

14.11 hrs.

CARDAMOM BILL

Mr. Speaker: The House will now take up the Cardamom Bill.

The Minister in the Ministry of Commerce (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to provide for the development under the control of the Union of the Cardamom Industry, be taken into consideration."

Cardamom is grown mainly in the hill regions of Kerala, Mysore and Madras. The present production is about 3,000 tonnes a year. 65 per cent. to 70 per cent. of the production is exported, earning around Rs. 3 crores of foreign exchange for the country. I can, therefore, say that this plantation commodity has a preponderant export angle and a substantial increase in foreign exchange earnings can be achieved by undertaking suitable measures of assistance to planters for development of their plantations and by proper arrangements for the marketing and export of this commodity.

The export prices of cardamom have been widely fluctuating over the years. This is primarily due to the fact that the small growers who constitute a large majority of cardamom producers were unable, owing to their poor financial plight, to hold their stocks till the prices picked up. Unremunerative prices over the years have also resulted in the planters being unable to maintain and develop their plantations properly. A Board with powers as suggested in the Bill will be able to deal with these problems and help the growers realising fair returns for their produce. The industry will also develop on sound and progressive lines.

In order to maintain steady export prices and to secure better returns for the producers and also to increase the foreign exchange earnings from car-

damom exports, certain interim measures were taken by Government. A system of quality control and pre-shipment inspection was introduced and rules for "agmarking" of export consignments were enforced from 1st January 1963. The Chairman of the Coffee Board was nominated as the Chairman of the Cardamom Development and Marketing Advisory Committee and a Directorate of Cardamom Development and Marketing, under the administrative control of the Ministry of Commerce was established in Bangalore in February 1963.

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): Why the Chairman of the Coffee Board was nominated as the Chairman of this Advisory Committee? He has nothing to do with cardamom.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: Because it is an allied subject and also in the interests of economy. Further, cardamom grows where coffee is grown.

With a view to stabilising the prices of cardamom and increasing foreign exchange earnings and infusing greater confidence in the growers, as well as the foreign buyers, cardamom was brought under export control in May 1963 in consultation with the Committee. Simultaneously, as a price support measure to the growers, the Directorate was instructed to procure cardamom through selected agents whenever the prices tended to sag to uneconomic levels.

The interim measures taken by Government have given some relief to the cardamom growers. They have helped to arrest the downward trend of prices and there has been increase in the foreign exchange earnings. In 1963-64 India exported 2,306 tonnes of cardamom, thereby earning foreign exchange to the tune of Rs. 3.20 crores, as against the export of 2,259 tonnes in the previous year for a total value of Rs. 2.67 crores. During 1964-65, 1,760 tonnes of cardamom valued at Rs. 2.84 crores were exported. It is, therefore, apparent that there is still a need for long-

term measures to look after the developmental and marketing aspects of the cardamom industry. It is necessary to increase the export potential of this commodity by an increase in production.

The Cardamom Development and Marketing Advisory Committee, which was set up in February 1963, recommended the early constitution of a Statutory Board. Leading associations of Cardamom planters have also been representing that to help the cardamom growers to realise fair returns for their produce and the industry to develop on sound and progressive lines, a Statutory Board should be set up for undertaking measures of assistance for development and activities relating to proper marketing of the commodity. After careful consideration Government has come to the conclusion that a statutory Board to be known as the Cardamom Board should be set up. The proposed Board will, among others, consist of representatives of the growers of cardamom, exporters of cardamom and Governments of the cardamom producing States. It is proposed to vest the Board with adequate powers to undertake suitable measures for the development of the cardamom industry, such as the promotion of co-operatives of the small growers, grant of loans to planters for improved methods of cultivation, processing, replanting and extensions, undertaking marketing activities with a view to increase the export potential of this commodity. The Board will also be empowered to operate price support measures, supply machinery and equipment on hire-purchase basis to planters and assist them in the procurement of fertilisers, pesticides etc.

For meeting a part of the administrative expenses of the proposed Board, the Bill provides for levy of a cess at an *ad valorem* rate not exceeding 2% on all cardamom exported. The actual rate of levy for the present will be 1% and it will be

regulated from time to time by notification in the Gazette. This export cess will be in addition to the existing customs duty of 4% *ad valorem* on cardamom exports levied under the Agricultural Produce Cess Act, 1940. The revenue collected from the export cess will be credited to the Consolidated Fund of India and such sums as are required to meet the expenses of the Board will be released to it after obtaining the vote of Parliament, as is being done in the case of other commodity Boards like the Tea Board and Coffee Board. The object of the Bill is to take powers for setting up a statutory board for cardamom mainly with a view to enable it to undertake the activities which have been explained by me earlier. The Bill is a simple measure, primarily intended to benefit the cardamom growers. I commend it for your consideration.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to provide for the development under the control of the Union of the Cardamom Industry be taken into consideration."

Shri Warier (Trichur): Sir, I welcome this measure and the idea of the Government enshrined in this Bill to constitute a board to promote the production and export of cardamom, one of the rare spices known in other parts of the world.

There are certain situations which the Board will have to face in the first instance. The Minister, in his statement, said that there is so much of fluctuation in prices. There is among the people who are trading in this, apart from the growers, so much of cutthroat competition and that is one of the reasons for the discouragement in growing this spice in the fields of Western Ghats. If the Government can find a way out for stopping this sort of cutthroat competition among the dealers, the growers will benefit much out of that.

[Shri Warior]

Further, exporting also is done by some of those people who actually have nothing to do with the growing of cardamom. They are mopping up all the profits out of the exports whenever it is possible and leaving the actual growers to find their own means to maintain their cultivation.

Shri Himatsingka (Godda): Competition helps.

Shri Warior: At times competition helps but competition does not always help. At times competition is detrimental to growth. Competition means that prices are lowered and when prices are lowered only lesser prices are offered to the growers; thereby the growers suffer in the long run.

Shri Himatsingka: There are no buyers.

Shri Warior: There are buyers. We are increasing our exports. Actually, exports have increased but the earnings have decreased. Our export of spices as a whole increased from 46,000 tonnes in 1960-61, as the Minister had pointed out, to 49,000 tonnes in 1962-63 while export earnings actually declined from Rs. 16.5 crores to Rs. 13.4 crores. So, even though exports are increasing, the earnings out of those exports are not only not increasing but are going down because there is such a competition in the world market. Only two other countries mainly are coming into the world market for this commodity. One is Ceylon and the other is Guatemala.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: Indonesia.

Shri Warior: Indonesia to a very small extent only. The main country is Guatemala, at least according to the information I have gathered, specially in our traditional markets like USA and others.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: Guatemala is a competitor in lemon grass.

Shri Warior: I speak subject to correction at the moment because I

have not got the material with me just to prove that it is from Guatemala. Anyhow, from Ceylon, the next door neighbour, and also from Indonesia there is some competition.

The actual potentiality for consumption of cardamom in the world is much, much more. We are not even supplying a portion of that. We have not explored those markets and because we have not explored those markets, even now we do not know how much actually we can export and how much we can earn. That is a fact. We are sticking to the old traditional market where, of course, there is some competition and our produce is not going as much we want it to. But if all these potentialities are tapped properly, we will find ourselves in a position where we cannot supply.

Not only that, we have got only the oldest strains of cardamom in India. There is an institution somewhere in Coimbatore where some experiments and tests are made to get better strains, but we understand that some of the foreign countries, specially Indonesia, have got better strains and they are fetching higher prices also. The Government will do well to step up the activities of the research station in Coimbatore and see that whenever replanting is done these new strains which are of a higher yield and of a better quality are given to the growers.

14.25 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

When we come to the production side, the first problem that comes to my mind, specially when I come from a State which is producing it in large quantities, is about land for growing cardamom. Mostly, cardamom is grown where either rubber is not grown in the lower valley or tea is not grown in the higher valleys. In between is the cardamom section.

On the Western side of the Western Ghats where the height is about 1000 feet we can grow natural rubber. From 1,000 feet to about 4,000 feet height cardamom grows naturally and over 4000 feet it is tea that is grown. Most of this land is government land and most of the occupants, if I understand correctly are encroachers.

Shri Shinkre (Marmagao): Intruders.

