

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :
What about the privilege motion that
I have given?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No motion.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It cannot be allowed.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You put questions
and he will have to reply.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Uttam Rathod:
Calling Attention.

(Interruptions)

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आपको अप्रति दी है,
अगर आप टाईम का कंसीडरेशन नहीं करना
चाहते किसी बात में तो जो इकनामिक
यंकटस है

SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRA-
BORTY: (Calcutta South): We want
an adjournment motion to be discussed.

(Interruptions)

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आप वॉच में बोल रहे हैं,
आप बैठत क्यों नहीं.

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot allow an
adjournment motion. I cannot do it
according to the rules.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: whatever it is, that
cannot be done.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Read the rules and
then come to me.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Calling attention.
You can come and see me.

(Interruptions)

12.6 hrs

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER
OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Reported slump and glut in the
cotton market in the country

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD (Hingoli):
I call the attention of the Minister of
Commerce of the following matter of
urgent public importance and request
that he may make a statement thereon:

"Reported slump and glut in the
cotton market in the country due
to failure of the Government to in-
crease the guaranteed price under
the Cotton Monopoly Purchase sch-
eme in Maharashtra and disinte-
rest shown by Cotton Corporation
of India in Gujarat and Punjab to
protect the interests of cotton gro-
wers."

SHRI RATANSINH RAJDA (Bom-
bay South): I have given a notice of
the privilege issue. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You come and see
me.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You see me before
you can raise it.

(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing is going on
record. You come and see me.

(Interruptions)**

SHRI RATANSINGH RAJDA: I
have given a privilege notice.

MR. SPEAKER: I am not allowing
the privilege motion.

(Interruptions)**

SHRI RATANSINH RAJDA: You
must protect our rights.....

MR. SPEAKER: You come and see
me.

(Interruptions)**

SHRI RATANSINGH RAJDA:
Prima facie it is very clear.

MR. SPEAKER: There is no *prima
facie* ground; absolutely nothing. You
come and see me and I will talk to
you.

(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: I am not going to
allow any privilege motion. You can
come and see me.

(Interruptions)**

SHRI RATANSINH RAJDA: What
do you propose to do with it?

MR. SPEAKER: You come and see
me.

** (Interruptions)

SHRI RATANSINGH RAJDA: You
have seen my privilege motion.....

(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing goes on record because I have instructed and requested him to come and see me.

(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: You do not enjoy any other special privilege than what the general public enjoy.

(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: I have not given my consent. I am not going to allow you to discuss it in the House.

(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: You can come and see me.

(Interruptions)**

SHRI RATANSINH RAJDA: May I draw your attention....

(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: No, you can come and see me.

(Interruptions)**

SHRI RATANSINH RAJDA: What is the remedy for it?

MR. SPEAKER: You can come and see me.

(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Law is equal to you as well as to any other citizen. You are not going to be differentiated.

(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Law is applicable to a Member of Parliament as well.

(Interruptions)**

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): When MPs' residences are attacked....

(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: I can discuss it with you. आप भी बात कर लें।

(व्यवधान)

MR. SPEAKER: I have not given my consent.**

(Interruptions)**

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: In the past, when MPs' residences were attacked, always the matter was raised in the House....

(Interruptions)**

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Basirhat): On my previous occasion, when a member of this House was assaulted or attacked, did you say that the law is there and you go and take resort to it?

MR. SPEAKER: There is no question of assault here.

(Interruptions)**

SHRI RATANSINH RAJDA: This is worst than that.

MR. SPEAKER: I will see if there is a question of privilege. I am here to protect it. But if there is no question of privilege, I cannot. That is what I told you, you came and see me.

(Interruptions)**

SHRI RATANSINH RAJDA: You have not admitted it?

MR. SPEAKER: You can come and see me.

(Interruptions)**

SHRI RATANSINH RAJDA: I am prepared to come and see you.

(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: You can come and see me.

(Interruptions)**

SHRI RATANSINH RAJDA: So, it is under your consideration.

(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: You can come and see me. That is what I said.

(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Why do you persist it unnecessarily? What is there to persist in.....?

(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: I have not allowed anything.

(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: He can come and see me. You are also welcome.

(Interruptions)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: If it affects the discharge of the duties of an M.P., will you say that he can go to a court of law? (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am not going to discuss anything. Nothing is to be re-

[Mr. Speaker]

corded. I am not going to discuss anything regarding privilege here.

PROF. MADUDANDAVATE: Assult of an M.P. has been allowed in the past. (Interruptions)

SHRI RATANSINH RAJDA: Is it under your consideration?

MR. SPEAKER: Yes. Otherwise how can you come and see me?

SHRI RATANSINH RAJDA: It is under your consideration, then.....

MR. SPEAKER: Yes.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY (Bombay North East): I am glad it is under your consideration. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You can come and see me.

SHRI HARIKESH BHADUR (Gorakhpur): What about law and order in Delhi?

(व्यवधान)

अध्यक्ष महोदय : देखिए, आप तो जिद करते हैं । न तो आप रूल की बात करते हैं, न सिद्धांत की बात करते हैं । मैंने एक बात बता दी है कि बजट सेशन चल रहा है और होम मिनिस्ट्री की डिमांड्स आ रही हैं । मुझे कोई रूल बता दें, जिस में यह कर दूँ ।

(व्यवधान)

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मैंने एक बात बताई है । आप उस बात पर ध्यान देने के लिए तैयार नहीं हैं ।

Your only motive is to create arumpus.

(Interruptions)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Muzaffarpur): We take exception to your remarks. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Why do you say so? When I say, I am open to suggestions, you are welcome to come and talk to me.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let me see. I said that I will allow Call Attention. I am

ready to admit it. But if you want any more discussion you can have it on the Home Ministry demands.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: I have to say.. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, Mr. Minister, (Interruptions)

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: You said you would call me. I have been patiently waiting—Will you please call me? (Interruptions) The law of privileges has not been codified. And so whatever you say here is... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You can come and see me. You are also welcome along with him.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: I have given you a breach of privilege motion against the 'Onlooker'

MR. SPEAKER: You come and see me.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Not allowed. Not here.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: What about my breach of privilege motion against the Home Minister?

MR. SPEAKER: I have seen it. I have asked for the facts. I have referred it to them. I do not take much time I just do immediately what is needed according to the rules. I am bound by the rules up to the point, up to the mark, right on the thread. (Interruptions)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: I hope you will be able to catch the Home Minister. (Interruptions)

श्री मनोराम बागड़ी (हिसार) : होम मिनिस्टर पंजाब गए हैं ।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी (नई दिल्ली) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैंने आपका ध्यान एक मामले की ओर खींचा था । किसानों की जमीन 18 साल पहले खरीदी गई थी, मगर

अभी तक उसका मुआवजा नहीं दिया गया है। (व्यवधान)।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मैं यही कह रहा था।

(व्यवधान)

अध्यक्ष महोदय : कमाव हो गया है। आप बात नहीं करने देते, बागड़ी जी। आप कहते हैं कि डाके की बात करो। मैं उसी बात को लेना चाहता हूँ जो वाजपेयी जी चाहते हैं।

(व्यवधान)

MR. SPEAKER: That is all right now.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: (Jaipur): You may kindly recall that three months ago, on the 10th of December, 1981 I had submitted a motion of privilege against Mr. R. K. Karanjia, Shri Rajpal Singh Chaudhuri. It is more than three months.

