

o: Shri Bharat Lal is still *sub judice*, that is the person who was convicted for theft and sentenced for 4 years. It would not be proper for Government to go further into the merits of Bharat Lal's conviction for theft or the rejection by the trial court of the offence regarding murder. The report of the Commission should be taken as a final answer. The Commission have ruled out political motives after giving the fullest opportunity to the advocates of that theory. If we were to go into the whole question, there would have hardly been any point in appointing a Commission of Inquiry.

Sir, I have already said that certain remarks have been made about the C.B.I. by the Commission and they have come to the conclusion that it has not acted *mala fide* and I would refer in this connection to pages 130 and 131 of the Report of the Commission and the learned Judge there adds that he saw nothing from which he could infer that the C.B.I. gave amnesty to Communists and communalists and found an easy way out by catching two common thieves.

My hon. friend, Shri Vajpayee, raised the point that the Commission should have had an independent investigating agency of its own. Sir, the Government have been anxious that such Commissions should have the service of investigating agencies on whom they can call. But, as things stand at present, under the law they cannot have this and it is for this reason that we have introduced a Bill for amending the Commission of Inquiries Act and that Bill is before Parliament.

Shri Vajpayee has argued on the basis of some selected passages of the report of the Commission that the findings of the Commission are not satisfactory. Sir, I do not know whether this House can go into the facts and evidence and the findings of the Commission. After all the Commission was appointed to go into the evidence and the facts and let us have its conclusions. I don't think we are equipped to perform that task. And the Commission, as I said earlier, did examine the witnesses, it scrutinised the documents and it heard arguments of Counsels and then it came to certain conclusions appreciating the evidence that had come before the Commission. It was because Government was anxious that the evidence should be weighed properly that they have

obtained the services of a serving judge. Shri Vajpayee is certainly entitled to have his own appreciation of that evidence ; but Government see no reason—and no reasons have been advanced either—why on merely a different reading of the evidence, selectively presented, the findings of an impartial Commission should be rejected. If we go about rejecting the findings of a serving judge of a High Court, there can be no end to any controversy. The Commission,—the House may recall,—was appointed in consultation with the Chief Justice of India.

SHRI CHENGALRAYA NAIDU (Chittoor) : Why don't you apply the same rule to the Mahajan Commission's Report ?

SHRI K. C. PANT : Government accept the report of the Chandrachud Commission Government accept the findings and feel that there is no need for another Commission.

We fully share the sorrow and the deep grief over the most tragic death, the despicable murder of Shri Deen Dayal Upadhyaya.

SHRI P. K. DEO : Who are the murderers ?

SHRI K. C. PANT : As I have said earlier, I share Shri Vajpayee's concern and grief. It is not just a formality ; this sense of grief and sorrow comes out of my heart ?

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Who are the murderers ?

19.32 hrs.

DISCUSSION RE. SUGAR POSITION AND CANE PRICE—Contd.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House will now take up further discussion on the sugar position obtaining in the country including cane price.

It is already past 7-30 P.M. Now, the position is this. The time at our disposal is only 30 minutes. 1½ hours were allotted ; one hour has already been taken. If I go by the names at my Table, I think, we will have to sit till midnight and even then the discussion will not be over. That is the present position. So, my proposal is this, if the

[Mr. Chairman]

House is interested, the Members can hear the Minister. We can have another discussion in the next session.

SHRI D. N. PATODIA (Jalore) : Let us hear the Minister.

SHRI CHENGALRAYA NAIDU (Chittoor) I have not spoken. Only the sugar magnates have spoken.

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right. I am asking Mr. Naidu to make his proposal. I am asking for his suggestion.

SHRI CHENGALRAYA NAIDU : A number of persons from the sugar-dealers side and labour side have spoken, but from the agriculturists side, nobody has spoken ; nobody is able to represent them here...

MR. CHAIRMAN : In this House all are Honourable Members.

SHRI CHENGALRAYA NAIDU : I want that agriculturists' interest should be represented here. I want half-an-hour extension.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU (Diamond Harbour) : My suggestion is that those who have not spoken may be allowed.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Where is the time ?

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : Extend it by five minutes each.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I know how speeches are made.

SHRI M. N. REDDY (Nizamabad) : The previous list is there : There were only 4 or 5 left to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have a number of Members in my list.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : My suggestion is that only those Parties might be given a chance whose Members have not spoken so far.

श्री राम सेवक यादव (बाराबंकी) : केवल

उन्हीं लोगों को मौका मिले और वह भी प्रश्न करने का ।

SHRI M. N. REDDY : Only four more speakers were left on that day. I know it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I would like to know what Government think about it.

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI F. A. AHMED) : The matter has already been discussed for about an hour or so. I have no objection if there is further discussion. But how long are we going to sit ?

SHRI CHENGALRAYA NAIDU : Let it be extended by half an hour.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, Shri Tulsidas Jadhav may continue his speech. He should finish his speech in exactly three minutes. Nobody can argue with the Chair about the time now. I am going to strictly enforce the time limit.

श्री तुलसीदास जाधव (बाराबंकी) : सभापति जी, परसों मैं बता रहा था कि हिन्दुस्तान में चीनी का स्टॉक कितना है और देश में चीनी कितनी लगती है और चीनी पैदा कितनी होती है। ये सारी फीगर्स उस दिन मैं बता रहा था। इस समय मेरे पास वह फीगर्स नहीं हैं। लेकिन सरकार के पास जो फीगर्स हैं उनको देखने से एक चीज मालूम होती है कि ज़रूरत से ज्यादा गन्ना पैदा हो रहा है। गए साल में उसका रेट कम होने से इस साल गन्ने की पैदावार कम होगी, ऐसा सरकार का भ्रन्दाजा है। लेकिन बुनियादी सवाल यह है कि चीनी ज्यादा होती है या कम होती है, गन्ना ज्यादा होता है या कम होता है, इस बात को काश्तकारों के ऊपर नहीं छोड़ देना चाहिए। सरकार को कुछ ऐसी पालिसी रखनी चाहिए कि काश्तकार जितनी चीजें अपने खेत में पैदा करता है उसमें कितनी-कितनी चीज देश के लिए ज़रूरत है और