Shri Warior: Unauthorised encroachments. If the State Government does not tackle this problem properly, much of the area will be reverted into forest land. We are in an unfortunate position. We have got the south-west monsoon and a part of the north-east monsoon also. So, the rate of vegetation in Kerala is very high. We thought that it was a boon; but now it has proved to be a curse. The Government of India—and specially the State Government also, I think, is pressed for that—thinks that afforestation must go on at a higher pace and higher speed in Kerala than in other places. Whereas other States have only about 18, 20 or 25 per cent of their land for forests, Kerala is asked to assign about 33.13 per cent for forests.

Shri Sham Lal Saraf (Jammu and Kashmir): That is the correct percentage.

Shri Warior: That is the correct percentage but that does not suit the correct needs of the people there. That is the difficulty. It might be very scientific but by experience we find that where people do not have sufficient space to live, to cultivate and to earn something for their livelihood, this scientific approach alone will not be enough. Some element of human approach also must be there and must be added to that. I do not say that afforestation is bad or is not necessary. We must have big forests also to strengthen the economy of the State; but at the same time, we must remember that Kerala is a place where the land available for cultivation is very meagre. 90 per cent of the cultivators will have at the most 10 to 16 cents of

land. Hence, when they find that the cultivation of ordinary food crops or other things is not economical and profitable, they naturally go to the high ranges and in the high ranges the entire land is that of the State. The State is thinking in terms of afforestation; naturally, these people will have to be ejected. More than that, in the anxiety of getting more river valley projects and other projects the first thing that our Government, as soon as they hear about some hydel project there, does is to eject people. The project might come or might not come. Many projects have been promised and withdrawn afterwards and we do not know what the fate of those projects are. But the fates of the people were sealed; they were ejected. This also is going on. So, the uncertainty about the occupation of the land is also a major problem that will affect this commodity. That has to be tackled with the State Government.

Then, as the Minister pointed out, two-thirds of the cultivators are small holders and, to say the least, they hold a very small number of acres. In these hilly tracts, where this commodity is cultivated, they have a certain amount of risk also. In the face of all those things, they cultivate this commodity. If there are no proper incentives given to the cultivators and they are not protected from the grip of traders, from the exploitation that they are meeting at the hands of the traders, I do not think the cultivation of this commodity will be, in the long run, fetching any profit for the actual cultivators. In that respect, I am inclined to suggest—I have not gone into the problem very deeply—that instead of having cooperatives and all those experimental things, why not the Government set up its own purchase depots in those areas and give them the proper economic price. Let us have a long-term plan and all those things. But for the present, before the cultivators leave away the cultivation of this commodity and seek some other avenue for their livelihood, why not the Government, as they have done in the case of lemon grass oil, set up the purchase

[Shri Warrior]

depots and give them the economic price so that their first exploitation will be done away with. That is the first point. Let the middleman be eliminated. I do not say that you disrupt the entire trade channel abruptly or violently. But the Government must think on these lines to do away with the middleman who actually is reaping the profit and by, gradually, it should pool all these commodities which are produced in high-range areas in the Government depots. But at the same time there should be some convenience for the people to approach these depots. These should not be set up far away from the areas where this commodity is produced. These depots can purchase this commodity and then whatever profits or whatever prices Government realises out of the export can be given back to the producers. The Government should arrange to give advances on this commodity and after the final settlement of accounts in the foreign countries, when they export this commodity, they can settle the accounts of the producers annually or half-yearly. That can be done and, I think, much can be saved out of that.

Another point is about the land itself. There are hundreds of acres which are lying waste with leaseholders. For instance, one of the biggest British Company operating in those high-range areas, the Kanan Devan Hill Produce Co., has got about 175,000 acres in its hold, that is, one-sixth of the Kerala State: I am told that they have left about 75000 acres, out of the total area leased to them, as fallow land. They are not cultivating it or they are not planting anything there. They have kept it as reserve. We do not know for what purpose it is. This Company got this land for a paltry sum of Re. 1 per acre. That was the royalty they paid for the perpetual lease of 99 years. Even in the pre-War period, when there was also the depression in the world market, each root of a tea plant fetched one pound sterling for them. So, they have earned millions. You must be

knowing that in this country it is the General Manager of the Kanan Devan Hill Produce Co. who alone gets the race-course allowance in Kerala for the races going on in Derby. So, 75,000 acres are left there as fallow land. The Central Government should ask the State Government about this and see to it that more of this land is given to the producers of cardamom there, so that there will be more quantity of this commodity coming to the market and also for export.

Over and above this, I only suggest one thing more and that is that the recommendations contained in the Seminar held at Bangalore in February about the production and marketing of spices should be attended to by the Government more seriously. Some study teams should be sent to other countries to study what they are doing as far as the production and the marketing of this commodity is concerned. They should establish demonstration farms in the cardamom areas in the south—the Central Government should finance them—so that new methods of cultivation, new methods of operation, will come into force and our growers will reap the benefit out of that.

Shri A. S. Alva (Mangalore): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, this Bill has come in very timely and it is on account of the recommendation of the Cardamom Development and Marketing Advisory Committee which was set up in 1963.

Sir, you remember, when the coffee industry itself was in a very bad way and when the small growers were at their wits' end, the Coffee Board was established and thereafter even the small growers had come up very well. Though they had their own grievance against the Coffee Board at one time because they were charging some cess, now it is on a sound footing. As far as the cardamom industry is concerned, it is really disorganised as far as our country is concerned. In the three States of Mysore, Madras and Kerala, where it is grown mostly by small

growers, they are not able to look after their own estates and there is not much cooperative movement amongst themselves. Each one is looking after his own estate and very often nobody goes in for better method of cultivation and nobody takes advantage of fertilisers or insecticides. Either they are not available or they are not taught the use of it. For that purpose, it is necessary that this Board should be set up. Clause 9 of the Bill defines the various functions which this Board is expected to promote. It says:

"(1) It shall be the duty of the Board to promote, by such measures as it thinks fit, the development under the control of the Central Government of cardamom industry."

Then, subsequent sub-clauses mention about the scientific rearing up of these plants and also how to make them fit for export.

The Minister, in his opening speech, said that 65 to 70 per cent of it is exported and it earns a foreign exchange worth about Rs. 3 crores. This amount can certainly be increased to a great extent as this industry is export-oriented. As a matter of fact, the internal consumption seems to be not very much.

Now, there are certain things which the Government must take note of in the actual working of this Act which will bring into being this Board.

In the first place, representation should be given to several bodies. I would, in this connection, refer to clause (e), categories (i) to (vi), under Section 4 which mentions the composition of the Board. As it obtains in the Coffee Board, there must be adequate representation of small growers; otherwise, there are bound to be some difficulties. Of course, it does not distinguish between large growers and small growers. But if the small growers are not there, their case is likely to suffer. This need not necessarily be done by any Act or rule, but the Government should bear in mind that small growers should be adequately represented on this Board.

There is one more thing which the Government may consider. I believe amendments have been moved for the purpose of pooling and grading of cardamom. This is really a very good idea. As far as the Bill is concerned, there is no section mentioning these two things. This will certainly give an incentive to the growers to see that they produce the best cardamom and it will also be advantageous if all the cardamom are pooled together and the prices are fixed. As far as I can see from the various sections of this Bill, there is no guarantee that every one will get a fixed price. If there is grading and the prices are fixed for various grades, then all the growers will know which is a particular variety that fetches the best price just as in coffee they know which is the grade of coffee which fetches a good price. They will also know which is the variety that attracts foreign buyers. For this purpose it is necessary that the Board should be authorised or directed to have their own grading system and then fix the prices for different grades. Then they can purchase all the cardamom through its depots or grading centres by paying adequate prices. One argument against pooling is that, as far as cardamom is concerned, most of it is exported so much so we need not much mind about the quality. That will not be correct in the long run. Of course, my friend, Shri Warior, mentioned some places. I do not know the other places from which cardamom is exported. But things may change. We should be prepared to see that we send the best kind of cardamom. After all, once it acquires a reputation that it is a very good variety of cardamom, it will always maintain that market. As a matter of fact, the coffee which is exported from here has got a very good market and a very good name. Formerly, before the Coffee Board came into existence, large growers were sending their own brand of coffee and had a very good market. Even now that reputation is there and big growers want permission from the Coffee Board to have their own coffee marketed in different places. Whatever

[Shri A. S. Alva]

it is, as far as cardamom is concerned, as I said, it is a growing industry and it is necessary to have the pooling and grading system. As a matter of fact, the Minister himself must have received some representations. The Members of Parliament have also been requested to press this aspect of the case. I am sure Government will consider this.