MR. SPEAKER: Give me two days more.

श्री चन्द्रजीत यादव : (आजमगढ़) : आपने कृपा कर के इस सदन में कहा था। मैंने आपका ध्यान खींचा था। दो लाख आदमियों के टेम्पोरेरी राशन कार्ड रीन्यु नहीं किए गए हैं। इससे दो लाख मजदूर सफ़र कर रहे हैं।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : कोई मोशन दीजिए। कोई मोशन दिया है आपने ?

श्री चन्द्रजीत यादव : मोशन दिया है। आपने कहा है कि उसको ले रहे हैं। दो लाख मजदूर बगैर राशन के, बगैर अनाज के, रह रहे हैं।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मैं कह रहा हूँ कि बारी बारी लेंगे। एक दिन में सब

कुछ नहीं हो सकता है। मैं यही प्रार्थना कर रहा था कि काम की बातें ग्रा जाने दी जाएं।

(व्यवधान)

अध्यक्ष महोदय : होम मिनिस्ट्री की डिमांड्स पर डिस्कशन के दौरान इसको ले लीजिए।

SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABARTY: That motion was there and you promised that it would be admitted this week. (Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE Ministry of COMMERCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): The hon. Member... (Interruptions)... Sir, the hon. Members have raised two separate and distinct issues. First issue relates to the alleged slump and glut in the Cotton market in the country due to the alleged failure of the Government to increase the guaranteed prices of cotton under the Cotton Monopoly Procurement Scheme in Maharashtra and second issue relates to the alleged disinterest shown by the Cotton Corporation of India, especially in Gujarat and Punjab to protect the interest of the cotton growers.

It is incorrect to say that there is a slump and glut in the cotton market in the country due to failure of the Government to increase the guaranteed prices under the Cotton Monopoly Scheme of the Government of Maharashtra. As the Scheme stands the increase or non-increase of prices under the cotton monopoly Scheme in Maharashtra will not affect the availability or non-availability of cotton outside the State of Maharashtra. The two issues are quite separate from each other.

The Cotton Corporation of India has been making purchases as in previous years in all the cotton growing States, where the crop has started arriving and has purchased 32.01 lakh quintals of kapas till the 2nd of March 1982. These purchases include purchases by the Cotton Corporation of

[Shri Shivraj V. Patil]

India of over 8.62 lakh quintals of kapas in Punjab and over 2.70 lakh quintals of kapas in Gujarat. The Cotton Corporation of India has also purchased in addition to kapas over 19,000 fully pressed bales from Co-operative Societies in the State of Gujarat. There is therefore no failure on the part of Cotton Corporation of India in making purchases of kapas from cultivators especially in the States of Gujarat and Punjab. The prices paid by the Cotton Corporation of India to growers in these States on an average during the current season have been far above the support prices for the relevant varieties.

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD: Sir, for the last 15 days, I had been struggling to get this calling attention admitted.

MR. SPEAKER: Your efforts have fructified

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD: Yes, thank you. My original calling attention was:

"The failure of the Government to increase the guaranteed price of Cotton Monopoly Purchase Scheme in Maharashtra in spite of the Commerce Minister's promise on 1st December, 1981 and the utter disinterest shown by CCI in Gujarat and Punjab to protect the interests of cotton growers."

This was the original calling attention I had submitted. Later on two days back, to accommodate the grievances of other areas also, this was framed in the present form. Fortunately or unfortunately, the Minister has given a very technical reply. It was on 1st December when the first calling attention notice was given for fixation of the guaranteed price in Maharashtra, against which there was an agitation in Vidarbha region. On that occasion, the then Minister promised us:

"I can assure him that I will definitely take into account the increa-

sed cost of inputs which are relevant."

He further said,

"Unfortunately last time the meeting was not called."

Under the Monopoly Purchase Scheme in Maharashtra, there is a Committee which comprises of 4 members from the Central Government and 4 members from the State Government and about that he said, last time the meeting was not held. Ultimately he said:

"The suggestion of the Maharashtra Government will definitely have to be taken into consideration."

The Maharashtra Government has suggested Rs. 638 per quintal in Maharashtra. I may bring here certain facts to your notice. The APC fixed the price of kapas for variety 320-F/414-F/J-34 at Rs. 290 in March 1980. Later on, these prices were revised and from Rs. 290 they were made Rs. 300 in June, 1980. Subsequently, the Government of India decided that the price instead of Rs. 300 should be made Rs. 304. Last year, no prices were fixed by APC. Perhaps it was more busy in other spheres and it did not find any time to fix the price of cotton. So, the 1980-81 prices had continued. It was on this basis that we had called the attention of the Minister, on which we got the assurance from the Government that they are going to reconsider it and very soon, we will have an increase in the guaranteed price. You will be surprised to know that when this Calling Attention Notice was moved here, this year as on 27th November, 1981 the purchase of kapas was only 2.48 lakh quintals while it was 6.68 lakh quintals last year on the same date. After the assurance given by the Minister, the people in Maharashtra started taking their cotton to the purchasing centres. This year the cotton that has been taken to the purchasing centres has gone up to 57 lakh quintals while last year on the same way, it was

62.81 lakh quintals. This shows a difference of 5.81 lakh quintals. This year even this much increase was due to the specific assurance given by the Commerce Minister that they would consider and take a decision to the effect of increasing the guaranteed price.

After that, we met the hon. Minister on 23 December. We also approached some authorities. To that, the Joint Secretary, Mr. Singlu, has replied that very soon they would keep the proposal before the Committee. I want to know whether the Committee has already met to re-consider the guaranteed price of cotton in Maharashtra after the specific assurance given by the hon. Commerce Minister; if so, when?

About Punjab & Haryana, the APC in its report for 1980-81 has said:

"In making the above recommendations it was presumed that the underlying cost structure will not undergo any substantial change during the growth period of the cotton crop. However, since the report was submitted, a major development that has come about is an increase of 37.9 per cent in the prices of nitrogenous fertilisers and of around 50 per cent in the price of diesel oil. Sowing operations, covering an area of 12 lakh hectares in the States of Punjab, Haryana and Upper Rajasthan were, according to the latest available information, completed by the end of May, 1980. In these areas only basal dose of the fertilisers would have been used before the fertiliser prices were enhanced. The bulk of the fertiliser (around 80 per cent) which is used as top dressing would, thus be applied after fertiliser prices have been raised."

All these factors were included while fixing the price of cotton in Haryana and Punjab for 1981-82 season though the basal dose was given before the increase in the price of

fertiliser. About Maharashtra, in spite of the assurance given by the Minister, no meeting was held and no increase was given. This is our grievance.