कितनी चीज की एक्सपोर्ट के लिए जरूरत है—इन सारी बातों का प्लान बना करके देश में उन चीजों को उतने उतने हैक्टर में बोनो का बटवारा या प्रबन्ध करना चाहिए। अगर काश्तकारों के ऊपर ही छोड़ देंगे तो जैसा भ्राप देखते हैं कि अगर कपास का भाव ज्यादा है तो काश्तकार कपास ही उगाने का प्रयत्न करेंगे, अगर मूंगफली का भाव ज्यादा है तो वे मूंगफली ही उगाने का प्रयत्न करेंगे या अगर चीनी का भाव ज्यादा आता है तो वे शुगरकेन ज्यादा उगाने का प्रयत्न करेंगे। इस तरह से काश्तकार की तकदीर पर छोड़ने के बजाये सरकार को पहले से प्लान करना चाहिए। साथ ही साथ काश्तकार जिन चीजों को पैदा करता है उसकी कास्ट आफ प्रोडक्शन उसका लेबर और दूसरी तमाम चीजों का भाव देखकर ही उसका रेट फिक्स करना चाहिए। अमरीका या दूसरे देशों में हम सुनते हैं कि सरकार की तरफ से कहा जाता है कि इतनी जमीन काश्त में लाओ और इतनी जमीन खाली रखो ताकि उसकी मेहनत और श्रम बेकार न जाये। लेकिन इस देश में इस प्रकार का कोई भी प्रयत्न नहीं किया जाता है। यहां पर काश्तकार शुगरकेन, मूंगफली या दूसरी चीजें जो पैदा करता है उनका कोई भी रेट फिक्स नहीं है। जब वह किसी चीज को ज्यादा पैदा करता है तो उसका रेट कम हो जाता है और इस तरह से उसका सारा पैसा और श्रम बेकार चला जाता है। तो मेरी आपसे बुनियादी रिक्वेस्ट यही है क्योंकि इस देश में 80-85 फीसदी पापुलेशन काश्तकारों की है और वे बड़े दुखी हैं। उनके मामले में कोई दिलचस्पी नहीं ली जाती है क्योंकि वे वोकल नहीं हैं, वे कोई यूनियन नहीं बनाते। उनकी तरफ ध्यान न देना बड़ी भूल होगी। आज बाजार में जो प्राइसेज बढ़ रही है उसका कारण यही है कि जितना माल काश्तकारों के पास पैदा होना चाहिए था वह पैदा नहीं होता है। आप अमरीका से चार सौ या पांच सौ

करोड़ का इम्पोर्ट करते हैं लेकिन हमारे देश में इतनी जमीन पड़ी हुई है और लोग मेहनत करने के लिए तैयार हैं उनको सिर्फ समय पर पैसा, पानी और बीज चाहिए और जो माल वे पैदा करती हैं उसका एक रेट फिक्स होना चाहिए ताकि उसके पैसे और श्रम का बदला उसको मिल जाये। यदि आप इसका प्रबन्ध कर दें तो किसान इस देश की जरूरत तो पूरी ही करेगा, साथ ही दूसरे देशों को भी आप भेज सकते हैं।

आप देखें कि शुगर केन इस देश में कितने अधिक एरिया में बोया जाता है। उत्तर प्रदेश में 1233 हजार हैक्टर में महाराष्ट्र में, 172 हजार हैक्टर में, पंजाब में 150 हजार हैक्टर में और बिहार में 137 हजार हैक्टर में, हरियाणा में 133 हजार हैक्टर में बोया गया। कुल 2302 हजार हैक्टर में शुगर केन की खेती हुई। ये 1968-69 के फिगरज हैं। शुगर केन के बगैर चारा नहीं है। काश्तकार की आप अपेक्षा न करें, उसको आप उसकी तकदीर पर न छोड़ दें। उसकी मेहनत जाया चली जाए, ऐसा आप न होने दें। हमने देखा है और सुना है कि काश्तकारों ने चूंक रेट गन्ने का बहुत कम था इस वास्ते गन्ने को जला दिया, जानवरों को खिला दिया। एक एकड़ में गन्ना पैदा करने के लिए ग्यारह सौ रुपये खर्च होते थे 1964 में। आज दो-तीन हजार होते हैं। क्या इस तरह से किसान का श्रम जाया जायेगा, क्या उसको इस तरह से तबाह और बरबाद किया जायेगा? हम विचार करें और काश्तकार को ठीक पैसे उसके गन्ने के दें। उसकी कास्ट आफ प्रोडक्शन को देखें। साइंटिफिक रीति से गन्ने की कीमत फिक्स करें। उसको प्रोत्साहित किया जाना चाहिये ताकि वह ज्यादा पैदा करे।

श्री राम सेवक यादव : यह विषय बहुत महत्वपूर्ण है। चूंक समय कम है इस वास्ते मैं केवल प्रश्न ही पूछना चाहूंगा।

[श्री राम सेवक यादव]

गन्ने के मूल्यों में बहुत ज्यादा चढ़ाव-उतार होता है। आप पिछले दो-तीन सालों के आंकड़े देखें। किसी दूसरी चीज के दामों में इस तरह से नहीं हुआ होगा। 1968-69 में उत्तर प्रदेश में पंद्रह रुपये क्विंटल इसका भाव था और कहीं-कहीं तो इससे भी ज्यादा किसान को दाम मिला। लालच में आकर उन्होंने गन्ना और ज्यादा पैदा किया। लेकिन अगले साल दस रुपये रह गया। तीसरे साल सात रुपये 35 पैसे हो गया। अब सात रुपये 37 पैसे है। समझ में नहीं आता है कि इतना उतार-चढ़ाव क्यों आता है। कौन सी चीज सस्ती हो गई है कि गन्ने का मूल्य कम हो गया है। मूल्यों के बारे में कोई निश्चितता होनी चाहिये। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि उसके लिए आप कौन सी नीति बना रहे हैं।

गन्ने की खपत की पूरी व्यवस्था होनी चाहिये। गन्ना ज्यादा हो जाता है तो उसकी खपत नहीं होती है। किसान का गन्ना खेत में खड़ा जल जाता है, सूख जाता है या उसको गन्ने की भट्टी में भोंकना पड़ता है। पिछले साल खपत की स्थिति बहुत गम्भीर रही। उत्तर प्रदेश में और दूसरे प्रांतों में भी खपत का कोई बन्दोबस्त नहीं था। मेरा इस सम्बन्ध में सुभाव है कि पेरार्ड का समय बढ़ाया जाये। ज्यादा दिन मिलें चलें। शुरू में ही जल्दी से मिलों को बालू किया जाये। खास तौर से जो छोटे किसान हैं उनसे उनका गन्ना पहले लिया जाए। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि आप इसके बारे में क्या व्यवस्था करने जा रहे हैं।

कहा जाता है कि चीनी में घाटा है इस वास्ते गन्ने के मूल्य नहीं बढ़ सकते हैं। गन्ने में जो रिक्वैरी होनी है, रस है, उसका सवाल उठता है। ऐसी योजना—क्या आप बजा रहे हैं कि शीरा, अगास, मैली आदि के लिये गन्ने का इस्तेमाल विकल्प के रूप में किया जा सके

ताकि चीनी का उत्पादन सस्ता पड़े और गन्ने के दाम अधिक से अधिक किसानों को दिलाए जा सकें और सारी चीज योजनावद्ध ढंग से चल सके ?