There is one more aspect, to which Mr. Warior referred. I also belong to that region, namely, the west coast of India. There are lot of wastelands and people have taken wrongful possession of them. As far as South Kanara is concerned there are lot of wastelands. As a matter of fact, there is a scheme by the Government to subsidise rubber plantation; they are asking the people to have these lands leased to them; they are inducing them to grow rubber and give them some subsidy. It will be a proper place to grow cardamom on either slopes of the western ghats. Large cultivation is necessary because this is a commodity which is being exported and which earns foreign exchange for us. It is, therefore, very necessary that all incentives are given to those growers by way of lease or actual assignment or some cash subsidy or some such thing to see that they grow as much cardamom as possible.

There is another point in this connection. There are some places where cardamom is grown, but nobody ventures to go near those estates—I myself have not gone there—because it is said that there are cobras and some poisonous creatures living in those gardens. The tender cardamom that falls down is eaten by those reptiles and this generally gives a giddy sensation and they stay there so much so people do not even venture to go to those places. They do not, therefore, pick up the entire thing. There are some places where, after some generations, some estates have been reduced to one-tenth of the original area. So, it is absolutely essential that Government take some action in a big way through this Board, give ample sub-

sidy and see that those estates are improved.

I submit that this Bill has come very timely; it will save the condition of lot of small growers.

There is another point which I would like to stress. These small growers of cardamom cannot wait for long to sell their goods since they have to buy other things. There are some people who purchase all the commodities from the small growers and then wait till the export time comes and when the prices go up, they sell. As a matter of fact, these traders get twice or thrice the value for which they purchase from the small growers. If there is a pooling system and all the cardamom is purchased, then the small growers will be assured of a reasonable price and the margin of profit of the traders could be reduced. Most of the benefits may go to the small growers, who would not grudge paying 2 per cent or any such thing to the Board so as to make it self-sufficient; it will not labour under financial difficulties. I am sure that, if the provisions of the Bill are properly implemented and the Board takes to scientific research and conducts some research farms and also gives all the facilities to the growers, conditions will improve a lot and there will be a hey-day for cardamom planters.

With these remarks I commend that this Bill be accepted.

Shri Malaichami (Periyakulam): I rise to support this Bill and to congratulate the hon. Minister for bringing forward this legislation to protect the interests of the cardamom growers and to ensure the development of the cardamom industry as well. It has been long-felt need of the cardamom growers to have a Cardamom board constituted by legislation, and this Bill symbolises the satisfaction of a popular demand.

Cardamom is grown in the hill areas of Kerala, Mysore and Madras, and 75 per cent of the cardamom grown in this country is being exported, the rest being utilised for internal consumption. Annually, we are exporting

about 3,000 tonnes and the foreign exchange earned by this exceeds Rs. 3 crores. In addition to the foreign exchange earning capacity, this industry has also got employment potential. Generally, the cardamom plantation operations are carried on at a time when the agricultural labourers in the plains are without employment. Plantation, weeding and harvesting of cardamom are generally done during the off-season for agriculture in the plains. So, it is more or less a subsidiary occupation to the agriculturist and prevents under-employment. In view of its foreign exchange earning capacity and employment potential, this cardamom industry deserves much support and encouragement from Government.

This Cardamom Bill which envisages the constitution of a cardamom board will help to develop the industry as also provide suitable encouragement to the cardamom growers. Further, in our developing economy it is of the utmost importance to increase exports and widen the international market for our commodities. As my hon. friends who have spoken earlier have pointed out, the cardamom industry suffers under various difficulties, mainly for want of proper international market and for want of proper encouragement to ensure pooling and grading so that quality products will be given adequate price and the growers also will be encouraged to get good price for good quality products. I am sure that the hon. Minister with his drive and initiative will lose no time in formulating and carrying out suitable measures in this direction.

Cardamom plantations require a period of five to seven years to give yield. During this period, heavy investment is required both for plantation and for maintenance. The growers find it difficult to get adequate amount of finance through the normal credit channels because of the longevity of the period required to get a return from the crop. Further, the crop is subject to the vagaries of nature and is affected by disease also. During 1963-64, the cardamom planta-

tions were affected on a large scale by the mosaic disease. And that hit the planters a great deal both financially and professionally. Such contingencies exist and affect the yield considerably. So, the creditors hesitate to advance loans particularly because of the hazardous nature of the investment. So, the providing of adequate finance is necessary to make the industry survive. Providing cheap credit will help to reduce the cost of production and thereby make our commodity more competitive in the international market. I suppose that the co-operatives envisaged in the present Bill will help to satisfy the financial requirements of the growers. In this respect, I would like to say that pooling and grading will help to an extent the growers to get adequate price. At present, as has been pointed out already, the cardamom plantation is carried on in an unorganised manner, and because of the long gestation period to realise the yield, creditors also are unwilling to advance loans. If there is provision for pooling and grading of the produce, it will not only ensure quality but also give confidence to the creditors so that they can feel confident to recover the loans which they advance to the growers. So, pooling and grading will not only ensure good quality but also give confidence to the creditors who advance loans to the growers, and these loans could be recovered at the time of the pooling and grading of the produce.

Further, there is provision in the Bill for regulating the sale and export of cardamom and stabilisation of prices of cardamom. In order to regulate the sale, I would submit that the produce must be pooled and graded so that we can indentify what particular variety is in demand in a particular country and that the price offered for that variety will be profitable to the growers and help to earn more foreign exchange. So, pooling and grading will also provide standardisation of our products.

During 1964, from Mangalore port alone, about 288 tonnes had been ex-

[Shri Malaichami]

ported to the continental countries and to the Persian Gulf countries. The continental countries preferred the white variety and seeds, while the Persian Gulf countries have preferred the Coorg green variety. If there is proper pooling and grading, then it will be possible to identify the particular variety required for a particular country, and we can export that variety to that country where it is in demand and enable the growers to get good price for the same. I hope the hon. Minister will agree to the amendment proposed regarding pooling and grading and enable the growers to get good price for good quality produce.

Further, the cardamom growers are also in need of proper warehousing and transport facilities. This will also help the cardamom plantations to be more competitive in the international market. If proper facilities for warehousing and transport are offered to the cardamom plantations to transport the produce which, as is known, is grown in the hilly regions, it would help the growers, especially the small growers, to transport their goods at cheap rate and thereby result in the reduction of the cost of production thus making it more competitive in the international market.

Another problem facing the cardamom industry is lack of proper research to combat pest and disease and to improve the strain and increase the yield. Research work will help to increase the yield and improve the quality. The research units functioning at present in certain places are inadequate and ill-equipped.

Some of my hon. friends who have spoken earlier have said that there is a possibility to extend the area of cardamom cultivation. That is also the case in Madras State. After the abolition of zamindari and the revision of the land survey it is found that there is possibility of extending the area of cardamom plantation in Madras State.

The yield per acre could also be doubled by proper application of fertilisers, by fighting disease by research work and by providing adequate finance. Though we are facing competition from Guatemala, Indonesia and other countries, there is the possibility of increasing our export annually by 8 per cent if suitable steps are taken to export our cardamom to countries like the USSR, the UK, Africa and Japan besides the Persian Gulf countries.

So, the main objective of the cardamom board should be to carry on research work, give suitable information to the growers about where the commodity is in demand and give adequate publicity to it so that not only export but also internal consumption could be improved. By the export of the commodity, we are sure to earn foreign exchange which is of utmost necessity in the present situation in which we are placed. The South India Cardamom Planters' Association, which is the major organisation in South India engaged in cardamom plantation, in their executive committee meeting held on 7-6-65 have requested for regulation of sales and exports by proper pooling and grading of cardamom with proper storage facilities. They have also asked for provision of adequate research facilities. As the Bill envisages the setting up of a Cardamom Board with adequate powers to take suitable measures for development of the cardamom industry, I would request the Minister to make suitable provisions in the Bill for pooling and grading and ensure proper storage facilities so that cooperatives and scheduled banks will come forward to provide finance, as the possibility of recovery of loans is enhanced. I have also tabled certain amendments to the relevant clauses to be considered at the appropriate stage.

15 hrs.

I would once again request the hon. Minister to help the cardamom in-

dustry to develop by suitable provisions in the Bill for pooling and grading, storage facilities and also research work and adequate finance.

Shri Maniyangadan (Kottayam): I welcome this Bill. Though it is late, it is good that Government have come forward with this measure.