About the slump I have say that mills in Maharashtra particularly Bombay numbering 65, consume nearly two lakh bales every month. But the mills in Bombay have been closed for the last almost two months. And that has affected the cotton prices in the market. May I request the Minister to allow us to export long staple cotton? With hybrid seed, more fertiliser and irrigation, people have changed the pattern from short staple variety to long staple variety. May I request the Minister to allow us to export the cotton in order to do away with this slump? Secondly, will he increase, as was assured by him, the guaranteed price in Maharashtra.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: The first part of the question relates to the holding of the meeting of the Committee in Maharashtra State. Section 24 (1) of the Act says that at the commencement of every cotton season, the Cotton Co-ordination Committee, as established under sub-section (2), shall recommend to the State Government the guaranteed prices for different varieties of cotton. This is a Committee which is working in the State, this is not a Committee working under the Central Government. There is a law for this purpose. Generally, it is expected that the Committee would meet, consider the problem and fix the price, which would be given. The responsibility for holding the meeting of this Committee may not be put on the shoulders of the Central Government. Of course, we can find out the position. They can hold the meeting of the Committee and decide as to what should be the guaranteed price that should be given.

PROF. N. G. RANGA (Guntur):
Has the Committee met?

SHRI SHIVRAJ S. PATIL: I think the meeting of the Committee has not taken place. It may meet and decide what should be the price.

SHRI Y. S. MAHAJAN (Jalgaon): Four months after the selling season has started?

PROF. N. G. RANGA: The Central Government can advise the State Government to hold a meeting of the Committee.

SHRI SHIVRAJ S. PATIL: As far as the second question is concerned, the hon. Member wants to know whether we would allow the export of cotton to other countries. We shall not put any restriction on the export of cotton, if it can be exported to other countries.

MR. SPEAKER: Not only allow, but promote the export.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: If there is any market outside for long staple cotton, we would certainly allow it. We have been allowing the export of cotton in the past, as the following figures will show. We will not restrict the export of long staple cotton. The following are the figures of export:

1976-77	..	0.20	Lakh bales
1978-79	..	1.4
1979-80	..	4.4
1980-81	..	6.97
1981-82	..	2.08

If cotton is there and it can be exported we shall have no objection to its export.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): The observation of the Hon. Speaker is, not only allow the export but promote export.

SHRI SHIVRAJ S. PATIL: That is our responsibility, and we are not shirking it. We shall certainly try to

find out where there is a market for it and we would try to see that the exportable quantity of cotton is exported. We are not shirking it. I was just answering the question that was put. The question was whether we are going to allow the export. I said that we have already allowed it and that this time also we are not going to take any objection to it. That does not mean that I am shirking the responsibility for promoting export of cotton.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Shantubhai Patel.

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD: What I could follow from the answer of the hon. Minister is that we have to approach the State Government for the meeting...

MR. SPEAKER: I have called Shri Shantubhai Patel.

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD: Sir, I am entitled to two questions.

MR. SPEAKER: No: only one.

श्री शान्नुभाई पटेल (मावरकंठा) :
 अध्यक्ष महोदय, किसानों की कपास का प्रश्न केवल इस दफा ही सेशन में नहीं आया है, पिछले कई सालों से यह प्रश्न उठता रहा है, लेकिन इस सम्बन्ध में सरकार को जो कदम उठाने चाहिये थे वे नहीं उठा सकी है जिस के कारण किसानों की बहुत बरबादी होती है, हलांकि होती है, मुश्किल होती है। ए० पी० सी० ने जो रिकमेंडेशन की थी उस को साल भर पूरा हो जायेगा तथा नई सपोर्ट प्राइस एनाउन्स करने का जो काम किया जाना चाहिये था वह नहीं किया गया है। देश में जो कपास का उत्पादन होता है, इस की बिक्री वेल्स में होती है लेकिन सी० सी० आई० ने जो परचेज किया है, वह यहां पर क्वीटल में 'दखाई है। इस को अगर

किलों में दिखाते तो लोगों को इस से भी ज्यादा लगता कि सी० सी० आई० ने खरीदा है । देश में जो काटन का उत्पादन होता है वह करीब 80 लाख बेल्स होता है जबकि इस का कंजम्पशन करीब 75-76 लाख बेल्स है । इसलिए मेरा कहना यह है कि जो कपास बाकी बचा रह जाता है, उस को एक्सपोर्ट करना चाहिए । एक्सपोर्ट के बारे में मंत्री जा ने बताया है कि हम इस को रोकते नहीं हैं लेकिन मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि दूसरे देशों में जो इस के लिए बजार होता है, उस की जानकारी किसानों को देनी चाहिए और वहां पर इस के भाव ऊंचे हैं या नीचे हैं, यह बताना चाहिए । गुजरात में जो काटन होती है, वह बहुत अच्छी होती है और काआपरेटिव और दूसरे सब मिला कर गुजरात में करीब 20 लाख गठरी काटन की होती हैं । उस में से 10 लाख गठरी जमा हो गई हैं और इन का निकास नहीं हो रहा है । आप ने बताया है कि सी० सी० आई० ने 17 हजार बेल्स काआपरेटिव सोसाइटीज से खरीदी हैं और कुल मिला कर 2 लाख क्वींटल लिया है । मेरा कहना यह है कि 2 लाख क्वींटल में तो करीब 1 लाख गठरी होती है और इस से भी कम वह बैठता है । इसलिए मेरा निवेदन यह है कि सी० सी० आई० जल्दी से जल्दी मार्केट में आए और ज्यादा से ज्यादा बेल्स उस को खरीदने चाहिए, जिस से किसानों को अपने उत्पादन का अच्छा दाम मिले ।

आप देखते हैं कि ग्राज खाद के दाम बढ़ गये हैं, कोटाशक दवाइयों के दाम बढ़ गये हैं, विजली के दाम बढ़ गये हैं और सिंचाई के दाम बढ़ गये हैं और किसानों के उपयोग में आने वाली अन्य वस्तुओं के दाम बहुत ज्यादा बढ़ गये हैं इसलिए अगर किसान को उस के उत्पादन

का अच्छा भाव नहीं मिलेगा, तो उल्टे उसे नुकसान होगा । इसलिए सी० सी० आई० को मार्केट में जल्दी से जल्दी आ कर माल खरीदना चाहिए और एक्सपोर्ट करने के लिए किसानों को सब्सीडी देनी चाहिए । जो बड़े कारखानेदार, हैं, उन को एक्सपोर्ट करने के लिए सब्सीडी मिलती है । किसानों का जो उत्पादन है, उस का उन को बाजिब दाम मिले, इस के लिए उन को सब्सीडी मिलनी चाहिए । अगर उन का माल बाहर जाएगा, तो उन के माल की बिक्री ज्यादा होगी और किसानों को उन के माल का उचित दाम मिलेगा । आज सूत का दाम कितना बढ़ गया है, कपड़े का दाम कितना बढ़ गया है लेकिन कपास का भाव काफी घट गया है । लास्ट इयर जो कपास का भाव था, उस से आज भाव बहुत कम हो गया है । इस को भी मंत्री जी को देखना चाहिए और किसान के कपास का ज्यादा भाव उन को देना चाहिए ।