बकाया पर अब मैं आपका ध्यान दिलाता हूँ। किसानों का करोड़ों रुपया बकाया पड़ा हुआ है। जब कभी मिलों को कर्ज दिया जाता है चीनी के एंज में और उनकी चीनी ली जाती तो उस कर्ज में से इनकम टैक्स, सेल्स टैक्स आदि की भ्रदायगी हो जाती है लेकिन किसानों का जो बकाया है, वह उनको अदा नहीं होता है। किसान की कीमत उसको नहीं मिलती है। जब कभी मिलों को पैसा दिया जाए तो आपका खास नियन्त्रण रहे और किसानों का बकाया सब से पहले अदा होना चाहिए। इसके बारे में आप क्या व्यवस्था करने जा रहे हैं। दो-तीन सालों से करोड़ों रुपया किसानों का बकाया है। आज उनकी हालत बहुत खराब हो गई है। इस वास्ते उनका बकाया उनको दिलाया जाए।

राष्ट्रीयकरण की बात भी आती है। एक प्रान्त में राष्ट्रीयकरण होने का मतलब है और खास तौर पर उत्तर प्रदेश में जहाँ मिलें केवल मिट्टी का ढेर रह गई हैं, सरमायेदारों को लाभ पहुंचाना। और भी उसके दूसरे नुकसान होंगे। गन्ने का उद्योग चौपट होगा। इसलिए समाजीकरण चीनी उद्योग का पूरे देश के पैमाने पर एक नीति अपना कर होना चाहिए। पिक एंड चूज की नीति चला कर इस देश के उद्योग को न मारा जाए। पूरे देश के पैमाने पर समाजीकरण चीनी उद्योग का किया जाए।

*SHRI SAMINATHAN (Gobichettipalayam): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to participate in the Discussion on the sugar position obtaining in the country including case price and to express some views on

*The original speech was delivered in Tamil.

behalf of my party, the Dravida Munnetra Kashagam.

So far as sugar industry is concerned, there were times when we were importing substantial quantities of sugar to meet the requirements of the country. Gradually, on account of the energetic and meaningful measures adopted during the three Five Year Plans, we have been able to increase sugar production in the country to a very great extent. During the First Five Year Plan, sugar production was 18.9 lakh tonnes per annum; in the Second Five Year Plan it was 30.29 lakh tonnes and in the Third Five Year Plan, annually 35 lakh tonnes of sugar was produced. We expect to achieve the annual target of 42 lakh tonnes of sugar during the course of Fourth Five Year Plan.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the year 1968-69 we produced Rs. 660 crores worth of sugar. More than Rs. 40 crores were paid in this year as wages and salaries to the workers and the employees in this industry. I have quoted these statistics to show that sugar industry is a very important industry in the country. But, today, Sir, the sugar industry is facing a grave crisis on account of certain shortcomings in the governmental policies. When the sugar industry gives employment to more than 2½ lakhs of people and the production per year is worth Rs. 660 crores, the Central Government should pay special and prompt attention to the problems faced by the industry.

Today, the Government of India give a subsidy of 53 paise per every kilogram of sugar exported. We have to appreciate the fact that this subsidy is very essential to boost the export of sugar. But, at the same time, we have to remember that the excise duty on sugar is so heavy that it curbs conspicuously consumption inside the country. I would appeal to the Central Government to reduce to the extent possible the excise duty on sugar so that it is within the reach of common man and its consumption inside the country goes up considerably.

I would like to point out that at present there are about 15 cost zones in the country and I feel that it will help the industry if there are only 5 cost zones. This is also the recommendation made by the Sugarcane Research Institute at Coimbatore. The wide gap in the prices of free market sugar and levy sugar should be bridged.

So far as Tamil Nadu is concerned, the sugarcane yield per acre, as compared to Northern States, is very high. All of us are aware of the fact that tropical climate is best suited for sugarcane cultivation. On account of this obvious fact, the yield per acre in Northern States is considerably low. I request that the Government of India should find out ways and means to encourage the sugarcane cultivators in Tamil Nadu so that more acreage is brought under sugarcane cultivation. There is great potential in Tamil Nadu for sugarcane cultivation. One of the important incentives that the Government of India can offer is to increase the sugarcane price so that the sugarcane growers are induced to bring more acreage under sugarcane cultivation. I would appeal to the Government of India that greater facilities should be offered to sugarcane growers in the South, especially in Tamil Nadu.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, greater attention should be given by the Government of India for rehabilitating and modernising the outdated sick sugar mills. Besides this, the sugar factories in Tamil Nadu are in the grip of a grave crisis. They are holding in stock 60% of last year's production mainly due to two reasons. One is that the lifting of levy sugar is poor and the other is that consumption is getting less and less due to high incidence of taxation. As I pointed out earlier, the excise duty should be reduced to encourage greater consumption of sugar. Secondly, the Central Government should purchase the huge quantities of sugar stagnating in Tamil Nadu and create a buffer stock of sugar. Thirdly, the Central Government may allow the State Governments, which have such surplus sugar, to export. Only by adopting these constructive measures, this crisis can be resolved. This will also help the lakhs of workers employed in this industry. I also appeal to the Government that apart from giving remunerative price to sugarcane growers, they should take steps to see that the sugar factories make prompt payment to the sugarcane growers for the purchases they make from them.

With these few words, I conclude.

SHRI SHIVAJIRAO S. DESHMUKH (Parbhani): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I come from a constituency where, in a village, you

[Shri Shivajirao S. Deshmukh]

will be shocked to hear that a very progressive cultivator who had grown sugarcane in abundance not only in a small acre of plot but in a three-acre plot was forced to sell it by beat of drums free for anyone to carry. So, we have brought the prices of sugarcane to this plight. This House must take cognizance of this fact, that if we go on persisting in the foolish policies on sugar, then we may be faced with scarcity of sugar, and at that stage, whatever amount of labour our Ministers take, it may not be possible to increase sugar production again. If that is not to happen our Ministry and our officers should start very seriously thinking to place this sugar industry on some sort of scientific principle.

Now, in this country the cost of firewood is higher than that of sugarcane. In this country, mud is costlier than gur. Therefore, if agriculturists are to be given justice, and if this Government cannot give justice to these agriculturists, and we go on calling this country as an agricultural country, nobody in the world will believe in this. A time will come where the kisans of this country will be forced to go on strike, will be forced to discontinue growing sugarcane, cotton, food or anything under the sun. Then it may be too late to convince the kisan of what is the sense of justice.

Coming back to sugarcane prices, the Sen Commission recommended years back that the prices of sugarcane must be fixed on a scientific formula, namely, that the increases in the cane prices should be directly proportional to the increase in the sucrose content. This simple proposal, this Government could not enforce; this was a proposition arising out of a Commission created by this very Government. After that, this issue was referred to the Talwar Committee. The Sen Commission gave certain recommendations, and the Talwar Committee said that there must be proportional increases in the cost of sugarcane and that the principle of proportionality should be accepted by this Government. This Government even today is not prepared to accept the principle of proportionality. So, in a country where a progressive farmer, at the cost of his blood, at the cost of his sweat, grows sugarcane with more sucrose content, he is asked to part with the sucrose content of his sugarcane at throwaway prices

simply because those who sit in the air-conditioned chambers do not know how much it costs to grow a better cane.