Some of the previous speakers who spoke have pointed out the vital importance of the cardamom industry. But I would like to say that so far as we are concerned, in recent years we have been suffering from various difficulties in regard to this industry. The hon. Minister referred to some of the defects. I do not want to go into them again.

As far as the planters are concerned, for the last few years, a lot of disease, pest and other things have affected the plantations. I know of instances where planters have left the estates once for all. In order to get over these difficulties, there was a clamour that something must be done by Government. Now Government have come forward with this measure to establish a Board on the lines of the Rubber Board, Tea Board, Coffee Board etc. From my experience of the working of the Rubber Board, I can say that that Board has done very well and has done a lot of good to the planters, both small growers as also the big land-owners. I hope the Cardamom Board will proceed on the same lines in regard to the cardamom industry.

Shri Warrior stated that almost all the cardamom planters are encroachers. Lest the House may be misled, I want to make it clear that though most of them are encroachers, at least as far as I know, they are recognised as encroachers, the reason being that the erstwhile Government of Travancore from 1936 onwards encouraged people to take to this plantation of cardamom and for that purpose had declared certain hilly regions in the

state as cardamom hill reserves. That area was leased to people to do cardamom plantation. It was only a lease, they were not given absolute right over the land, the reason being that if that was done, they might stop the cardamom plantation and take to other occupations. The idea was that these reserves should be utilised only for cardamom plantation. So in order to avoid that land being diverted from cardamom plantation, Government retained the ownership of these lands and leased them to people for cardamom cultivation. These areas are called cardamom hill reserves. I do not know if the areas given to the Kannan Devan Company in Kerala is suitable for cardamom plantation.

Cardamom plantation is actually done in the forests. The forest tree growths stand there. The undergrowths are cut and cardamom is planted. The trees are left to stand there. So actually the forest remains there. The cardamom plantation is done in the forest itself. That is the actual operation of plantation. There is no denudation of the forest. The reserve areas are utilised for this purpose in Kerala and also in the neighbouring states of Mysore. If we clear the forests, the area cannot be used for cardamom plantation. That is the peculiarity about this plantation.

Shri Warrior also referred to other difficulties the planters are facing. He referred to project areas. Recently the Government have felt that from what are called the project areas, the encroachers should be evicted. I have no objection if that is to be the policy. The forest department in our state feels that the forests should be completely under its control, nobody should do anything there so much so that they are now, I understand, thinking in terms of forest preservation, and evicting certain people there who are in possession of the areas as lessees or as cultivators of cardamom. If the development of cardamom plantations

[Shri Maniyangadan]

and the earning of foreign exchange is the governing interest, I believe the Union Government will look into the matter and take it up with the State Government.

With regard to Government's entering the market as suggested by Shri Warrior, I do not know whether Government should do so and purchase all the cardamom produced. Whatever is needed in this respect will be done by the Board. There are provisions listed in cl. 9 of the Bill. The Board can look into all these matters. They can do the needful ensuring a remunerative return to growers. The Board will be there and it is for it to see what should be done as is now being done by the Rubber Board, Coffee Board and Tea Board in respect of those commodities. I do not think there is any necessity for Government to enter the market and purchase cardamom.

As regards improvement of quality and increase of per acre production, these are absolutely necessary. Cardamom plantation could thrive only if the per acre production is increased. What is happening now is, as I submitted a little earlier, that because of diseases and pests the planters are leaving the area. This state of affairs must be remedied. Research must be done on new scientific methods of cultivation. Planting of better yielding varieties of cardamom should be undertaken. Only by taking these steps could the production be increased and quality improved. I hope the Board will devote its attention to these matters and do the needful.

Naturally, as Shri Alva said, in those areas where cardamom is planted, there are cobras and wild elephants. These are forest areas and there is therefore no escape from that. Only enterprising people can go into this industry. I have gone into cardamom plantation areas in forests and seen wild elephants there. So long as

the forests are there, wild beats will be there. (An Hon. Member: Cardamom will also be there).

The cardamom plantation industry deserves all encouragement. I would request the Minister to take up the matter with the State Governments concerned for developing and extending the areas under cardamom rather than limiting them by evicting people who now are planting cardamom.

In 1960, there was an order in Kerala that all those persons who were planting cardamom before 8-1-59 would be eligible for loans from Government under the cardamom rules. I only want that that order should be implemented. If the Forest Department wants the forests to be taken away from the cardamom plantations, that should not be allowed. Cardamom is in the forest, and there is no soil erosion or anything else because of this plantation. So, I think there will be no difficulty with regard to this.

I have certain amendments on which I shall speak when we come to the Clauses.

श्री हुक्म चन्द कछवाय (देवास) :
माननीय उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, यह जो बिल धाया है इसका मैं स्वागत करता हूँ। धाज हमें इस बात पर विचार करने की आवश्यकता है कि जो इलायची पैदा करने वाले कास्तकार हैं उनको किन-किन चीजों की आवश्यकता है। उनको अधिक से अधिक सहायता देनी चाहिए। और पैसे की मदद देनी चाहिए।

इन लोगों के द्वारा जो इलायची पैदा की जाती है, उसको बाहर के बाजारों में भेज कर बीच वाले व्यापारी बहुत ज्यादा मुनाफा कमाते हैं। वे व्यापारी जिनको इस बारे में कोई ज्ञान नहीं है, जिनका इलायची पैदा करने से कोई सम्बन्ध नहीं है, जो कि इससे बिल्कुल दूर के लोग हैं वे जो भी मुनाफा

कमाते हैं वे सारा उनकी जेब में जाता है । वह मुनाफा इलायची पैदा करने वालों के जेबों में अधिक जाए, यह हमें देखना पड़ेगा ।

हमें यह भी देखना होगा कि इलायची की पैदावार किन-किन देशों में होती है और किन-किन देशों में इलायची की खपत होती है । हमें अच्छी इलायची पैदा करने के लिए खोज करनी चाहिए । हमको देखना चाहिए कि दुनिया के जो देश अच्छी इलायची पैदा करते हैं उनके ऐसा करने का क्या कारण है । हमको देखना चाहिए कि हम षटिया किसिम की इलायची क्यों पैदा करते हैं ? उसका क्या कारण है, क्या हमारी जमीन में खराबी है या उसमें कोई कीड़े लगते हैं या हमारी लापरवाही के कारण खराब पैदावार होती है और षटिया किसिम की इलायची पैदा होती है ।

इलायची तीन प्रकार की होती है, काली, सफेद और हरी । हम विदेशों को इलायची का निर्यात करते हैं, घापने कहा है कि हम 65 से 70 प्रतिशत तक अपनी इलायची बाहर भेजते हैं । लेकिन हम देश में इलायची के लिए तरसते हैं । मैं निर्यात करने का विरोध नहीं करता क्योंकि इससे हमें विदेशी मुद्रा मिलती है जिसकी आज संघर्ष के समय हमें बड़ी आवश्यकता है । लेकिन हमें यह देखना चाहिए कि जो लोग अपने परिश्रम से इलायची पैदा करते हैं उनको उसका उचित दाम मिले । इसके लिए हमको एक बोर्ड बनाना चाहिए और बीच के लोगों के मुनाफे को कम करके पैदा करने वालों को ज्यादा से ज्यादा पैसा दिलवाना चाहिए । उन लोगों को ज्यादा से ज्यादा जमीन इलायची की खेती के लिए देनी चाहिए ।

हमने देखा है कि बहुत से लोग हजारों एकड़ जमीन की लीज लिए हुए हैं और उसका कोई उपयोग नहीं हो रहा है । सरकार को इस पर ध्यान देकर ऐसे लोगों से जमीन लेकर

इलायची पैदा करने वालों को देनी चाहिए ताकि वे ज्यादा से ज्यादा इलायची पैदा कर सकें ।

हमारे देश में तीन प्रदेशों में ही इलायची पैदा होती है, मैसूर में, मद्रास में और केरल में । यहां की जमीन में ही इलायची पैदा हो सकती है । हमें इसकी खेती में सुधार के लिए सारे सम्भव उपाय करने चाहिए । जो अधिक से अधिक इलायची कम जमीन में पैदा करें उसे प्रोत्साहन के रूप में इनाम देने की प्रथा भी लागू करनी चाहिए, जैसा कि हम अनाज के बारे में करते हैं । इससे लोगों को कम भूमि में अधिक पैदा करने का प्रोत्साहन मिलेगा । और लोग अधिक दिलचस्पी से इस काम को करेंगे । जो कीड़े इलायची को नुकसान पहुंचाते हैं उनके विनाश के लिए भी हमें कोई बीज ढूंढनी चाहिए । और भी जो सुधार हो सकें वे करने चाहिए जिससे उत्पादन अधिक हो जिससे हम विदेशों को इलायची भेजने के साथ देश बाजारों की आवश्यकता को भी पूरी कर सकें । हमें इस और विशेष कदम उठाने चाहिए ।