श्री शिवराज वी० पाटिल : अध्यक्ष महोदय यह जो कपास खरीदा जाता है गुजरात में, यह सिर्फ सी० सी० आई० की तरफ से ही नहीं खरीदा जाता है । सी० सी० आई० का काम तो यह है कि जब बाजार में कपास की कीमत कम हो जाती है और इतनी कम हो जाती है कि कपास का उत्पादन करने वालों के लिए वह रेम्पूनेरेटिव नहीं रहती है, तो वह बाजार में आ कर उस को खरीदता है और एक स्तर पर भाव रखने की कोशिश करता है । सी० सी० आई० की तरफ से गुजरात में कपास की खरीद हो रही है । वहां पर जो काआपरेटिव सोसाइटीज हैं और जो काआपरेटिव फेडरेशन हैं, उन की तरफ से कपास की खरीद हो रही है । इस के बाद जो दूसरे लोग हैं, वे भी

[श्री शिवराज बी० पाटिल]

कपास खरीदते हैं और इस प्रकार एक स्तर पर भाव रखते हैं। हमने देखा है कि गुजरात के अन्दर जो कपास का भाव है और मिनीमम सपोर्ट प्राइस है, उन को देखने से पता चलता है कि वहां पर मिनीमम सपोर्ट प्राइस से वह काफी ज्यादा है।

श्री मोतीभाई आर० चौधरी (मेहसाना) : ऐसा नहीं है। सपोर्ट प्राइस से बहुत नीचे भाव है..... (व्यवधान)....

श्री शिवराज बी० पाटिल : मैं फीगर दे देता हूं। गुजरात के अन्दर संकरपुर की सपोर्ट प्राइस जो है...

MR. SPEAKER: That is the floor price, that is not the support price

श्री शिवराज बी० पाटिल : वह 453 रुपये है और वहां पर जो खरीद हुई है, वह 467 रुपये से लेकर 527 रुपये पर हुई है। दिग्विजय की प्राइस 387 थी और वहां पर खरीद हुई है 529 से 559 रुपए तक। इसी प्रकार सी० ओ०-2 की सपोर्ट प्राइस या मिनीमम प्राइस 339 रुपए है और वहां पर खरीद हुई है 448 रुपए से 468 रुपए तक।

श्री मोतीभाई आर० चौधरी : आज का दाम बताइए। यह तो आप एक महीने पहले की बात बता रहे हैं।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : ठीक है।

श्री शिवराज बी० पाटिल : इससे पता चलता है कि वहां पर जो भाव है वे किस प्रकार के हैं। अगर भाव कम है....।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मगर यह पुराने भाव हैं ?

(व्यवधान)

श्री शिवराज बी० पाटिल : मेरा

- निवेदन पूरा होने के बाद अगर कोई बात ठीक नहीं है तो आप जरूर कह सकते हैं।

मैं कहने जा रहा था कि अच्छी कीमत अवश्य मिलनी चाहिए। ए०पी०सी० की तरफ से जो प्राइस फिक्स की गई है, उससे अधिक प्राइस है। सी० सी० आई० की तरफ से भी खरीद चल रही है। अगर प्राइसेस नीचे जा रही हैं तो सी० सी० आई० का जो कर्तव्य है, उसे वह जरूर पूरा करेगा। प्राइसेम ठीक लेबल पर रखने के लिए जरूरी कदम उठाए जाएंगे। कपास ली जा रही है और अगर ज्यादा लेने की जरूरत पड़ी तो उसके बारे में भी कदम उठाए जाएंगे।

सरकार की नीति है कि कपास के भाव इस प्रकार से फिक्स होने चाहिए जिससे उत्पादन करने वाले, कपड़ा बनाने वाले और कपड़ा पहनने वाले, किसी पर बुरा प्रभाव न पड़े। केवल मिलों में ही कपड़ा नहीं बनाया जाता, बल्कि पावरलूम और हैण्डलूम के अन्तर्गत भी कपड़ा बनाया जाता है। 55 प्रतिशत पावरलूम और हैण्डलूम के अन्तर्गत कपड़ा बनता है और 45 प्रतिशत प्रतिशत मिलों में कपड़ा बनाया जाता है। उनको भी अच्छी कीमत मिलनी चाहिए और जो कपड़ा इस्तेमाल करते हैं उनको भी ठीक कीमत पर कपड़ा उपलब्ध होना चाहिए। इन सब बातों को ध्यान में रख कर सरकार को भाव निश्चित करना जरूरी होता है। अगर इन सब बातों का ध्यान न रखा जाए तो एक प्रकार का असंतुलन निर्मित हो जाएगा और इससे नुकसान हो सकता है।

श्री जार्ज फर्नाण्डीज (मुजफ्फरपुर) : बम्बई में मिलों ने हड़ताल की वजह से कपास के दाम गिरे हैं। जब तक हड़ताल समाप्त नहीं होती तब तक स्थिति में सुधार नहीं हो सकता। आपको तो इसमें दिलचस्पी होनी चाहिए, ये बताएं कि इस बारे में क्या करने जा रहे हैं ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : ठीक है, खपत होगी तभी बात बनेगी। (व्यवधान)

श्री हरीश रावत (अलमोड़ा) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस वर्ष कुल कितना कपास का उत्पादन होने का अनुमान है और उसमें से कितना कपास खरीदने का लक्ष्य है जो सी० सी० आई० ने निश्चित किया है। विगत वर्ष केवल 20 प्रतिशत कुल उत्पादन का भाग सी० सी० आई० ने खरीदा था और जेप प्राइवेट मिल्स ने खरीदा था।

होता यह है कि सी० सी० आई० मार्केट में उस समय पहुंचता है, जिस समय बहुत देर हो चुकी होती है और प्राइवेट मिल्स अच्छे रेशों का कपास खरीद लेते हैं और पुअर क्वालिटी का कपास मार्केट में रह जाता है जिसको सी० सी० आई० खरीदता है। इसके कारण सी० सी० आई० को भारी घाटा उठाना पड़ता है। 1977-78 में करीब साढ़े पांच करोड़ का घाटा सी० सी० आई० को हुआ, 1978-79 में सात करोड़ का हुआ और 1979-80 में चौदह करोड़ का। यह हालत तब है जबकि बारह साल से एक ही एम० डी० चले आ रहे हैं। क्या इस घाटे का कारण यह नहीं है कि समय पर सी० सी० आई० मार्केट में नहीं उतरता है ?

विभिन्न राज्यों में अब कपास की अधिक आवक हो गई है। इस समय सी० सी० आई० कुछ ही जगह खरीद रहा है। क्या जितनी आवक है उसके हिसाब से, एराइवलज के हिसाब से सी० सी० आई० के पास परचेजिंग सेंटर हैं विभिन्न राज्यों में ? क्या जहां जहां आपके ये सेंटर हैं वहां ऐसा इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर है कि नार्मल मार्किटिंग की जा सके ? पिछले वर्ष कुछ राज्यों ने सुझाव दिया था कि मार्केट इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर को डिवैलेप करने के लिए हमको ये ये सुविधायें दी जाएं और सी० सी० आई० इस मामले में कितनी हमारी मदद करेगा ? विभिन्न राज्यों से जो यह रिक्वेस्ट आई उसको मान कर उस तरीके का मार्केट

इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर डिवैलेप करने में क्या उसने राज्यों को कुछ सहायता दी है ?