So, if we cannot enforce progressive policies, I have only this submission to make to the Government. Either put up with it or shut up, but as long as you are not going to enforce...

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU: Or get out.

SHRI SHIVAJIRAO S. DESHMUKH: Unless you are going to enforce scientific principles of cost for the agricultural products, this country is not going in for the agricultural production at the rate at which one would like it to grow.

Coming to the sugar industry, a private industry goes on compiling arrears of sugarcane prices. Show me any community in the world which has sold which has parted with, but yet which is not paid for. Are these sugar industries worth Rs. 50 crores? They are rotten, with machines which were purchased a hundred years ago, and which nobody will purchase even at a rate of eight annas a kilo. And they want the sugarcane prices to be withheld for years together. Do they pay any interest on the sugarcane prices which are due to the farmers? I wish this Government gets out an order that if the price is not paid, they will be forced to pay not only interest but penal interest if the sugarcane prices are not paid on time. (Interruption)

We call sugarcane and cotton as cash crops, but we have reduced them to credit crops. Today, the farmer grows cotton and he sells in the mandi and he has to wait for six months to get his price. If he grows sugarcane he has to wait for years to get his price. If this is going to happen further, the days of this country ever reaching any self-sufficiency in agricultural production are numbered. I have no doubt about that.

Then, coming to industrial policy, we say that licensing for a particular requirement is free, but we are not prepared to apply the same principle to sugarcane. We say that if you want to instal an industry in the essential sector,—sugarcane is in the essential sector—and when you say that on the total cost capital cost up to Rs. 5 crores it is

fully delicensed, that simple proposition is not applicable to sugarcane.

Why? If the farmer wants to organise a cooperative, why should he be compelled to go to New Delhi for a scrap of paper called industrial licence, when you say it is delicensed? Those who have got money, they walk away with the licence. But those who with the sweat of their brow raise the capital and want to organise a cooperative factory are asked to wait in the queue.

You go on issuing licences to new factories, without caring whether they get steel or foreign exchange. The industrialists whose duty it is to manufacture sugar machinery charge huge sums of money. They take advances and walk away without giving the machinery: and, the Government here goes to sleep? They do not care to see whether the licensed factories come into being or not. If this slipshod policy is to be followed, there will be not only sugar scarcity but it will reach such a stage that it will be very difficult to produce more sugar. This Government does not allow our peasants to eat sugar. You say 40 per cent sugar is free and 60 per cent is licensed. But licensed sugar does not go to the village. The villager is forced to buy sugar at black-market prices.

You have one set of price for UP, another for Bihar, another for Congo, another for Timbuctoo and so on. Sugar has to be sold at a uniform price all over India and you should accept the principle of proportionality. I request the Minister to come out boldly with a clear-cut declaration as to what sugar cane prices shall be paid and why. As long as he does not explain not only what prices shall be paid but also why, the farmers will not be satisfied.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur): Sir, I have to go to a very urgent meeting. Before going, let me pay my respects to everyone and say:

बिछड़े हुए मिलने फिर,
बोटर ने घर मिला दिया।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Naidu.

SHRI CHENGALRAYA NAIDU: Sir, I want to bring the notice of the House how the Government is playing with the lives of

farmers, especially sugarcane growers. When Government was faced with sugar shortage, they increased the cane price from Rs. 73 to Rs. 100 a tonne, as an incentive to the ryots to grow more. Believing that Government will maintain that price, many farmers have taken to sugarcane cultivation and succeeded in producing more. So, Government had a surplus stock. Next year itself Government reduced the price from Rs. 100 to Rs. 73. When the price was increased to Rs. 100, the labourers asked for more daily wages. The lorry-man asked more money for transport on the ground that the price was increased. Now when the price has been reduced again to Rs. 73, the labourer and lorry-man refuse to reduce their charges. So, the grower is paying the increased charges to them, thus incurring a heavy loss.

Voting this government to power is just like giving a stone to a mad man. We do not know where he will throw the stone. This government is behaving that way.

20.00 hrs.

Let us compare the price of sugarcane with that of firewood. Unlike sugarcane, firewood, does not require so much of manure and labour. Yet, in two years you get double the tonnage of sugarcane by way of firewood. Still, you are getting the same price for firewood as you are getting for sugarcane.

People are still nationalist-minded. They have the interests of the country. That is why they are producing sugarcane. If they wanted to look after their interests alone they would have started growing firewood long ago. The cost of firewood in cities today is Rs. 120 a tonne. But the price of sugarcane is Rs. 73 a tonne. Out of this Rs. 73 you have to pay Rs. 10 as lorry charges and Rs. 5 for clearing the loan of the factory and another Rs. 5 for cutting charges. It is only the balance that they are getting. But do the government consider these things? Why are they blind to these things? Are their heads blank?

The previous Agriculture Minister, Shri Jagjivan Ram, announced on the floor of the House that he will try to increase the price to Rs. 100 a tonne. The next Minister said "we are not responsible for whatever he has said". Shri Shinde has said it here.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : You are distorting facts. What I said was that Shri Jagjivan Ram said something in a particular context in the prevailing situation in a particular area and that it does not apply now. The sugarcane prices are announced every year.

SHRI CHENGALRAYA NAIDU : The same State Governments continue and the same Parliament continues. You have no respect for your own words on the floor of the House. I do not know who will believe you and who will vote for you in the next general elections. When the government is not going to keep up its promise we do not know what to do.

Considering the increase in cost of labour, transport charges, irrigation and electricity charges, the government must now come forward to increase the rate for sugarcane to at least Rs. 10) per tonne. You will notice that the price of oil, rice, cloth, in fact every item has gone up. Why is it that for sugarcane alone you are not prepared to increase the price. When the prices of other items are going up, why are you holding up the price of sugarcane? Why can't you increase the price of sugar by two or three paise per kilo? If you are not able to increase the retail price of sugar, you reduce the excise duty which you collect on sugar and sell it at a lower price to the consumer.

Coming to molasses, we have been telling this government that the control on molasses must be removed and that you must allow the factories to sell the molasses at a higher rate.

The charge is about Rs. 7 and the sales tax is Rs. 2.50 For a tonne of molasses you get Rs. 5 which is not enough even to store them. Whenever we ask about it, this Government says that the Petroleum and Chemicals Ministry is responsible for that. But you are responsible for the fixation of the price Molasses also come under you, have a talk with them and try to release them to the factory people.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Order, order. Shri Sarjoo Pandey.