इलायची बहुत दिन में तैयार होती है, इसलिए हममें काम करने वाले लोगों को उचित मजदूरी मिलनी चाहिए, अभी यह उचित मात्रा में नहीं मिलती है । जो बीच के लोग मुनाफा कमाते हैं उसको वधाकर हमें कार्तकारों को देना चाहिए जिनमें वे स्वयं अपनी पैदावार को बाहर के बाजारों में जाकर बेच सकें और मुनाफा कमा सकें । हमारी ओर से ऐसी योजना होनी चाहिए कि इसका मुनाफा इसके उत्पादकों को मिल सके ।

हमको अपनी इलायची के लिए दुनिया में बाजार भी बनाना चाहिए, और हमको ऐसी अच्छी इलायची पैदा करनी चाहिए कि विश्व बाजार में उसकी अधिक मांग हो इसलिए हिन्दुस्तान की इलायची अच्छे किसिम की है,

[श्री हुकम चन्द कश्यप]

उसका स्वाद अच्छा है, उसमें अच्छे दाने निकलते हैं। हमको ऐसा माल तैयार करना चाहिए जिसकी बाहर अच्छी मांग हो।

इसके अलावा मैं यह भी कहना चाहता हूँ कि जिन इलाकों में इलायची पैदा हो सकती है वहाँ बहुत से घने जंगल हैं। हमको उन जंगलों में से खेती लायक भूमिक से भूमिक जम न किसानों को देनी चाहिए जो कि उसमें इलायची पैदा करें। कुछ लोगों ने बहुत सी जमीन थोड़े दौड़ाने के लिए धीरे खोल खूद के लिए ले रखी है, जिसका उचित उपयोग नहीं होता है, उस जमीन को भी इलायची की खेती में लाने का प्रयत्न करना चाहिए।

मैं माननीय मंत्री जी को यह बिल लाने के लिए बधाई देना चाहता हूँ। इस बिल को तो बहुत पहले धा जाना चाहिए था। यह देरी से धाया है। देश में इलायची की बहुत धाव-प्रयत्नता है, इसका उत्पादन बढ़ना चाहिए। हम देखते हैं कि पहले जब हम पान वाले से पान लेते थे तो वह एक पान में एक इलायची डालता था, लेकिन अब ऐसा नहीं करता। पूछने पर कहता है कि इलायची महंगी है। इसलिए मेरा सुझाव है कि हमको भूमिक इलायची पैदा करनी चाहिए ताकि हम विदेशों को भी भेज सकें और देश के लोगों को भी सस्ते दामों पर दे सकें।

Dr. M. S. Aney (Nagpur): I am glad I have this opportunity of saying a few words on this Bill. This Bill has been supported for very good reasons, on economic grounds, by most of the speakers who have preceded me, including the hon. Minister who moved the Bill. I want to give what you can call the cultural or aesthetic reasons for supporting the attempt which the Government is going to make for additional production of cardamom.

Cardamom is one of those rarities of life for which India was known all over the world. Kasturi in Nepal,

kesar in Kashmir and Elalata or cardamom in Malaya Desa—these are the three things which were of peculiar importance in the cultural life of India, for which India was known all over the world. Among the things which are mentioned particularly in connection with narration of love stories, Elalata is frequently referred. I shall only quote one verse from Kalidasa's *Raghu Vamsa*:

एला सतालिवित चंदनासु
तमाल पवास्तरणसुरन्तुम्
प्रसीद शश्वन् मलयस्यनी पुरा

The *swayamvara* of Sulakshana is described in the Sixth Canto of the *Raghu Vamsa*. When she approached the King of Malaya Desa, Sudarsana, who was her guide, describing him, said: "He is the King of Malaya Desa. If you want to live in the luxurious kingdom of sandalwood embraced by Elalata, he is the proper man." I do not want to quote other slokas.

The importance of Elalata is this. One of the national habits, of which we should be proud, was taking the Tambulam or chewing of betel leaves. The old sastras have given the description how Tambulam should be prepared, and among the 16 things which are mentioned therein, Elalata is an important one.

When we offer Tambulam to God, we say:

एला लवंग संयुक्तम् ताम्बुलम् प्रति गृह्यताम्

"Oh, God, accept this Tambulam which is made, among other things, of cardamom and cloves." So, this Elalata was used by all Indians in their daily life and they were happy. These are hard days. These things have become dear and rare; they are rarities of life no doubt. Therefore, higher production of cardamom will also add to make the Indian cul-

tural life a more happy one. From this point of view, in addition to the other important economic grounds, I support this Bill.

Shri Shyam Lal Saraf: Sir, I welcome this Bill. Having taken note of the observations made by my hon. friends, particularly from the areas where it is grown, I would like to make a few observations. Knowing as all of us do, the history of some of these boards, especially commodity boards, we know that if they function for sometime in the country, they pave the way for the betterment of the growth of that commodity. It is agricultural intensive and also labour intensive in industry. This board will be in a position to take care of it. We know that it is grown in three states, Madras, Mysore and Kerala but I understand that it is not grown to that extent in one particular state that it should be left in charge of this industry alone from all angles and from all points of view. It is but natural that the Central Government has rightly come in and has taken up the promotion of the industry and its proper growth should be looked after from the agricultural stage to the harvesting stage and finally, at the marketing stage. A number of things have to happen till we reach the marketing stage and as some friends have pointed out that all that is not smooth sailing. I feel that we may have to take up a survey of these areas and the lands, the quality of the land, the richness or otherwise of the soil and we should see how best to grow this important commodity in an intensive way taking care also of the extensive aspect of it. As Mr. Warior and Mr. Alva pointed out if it is possible to increase its growth and to have more and more land under it, it should be done through this board. Firstly, a proper survey should be made as far as its production and growth is concerned. Secondly, in order to save this crop from a number of pests and insects and so on, research will be a very necessary item and they should

take it up. As already pointed out by my friends that if there were in any research, the first important thing will be to find out the proper strains of seed, when the seedlings are to be planted. It is very important. Instances have been quoted. It is said that in Indonesia they have got a better quality cardamom. If so our attempt should be to get that better variety and get it introduced and keep it safe from plant diseases all along its growth. I consider its plant life is ten to twenty years. That also is a matter for intense research whether the life of the plant could be extended to the maximum age. There should also be research on whether other precautions are necessary in order to get more yield from the plant so long as it survives. Thirdly, at the crop stage, the planters or the peasants or the farmers, whatever you may call them, will certainly need help, particularly financial support. Therefore, moneys should be made available to them by way of taccavi loans or in some way or the other, either through the State Governments or if the Centre takes it upon itself through its executive agency that should work in this board. We must look after the financial needs of the planters and the growers. These two things are very necessary as my hon. friends have suggested. I would rather suggest that there should be pooling in this manner. The entire production should be graded. Quality control should be introduced. After you introduce quality control, the entire produce will have to be graded and after it is graded, there should be one selling agency as we are doing for coffee. We have the Coffee Board for coffee and Tea Board for tea. Whichever is set up, there should be one selling and supplying agency which should be permitted to export this commodity out of the country. I personally am very much interested as a consumer. In my part of the country most of us know 'elachi' it is one of the very few items, as very rightly pointed out by my respectful and elder, Dr. M. S. Aney,

[Shri Sham Lal Saraf]

which we use. I think my friend Mr. Ramaswamy might have tasted Kashmir 'Kahwa' sometime. But we are not getting good 'elachi'; there is no elachi there and I have been asking my friend who is coming from that area for the last two years if he could not get me good quality cardamom. Therefore, I would like to say that our efforts should be to see that you get at least some part of it reserved for distribution and consumption within the country.

There is yet another aspect about which I have some personal knowledge. The aroma that we have in this cardamom is one of the best aromas. I myself have seen it in my State and have tried it out in one of our laboratories, drug research laboratories, where we have seen the aroma of cardamom and the aroma of saffron about which Dr. Aney referred to a little while ago. It has proved to be the best type of aroma for a number of items.

