

duled Tribes (English and Hindi versions) on the Ministry of Finance (Department of Banking)—Recruitment of Probationary Officers in the Bank of India.

11.41/2 hrs.

STATEMENT RE. FALL IN PRICES  
OF NATURAL RUBBER

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): The price of natural rubber has been showing a downward trend since the middle of 1975. Representations have been received from rubber growers for allowing export of the surplus rubber in the country. The price at one stage touched a figure of Rs. 665/- per quintal against an average price of around Rs. 800/- per quintal till July 1975. A series of meetings were held in the Commerce Ministry with the growers of rubber and representatives of tyre/non-tyre manufacturers. It was found that the prices were sagging because of the inability of the manufacturing industry to maintain their rubber stocks for 2½ months which they were generally supposed to do. An appeal was, therefore, made to the industry to maintain the normal stock in order to give relief to the growers who were forced to hold abnormally high stocks. The representatives of the manufacturing industry indicated their financial problems in the tight credit conditions obtaining in the country at present which prevented them from holding such stocks. They already had a high inventory of finished goods held in stock by them. They were assured that their applications for credit facilities on being received will be forwarded to the Reserve Bank of India through the Finance Ministry for consideration. Only one application was received which was accordingly forwarded.

Though there was a temporary improvement in the price of rubber it started sagging again from December, 1975 and reached a low level of Rs. 680/- per quintal during the last few days. There were fresh representations from rubber growers for allowing export of rubber to relieve them of their stocks and also for stabilising rubber prices. This was also reiterated when I visited Kottayam on the 24th and 25th January, 1976.

On my return to Delhi, a meeting was immediately called by me with the Industrial Adviser, Directorate General of Technical Development and the Chairman, Rubber Board to review the demand and supply position of rubber. It was agreed that taking into consideration the anticipated consumption of rubber during 1975-76 by the industry, there would be some surplus of natural rubber after providing for the required buffer stock in the country for four months' requirements.

Government are seriously considering a solution to the problem of low price created by the surplus rubber and also the inability of the manufacturing industry to increase their off-take in spite of appeals by the Ministry. I expect that a decision would be taken in this regard shortly.

11.10 hrs.

QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE RE. ALLEGED ARREST OF KUMARI MANIBEN PATEL, M. P. AT DELHI.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS, DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI OM MEHTA): Sir, according to a report received from the Delhi Administration, Delhi Police and information about the intended demonstration against emergency by some persons at Chandni

[Shri Om Mehta]

Chowk on 12th December, 1975. Appropriate arrangements were made for maintenance of law and order under the supervision of senior officers. Around 4.30 P.M., some persons came in different groups to that area and shouted anti-emergency slogans. The slogans raised by the demonstrators attracted notice by the general crowd in that area, and some tension started building up. The police thereupon arrested some demonstrators as a preventive measure. The tension continued. Kumari Manibhen Patel, M.P. was also seen standing near the place of trouble. The police officers on the spot felt that if Kumari Manibhen Patel was allowed to remain there, she might get caught up in the midst of the agitated crowd and some harm may be caused to her person. She was, therefore, taken to the Kashmere Gate Police Station in a Police jeep, in the interests of her security. (Interruptions.) When we do something good, even then they laugh.

At the police station, she was given facilities for brief rest. After the crowds subsided and the area became normal, she was escorted in a police vehicle to her residence.

Kumari Manibhen Patel was not arrested by the police.

कुमारी मणिबेन पटेल (शिरोकट)  
 अद्वय महादय, वहां मझे ले जा कर मरा  
 नाम पूछा गया, मेरे निगान लिये गये मेरी उम्मी  
 पुरा। यह सब जब जेल में किसी को  
 ले जाने है तब किया जाता है। मैं जानना  
 चाहती हूँ कि पुलिस की जीप में मझे क्यों  
 ले गये? बदकथनी पुलिस भी मेरे साथ थी  
 अरब पर भी मझे छोड़ने साब आयी, जिस  
 में पुलिस अफसर और महिला पुलिस अफसर  
 मेरे साथ आयी थी। मैं मानती हूँ कि कम्पैनी  
 नेट पुलिस साक अर मझे नहीं छिड़ाया गया,  
 लेकिन वह सब पूछताछ की गई जो कि किसी  
 को पब्लिक के दस्त जेल में की जाती है।  
 मैं जानना चाहती हूँ कि क्या मेरे दाक जेल

किया गया था या मुझे सिर कराने के लिये पुलिस  
 जीप में ले गये थे ?

