

[Shri A. M. Thomas]

the exact text of the statement of the Finance Minister.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: The Minister has given us a long list of the quantities of sugar and rice sent to West Bengal from the Centre. Does he really know whether these quantities really get to the ration card holders in Calcutta and to the shops, not the modified ration shops, and to the public in the rural areas and bakaries? Is it not a fact that much of this goes to the black market and the ration shops do not have the sugar and rice which have been sent from here? We want to know what check they have on the distribution system and whether the Central Government has made any enquiries.

Shri A. M. Thomas: It is a matter for the State Government. What more can we do? In fact, there are as many as 11,579 fair price shops.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: What shall we do with the shops?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member must also realise that distribution will be with the State Government.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: The Essential Commodities Act is a Central Act, and that also covers distribution.

Shri A. M. Thomas: Distribution is done on the strength of identity cards.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: The identity cards will have to be eaten then.

Shri Daji (Indore): From the statement made by the Minister himself, it is clear that only 68 lakhs drew rations while the population runs into crores. This fact coupled with the statement of the Finance Minister of West Bengal makes it clear that the stock position and even the supply position is not adequate.

And now the Durga Pooja and other festivals are coming. Particularly in view of the big festivals in Bengal, may I know what special arrangements and special quotas are now being released to Bengal?

Shri A. M. Thomas: With regard to sugar, I have mentioned the special quota. As for the rations, two crores of people are entitled to draw rations, but only 68 lakhs drew them.

Shri Daji: Because it is insufficient. Out of two crores, only 68 lakhs drew rations. That shows the balance one crore and 32 lakhs of people could not get rations because there is no supply in the shops.

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Swaran Singh): I do not think that that inference is correct. As my colleague has explained, every one is entitled to get a ration card, and these are the weaker sections of the community that get the ration cards. Others who can purchase from the open market or make their own arrangements need not ask for ration cards. The fact that the number of ration cards is less than the population does not lead to the conclusion which the hon. friend opposite is trying to draw from it.

Shri C. K. Bhattacharyya (Raiganj): Can a question be put from this side?

Mr. Speaker: No. Those who are not signatories cannot put.

(ii) RISE IN CLOTH PRICES IN
CALCUTTA

The Minister of International Trade (Shri Manubhai Shah): As is customary with us, before the coming of the Pooja and Diwali seasons, Government have been keeping a close watch on the availability and prices of cloth in Calcutta and Eastern Region. The reports both in the wholesale and retail market and the

information gathered from the West Bengal Government go to indicate that the position is satisfactory. Again, we checked up this morning the position from the West Bengal Government and also from our Regional Textile Commissioner's Office in Calcutta that the supply and prices of whole range of varieties of textiles is satisfactory. I can assure the hon. Member that we are constantly watching both the situations regarding price of cloth as well as availability of all varieties of cloth during the forthcoming Pooja and Diwali festivals. If for any special variety of cloth any shortage or price rise is noticed, Government will take immediate steps to see that supplies are forwarded from the producing centres to Calcutta Region so as to make available adequate quantities of different varieties of cloth at stipulated prices.

Shri Dinen Bhattacharya (Serampore): May I know whether it is a fact that in the retail cloth shops it is very often found, especially during the Pooja season, that the buyers do not get cloth at the price stamped on it?

Shri Manubhai Shah: No, Sir. We have a Regional Textile Commissioner's Office in Calcutta with very superior officers. As I have said, we have checked up from them as also from West Bengal Government officials. There is no such complaint. If the hon. Member can forward any such complaints, we will have greater reason to take it up with them.

Dr. Ranen Sen (Calcutta East): May I know whether the Government of India or the Government of West Bengal have got any independent machinery to check up every shop or every bazar to find out whether cloth is sold at the stamped price?

Shri Manubhai Shah: It is not at all necessary. There is a whole Civil Supplies Department of the Government of West Bengal, and we have

got a Regional Textile Commissioner's office there. It is not necessary to check up every shop, every fabric and every retailer. You can see very well that if the complaints come, they are quite loud enough to be heard even here.

***DISCUSSION RE. MORRIS CARS**

17.20 hrs.

श्री सिंहासन सिंह (गोरखपुर): अध्यक्ष महोदय, ३० अगस्त, १९६३ को मैं ने एक प्रश्न किया था कि एम्बसेडर गाड़ी के ब्रिटेन की मारिस गाड़ी का काउंटर पार्ट है और जो हिन्दुस्तान में बनती है उसकी यहाँ क्या कीमत है और मारिस कार की क्या कीमत है, और दोनों का कास्ट आफ प्रोडक्शन क्या क्या है। सरकार की तरफ से मुझे बताया गया कि एम्बसेडर कार की कीमत १३,७३२ रुपये ७३ नये पैसे है और उसका कास्ट आफ प्रोडक्शन १०,३१४ रुपये है, और मारिस कार के बारे में आप ने बताया था कि उस की इंग्लैंड में कीमत १०,८८० रुपया है। एम्बसेडर कार की कास्ट आफ प्रोडक्शन को देखा जाये और उस की बचने की कीमत को देखा जाये तो पता चलेगा कि इस पर करीब २२ पर सट मुनाफा आता है। कास्ट आफ प्रोडक्शन के लिए झा कमीशन बिठायी गयी थी और उस के पहले कास्ट एकाउंटेंट की रिपोर्ट है कि हिन्दुस्तान मोटर्स कोई कास्ट एकाउंट का हिसाब नहीं रखती और न देने के लिए तैयार है। उसमें कहा गया है :

"This company does not maintain any cost accounts. Adequate production and statistical data are maintained, but these are not co-ordinated to enable the cost of production of the vehicles to be easily determined. Although Standard Labour Hours for the various components manufactured in the machine shop are available, no reconciliation is made between the actual and standard