I have some little knowledge about it. The aroma that is extracted out of cardamom is not at all being done in a scientific manner. I wish that our Government is in a position to do so, after it is organised in a proper manner. This aroma that is extracted will be one of the important items for which I am absolutely sure that we will have a roaring market all over the world. With these few words, I support this Bill.

Shri Siddananjappa (Hassan): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, I wholeheartedly welcome this Bill before the House. In doing so I am constrained to remark that the Government has been very slow in bringing this measure. Ever since similar boards were constituted by the Government for the coffee and tea industries the cardamom planters had been agitating consistently and also persistently for the formation of this kind of board, but

somehow Government was indifferent towards that. Now, I am glad that realising the importance and urgency of this problem, they have come forward with this Bill. Though it is late, it is most welcome. It is a very desirable measure. In the matter of cardamom production, I am glad to say that the State of Mysore enjoys a very important role; it plays a dominant role. As has been stated by the Deputy Minister himself while moving this Bill, this commodity has an export value and it enjoys a near monopoly in the foreign market. Hence, it is well established that this commodity has an important place in the economy of the country, particularly in the export market. As such, all that is necessary to develop this industry should be done speedily, and I am glad the Government has now taken note of the importance of this industry and come forward with this measure.

The previous speakers have spoken in great detail about the plight of the cardamom growers. Shri Warior narrated their suffering at the hands of the middlemen at various stages. The Minister also, while moving the motion for consideration of the Bill, described the plight through which the planters have all these days been passing through because most of them are small growers and they do not have sufficient finances to develop the industry, and as such they have suffered for a long time.

In the measures that are proposed for the development of the industry, I find that some of the functions of the Board have been narrated, but I realise that these specific measures are not exhaustive but only illustrative. All the same I fail to find any indication that under this scheme the Government is contemplating the provision of a pool for which so many hon. members who spoke earlier have pleaded. There is one provision which ensures a remunerative return for the growers of cardamom, but I submit that a mere provision of

this kind will not give the growers all the benefits that they deserve and are desirable.

I would like to tell the hon. Minister how this mere fixation of a remunerative price will not help the growers. I would like to draw his attention to one instance. The Minister was pleased to state that they had taken some interim measures and had constituted an advisory committee and they had fixed or given a price support for the crop in the 1963-64 season. Though the price fixed ranged from Rs. 15 to Rs. 20 per kilogram, ultimately the growers were able to get only Rs. 6 to Rs. 13. That was the plight in which they found themselves though the Government gave the price support. So, I submit that the mere fixation of a remunerative price will not help the growers, unless the Government comes forward to make adequate provision for pooling and as stated by other hon. Members, also for grading. It is only in that case that they can be assured of a remunerative price which they will actually get. Therefore, I would like to lay emphasis on this aspect of the industry. I do not know whether in the scheme of things this is included, because in the specific measures enumerated in the Bill this is not mentioned, though the main clause gives powers to take adequate measures for the promotion of the industry. I would like to have an answer from the Minister on this aspect.

The other aspect which I would like to emphasise is the question of research. There are not enough facilities for research in cardamom and its various problems. One of the objects of this Bill is to develop the cultivation of this plant on a scientific basis. For that, they must introduce new methods, modern and improved methods of cultivation. For doing this, I believe that enough facilities for research are necessary. Otherwise we cannot think of better methods of cultivation and impro-

ving the quality of the commodity. Quality improvement is very essential, and I therefore emphasise that enough facilities for research and a provision for pooling and grading of this commodity, which are so essential, should be made available. I hope the Minister will make adequate provision in this Bill for these aspects of the matter.

श्री श्रीकार ल. ल. बोरबा (कोटा) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, इस बिल में जो बोर्ड बनाने की व्यवस्था कां गई है, वह बिल्कुल ठीक है और मैं उसका समर्थन करता हूं। लेकिन इस बोर्ड का किसानों पर घोषा जा रहा है, क्योंकि उस में किसानों का सिर्फ एक मेम्बर रखा गया है। इस बिल में कहा गया है कि सभापति केन्द्रीय सरकार के द्वारा नियुक्त किया जायेगा। उस बोर्ड में दो लोक सभा के और एक राज्य सभा का सदस्य होगा। ये तीन सदस्य मैजॉरिटी पार्टी के होंगे। उन के अलावा केन्द्रीय सरकार के मंत्रालयों का प्रतिनिधित्व करने के लिए तीन सदस्य होंगे। एक मेम्बर बाणिज्य का होगा और दूसरा कृषि का, लेकिन उस के साथ "घरबा बिल" लगा दिया गया है, जिस का अर्थ है बैंक का कोई मैनेजर या सभापति सेट। चूंकि कृषि का केवल एक मेम्बर रखा गया है, इसलिए यह बोर्ड किसानों पर घोषने के लिए और उन के अधिकारों का हनन करने के लिए बनाया जा रहा है। टी बोर्ड और काकी बोर्ड की तरह इस के सम्बन्ध में भी बोर्ड बनाना उचित है, लेकिन उस बोर्ड में कृषि का केवल एक मेम्बर रचना उचित नहीं है। मेरा सुझाव है कि बोर्ड के कम से कम पांच सदस्य कृषि के होने चाहिए। मुझे केन्द्रीय सरकार द्वारा सदस्यों के नामिनेट किये जाने पर कोई आपत्ति नहीं है। मुझे आपत्ति यह है कि कृषि का केवल एक सदस्य रखा जा रहा है। मैं चाहता हूं कि इस बोर्ड में कृषि को प्रोत्साहन दिया जाये और कम से कम कृषि के पांच सदस्य इस में रखे जाने चाहिए, क्योंकि वे इस बारे में ज्यादा से ज्यादा सुझाव दे सकेंगे।

[श्री श्रींकार लाल बेरवा]

हम ने एक डर्रां पकड़ रखा है कि जिस जगह किसी चीज की उत्पत्ति होती है, उसी पर हम ज्यादा जोर देते हैं। इस का अर्थ यह है कि हम ने वैज्ञानिक अनुसंधान आदि का जो इतना बड़ा प्राइम्बर बना रखा है, उस का काम निल के बराबर है। पहले केवल काश्मीर में अंगूर होते थे, लेकिन आज आप चल कर देखिए, उदयपुर में इतने अच्छे अंगूर होते हैं कि लोग उनकी बड़े चाव से खाते हैं। हमें भूमि का सर्वे करना चाहिए, प्रशिक्षण की व्यवस्था करनी चाहिए और विज्ञान की सहायता से भूमि का सुधार करना चाहिए। इस प्रकार हम इन चीजों को देश के दूसरे भागों में भी पैदा कर सकते हैं।

जैसा कि बताया गया है, इसका वार्षिक उत्पादन 3000 मीट्रिक टन होता है, जिस में से 60 से 70 परसेंट हम विदेशों में भेजते हैं, जिस के द्वारा हम को तीन करोड़ रुपये सालाना की विदेशी मुद्रा प्राप्त होती है। लेकिन हम उसी जगह पड़े हैं, केरल, मद्रास और मैसूर, इन तीन जगहों तक ही हमने अपने प्रयत्नों को सीमित रखा है। हम कहते हैं कि वह पहाड़ी एरिया है। मैं आपको बतलाना चाहता हूँ कि राजस्थान में भी पहाड़ी एरिया है, देतिले एरिया भी है और बर्फीले एरिया भी हैं। अब के अन्दर बर्फीला एरिया है। वहाँ नहरी एरिया भी है। इस वास्ते यह जरूरी है कि भूमि का परीक्षण करवाया जाए और जिस वस्तु के लिए उसको उपयुक्त पाया जाए उसकी वहाँ खेती करवाई जाए। आप चाहते हैं कि आपको विदेशी मुद्रा अधिक मिले। यह तभी हो सकता है कि बजाय एक ही जगह पड़े रहने के हम दूसरी जगहों पर भी ध्यान दें। वैज्ञानिक ढंग से भूमि का परीक्षण करवायें और उपज को बढ़ायें। केले की उपज एक समय था कि मद्रास में होती थी लेकिन आज राजस्थान में भी केला होता है, सेब होता है, नारंगी होती है। लेकिन हमारी सरकार प्रोत्साहन नहीं देती है। उन्हीं स्थानों को वह प्रोत्सा-