सी० सी० आई० जिस समय खरीद करता है उस समय कुछ टैम्पोरेरी वर्कज को इम्प्लाय करता है जिनको सी एल या पता नहीं क्या कहा जाता है। उनको छः महीने के बाद फिर निकाल दिया जाता है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि टोटल कितने ऐसे एम्प्लायोज सी० सी० आई० के पास हैं और उनकी एबजार्पेशन के लिए, उनकी नौकरी की शर्तों को बेहतर बनाने के लिए सी० सी० आई० क्या कदम उठाने जा रहा है ?

कुछ राज्य सरकारों ने महाराष्ट्र काटन मौनोपोली प्रोक्योरमेंट स्कीम के आधार पर अपने अपने राज्य में प्रोक्योरमेंट स्कीम स्टार्ट करने के लिए आपके पास प्रस्ताव भेजे थे। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि वे कौन-कौन से राज्य हैं और इस संदर्भ में आपने क्या कदम उठाया है ?

गुजरात के मेम्बर बताएंगे कि गुजरात कोओपरेटिव मार्किटिंग फंडरेशन ने आपके पास प्रार्थना भेजी है कि उनको एक्सपोर्ट करने की इजाजत दी जाए। मार्केट की खोज भी उन्होंने कर ली है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि एक्सपोर्ट की रिक्वेस्ट को कंसीड करने के लिए, एक्सपोर्ट्स को प्रोमोट करने के लिए आपके मंत्रालय ने क्या कदम उठाया है ?

श्री शिवराज बी० पाटिल : पहले प्रश्न के उत्तर में मैंने सविस्तार बताया है कि सी० सी० आई० का क्या कर्तव्य है, कैसे वह काम करता है। सी० सी० आई० के दो काम हैं। एक जो कपास उत्पादन करते हैं उनको जो प्राइस मिलनी चाहिए वह एक लेबल के नीचे नहीं जानी चाहिये, यह देखना उसका काम है और दूसरे जो फ्लक्चुएशंस होती हैं कपास की कीमतों में और जिनका असर सब पर हो सकता है, वह न हो, यह देखना उसका काम है। यह समझना कि सिर्फ सी० सी० आई० ही-

[श्री शिवराज बी० पाटिल]

कपास की खरीद करता है दुस्त नहीं है। महाराष्ट्र के अन्दर तो मोनोपली स्कीम है। वहां जो फैडरेशन है कोओपरेटिव सोसाइटीज की वह खरीदता है। दूसरे राज्यों के अन्दर भी जहां कोओपरेटिव सोसाइटीज हैं जैसे गुजरात में बहुत सी हैं, वहां पर भी उनकी तरफ से कपास की खरीद होती है। पंजाब के अन्दर भी जो कोओपरेटिव सोसाइटीज हैं उनकी तरफ से भी कुछ खरीदी जाती है। प्राइवेट लोग जो कपास में डील करते हैं जब वे एक विशेष लेवल पर कपास नहीं लेते या कोओपरेटिव सोसाइटीज भी नहीं लेतीं

श्री हरीश रावत : कोओपरेटिव सोसाइटीज और महाराष्ट्र की प्रोप्योरमेंट स्कीम में डिफ्रेंस है। एक को आप रिकगनाइज करते हैं और दूसरी अपने पांव पर खुद खड़ी हो कर काम करती है। दोनों को आप कैसे एक साथ जोड़ सकते हैं ?

श्री शिवराज बी० पाटिल : मैकेनिज्म ऐसा है कि जब बाजार में कपास खरीदने वाला कोई नहीं होता है तो हम लेते हैं। आपने स्वयं बताया है कि लासिस हुए हैं। उसका कारण क्या है ? जब भाव कम हो जाते हैं और हम खरीदते हैं और रखते हैं तो उसे रखने के लिये हमें पैसा भी देना पड़ता है और इन्टरैस्ट भी देना पड़ता है। जब भाव गिरते हैं, उस वक्त हम लेते हैं, इसलिये हमें लामेज होते हैं। यह मैकेनिज्म यहां पर बनाया गया है।

कुछ जगहों पर 300, 400 सेंटर्स हैं जहां पर हम कपास लेते हैं। जहां जरूरी होता है, ज्यादा भी निकालते हैं, मगर इस के लिये जरूरी है कि कांट्रोल कर्पांगन आफ इंडिया जब कपास खरीदने के लिये जाती है तो कंट्रोल मार्केट वहां पर होना चाहिये, अगर मार्केट का वहां पर कंट्रोल नहीं है, स्टेट गवर्नमेंट्स की तरफ से वहां मार्केट का कोई कानून नहीं है, मार्केट वहां पर बना हुआ नहीं है, कोई मैकेनिज्म बना नहीं है भाव तय करने

का, तो बड़ी मुश्किल होती है। तो सी० सी० आई० के लोग अगर खरीदी करेंगे तो किस भाव से करेंगे ? ज्यादा होगा या कम होगा या कच्छी तरह से व्यापार वहां चल रहा है या नहीं, यह भी देखना पड़ता है।

मैं सारी प्रइवनेंस्टे गवर्नमेंट की तरफ नहीं डालना चाहता, मगर एक अइचन ऐसी है। कुछ स्टेट्स में यह मार्केट्स हैं, वहां पर हम ज्यादा सेंटर्स निकाल सकते हैं और वहां से खरीदी कर सकते हैं। कुछ जगहों में ऐसे कंट्रोल मार्केट नहीं हैं। हम उन से विनती करते हैं कि वह कंट्रोल मार्केट बनायें। कंट्रोल मार्केट बनाने की जिम्मेदारी भी स्टेट गवर्नमेंट की तरफ दे से काम नहीं हो सकता है। इतना पैराकरनेलिया होना चाहिये, इतने आदमी और आफिसर्स होने चाहिये, उस पर देखरेख करना चाहिये, अगर यह नहीं तो इन में कांस्टीट्युशनली और कानूनी अइवनें हो सकती हैं। वह कुछ जगहों पर खरीदते हैं और हम भी मदद करते हैं। जहां पर ऐसा व्यवस्था है, वहां पर हम लेते हैं।

दूसरा जो सवाल आया है नौकरियों के बारे में, मैं पूरी तरह से उसे मुन नहीं सका। उस का उत्तर मैं बाद में दे दूंगा, उस के डिटेल्स मेरे पास इस वक्त नहीं हैं।

तीसरा सवाल जो आपने पूछा है, गवर्नमेंट की तरफ से हमारे पास मांग यह आई है, जैसे महाराष्ट्र में मोनोपली प्रोप्योरमेंट स्कीम है, उस प्रकार से करना चाहिये या नहीं करना चाहिये। प्रिसिपली यह बहुत अच्छी स्कीम है, मगर यह कैसे चलाई जाती है, उस पर भी बहुत कुछ निर्भर करता है। अगर हम इस स्कीम पर हद से ज्यादा बांझ डालने की कोशिश करेंगे तो यह स्कीम भी टूट जायेगी।