श्री सरजू पांडेय (गाजीपुर) : सभापति जी, मैं दो-तीन सवाल मंत्री जी से करना चाहता हूँ। पहली बात यह है कि सारे सदन में लगातार इस बात की मांग की गई और जहाँ तक गन्ने का उद्योग है उसकी जो दुर्दशा है वह मंत्री जी से छिपी हुई नहीं है, सारे माननीय सदस्यों ने कहा इस बात को और उनको खुद भी तजुर्बा है कि हमारे देश में गन्ने को जलाना पड़ता है, मिल वाले इसको लेते नहीं हैं और उत्तर प्रदेश इसका सब से बड़ा शिकार है। खुद मंत्री जी ने कहा कि 21 करोड़ रुपये किसान के मिल वालों के ऊपर बकाया हैं। तो मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या मंत्री जी इस बकाया रुपये की वसूली के लिए उन मिल मालिकों को जो पैसे नहीं दे रहे हैं, कोई स्पेसिफिक ला बना कर जेलों में बन्द करेंगे या नहीं।

दूसरा सवाल यह है कि गन्ने के उद्योग में जो बिल्कुल सड़ चुका है, एक भी पैसा एक भी मिल मालिक ने नहीं लगाया है, सारे सदस्यों ने अभी कहा है और गन्ने के उद्योग की तरफकी तब तक नहीं हो सकती जब तक इसका राष्ट्रीयकरण न हो क्योंकि गन्ने से जब तक कागज बनाने का जो काम है या और शारे का या दूसरे जो उसके बाइ-प्रोडक्ट हैं उनका इस्तेमाल नहीं होगा तब तक सिर्फ चीनी से उसका दाम नहीं भा सकता, तो मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि राष्ट्रीयकरण करने में मंत्री जी के सामने बाधाएँ क्या हैं? उनके सामने कुछ सदस्यों ने समाजीकरण की बात कही, कुछ ने कोम्पारेटिव को देने की बात कही, लेकिन मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि प्राइवेट मिल मालिकों से इसे लेने में क्या कठिनाई है जो तमाम मांग के बावजूद वह इसकी तरफ ध्यान नहीं दे रहे हैं?

तीसरी बात—अभी मेरठ में देश भर के गन्ना उत्पादकों का एक सम्मेलन हुआ। हम लोगों ने प्रधान मंत्री को एक मेमोरेंडम दिया

और उन से कहा कि गन्ने का दाम बढ़ाइये। लेकिन हमारे पूरब में एक कहावत है कि राजा ऐसा है कि टका सेर भाजी और टका सेर खाजा, यह हालत है। लकड़ी मंहगी है इस गन्ने से। इसलिये यह जो सब से बड़ा कलंक हमारे लिये है कि गन्ने का किसान उजड़ता चला जा रहा है उसके लिए उसके गन्ने का दाम बढ़ाने के लिए आप क्या प्रयास कर रहे हैं, यह सदन को साफ ढंग से बताइए। अन्त में मैं यह कहूँगा मंत्री जी से कि इस पर फर्म डेसीशन लेना चाहिए और हम ने जो मेमो-रेंडम प्रधान मंत्री जी को दिया वह इन्हें मिला या नहीं मिला? मिला तो सरकार उसके ऊपर क्या कार्यवाही कर रही है? यह दो-तीन बातें मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ और चाहता हूँ कि वह इसका स्पेसिफिक उत्तर दें।

SHRI M. N. REDDY (Nizamabad) : Mr. Chairman, I am glad that both the hon. Ministers are present even though it is the fag-end of the session. They say that a sweet revolution has come. It may be so, so far as the Government or consumers or the industry are concerned, but so far as the farmers are concerned, the sweet revolution became a bitter experience. I do not want to argue in a general manner; I want to put certain specific questions.

Firstly, the hon. Minister must spell out their policy in regard to gur and khandsari. The total production of sugarcane in this country is more than 12 crore tonnes out of which only 4 crore tonnes is consumed by the established sugar industry consisting of about 210 factories all over the country and the remaining 8 crore tonnes is consumed either for gur or for khandsari. Does this Government have any consistent, stable or realistic policy to help those farmers who are producing 8 crore tonnes, two-thirds of the entire production? So far they have not spelt it.

As you know, I have been pleading with this Government for the last two or three years for the constitution of a Sugar Board as every major commodity has got a board. So far they have not done so. I do not know what is lost if a board is constituted to

look after the interest of canegrowers as well as of the sugar industry.

Secondly, the formula is recovery based price, linked to 9.40 as the minimum. There is scope for reducing the recovery to 9 per cent. Keeping whatever the rate, the enhanced rate or whatever it is, the original recovery should be reduced to 9 per cent, so that the factories which are dilapidated and which did not have renovation where the percentage of recovery is less can have a uniform basis and it will serve as an incentive to those factories which are getting more recovery.

Thirdly, as this has been pointed out several times by me and other Members, there is the statutory Sugarcane Control Order, 1966. There is a specific clause in it that wherever the minimum price is fixed, the sugarcane growers will be consulted before the fixation of the price. For this year, the price was notified on 13th November, 1970. I want to know whether during the last three or four years the representatives of any sugarcane growers' organisation were consulted as is required under the statutory Order. This has never been done. In the National Development Council, they decide and after a few days it is announced. I would beg of you then to remove the clause altogether from the Sugarcane Order and you fix arbitrary price in whatever manner you like. We are not bothered then. But why do you hoodwink the people and violate the sanctity of the clause put in the Sugarcane Order to consult the sugarcane growers who are affected by the fixation of price. I would beg of the Minister, since he has taken over this portfolio recently, to apply his mind to this aspect either to remove the clause or to have the consultation with the sugarcane growers.

Regarding molasses, so many Members have said about it. I had submitted a petition for the removal of control from molasses and this was referred to the Petitions Committee. I would like to read the recommendation of the Petitions Committee, in their Report dated 30th April, 1970, p. 16 :

"The Committee have given their careful consideration to all aspects of the matter referred to above. They recommend that Government may set up a Study Team consisting, *in er alla* of representatives of concerned industries to undertake a comprehensive review of the

[Shri M. N. Reddy]

entire work of the Molasses Control Order, 1961, in the light of the experience gained so far and keeping in view the interests of the industries concerned."

In spite of this positive recommendation made by the Petitions Committee in April, 1970, neither the Food Ministry nor the Petroleum and Mines Ministry has set up a Study Team or have even taken cognisance of the report. The price of molasses, as quoted by my hon. friend, Shri Chengalraya Naidu, is Rs. 6 and odd per tonne while it is sold in the open market at the rate of Rs. 400 to Rs. 500 per tonne. This is something scandalous. The Andhra High Court has observed that it is illegal, unconstitutional and unjust. The price fixed does not meet the storage charges...

SHRI SHIVAJI RAO S. DESHMUKH : It does not meet the loading charges.