हन देती है, उन पर ही अपना ध्यान केन्द्रित करती है जहाँ पहले में कोई वस्तु ज्यादा मात्रा में पैदा होती है। हमारे यहाँ काली मिट्टी है, पीली मिट्टी है, उसका आप परीक्षण करवायें। उसका अगर परीक्षण करवाया जाए, सर्वेक्षण करवाया जाए तो वहाँ भी कई चीजें हैं जो पैदा हो सकती हैं। राजस्थान के अन्दर मरु भूमि भी आपको मिलेगी, पहाड़ी भूमि भी मिलेगी, मिचाई वाली भी मिलेगी, सब मिलेगी। उसका सर्वेक्षण करवा कर विकास करवाया जाना चाहिये।

इसके साथ साथ मैं यह भी कहना चाहता हूँ कि केन्द्रीय सरकार को आपने इसमें बहुत अधिक अधिकार दे दिये हैं। कोई भी बात बोर्ड बिना केन्द्रीय सरकार से पूछे नहीं कर सकता है। सारी शक्ति केन्द्र में निहित कर दी गई है। ऐसी अवस्था में बोर्ड को रखने की क्या आवश्यकता थी। इसमें आपने कहा है :—

“बोर्ड का यह कर्तव्य होगा कि वह केन्द्रीय सरकार के नियंत्रण के अधीन इलायची उद्योग के विकास का एम उपायों द्वारा संवर्धन करे जैसे वह टांक समझे।”

अगर केन्द्र का ही नियंत्रण रहना है तो बोर्ड को हटा कर आप स्वयं सब काम क्यों नहीं कर लेते हैं। यह एकीकरण का सारा मसला हो जाता है। अगर आपने बोर्ड बनाया है तो सारे जितने अधिकार हैं, वे आप उसको दें। अगर विकास के लिए पैसे की जरूरत है या किसानों को सहायता प्रदान करनी है तो आप अधिक से अधिक रुपया उसको दे दें और वह जैसे चाहें उसको खर्च करे। सारी की सारी जो शक्ति है वह बोर्ड के पास रहनी चाहिये थी। केन्द्र को इतना शक्तिशाली नहीं होना चाहिये था। बोर्ड को केन्द्र पर इतना निर्भर नहीं किया जाना चाहिये था। सारे अधिकार बोर्ड के होने चाहिये थे। बोर्ड में कृषि सदस्य जो हैं वे भी मैं चाहता हूँ कि अधिक से अधिक हों।

अन्त में मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि राजस्वान की भूमि का परीक्षण कराया जाना चाहिये। वहाँ ज्यादा उत्पत्ति इसकी हो सकती है, यह मैं दावे के साथ कह सकता हूँ।

Shri Balakrishnan (Koilpatti): Sir, I come from a plantation area where the plantation of cardamom is very popular. There are plenty of wastelands there which are most suitable for cardamom cultivation. According to this Bill, one of the functions of the Cardamom Board is "promoting co-operative efforts among growers of cardamom". I want to say that there are plenty of wastelands which can be easily converted for cultivation of cardamom. Such lands may be given to the landless people who are living in the area. But if poor people go to cultivate those lands, they are evicted. On the other hand, if big mirasdars who already own large plantation lands in the hill areas go there for cultivation, those lands are given to them for cultivation. I request the government to see that wherever suitable lands are available, such lands should be brought under a cooperative system. Poor people should be made members of those cooperative bodies and they should be made to undertake cultivation of cardamom in those lands.

I find there is no time-limit fixed for the Board. If there is no time-limit, hereditary tendencies may develop and the Board may not function in a good manner. So, I recommend that a time-limit—4 or 5 or 10 years—should be fixed for the Board.

According to this Bill, I find there are three agencies. One is the Cardamom Board. The second is the State Government which is going to appoint the Registration Officer. The third is the Central Government which is going to levy the cess. This may put the poor, ignorant, cardamom growers into difficulty. To simplify the procedure, either the State Government or the Central Government should be entrusted with all the work including registration and other

things. Otherwise, it will create confusion and put the poor, ignorant growers into difficulty. The Central Government may as well take up the work of registration and do the entire work.

These are the things, Sir, that I wanted to say as far as this Bill is concerned.

श्री बाल्मीकी (खुर्जा): उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, इस इलायची विधेयक का मैं जोरदार समर्थन करता हूँ। मैं ऐसे क्षेत्र से आता हूँ जहाँ इलायची का नामोनिशान नहीं है और वहाँ पैदा हो सकती है। राजस्वान के हर गाँव में तो वह हो सकती है लेकिन उत्तर प्रदेश का जहाँ तक सम्बन्ध है, ऐसी बात नहीं है।

उत्तर प्रदेश में पैदा होने के कारण और कुछ प्राचीन संस्कृति और सभ्यता का प्रेमी होने के नाते मुझे दक्षिणी क्षेत्र के दक्षिणी भागों में जहाँ मलयगिरि है या इस प्रकार के दूसरे क्षेत्र हैं पिछले सोलह सालों में एक दो बार जाने का सीधाय्य प्राप्त हुआ है। मलयगिरि हमारी सभ्यता और संस्कृति की मेखला है। वहाँ की चित्ताकर्षक शीतल मंद सुगन्ध पवन हमारी सुलक्षण, पूर्णयोग्यता खोइसी सभारियों को छूते हुए जीवनदायनी धानन्द देती है। प्रेमी का तब जो बुरा हाल होता है उसको सदन भी समझ सकता है और देश भी समझ सकता है।

जहाँ तक सौन्दर्य का सम्बन्ध है, सुन्दरता स्थूल रूप में प्रकट नहीं होती। सौन्दर्य अन्तःस्थल की वस्तु है, अन्दर की अनुमति है। कितने आप एम्पैटिक हैं, कितने सौंदर्य प्रिय हैं, यह देखने की बात है। यह भाव व्यंजना है, भावों की अभिव्यक्ति है, इसलिए कि इलायची हमारे उस भाव को छूती है।

‘ताम्बूल मुखस्य भूषणम्’

मुख का भूषण क्या है। पान है। पान का भूषण क्या है, इलायची है। अगर यहाँ माननीय मनुभाई साहू होते तो मैं उनकी सुन्दरता

[श्री बाल्मीकी]

का बर्णन करता। उनकी भ्राकृति, प्रकृति, चेतना, शकल आदि बहुत सुन्दर है। सोलह वस्तुयें जैसे माननीय भ्रणे साहब ने बताया है, पान में लिये हुए इलायची समेत जो उनके मुख से सुन्दरता झलकती है, उसकी जितनी तारीफ की जाए थोड़ी है। हमारे माननीय रामा-स्वामी जी भी बँठे हुए हैं। उनकी बंदना मैं न करूँ तो यह उनके प्रति धन्याय होगा। वह हृदय से इलायची प्रिय हैं, सौंदर्य प्रिय हैं, पुरानी सभ्यता और संस्कृति के पुजारी हैं।

भारत बर्णन के नाते अभी डेढ़ दो साल पहले मैं गया था टिनेबेली से कोयम्बतूर तक और तेनकासी से घर्नाकुलम तक और घर्नाकुलम से त्रिबेंद्रम तक। यह सारा क्षेत्र मेरा भूमा हुआ है। मैंने काश्मीर नहीं देखा है। बलोचिस्तान की वनश्री को देखा है, शोभा को नेत्रों से निहारा है। लेकिन तेनकासी और घर्नाकुलम के इस नयनाभिराम नैसर्गिक भाग को देखकर, उस सौंदर्य के घनदर जो जीवन दायनी धानन्द है, उस में मैं खो सा गया। मेरा धाने को जी नहीं किया। लेकिन मैंने वहाँ कहा था कि मैं फिर धाऊंगा और बड़े संवेदनशील हृदय से मैं जा रहा हूँ। उत्तर भारत का जो हिस्सा है, इसके प्रति भी मेरे हृदय में संवेदना है और वहाँ एक हृदयेश्वरी है। उस कारण से मुझे यहाँ धाना पड़ता है।

मैं पान खाता नहीं हूँ, मेरी पत्नी पान खाती है। मैं पान का विरोधी रहा हूँ कुछ वंश-परम्परा से। मेरे पिता जी पान के विरोधी थे और अंतिम समय तक उन्होंने पान नहीं खाया।

