

[Shri Jagjiwan Ram]

from the factory owners, but it was the growers who rejected it. Therefore, if hon. members can use their good offices and persuade the growers, I will ask my officer to take it up with the Mill-owners' Association whether some agreement can be entered into by both parties.

I need not assure the House that ever since I took charge of this Ministry, it has been my effort to secure a good price to the Indian farmer. I can say with some sense of satisfaction that by and large, I have succeeded in that. So far it had been the experience of the Indian farmer that in the year he produced more, he got less and in the year he produced less, he got more. But I have succeeded so far as the main foodgrain crops are concerned in fixing a price and ensuring that whatever quantity the farmer offers, the Government agency will be there to purchase it at that price. There are some cash crops like groundnut where we have not been able to do that. We have been examining whether in respect of other commodities also we can think of a procurement price and purchase all the stock that may be available at that price, if the price tends to go down.

In all respects, I have been trying my best, but if somewhere we have failed, it is due to the nature of thing. In the case of sugarcane, the complaint has been about arrears. Specially in north India, it is one industry in which all the recurring expenditure for the raw material is met by the growers. They go on supplying the cane, but the price for it is paid to them after the sugar is produced. The helplessness of the grower comes in because of the perishable nature of the sugarcane. His bargaining capacity goes down because of that. He can go on strike, but the sugarcane will not wait in the field; it will dry up. Therefore, as I said, it is a good suggestion. As a matter of fact, a few days ago from UP, some growers came to see me. I assured them that I will ask my officers to get in touch with the Mill-owners' Association and persuade them to pay something more than the minimum price. But if this suggestion comes and if the cane-growers of Bihar and UP and their unions come forward with this suggestion that let a particular

price be fixed at the present moment and let that be adjusted according to the average price that the sugar factories make, related to the sugar price, it will be a good formula which will be fair both to the factories and to the cane-growers.

श्री रणधीर सिंह : जो प्राइस बाप यहां मुकरर करते है उसको बो पे नहीं करते है— इसके लिए उन पर कोई एक्शन होना चाहिए।

SHRI JAGJIWAN RAM : Once we fix a minimum price, if anybody pays less than that, he is liable for prosecution.

श्री रणधीर सिंह : पिछली दफे उन्होंने ऐसा किया।

श्री जगजीवन राम : जब तक स्टेट्यूटरी नहीं करेंगे तब तक उसमें कोई हाथ नहीं रहता है।

Once we statutorily fix the price, any violation of the statutory price by any factory is liable to prosecution.

SHRI CHENGALRAYA NAIDU : What about increasing the price of sugar itself a little and then increase the price of sugarcane ?

SHRI JAGJIWAN RAM : That is the simplest formula which any factory owner would suggest. You are not making any new suggestion. If any factory owner is asked to pay more for sugarcane, he will immediately say : if you increase the levy price, I will pay more. Then, it does not depend on the profits. It only means that we pay the owner more and he pays more to the cane grower. But the formula suggested by Shri Prakash Vir Shastri is a reasonable and rational one which can work scientifically. So, if the cane-growers' union also show their inclination, I will ask my officers to take up the matter with the mill-owners.

18.37 Hrs.

STATEMENT RE : BANK ROBBERY AT CALCUTTA

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Before we take up the Half An Hour Discussion by

Shri Jha, I want to make an announcement. This morning the Minister of State for Finance has given some information to the house about the bank robbery in Calcutta. He has received further information which he would like to place on the Table of the House for the information of the members. So, with the permission of the House, I would ask him to place it on the Table of the House.

श्री प्रकाशबीर शास्त्री (हापुड़) : इसमें प्रश्न सबसे बड़ा यह है कि इतना तो हमको बता दें कि इतनी बड़ी जो डकैती हुई है उसको करने वाले वास्तव में डकैत ही हैं या कोई विदेशी एजेंट तो नहीं है जो कि डकैती के नाम पर यह कर रहे हैं।

श्री रणधोर सिंह (रोहतक) : उन आदमियों के ऐटिसिडेन्ट्स क्या हैं, वे कौन आदमी हैं? पोलिटिकल हैं या प्रोफेशनल डकैट्स हैं? और वे अकेले बंगाल में ही हैं या सारे देश में फैले हुए हैं?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Kindly listen to me. The Minister can give only such information which he has received from the State Government.

SHRI M. N. REDDY : (Nizamabad) : Let him read it. We are all anxious to hear him. It is a short statement.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have no objection, if Shri Jha agrees. It is a short statement.

SHRI SHIVA CHANDRA JHA (Madhubani) : Let him lay it on the Table of the House.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Yes, to save the time of the House, let it be laid on the Table. You will get copies of this.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI P. C. SETHI) : I lay a copy of the statement on the Table of the House.

Statement

In continuation of the statement made this morning regarding the robbery in the

Russel Street branch of the State Bank of India on the 12th December 1969, certain further particulars have since been received from the Chief Secretary to the Government of West Bengal.

According to the State Government's report a gang of 10 or 12 armed persons arrived at the branch of the State Bank of India in three vehicles including a lorry and a station wagon. Some of these persons entered at the bank premises while others remained outside. Those who entered the bank premises opened fire at random fatally injuring one of the guards of the bank. They took away four boxes containing cash in notes and small coins to the tune of Rs. 4,62,218.65 and other securities worth more than Rs. 6 lakhs. While this operation was being conducted inside the bank premises, the remaining members of the gang outside exploded hand grenades and opened fire from their guns to scare away passerby. Thereafter, the entire gang escaped in the vehicles in which they had come under cover of gun fire. The entire operation lasted about five minutes. The lorry and the station wagon in which the dacoits came were later found abandoned at two places near the bank and two bundles of notes amounting to about Rs. 20,000 in all and some securities were recovered. One person has been arrested in connection with the dacoity and several other persons are being interrogated. The investigation of the case which has been taken up by the detective department of the Calcutta Police is proceeding.

18.39 Hrs.

HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION

STRUCTURAL CHANGES IN MANAGEMENT OF WORLD BANKS

श्री शिव चन्द्र झा (मधुबनी) : उपाध्यक्ष जी, मन्त्री महोदय ने 17 नवम्बर को मेरे प्रश्न संख्या 16 का जो उत्तर दिया था उसी के ऊपर से यह बहस उठा रहा हूँ। मैं ने अपने प्रश्न में कहा था कि स्पेशल ब्रांचिंग राइट्स विद दी इंटरनेशनल मानेटरी फंड, जिसको दूसरे शब्दों में पेपर गोल्ड भी कहते हैं, उसमें इंफ्लेज होने से हिन्दुस्तान या जो