SHRI M. N. REDDY : I would beg of the Minister to appoint a Study Team for the purpose. The Tariff Commission has made several recommendations. But the hon. Minister has accepted the recommendation only with regard to the removal of zones from 5 zones to Statewise zones and another recommendation in regard to the fixation of price of sugar in various States. But as regards the most important recommendations about the rehabilitation of industry, about fixing the sugarcane price and so many other recommendations, they say that they are under consideration. The Tariff Commission is appointed periodically from time to time and it is incumbent upon the Government to accept the recommendations.

Now, Mr. Gundu Rao who is a Mechanical Engineer and expert on sugar industry has given a report for the renovation of the factories. Since the price is linked up with the recovery of sugar in a particular factory, it is necessary that all the old machinery is replaced to improve the recovery of sugar in each factory. That is the report of the Gundu Rao Committee. So far, it has not been implemented and the farmers as well as the consumers are directly affected. The cost of production is increasing. In view of this, I once again plead for the constitution of a Sugar Board consisting of the representatives of sugarcane growers and sugar industry. The value of sugarcane produced is even

more than 1000 crores of rupees. I appeal to the hon. Minister to constitute a Sugar Board on the lines of cotton, tea, jute and other commodities.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : The sugar politics in the country have been bitter to the consumers, cane growers and the mill-workers. The monopolists have been the supreme gainer to-day and as has been revealed, and correctly, the Kisans have been fleeced. Such a lot of arrears remain unpaid and the Government is a silent watcher because they cannot annoy these monopolists. I want to know from the Minister to-day here and now as to how much loan has been given to the sugar industry from the Government and Government-controlled institutions and financing bodies.

The Sugar Wage Board award has not been implemented. Why don't you institute certificate cases against these mill-owners? Due to monopolists and middlemen racket, India is one of the dearer countries as far as sugar price is concerned. We want to know whether the Government will consider to have a national retention price for sugar as you have done in the case of steel. At a particular time people forgot the look of sugar. They have to take to harmful substitutes like sacharine. So, the common man due to your wrong policy has lost the purchasing power. So consumption of sugar and payment of money have become remote things. We want to know the cost of production to-day of sugar at the factory gates for different regions.

There should be a national sugar policy and nationalisation to safeguard the interests of the consumers, kisans and mill-workers and Sir, there should be an economic cane price given to the growers. They have done nothing about creating sugar-based industries and molasses-based industries. They have not examined the possibility of using sugarcane and molasses as cattle fodder and as items of export from different regions. They have not even thought of using extracted sugarcane for pulp production and for various other things. We are importing pulp worth several millions of rupees every year.

The poor quality of sugarcane and the sucrose content—they have never tried to improve. All that they done was to pipe

the monopolists to get money from them for individual and political purposes and keep themselves going and make them prosper. The sugarcane occupies the field for a much longer period. They have not tried cultivation of beet root which produces excellent sugar. There are lot of regions, particularly hill regions in the country, where conservation of soil is absolutely essential and beet root cultivation round the year can be a permanent solution for the prevention of soil erosion and, at the same time for production of cheap sugar. We have been so foolish as to sell our sugar to different foreign countries like America who dictate their terms and, the price we get is far below the cost of production and we collect the subsidy from these starving Indian common men to feed the fatter American.

I know, after all, this partial de-control of sugar is a disgrace because we know the Government in power, the people there and the Party in power, have collected fantastic amount of money—Rs. 40 lakhs—to sell partial de-control to the mill owners. We know nine co-operative sugar-mills in the course of a few months made an excess profit on the sale proceeds of sugar which amounted to about 10 crores of rupees. It is a shame that this has been done with the blood and sweat of the common man who is groaning under the rising cost of living and you are trying to feed the monopolists in order to keep yourself in power by fleecing money from them and by fattening them. This is all that you have done.

Sir, the price fixation is an artificial one. Therefore, it should be re-examined. I want the Minister Sahab to tell us here and now as to what is the cost of production of sugar in different regions.

As I said before, to-day sugarcane is being burnt. Kisans are being exploited. A true cost analysis has not been done and the exploitation by the monopolists is going on unabated and the Government is a silent watcher and hand in glove with the criminals who are exploiting the workers.

SHRI S. S. KOTHARI (Mandsaur) :
Mr. Chairman, Sir, I will be very brief. There has been procrastination with regard to the declaration of the sugar policy. The provisional price for levy sugar was fixed in December 1969 for 1969-70. Still the final price has not been announced and this is

not fair, in my opinion. The Government must come out with its final policy as soon as possible. The percentage of levy sugar should be announced. The stocks were 20.88 lakhs in 1969-70 and they would increase to 23.88 lakhs in 1970-1971. This means, minimum buffer stocks of 8 lakhs is necessary if the industry is to survive this crisis. I would urge upon the Government not only to create buffer stocks as they had agreed with cooperatives and others previously, but also they must make efforts to increase the exports. I believe, export quotas are necessary and if they make more efforts they can have the export quotas increased. It needs a little more effort.

With regard to credit requirements it is necessary that the industry is able to finance the sugar stock. Then it can pay the sugarcane suppliers. The farmers need the money. The industry should be in a position to pay it. However much pressure you may put on the industry, unless they have the money, how can they pay it? Therefore I would urge that the limit of credit against sugar stock should be increased sizeably, the margin should be reduced to 10 per cent. About Rs. 450 crores should be provided so that the industry is able to tide over the crisis.

With regard to Wage Board Award in U.P., I am glad about it; they should be paid more but it is necessary that while paying more, the uneconomic price structure of the industry should also be looked into. The economic and financial structure of the sugar mills is almost crumbling. Many of them are losing their reserves and they cannot rehabilitate themselves. They need money for rehabilitation. We have to see that efforts are taken to put the industry on a sound basis, because millions of people are dependent upon the sugar industry alone in our country. I would not go into details.

Sir, the Tamilnadu factories have lost very heavily. Even in U.P. and Bihar, the weaker factories are losing. Therefore, it is necessary that the price structure should be revised. The price of levy sugar should be reconsidered and increased as far as it is possible.

With two more points I have finished. This is about the differential excise duty with regard to free sugar and levy sugar. I would urge that the price should be the

[Shri S. S. Kothari]

same and the Government should consider this point.

There is discrimination in the release of stocks. Maharashtra stocks are released very early while the stocks of other factories are released late. In my opinion, it is very unfair and all the stocks in various States should be released on a proportionate, pro-rata basis.

I trust Government will now, today itself, announce a clear policy in regard to all these matters.

