resolution ...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, Not now.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYA: Don't worry, you will get enough time.

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: Government is very clear on this. In our country there is mixed economy no doubt. But the commanding heights of the economy shall have to be controlled through the public sector. Sir, a charge is being made that this Government is doing away with the public sector. It is not at all correct. Sir, the investment in the Fifth Five Year Plan was of the order of Rs. 39,000 crores for the public sector. Do you know what is the public sector outlay in the new plan? It is not Rs. 39,000 crores or anything like that, but it is Rs. 69,000 crores. Why? It is because of our faith in the public sector. When you say that we have no faith and so on, I would like to make it very clear that our party stands for the removal of the grievances of the poor people, it stands for the creation of an egalitarian society. It stands for the poorer sections of society and it is engaged in this direction. Of course, there are some friends who are always frustrated and it is very difficult to satisfy them.

So, there are various schemes which we have prepared which take care of production, procurement, transport, storage and distribution. It would also ensure remunerative price to the producers and these things would be available at reasonable price to the consumers. May I appeal to the Members of Parliament that if you want a better public distribution system, let us organise cooperatives of the producers at their level and let us also organize the consumer cooperatives at the consumers level. You please take up this task in your constituencies and as the Minister incharge of Co-operation, I am prepared to give you all cooperation. Until and unless this positive approach is taken, we will not

succeed. If you ask us to go and purchase tobacco in Hyderabad, Gujarat or some other place or onions in some parts of Maharashtra, it is not possible for us to do. We do try to do that, but it is not possible to do that to the desired extent. It is for the representatives of the people and the State Government....

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY: STC has promised to purchase tobacco at Guntur and other places this year.

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: We have been trying to do that and this is perhaps the first time that STC has been asked to purchase nearly 15,000 tonnes of virginia tobacco and NAFED has been asked to purchase 25,000 tonnes of tobacco, because there is a glut. But, we cannot do that from Delhi. We do not have an army of officers who can go from here and do this work. You have been pointing out that even if these officers go, perhaps they will do their own job and will not give any relief to the producers. If that is true, the best course is to have a proper link between the consumers and the producers. An illustration of England was given; very much right.

SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN: What happens to the next Resolution?

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: Shrimati Ahilya P. Rangnekar has to reply; we can have it next time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am anxious to see that the Resolution might come today, but I am afraid, that this cannot come.

SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: One hour is over; I am moving my Resolution.

MR. CHAIRMAN: In the midst, you cannot do that. After all, the Minister has to complete his reply; the hon. Mover has to be given a chance to reply; there are amendments also which have been moved. What happens to them? I am sorry that this

Resolution is not being taken up, but that cannot be helped.

I am informed that under Direction 9A, Shri Naidu would get a priority next time; he need not, therefore, worry.

PROF. R. K. AMIN: Will the hon. Minister lay on the floor of the House a statement with regard to the policy of production and distribution for the consideration of the House.

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: This whole scheme is before the Cabinet. Unless and until it is cleared by the Cabinet, it cannot come here, but as soon as it is cleared, I shall come and make a statement and give all information.

PROF. R. K. AMIN: So that we can discuss it.

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: I have no objection, I would be very happy to do that.

I was making a point how we can establish a link between the consumers and the producers. This year, while in Delhi, the prices of vegetable have gone up to Rs. 4/- or Rs. 5/- per kg., the prices in places beyond 10, 15 or 20 miles for such vegetables are hardly Re. 1/- or so. Only ten days back. I convened a meeting where the Chief Executive Councillor, other Executive Councillors of Delhi. Mayor of Delhi and others were present and it has been decided that the producers co-operatives should immediately be strengthened and we should open by the end of September hundred centres in Delhi, where it should be possible for them to bring their goods directly and make available to the consumers, so that the producers may get more for their produce and the consumers are able to get these things at reasonable prices.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, you may continue next time.

Now, we take up half-an-hour discussion. Shri Dawn.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYA: She will not get the chance to reply.

MR. CHAIRMAN: She will get it next time.

SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: I am moving the resolution, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You cannot do it like this. The earlier business has not been completed. The Minister has to continue his speech. Now we will have the Half-an-Hour Discussion.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: You have now said that his resolution will not lapse, but will be taken up the next day; but Direction 9A will apply only if it is in the same session. Will it come during this session?

MR. CHAIRMAN: It will come on the last day of the session. Now we will have the Half-an-Hour Discussion. Mr. R. K. Dawn

17.35 hrs.

HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION

PROCUREMENT PRICES OF PADDY AND JUTE

***SHRI RAJ KRISHNA DAWN** (Burdwan): Mr. Chairman, Sir, in my Unstarred Question No. 2168 dated 31st July 1978 I had asked: "Whether the prices of the basic items required for agriculture such as fertilizers, labourers, chemicals, pesticides, oil cakes, seeds, pump sets etc. and prices of essential commodities required by the farmers have increased manifold compared to the prescribed procurement price of paddy and jute"? In reply to this the hon. Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation had said: "During the last 12 months prices of some inputs mentioned by the hon. Member have increased and those of some other remained steady or declined." Those items whose prices have declined have been given in the reply. It is seen that price of lubricating oil has fallen.

Lubricating oil is a item which is very little used by the farmers. I do not know whether the hon. Minister uses lubricating oil in his car or not but I can say that the prices of this item has fallen only because it is extensively adulterated almost 50 per cent of the supply is adulterated. The price of fertilizers has been stated to have fallen but the fall is to the extent of 1.4 per cent only. But, Sir, the black marketeers have caused rise in its available price to the extent of almost 20 per cent. Where is the benefit to the farmers? Fertilizers are not readily available, at least in the case of West Bengal I can confidently say that any kinds of chemical fertilizers are not available there. You say that price of fertilizers have fallen but the farmers just cannot get fertilizers. The fall in prices is totally inconsistent with its availability. Then it has been stated that prices of insecticides/pesticides have fallen to the extent of 0.7 percent. But the prices of those insecticides have fallen which are produced in the large multinational factories. The adulterated chemicals that are produced at Sonapur in the 24-Parganas are going on unchecked. The Government has not made any efforts to prohibit its production or confiscate the adulterated stuff. Through these adulterated pesticides not only the produce is getting damaged, but it is also harming the whole nation and the Government is keeping its eyes closed inspite of this fact being brought to their notice several times. The hon. Minister has said in that context that they have opened a laboratory to see that pesticides and chemicals are not adulterated. They have allotted a sum of Rs. 7-1/2 lakhs to the West Bengal Government for this purpose this year, to find out whether adulteration is being done by the adulterators which will be detected by this laboratory. Sir, the hon. Minister in reply to a question No. 1020 asked on 24th July said, the question was: "Whether Government are aware of the black marketing in fertilizers in West Bengal?"

*The original speech was delivered in Bengali.