महाराष्ट्र की जो मोनोपलिस्ट स्कीम है, उसमें एक ऐसा मैकेनिज्म है, जिसकी वजह से ग्रेन्डर को फायदा मिलता है। जो भाव तय किया जाता है, उस भाव पर कपास लिया जाता है। वह कपास बाद में बेच दी जाती है, बेचने के बाद अगर ज्यादा पैसा फंडरेशन को मिल जाये तो वह पैसा फंडरेशन के पास नहीं रहता है। फंडरेशन अपने लिये कुछ कुशन बनाना चाहे तो थोड़ा-सा पैसा निकाल कर रख देती है। बाकी का जो मुनाफा है वह पूरा का पूरा ग्रेन्डर को वापस कर देते हैं। मेरे पास फिगर्स हैं, हर साल एक एक क्विंटल के पीछे 80 से 125 रुपये तक उन्हें बोनस के नाम पर वापस किया है। अगर हम शुरुआत में ऐसा कहना शुरू कर दें कि आप इस कीमत पर लायें तो वह स्कीम भी धोखे में आ सकती है और उस पर जो फायदा मिलता है वह भी बन्द हो सकता है। इस स्कीम को चलाने के लिये बड़ा ही मैकेनिज्म होना जरूरी है। उसके लिये स्टेट गवर्नमेंट के पास पैसे की व्यवस्था जरूरी है और सैंटर बनाने की जरूरत है। यह सारी चीजें हैं। कोई हमारे सामने आता है तो हमारा प्रामिज या एश्योरेंस कुछ भी नहीं है, लेकिन देखने के बाद अगर जरूरी महसूस किया कि उससे काश्तकार, मिलऑनर्स, हैंडलूम और पावरलूम ऑनर्स को सारे लोगों को फायदा मिल सकता है तो उसे देखने में कोई हर्ज नहीं है।

श्री हीरा लाल शर्मा (पाटन) : गुजरात मार्केटिंग फंडरेशन ने निर्यात के बारे में सब्सीडी की मांग की है, रावत जी ने यह सवाल उठाया है, इसके बारे में मंत्री जी क्या करना चाहते हैं, यह भी बतायें।

SHRI R. S. SPARROW (Jullundur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have gone through the reply and the answers that have been given by the hon. Minister. As I assess, his replies are happily half-correct only. The subject, of course,

is complicated and difficult. Never the less, the replies need to be augmented further. Let us see what I can bring out further by way of my contribution.

अध्यक्ष महोदय : शिवराज जी कपास उगाते हैं या नहीं ?

(Interruptions)

SHRI R. S. SPARROW: As a preamble to the question in hand, I would like to bring two observations before this august House.

The cost of production of a spindle has gone up by 5 per cent. (Interruptions) ..when compared with last year's cost of production, as has already been noticed by many. But the price per kandy has gone down by Rs. 800 to Rs. 1,000/- resulting in an unprecedented loss to the poor farmer.

On the one hand, the prices of inputs like fertilisers, irrigation, power, insecticides, improved seeds, implements and labour etc. has gone up very high to the tune of about 40 per cent, thus raising the cost of production of cloth and paradoxically enough, on the other hand, the prices of cotton are at a very low ebb.

But the price of cloth would never come down at all !

On the contrary the Textile Corporation has always been pressing for 50 per cent rise in controlled cloth.

The cloth mills also increase the price of cloth every year.

We have now, therefore, to see what is the crux of the situation and where the shoe really pinches.

I want to bring a few fact so to your kind attention. The pricing and disposal equation between the cotton grower, the middleman, the Cotton Corporation of India, the manufacturer, the exporter and the Government, does not work correctly or smoothly, as experience has shown over the last 35 years from indepen-

[Shri R. S. Sparrow]

dence. This is where the shoe is pinching deep and it is soring.

The poor, small and marginal farmer invariably and always sustains economic loss. The poor farmer irrigates his fields through cold and dark nights, facing the risk of snake-bites and other allied hardships while working on the farm, along with his poor family members and his fellow labourers.

I may also point out about collection of cotton buds. Each single cotton bud is to be collected by the hand of the poor farmer's wife or by each working hand. If you work out and calculate the buds produced per acre, they would run into millions. What terrible difficulties the poor farmer goes through, putting in hard labour day and night, eating less, in his efforts to collect the buds and to make them into some kind of a dump of cotton!

Not only that. The small poor farmer takes his proceed to the Mandi and stacks it there. He has to keep a watch over it. It can be pilfered also. There is the danger of its getting destroyed through weathering also. But what can the poor farmer do? It is a pity that he is always up the gum tree and, therefore, he can neither take his proceed back nor put forward because of the reason that everything would not be working harmoniously at all. As I said, the small poor farmer is at the wrong end of the stick.

I would like, therefore, to ask ap-ropos of what. I have said three questions for the Hon. Minister very kindly to reply.

The first question is what practical steps and what concrete plans are being taken in hand by the Govern-

ment to bridge this perennial economic imbalance and the loss suffered by the poor small and marginal kisan?

The second question is on the purchases by the Cotton Corporation of India in Punjab which are very negligible when compared to the last year. Has the Cotton Corporation of India become a monopoly of one man who has been at the helm of affairs for years now? How about the bungling in the Cotton Corporation of India? Can the Hon. Minister very kindly institute some kind of a probe into this?

The third question is about the strike in the cotton mills in Bombay and its influence on cotton prices. Could the Hon. Minister very kindly enlighten us on that also?

The Minister's assurance may please be given on all these. I hope he will clarify all these.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: You are very well aware that the present Government values the contribution made by the farmers in the growth of our economy. We do realise it and we salute them; they have done a lot for our country. But the question is not a looking at one side alone. As a Government we have to consider all the aspects and if all the aspects are not kept in view and decisions are taken, the very same decisions may hurt those for whom the decisions are taken. For instance, if the cotton prices are increased beyond a certain reasonable limit...

PROF. N. G. RANGA: They have not been increased.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: what happens is the question. Perhaps the yarn cost also will go up. The handloom weavers may not be able to purchase the yarn and may not be able to produce cloth. The powerloom weavers also may get affected. The mills also may get affected and

when there is no demand for cotton, the next year, the cotton prices will fall. This has to be kept in mind. It is true that the farmers who are toiling in the fields should get remunerative prices, and we have a mechanism today to give them remunerative prices. Those prices may not be the best prices given to them, but they are the prices which can be given in the circumstances and which can be called as remunerative prices in the circumstances to the farmers. If we except too much, then that itself will knock the bottom out of the demand also.

12.57 hrs.

[SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV in the Chair].

It would create difficulties and probably we not be able to sustain the mechanism which has been created for giving remunerative prices. This has to be borne in mind. As a Government we salute the farmers, but we have the responsibility to protect the powerloom weavers, the handloom weavers, the NTC, the industry and also the interests of those who produce the cloth.....

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: You are offering only a salute! They want a fair price.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: My learned friend on the other side says, 'Give them remunerative prices'. May I remind him that the agricultural prices had gone down exactly when they were in power and they were not able to give them good prices at that time. (Interruptions) Therefore it is not for him to shed crocodile tears.....