श्री हराधर सिंह (रोहतक) : बेयर मैन महोदय, मैं सीधे सवाल ही पूछना चाहता हूँ। पहली बात तो यह है कि जैसे गवर्नमेंट ने एक एग्रीकल्चरस प्राइसेज कमीशन बना रखा है फूडग्रेन्स या कामशियल क्राफ्ट्स के सिलसिले में, क्या उसी तरह से इसके लिये एक शुगरकेन प्राइस कमीशन मुकर्रर करेगी जोकि गहराई में में जा कर इस बात का पता लगा सके कि शुरू से लेकर आखिर तक इस पर कितना खर्चा आता है? क्योंकि मेरी इत्तला तो यह है कि इस प्राइस में बीज का वाम भी पूरा नहीं होता है। इस लिये कम से कम किसान का जो इन्वेस्टमेंट हो वह तो रिटर्न हो जाये उसके लिए क्या इस किस्म का एक शुगरकेन प्राइस कमीशन आप मुकर्रर करने के लिये तैयार है?

दूसरी बात यह है कि जो मिलें किसानों को उनके गन्ने की प्राइस पे नहीं करती हैं बावजूद इसके कि सिर्फ सात या साढ़े सात रुपये ही प्राइस तय की गई है बल्कि मैं तो समझता हूँ वे आधी प्राइस भी नहीं देते हैं बावजूद गवर्नमेंट के डायरेक्टिव के तो क्या आप उन मिल्स को ब्लैक लिस्ट करेगी और उन के आदमियों को जेल में भेजेगी जोकि किसान को मजबूर करते हैं थोड़ी कीमत पर बेचने के लिये? क्या आप उनके खिलाफ ऐक्शन लेने के लिए तैयार है?

तीसरी बात यह है कि जो मोलैसिस होती

है उसको आप चार रुपये मन के हिसाब से बेच देते हैं उन लोगों को जोकि पद्मश्री बनते हैं, धाराब के कारखाने वाले हैं जैसे कि मोहन मीकिन्स वगैरह लेकिन मेरा कहना है कि जैसे मजदूरों का बोनस होता है वैसे ही किसान का यह बोनस है। उसको आप ठीक ढंग से बेचें, मार्केट में उसको चार रुपये, पांच रुपये मन के हिसाब से पब्लिक लेने को तैयार है। तो क्या आप धमल किसी तरह से उसको बेचने की कोई ऐसी एजेन्सी निकालेंगी और ठीक से उस की प्राइस मिने इस पर भी आप गौर करने के तैयार है?

चौथी बात यह है कि हम आपके मशकूर हैं कि आपने फूडग्रेन्स के लिये सपोर्ट प्राइस मुकर्रर की है और उससे कम आप उसको पे नहीं करेगी। जैसे इस मामले में गवर्नमेंट मार्केट में आ जाती है उसी तरह से शुगरकेन मामले में भी गवर्नमेंट इस इंडस्ट्री को नेशनलाइज करके मार्केट में आ जाये ताकि काश्तकार की प्राइस कम न होने पाये क्या इसके लिए गवर्नमेंट तैयार है? क्योंकि मुझे पता है कि मिनों ने किसानों को तीन रुपये तक भी पे किया है। काश्तकार गन्ने को ऐसी हालत में मिल्स में बेने के बजाय खेत में ही सूखा डालता है और लकड़ी समझ कर उसे बेच देता है जिस पर हमें रोना आता है।

आखिरी बात यह कहनी है कि देहात के रहने वाले भी इनसान है। शहरों में राजकुमार नहीं बसते। शुगर के मामले में देहात और शहर में डिस्ट्रिक्मिनेशन क्यों बरता जाता है। देहात वालों को आप एक थोड़ा बेयर भी देने के लिए तैयार नहीं हैं। इसलिये जहाँ तक शुगर के डिस्ट्रीब्यूशन का सवाल है देहात में बसने वालों को भी शुगर का उतना ही कौटा मिलना चाहिये जितना की शहरों में मिलता है अगर कोई नहीं लेना चाहे तो न ले। हमने देखा है कि देहात में ब्याह शादी में भी पीनी

वहीं मिलती है। तो क्या आप इस डिस्क्रिमिनेशन को भी खत्म करेंगे ?

ये मेरी पांच बातें हैं, मुझे उम्मीद है कि इन पर आप जरूर तौर फर्मायेंगे।

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SHRI F. A. AHMED) : I am indeed grateful to Shri Kashi Nath Pandey for raising a discussion on a matter which is of great importance to the industry, to the cane-growers and to the people at large and also to the workers. I am equally grateful to the hon. Members who have shown keen interest in discussing this matter. In the course of the discussion on the two days, a large number of questions have been thrown open, about which we are as much anxious to find a solution as the hon. Members would like us to do.

I would like to refer to the important matters which have been referred to by hon. Members. One is relating to the price of sugarcane. The price of sugarcane is fixed, as the hon. Members are aware, and the minimum price of sugarcane was fixed in 1968-69 and 1969-70 and again now, for 1970-71 we have already fixed it. As a result of this fixation of the minimum price, we found that for the first two years, the price which the agriculturist got was nearly Rs. 20 as against Rs. 7.37 fixed for the sugarcane in the first year and in the second year they got nearly Rs. 15 as against the price of Rs. 7.37 fixed for that year. But during the last year, which has just ended, the price which the growers got was more or less the same as the minimum price fixed by Government. The result of this has been that a large number of acres have now come under sugar cultivation, and many people have undertaken this cultivation and the production has gone up considerably.

The question before us was what the price for the current year should be. We took all facts into consideration and we also consulted the State Governments and the cane-growers' association, and after taking all their advice, we decided...

श्री सरजू पाण्डेय : ये कौन रिप्रेजेन्टेटिव्स हैं केन प्रोडर्स के, उनके नाम तो बता दीजिए।

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : Their funeral was decided.

SHRI F. A. AHMED : After taking into consideration all their recommendations, we thought that there were no circumstances which warranted a more different fixation than that what has been done during the last year. But even then, the matter was referred to the Agricultural Prices Commission. I would like the hon. Members to remember that the Agricultural Prices Commission had actually recommended a price of about Rs. 7.37 against a recovery of 9.2 per cent and less. We did not accept that because that would have affected a large number of factories. We have fixed the cane price at 7.37 linked to a recovery of 9.4 as was done last year. But so far as the premium is concerned, we have increased it as compared to what was fixed last year. Last year, as hon. members know, for every one point increase in the sugar content, there was an increase of 5.37. Now it has been raised to 6.6.

SHRI SHIVAJIRAO S. DESHMUKH : Is it proportional ?

SHRI F. A. AHMED : I will come to that.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : What is the cost of production of the sugar factory ?

SHRI F. A. AHMED : Where the content is more than 9.4 per cent, they will get a higher price than what they got last year. In present circumstances, we thought that was the maximum we could do so far as the fixation of price is concerned.

Another question was raised, particularly from Maharashtra, that the increase on account of the sugar content should be fixed on the basis of the principle of proportionality, but we thought that would not be fair and so we did not accept that suggestion. Instead, we increased the price for every 0.1 per cent increase in the sugar content.