अद्वय महादय अब वह कहते हैं कि  
 अस्पष्ट नहीं किया था।

SHRI H. M. PATEL (Dhandhuka):  
 The Minister seems to take this very  
 lightly. He accepts the police version  
 that this was for the security and  
 protection of the hon. member. Even  
 if that was so, I think it would be  
 proper for him to take the matter a  
 little more seriously and find out why  
 these questions were put. Was it be-  
 cause they were not quite certain if the  
 was Kumari Manibhen Patel? In fact,  
 however, as the statement reads, they  
 certainly knew whom they were ar-  
 resting. If this was done for her pro-  
 tection, there was surely no need for  
 asking the other questions unless they  
 were afraid of a mistaken identity.

MR. SPEAKER: Let us not go into a  
 debate over this matter.

SHRI DASARATHA DEB (Tri-  
 pura East): It requires investigation.  
 Only when a person is taken into cus-  
 tody, the mark on the body etc. has to  
 be found out. Otherwise, this ques-  
 tion does not arise at all. It has got to  
 be investigated whether the Member  
 was arrested or she was taken in the  
 Police jeep just for her safety.

MR. SPEAKER: The House will re-  
 member that on the last occasion I  
 requested the Minister to make inves-  
 tigation and report. He has now  
 reported and it is before the House.  
 If there is a doubt about the veracity  
 of the fact, then we cannot do any-  
 thing. There must be a finality about  
 it. When the statement is made, we  
 cannot do anything. The Chair has  
 no means to investigate.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA  
 (Serampore): This should be referred  
 to the Privileges Committee.

MR. SPEAKER: This is not a case for Privileges Committee.

SHRI H. M. PATEL: The point is that the statement in itself *prima facie* shows that it is not an accurate statement of fact. According to the statement, the Police saw Kumari Mani Ben Patel near the spot of trouble and for her security, the police thought that she should be taken away. If that was so, what was the need for taking her away in a jeep and then putting all these various questions? That would be understandable only if there were some doubts about her identity. Could there be any ground for doubt as to the identity of Kumari Mani Ben Patel who has been in this city for a number of years and who should be well known to the police?

MR. SPEAKER: I think, we should not go into this matter further because the Minister has denied that she has been arrested. Therefore, at this stage, I think, let us conclude this

11 18 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE  
OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND  
SCHEDULED TRIBES—*contd*

(11) EXTENSION OF TERM OF OFFICE

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs, Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms and Department of Parliamentary Affairs.

SHRI OM MEHTA: I beg to move.

"That this House do suspend sub-rule (2) of rule 381 B of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in its application to the motion for extension of the term of office of the present members of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes."

The term of the present Committee is expiring and the next Committee would be held in the next Session and so, there would be a vacuum. To avoid this, it was thought, let the term of the present Committee be extended by two months so that by next March/April, there would be elections and we could hold the Committee.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do suspend sub-rule (2) of rule 331 B of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in its application to the motion for extension of the term of office of the present members of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes."

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI OM MEHTA: I beg to move:

"That this House do further extend the term of office of the present members of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes from Lok Sabha upto the 31st March, 1976"

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do further extend the term of office of the present members of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes from Lok Sabha upto the 31st March, 1976"

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI OM MEHTA: I beg to move:

"That this House do intimate to Rajya Sabha that the term of office of the present members of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes from Lok Sabha has been further extended upto the 31st March, 1976 and do recommend to Rajya Sabha that they do take such action as they may deem fit in regard to the association of the members of Rajya Sabha with the said Committee."