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: That is why we are here. You have been put thereto rectify what we could not correct. You do it. What is the use of saying that we could not do? Why then are you there? This is not an answer.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी (नई दिल्ली) : हमने उधर जो कुछ किया था अगर वही करेंगे तो उन्हें इधर आने में देर नहीं लगेगी।

श्री शिवराज बी० पाटिल : आप यह भरोसा रखिये आपने जो कुछ किया था हम नहीं कर रहे हैं। हम उधर आयेंगे नहीं और आप इधर आयेंगे नहीं।

The hon. Member wanted to know as to what was the mechanism. This is a point which has to be considered by us. Having created the mechanism, we should not burden that mechanism so much that it will collapse, it will crack down. That kind of thing should not be there. We shall have to understand as to how much that mechanism can be useful to us, how much that mechanism should be burdened. If that kind of thing is not kept in mind, is not borne in mind, then the mechanism itself gets shattered, gets broken. We do have a mechanism. As far as cotton is concerned, we do have the Cotton Corporation of India.

13 hrs.

Once the minimum prices are fixed, it becomes the responsibility of the Cotton Corporation of India to see that the prices do not go down. Now we have statistics with us to give to the Members and there is no time available to me—of how much work is done to support the farmer. When there is a glut, when there is a slump, then we enter the market and purchase the thing and we maintain the prices and see that remunerative prices are available to them. It is not with respect to cotton alone; with respect to other agricultural produces also the same thing is done. So, Sir, the mechanism is there. But if it is necessary to strengthen this mechanism in any other fashion, we would certainly like to look at it also. If the hon. Member has any idea as to the mechanism, which can be created for this purpose, he would be welcome to give it to us. We will look at it and we also are looking at it.

As far as the second question is concerned, I would not like to answer

[श्री शिवराज वी. पाटिल]

that question. Here this is something about which I have not collected the information—about the working of the officers, etc. Neither I would like to say anything against them nor would I like to say that what is stated by the hon. Member is not correct. I can form an opinion and tell you only after examining the issue thoroughly. So, I would not like to say anything on that point.

As far as the strike in the Mills in Bombay is concerned this is exactly what we have been afraid of. A situation is created, the world is going through a recession in cotton and specially, the textile is suffering. It is exactly at this time there is a strike in the Bombay mills. Those who have given the call for the strike would please realise that this is not in the interests of the workers themselves...

AN HON. MEMBER: Correct.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: If the mills are not able to sustain themselves, is not going to be ultimately in their interest. It is not at all in the interests of the farmers. Why have they given a call for a strike when there is no demand for cotton? If, according to you, the prices are going down and there is no demand for cotton, then this is a wrong time to give a call for a strike. And I would appeal to all the workers who have done an excellent job for the development of our economy...

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Thank you.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: ...to realise the world situation, to realise the situation of textiles and to realise that this is not in their interests. It is not in the interests of their brothers who are toiling in the fields to go on a strike and bring the production to a stop. I would appeal to them to come back to work. I would appeal to them to start production. I would appeal to them that having

started the production now, if there are any problems, it has always been the policy of the Government to look into them. But this is not an assurance I am giving. I am just explaining the stand, the Government has always been taking that if there are any problems, at all times the Government will give attention to those problems and the Government will try to solve them.

I would like to appeal to them. Don't stand on prestige. Don't be misguided, please come back to work and help your farmer brothers and help production in the factory.

When we are trying to create something, when we are trying to produce something, there is a stand taken by some of our friends to stop the production...

MR. CHAIRMAN: That point has been made.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: My appeal to them is that they should come back to work...

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: What is the use of his appealing? He must tell us whether he is taking any initiative to bring about a settlement of the strike.

MR. CHAIRMAN: At least that question does not relate to him. Just because it was mentioned, he is answering.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: He is the employing Ministry and the mills are under his jurisdiction. The country is losing production of textiles worth three and a half crores of rupees a day.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: It is because of you.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Let me elaborate on that...

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: What is the use of your appeal? Your ap-

peal in the last 60 days of the strike has not brought in any results. So please take an initiative to bring about a settlement.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I would like to humbly submit that the philosophy and the policy followed by the Congress Party and the Government is to produce more to bring down the prices.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (Guna): Sir, on a point of clarification. Are we all allowed to participate in the call attention?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Actually only those members whose names are there in the list are allowed. It is very clear.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Mr. Fernandes is not there.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: I am only helping the Minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The rule is clear. I think the Minister will also limit himself. All of you may please sit down. Now, the Minister.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: You leave it to me, Sir, I was trying to say that we here, on this side, believe in production and in distribution in a just manner.

Now, the people sitting on the other side should help us on that. They should not obstruct the production by giving a call for the nation bandh, State bandh and all that. It does not help anybody. It will not also help you. Please don't go by a misunderstanding. That does not help you. (*Interruptions*)

As far as the strike is concerned, I am thankful to the General who raised this issue and I am giving an appeal to the workers to come back to their job.

SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU (Chittoor): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to differ from the hon. Minister regarding fixation of the price. I have understood his answer like this.

The Government is not, probably, prepared to give remunerative prices to the agriculturists. He said that all factors have to be taken into consideration while fixing the price. What we want is a remunerative price for the agriculturists. As regards fixation of prices, the Agricultural Prices Commission has been given the authority. But they fix the prices at the base-year. By that they have done much harm to the agriculturists by fixing a lower price after taking into consideration the increase in the price of the outputs. When the base price itself is low, how can the peasants get a just price? That is my question. Therefore, I say that the base price itself should be modified and that the Government should guarantee that they get the remunerative price at the base-price. That is our request. My next point is this. The Government has assured the agriculturists that the price will be fixed up before the sowing season. It is only the agriculturists who should be able to make up their minds as to how much acreage they will have to sow for a particular crop. They are not doing that now. One of my friends here has said that last year, for the cotton, the price was not fixed. That was because the Agricultural Prices Commission had not got the necessary staff. But, still, so many commodities are being added up. They have to fix the prices for these commodities within the time allowed. It will not be possible for them to do that unless their staff is increased. Their staff requires to be strengthened. The prices for all the commodities which have been entrusted to them have to be declared every year. Then, only the agriculturists will be benefited.

Let us take for instance the Cotton Corporation of India. I want to say that the responsibility given to them is not advantageous is so far as the agriculturists are concerned. This Corporation must be a competitor to the traders. That is not the position now. The traders have been able to have all the stocks at the lower rate. It is only after that, they come to the Cor-

[Shri P. Rajagopal Naidu]

poration. Therefore, the agriculturists are the losers in so far as fixation of prices for most of the commodities is concerned. What I want is that in all these commodity corporation, it should be seen that they are also in the market always so that they compete with the traders in the market and at no time the price falls below the price declared by the Agricultural Prices Commission or the Government.

There must be a permanent structure for the Cotton Corporation or any other Corporation. Unless there is permanent structure it is not possible for them to buy other commodity at various places. In Andhra Pradesh also the purchases are not sufficient and, as such, the number of purchase centres should be increased. The Minister has also said that infra-structure facilities are not there at various places and, therefore, it is becoming difficult for the Government to make purchases.