SHRI SHIVAJI RAO S. DESHMUKH : What was unfair about it ?

SHRI F. A. AHMED : We thought that would not benefit some areas where the sugar content is less. We did not want to give that encouragement to a particular area only, and we thought that we shall be serving the interests of all areas by increasing the existing rate from 5.37 to 6.6.

श्री सुलखीदास जाखव : ज्यादा मेहनत करना, ज्यादा उगाना और पैदा करना क्या पाप है ?

SHRI F. A. AHMED : It must be realised that it is not due to effort only but also due to climatic conditions and various other factors that there is more sugar content in a particular area than in other areas. Therefore, we thought that if we gave an increased price so far as this was concerned, that would affect the price of the sugar and also that would not be liked by the consumer. Taking all these factors into account, we have already fixed the price I have indicated as the appropriate price for the current year.

So far as the price of sugar is concerned, the question is under consideration. Today, we have three alternatives before us. One, to completely control sugar in which the price will have to be fixed, or, two, to continue the policy of partial decontrol, as has been the policy during the last three years, in which case also, the price will have to be fixed, or, three, to completely decontrol sugar.

Therefore, in case it is decided by us to decontrol sugar, the question of fixing the prices will not arise at all. But these matters are under our consideration, particularly in view of the fact that there is a stock of over 20 lakh tonnes of sugar, as at the end of the last season. The question was also raised here that this stock is likely to increase when the current year comes to a close in September. We expect that about 40 lakh tonnes of sugar will be produced during the current year, and we expect the internal consumption to go up from about 32 to about 36 lakh tonnes on the basis of the figures of consumption available for the last one or two months of an average of 3 lakh tonnes per month. If that is so, what we shall be producing in the current year will be sufficient for our export commitment and also for our internal consumption, and there will be very little balance left for carry-over to the next year. But the question that we have to consider is the ways and means which will maintain the area under sugar-cane cultivation and how we can give an adequate price to the sugar-cane growers.

If as a result of prices falling less area is cultivated under sugar-cane, then in future years when our requirements increase, it may not be possible to get internally all the sugar that we want. I find that during the current year there is a fall in the acreage under sugar-cane cultivation by 1.25 to 1.35 per cent, as compared to the increase which had taken place last year of about 7 per cent. Because the point has now been reached where it is not profitable for the sugar-cane growers to go in for more sugar-cane cultivation instead of other crops, it is necessary for us to keep these matters under consideration and see what particular policy should be followed in future years, so that the cane growers may get a suitable price, and the observations made by the hon. Members in this regard will be kept in view.

SHRI S. S. KOTHARI : What about buffer stock ?

SHRI F. A. AHMED : I have already said that at the end of the last year there was a carry-over of a little over 20 lakh tonnes. The question has been raised what should be the buffer stock which should be created out of this carry-over stock which we have at our disposal. That matter is under our consideration. I am very sorry that it has not been possible for us to declare the price of the sugar as well as the policy with regard to buffer stock as was expected.

SHRI S. S. KOTHARI : You have not declared anything, whether there will be decontrol or partial decontrol, what will be the price, what will be the buffer stocks. All these questions still remain uncertain.

SHRI F. A. AHMED : These matters are under consideration, and very shortly Government will take decision.

SHRI S. S. KOTHARI : Within what time ? One month ?

SHRI F. A. AHMED : Within a month it will be taken.

It is in the last stage of the final discussion and the decision will be taken as early as possible.

SHRI S. S. KOTHARI : Within a month.

SHRI F. A. AHMED : Yes ; certainly within a month.

I may point out in this connection that so far as the new season is concerned,—the season really starts from the beginning of November—there has been some production of sugar in certain areas, but the season will be in full swing by the end of this month, and I think by the time we have sufficient production of sugar, it will be possible for us to declare what should be the price and what should be the policy with regard to sugar in the coming years.

Some hon. Members have suggested that bagasse which is a product of sugar production, instead of being utilised in the boilers, should be utilised for purposes of paper manufacture and so on. It is a suggestion worth considering, but, at the same time, we must take care that this will require the modification of a large number of sugar mills in order to convert them from the existing arrangement of boilers to the fixation of such boilers as can do without the use of bagasse. This is a matter which requires deep consideration, and certainly Government will consider which can be more profitable and more economical for us to do this.

Some of the hon. Members have raised the question about the excise duty, saying that there should be no different excise duties for levy sugar and on free sugar. This has been considered and has been represented to the Finance Ministry—

श्री सरजू पाण्डेय : जो रुपया बकाया है, सरकार उस के लिए क्या कर रही है ?

SHRI F. A. AHMED : It has been referred to the Finance Ministry and we will take a decision also in this matter very early.

Then, a complaint has been made that adequate finances have not been allotted by the Reserve Bank and the other banks concerned to the industries, but my information is that whatever advance has considered reasonable has been made to the industry. During the last year, I think as much as Rs. 225 crores was given by way of credit facilities by the banks to the industry, and I do not see any reason or justification why the industry does not pay to the cane growers soon after the cane is taken delivery of by them. Under the rules,

they are required to pay within a fortnight of the delivery. It is entirely a matter for the State Governments to look into and we have impressed upon the State Governments to enforce this provision of law to see that these dues are paid in time to the cane-growers. So far as our present information goes, it is certainly true that there is an arrear of Rs. 15 crores...

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री (पटना) : इस हाउस में 21 करोड़ बताया गया है और आज मंत्री महोदय 15 करोड़ बता रहे हैं ।

SHRI M. N. REDDY : How are you enforcing the payment ?

SHRI F. A. AHMED : That was the figure available to us up to the 15th November. Out of the advance for the sugar-cane which was of the values of Rs. 337 crores,—out of the money advanced,—Rs. 15 crores are still due to the cane growers by the industry. Action should be taken by the State Government to see that these are paid in time. We also considered whether it was possible for us to have a law under which this can be enforced, and our advice that was nothing can be done so far as the Centre is concerned, and it can only be done by the State Governments and this can be realised as land revenue arrears if they want to do it.

So far as molasses is concerned, this is a matter which concerns the Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals. The hon. Members who are interested in it have to refer that matter to that Ministry. I would also discuss it with them and place before them the views that have been expressed by hon. Members here.

The question of wage boards has been raised. That is pertinent only when we are fixing the price of sugar. The recommendation of the Tariff Commission is that whatever recommendation has been made by the wage board, those wages should be paid by the industry. That factor will be taken into consideration when we are fixing the price of sugar if there is partial decontrol or complete control and so on.

These were the main points raised by

[Shri F. A. Ahmed]

hon. Members and I hope after our policy has been enunciated and placed before the country, hon. Members will be satisfied that what we are doing is in the interests of development of sugar industry in our country.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House now stands adjourned *sine die*.

20.47 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned sine die.