मैं भावनाओं में बह गया था और मैं अब बिस पर धाता हूँ। जब मैं उन क्षेत्रों से गुजरा तो वहाँ के गरीब खेतीहर मजदूरों को मैंने देखा, मामूली किसान जो काम करते हैं, उनको मैं ने देखा और मुझे यह देख कर बड़ी तकलीफ हुई कि पट्टेदारी प्रथा वहाँ पर चलती है और भूमि पर उनका कोई अधिकार नहीं है।

वनश्री और वन संरक्षण की बात लेकर आप प्रागे चले, लेकिन जो एक प्रकार में इस क्षेत्र में काम करने वाले मजदूरों का शोषण होता है उस शोषण को दूर करने की आवश्यकता है। आप समाजवादी समाज की बात करते हैं। समाजवादी समाज का ध्येय यह है कि उत्पादन के साधन और वितरण के साधन पर आप का नियन्त्रण हो। कम से कम आप का यहाँ नियन्त्रण हो तो उन किसानों को आप सुखी बना देंगे। भूमिधारी का अधिकार उन को दे दें, भूमि का मालिक उन को बना दें। साथ ही साथ जहाँ उत्पादक को आप कुछ सुविधा दे रहे हैं वहाँ जो मजदूर काम करते हैं, खेतिहर मजदूर उनके उद्यान का भी प्रयत्न आप करें। मैं इस अवसर पर उनके दुःख को और जो उनका शोषण होता है उस को यहाँ प्रदर्शित करना चाहता हूँ। माननीय उप-मंत्री यहाँ उपस्थित हैं वे यह देखेंगे कि आज किस प्रकार उन उत्पादकों को, उन उप-भोक्ताओं को किस तरह उन मजदूरों को जो इस क्षेत्र में काम करते हैं, कैसे उनका उद्धार व उत्थान हो सकता है। विशेषकर यह जो खेतिहर मजदूरों का कानून लाना चाहते हैं, उन की हालत को सुधारना चाहते हैं, उन की कार्य पद्धति को और उन के वेतन के क्रम को ठीक करना चाहते हैं तो उस सारे काम का प्रभाव वहाँ पर भी लागू होना चाहिए।

मुझे आशा है कि आप उन की हालत की तरफ ध्यान देंगे और आप ऐसा प्रयत्न करेंगे ताकि यह इलायची की खेती बढ़ सके। उसके उत्पादन में वृद्धि हो सके। इस से हमारी विदेशी मुद्रा की उपलब्धि में वृद्धि होगी जिसकी कि देश को इस समय बहुत आवश्यकता है यह विदेशों के लिए आकर्षण की वस्तु है लेकिन ऐसा भी न हो कि वह केवल विदेशों के लिये आकर्षण की ही वस्तु बन कर रह जाय और हम को उस से धानन्द प्राप्त न हो। इसलिए यह बहुत आवश्यक है कि सरकार उधर ध्यान दे। सुरक्षा तथा गवेषणा की दृष्टि से

उधर प्रयत्न करे। यह मैं जरूर चाहता हूँ कि इसकी खेती बढ़े, उसकी अभिवृद्धि हो, लेकिन आप सबसे पहले जो मजदूर यहाँ काम करते हैं उन को भूमि देने के लिए उनको भूमि का अधिकार देने के लिए व्यवस्था करें। इस के फलवा उन को जो अभी बहुत थोड़ी मजदूरी मिलती है उसे बढ़ाने के लिये और उन पर जो विचारालियों के जरिए ठेकेदारों के जुल्म होते हैं उनसे उन्हें मुक्ति दिलाने का प्रयत्न करें। मैं इन शब्दों के साथ इस इलायची विधेयक का जोरदार समर्थन करता हूँ।

Shri M. P. Swamy (Tenkasi): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, I rise to support the Bill which has been brought forward by the hon. Deputy Minister. Cardamom growers and the industry have been agitating for the formation of this Board for a very long time. So, I am very happy that the Government has now come forward with this legislation.

As pointed out by the previous speakers, Cardamom plantation is an industry which gives employment for lakhs of workers in the hilly areas. It also helps us to earn foreign exchange to the extent of Rs. 3 crores per year. If the cardamom cultivation is extended to other areas much more foreign exchange can be earned. For example, in the hilly areas of Tirunelveli, Madurai and Ramanathapuram there is vast scope for extending the cardamom cultivation. As I have personal knowledge of this jungle area, I would suggest that the Government should undertake a survey of these areas so to extend the cultivation of cardamom. The repatriates from Burma and Ceylon can be settled in this area and with their help the cardamom industry flourish, bringing us more of foreign exchange.

While going through the Bill I find there is a lacuna. Unlike in the case of the Coffee Board, this Bill does not provide for the pooling and grading system. I would suggest that at the time of the clause by clause consideration. Government should bring in an

amendment to incorporate that system in this Bill. Under the pooling and grading system the planter gets some benefits if he grows the best variety. It is now done in the case of the Coffee Board. If a coffee planter grows a variety better than the standard variety, he gets a bonus point. Similarly, if a cardamom grower produces a variety better than the standard quality fixed by the Board, he should also get a bonus point. I would suggest that this may be considered by the Board. Strict quality control must be exercised in the export of cardamom.

It is said that some undesirable things like rat refuse are mixed with cardamom seed and passed on as cardamom seed to foreign countries; thus, our good name goes down in foreign countries. I would suggest that the Commerce Ministry should exercise strict control over the export of cardamom to eradicate this evil of adulteration even in this commodity because it is a vast foreign exchange earning commodity and our reputation must be safeguarded in foreign countries.

As regards research centres, previously the Madras Government was running such a centre at Singampatti Hills near Tinnevely but, unfortunately, it was removed from that place some six years back. After the formation of this Cardamom Board, I suggest that they may choose a number of places for setting up such centres and one such centre should be set up in Tinnevely District. A number of cardamom estates are there. Government also leases land for cardamom plantation. But unfortunately only the moneyed people can come forward and bid in the auction for lease of forest land for cultivation of cardamom. Poor people cannot even think of getting that.

Then, as Shri Balakrishnan suggested previously, I would suggest that cardamom co-operatives should be formed and the landless poor must be given encouragement for co-operative cardamom cultivation. As I said

[Shri M. P. Swamy]

earlier, people from Burma and other places who are repatriated can be rehabilitated on cardamom estates.

The cardamom industry is now run in an organised manner. Formerly it was not so organised, since it is organised now, it is possible for it to get all help from the Cardamom Board.

Regarding financial assistance, cardamom planters are not getting any help from scheduled banks or other financial institutions because their crop is not yet recognised as a standard one as other crops are; but after the formation of this Board, if a pooling system is recognised as in the case of coffee, they can get instalments from financial institutions for meeting cultivation expenses. Under the pooling system they get advance payment for cultivation and after marketing of the crop that is adjusted against the price due to the planters. This system is working very well in the case of coffee and, it must be adopted here also.

With these words, I support the Bill.

Shri M. L. Jadhav (Malegaon): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the measure that is before the House. Cardamom is generally grown in Kerala, Mysore and Madras. I find that in the Bill which is applicable to the whole of India the State of Jammu and Kashmir has been omitted. I do not know the reason why the State of Jammu and Kashmir is being omitted from the provisions of this Bill. I feel that it is high time that we should not try to omit Jammu and Kashmir from the purview of such a legislation.

Then I turn to the grading and pooling system. A number of speakers who preceded me tried to emphasise that the grading and pooling system should be introduced so that the growers can have better prices.

I feel that by establishing this Board it is very necessary that the grower should be given adequate finances so that this industry which gives us good foreign exchange develops and the grower is given an incentive to see that he can grow better.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He may continue tomorrow.

16 hrs.

*BIRD & CO.

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy (Kendrapara): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the main purpose of raising a discussion on this Bird & Co. affairs to enable the House to know all details about the investigation that has been conducted by the Government about the Bird & Co. We have been raising this matter since 1963 and only on the 24th August, 1965, the adjudicator has imposed a penalty on the Bird & Co. and its associates. I would congratulate the investing officer, Shri S. K. Srivastava, the Additional Collector of Customs, Calcutta who has done a very good job. If all these matters are placed on the table of the House, they would reveal how an unscrupulous business house has exploited this country and cheated this country. They had developed a vast business empire and they were almost acting as if they were masters of this land. They have got special facilities and concessions from this Government and about their behaviour towards the Indians who were working in the firm, it is better not to describe it now.

Now, having initiated this investigation and having seized various documents which implicate not only the Bird & Co. and a few of its associates who have been penalised but very many business houses and individuals,