Sir, the Minister said that export are going to be allowed but even after the exports are allowed and suppose the price falls down then it is the duty of the Government to purchase the commodity and create buffer-stock. Commerce Ministry must think about creating buffer-stock in all these commodities as a matter of policy. At the moment it is done in respect of rice and foodgrains. Buffer stock should be built up in respect of other commodities as well.

Sir, now I would like to ask some pointed question. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether Government-without taking into consideration other factors-is ready or willing to give remunerative prices to agriculturists or not. Secondly, whether the responsibility fixed in respect of Cotton Corporation of India is going to be modified so that it may be a competitor to the traders and thus help the agriculturists. Further, whether Government is going to create buffer-stock in respect of cotton as well.

Sir, we have come to know that Reserve Bank is not giving sufficient funds to the Cotton Corporation of India so that they may be able to purchase the surplus commodities. Government should assess the would-be surplus in any year and for that they must ask the Reserve Bank to finance the Cotton Corporation of India.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, the hon. Member has increased the ambit of the question too much and probably it may not be possible for me to touch upon all the aspects which have been projected before us by the hon. Member. The hon. Member wanted to know whether we would be fixing the price for all the agricultural commodities and also creating buffer-stocks. It may not be possible from the Commerce Ministry to reply to all these questions. This may be answered by the Agriculture Minister.

Sir, the hon. Member wanted to know whether we are going to have any permanent structure or permanent mechanism to purchase cotton through the Cotton Corporation of India. This Body has been purchasing cotton since long and we have certain kind of mechanism for this purpose but if the strengthening of this mechanism is necessary it can be looked into. This is not an assurance but it can be looked into. It can be created.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Looking into it is an assurance.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Therefore, Sir, in the next breath I am saying that it is not an assurance. I am not giving an assurance.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Actually he has put a very specific question. His question was, whether you will open more centres, whether they will function as competitors to the other traders. On this, if you have to say that you are prepared to look into that, that is an assurance. Terms like 'look into it' 'see whether it is possible' etc. are assurances.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I am thankful to your good self for elu-

cidating this question and giving me an opportunity to answer it. But I was coming to that. I was trying to say that the question was whether there would be a mechanism for this purpose. There is a mechanism for this purpose. If strengthening of it is required it can be looked into. But, at the same time, I don't want to be bound by it because next time I may get a paper saying, "You gave an assurance, fulfil it." All aspects have to be considered. I was trying to say that the Cotton Corporation of India can work where there are regulated markets. The Cotton Corporation of India can go to Andhra Pradesh or Gujarat or Punjab or Maharashtra, or, for that matter, to any other State where there are regulated markets. In the regulated markets the cotton comes. Now they bid for the cotton. A particular price is fixed. If it is below a particular level, the Cotton Corporation of India would purchase it at a particular level. The Cotton Corporation of India will enter that market and purchase it. But if there is no market at all, what price it should give, how the price should be fixed, etc. are problems. So, I was trying to say what will happen because of this peculiar situation. I was not at all trying to apportion the blame or anything of that kind. But, because of this peculiar situation, this position is there. We will be in contact with all concerned to see that the mechanism necessary for it is created. We have been writing, we have been saying that regulated market should be created. As far as the buffer stock is concerned, we may call it buffer stock or some other stock. Once the Cotton Corporation of India purchases the cotton, it is with the Cotton Corporation of India, for a pretty long time. If there is no demand, it remains with the Cotton Corporation of India. We may call it buffer stock, or we may call it by any other name. It is going to smell, or, it is going to look the same, even if it is called by any other name also. So, sir, the position is this. We are there to purchase the

cotton. we keep it in our goodown and we make it available to the users at appropriate price. It is a sort of buffer stock also in a way. It may not be buffer stock in the correct sense of the term, but it is a sort of buffer stock.

As far as competing in the market is concerned, Mr. Chairman, you will agree with the statement which I am going to make. The intention of the Government is to see that the farmer do not get unremunerative prices and they get remunerative prices. At the same time the intention of the Government is to see that there is no fluctuation,—fluctuation in such a manner that the industry and the others concerned and the users, also suffer. These are the twin interests which have to be protected. We cannot carry on a competition as such. Now, we were saying, this is a remunerative price. If something more is available to the farmer, it is allowed to be taken by the farmer. But, if somebody is there who is trying to see that prices go down and remunerative prices are not made available, then, we step in and we purchase the cotton and we maintain the price. That is the mechanism that we have. But if you say that we should have a competition as such competition for the Government—I would say. it is not necessary to enter into a competition. Government is interested in protecting everybody concerned,—everybody who is connected with cotton. Right from the grower to the user, everybody concerned has to be protected. The first man who will be protected is the grower. He will be protected first. We have taken steps. We are taking We will protect him. But, at the same time, we are not interested in entering into a competition and increasing the prices in such a manner that other aspects relating to it suffer. So, the question of competition would not be there. But we would certainly see that remunerative prices are made available to the growers and to the farmers. We are doing it; we will do it.

13.20 hrs.

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

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Twenty-two minutes past Fourteen of the Clock

Mr. Deputy-Speaker in the Chair)

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Twenty-seventh Report

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND
DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMEN-
TARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. VENKA-
TASUBBAIAH): I beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the Twenty-seventh Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 9th March, 1982."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Next item—
Notice of Amendment by Shri George Fernandes.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Mu-
zaffarpur): I beg to move:

"That in the Motion,

add at the end—

"Subject to modification—

- (1) Drop item (vii) Communications; and substitute in its place, in the order of priority, Labour.
- (2) Increase the time allocated for 'Labour' to 10 hours.
- (3) Reduce the time allocated to External Affairs to 6 hours.
- (4) Increase the time allocated to Agriculture and Rural Development to 12 hours and to Health and Family Welfare to 7 hours.

- (5) Increase the time allocated for Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) for 1981-82 by 2 hours."

Sir, as you will have seen from the Resolution of the Report of the Business Advisory Committee, the External Affairs Ministry gets 10 hours while—well, I am not particularly enamoured of that—the Labour Ministry, which firstly figures at item 11 in the list of 26, have been allocated only 4 hours. Sir, we are currently in the 'year of productivity'. There is a lot of discontent among the workers. The Textile workers' strike in Bombay is not getting resolved. There are E.S.M.A. and the National Security Act. Only last month, almost every worker had been told that if he should ever again discuss in terms of freedom, then he would attract the mischief of the National Security Act and the ESMA. The Government is currently concerned with negotiating or not negotiating with the Joint Consultative Machinery and they are impounding the Dearness Allowances of the employees. The Prime Minister earlier, during this year, had said that she was to designate this year as one which is to be called as the "Year of Productivity". That was the slogan and none of these is reflected, particularly in so far as the proposal to have a discussion on the Demands for Grants of the Labour Ministry is concerned. I would, therefore, want that the time allocated for Labour must be increased from four hours to ten hours. I am suggesting dropping of Communications. The Minister for Parliamentary Affairs had called a meeting of party leaders. I was one of those who attended that meeting. In that meeting, it was agreed that Communications would not figure.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You were also once Minister for Communications.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Yes, very briefly; I wish I was there for a longer time.