

[Shri Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed]

4. Without going into the merits or demerits of these arrangements, it may be stated that they were necessary for a period of time in the special circumstances that were obtaining in this regard, to ensure the availability of cement at a reasonable price throughout the country and a continuous supply of cement to the deficit areas so that development schemes there may not suffer. It was not intended that these arrangements should be continued indefinitely for their own sake. Keeping in view the fact that the Government have accepted the policy of progressive decontrol in principle and that the system of F. O. R. price and equalised freight arrangement have more or less served the purpose for which they were intended, it is felt that these should be discontinued after a period of time within which the industry might adjust itself to the new situation. Whis this end in view it has also been decided that the additional capacity to be set up in the public sector by the Cement Corporation of India should henceforth be only in the deficit areas. As the supply position of cement is at present comparatively easy and is expected to be so for the next few years, this would seem to be the opportune time to decontrol the industry. Having regard to these considerations, it has been decided to discontinue the existing arrangements and remove all control over price and distribution of cement with effect from 1st January, 1970. In the meantime the industry will have an opportunity to plan for production of cement in the deficit areas.

5. The present retention prices or ex-works prices paid to the producers are based on the recommendations of the Tariff Commission in 1961 together with the subsequent increases given to the industry from time to time due to increases in cost of production as a result of Governmental actions. The industry has been pressing for some time for an upward revision of the retention prices due to increase in cost of production as a result of Governmental actions since 1st January, 1966. The claims of the industry have been considered in consultation with the authorities concerned and it is felt that these are justified on account of the increase in the pithead price of coal, rail freight, electricity tariff, and the second Wage Board Award. Although the Tariff Commission did not find it feasible to recommend a uniform price for the industry

in 1961 in view of the then existing wide disparity in costs of production, Government was however of the view that there should be a uniform price for the industry so that greater pressure is exercised on units having higher costs to find economies and there is a measure of reward for those units able to achieve economies. Government, however, had to recognise that in the case of those few units having appreciably higher costs on account of special reasons, an extra price had to be allowed, for a period of time, to enable the units to continue in production till by reaching economic levels they were able to operate within the uniform price. In the light of the discussions held with the industry from time to time and keeping in view that the industry itself generally is in favour of a uniform price, it has been decided to fix a ceiling of Rs. 100 per tonne exworks with effect from 16th April, 1969, except in the cases of Assam Cements, (Cherapunji), J&K Minerals, (Wuyan) and Travancore Cements, (Kottayam) which are sub standard units and in whose cases price will have to be fixed separately taking into account their special circumstances. This will be effective upto 31st December 1969 upto which date the present f. o. r. price equalised freight arrangement etc. will be in force.

12.06 hrs.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION BY MEMBER

Shri J.B. Kriplani

SHRI J.B. KRIPALANI (Guna) : Mr. Speaker, I want to say something about the part that I had played on Friday last. When the Home Minister made his statement, Shri Dange got up and was not allowed to speak on account of the shouting from the Congress Benches.

SHRI D.N. TIWARY (Gopalganj) : Not only the Congress Benches.

SHRI J.B. KRIPALANI : You asked Shri Dange to sit down in order to restore order in the Chamber. I then got up several times but I could not catch your benevolent, and all-pervasive eye. I was obliged, therefore, to take a couple of steps and say the two sentences that I had to say but I find that perhaps in the din that was prevailing in

the House the press did not properly catch those two sentences. Some of the Members of the House also might not have caught them. I say this because one paper has written that I shouted at Shri Dange. Even Shri Dange would not say that or his companions would not say that I shouted at their leader. What I said was this. I said :

" I want to know whether we have some rights or not."

Then you kindly said:—

" Yes, you have a right."

Then I said ;

" Then you must regulate them ; you must regulate all. We want to hear everybody. It is a fact that the home Minister's speech was not heard by us. We want to hear Shri Dange also. We can do this only when they are silent."

This is what I said. I wanted do correct the impression.

MR. SPEAKER : That day was unfortunate but I do not think we should remember that. To day at 4 o'clock we are having a discussion on that and I am sure, each party will help me in restoring order. After all, every hon. Member has a right. But when there is no order in the House, when Shri Dange is standing and others are shouting, what is the use of Kripalaniji catching my eye? It is not as though everybody was silent and he was not allowed to speak. Every body was shouting ; Shri Dange was on his legs ; so, catching my eye was as good as not catching it.

12.08 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS—Contd.

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE—Contd.

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now resume consideration of the Demands of the Department of Social Welfare. We have taken 15 to 20 minutes already on that day and we have only two hours today; so, these Demands will go to tomorrow also.

Shrimati Sudha Reddy was speaking that day. She may continue her speech.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur): Sir, that bulky report has been circulated to us only three or four days ago; so, some more time should be allowed.

SHRI M. N. REDDY (Nizamabad): Sir, you must fix some time for debate on that statement.

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot ask me that. I am not going to answer a question on the floor of the House. There is some procedure.

SHRIMATI SUDHA V. REDDY (Madhugiri): Mr. Speaker, I have welcomed the registration of the Central Social Welfare Board under section 25 of the Companies Act but I would like it to be ensured that the Central Social Welfare Board, as a company, secures the effective participation of the State Governments in whose territory it works. I would also like to plead that the tentacles of this octopus of the Company Law do not strangulate small welfare institutions which are situated in the countryside.

SHRI B.K. DASCHOWDHURY (Cooch-Bihar): That is not a correct statement that the hon. lady Member is making here.

MR. SPEAKER: If it is not a correct statement, there is no point of order involved in that. Everybody has a right to make a statement.

SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY: Are we to be here to hear incorrect statements ?

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order; there is no point of order.

SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY: Some of the States have seriously objected to this proposal and even, after that, they have seriously rejected that. As for example, West Bengal is one of the States.

MR. SPEAKER: There is no point of order in that.

SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY: Let them then turn the whole cabinet into a limited company.