

हुआ था, आज वहाँ प्रॉस्टीट्यूशन हो रहा है कई बरसों से। क्या सरकार को इसकी जानकारी है, यदि हाँ, तो क्या सरकार उस मकान से और उस मुस्ले से प्रॉस्टीट्यूशन के ग्रुप्स को हटाने की कोशिश करेगी ?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: Government is not aware of this.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN: This is a very serious matter. The place where Jawaharlal Nehru was born, is a part of the red light area of Allahabad. I would like to know whether the Minister will give some instructions to the State Government to stop this?

MR. SPEAKER: It has been brought to his notice and he will look into it.

PROF. N. G. RANGA: Are you answering on behalf of the Minister? It is really a very serious matter. He should say something on this.

श्री छार० एन० राकेश : इलाहाबाद नगर निगम ने तमाम कारेसपोडेस इसके बारे में की है और मंत्री महोदय की फाइल में तमाम लैटर्ज मौजूद हैं ।

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: If whatever the Member has said, is a fact, it is a very serious matter. Government will look into the matter.

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER: Before I put the question, I want to tell the hon. Minister that in socialist and communist countries, there is no prostitution.

Some time back, there appeared a news item in the papers that in the State of Karnataka, which is the home State of the Minister, there is a system of 'devdasi', that is a feudal system and by this system, the Scheduled Castes and Tribal girls are forced into this profession. This system is there in Bangalore and some other places of Karnataka. I would like to know from the hon. Minister: what steps

Government will take to stop this feudal practice of 'devdasi' system?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: What the hon. Member in the beginning said that there is no prostitution in socialist and communist countries, I am not aware of this.

(Interruptions)

May I say that 'I' means the Government, not Shankaranand? But what the Member said is about the system of deva-dasi prevailing in certain parts of Maharashtra and Karnataka and certain parts of Andhra Pradesh. It is a fact that among the lower classes there is a system which is called 'deva-dasi' system where the women do not marry, but it is said that they marry God in the name of religion. This is all done in the name of religion and such young girls are, in the name of religion, brought into the field of prostitution. It is a shame for all of us to have such a custom which is strengthened and supported by religion to tolerate in this country. But may I say that wherever there is no deva-dasi system or the like of it, there is prostitution, and deva-dasi system alone is not responsible for this?

MR. SPEAKER: Are you going to take action against that?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: Sir, the Act is there and the Government will take action according to that.

Cocoa Production, Export and its Processing

*822. **SHRI GEORGE JOSEPH MUNDACKAL:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that cocoa production in the country is surplus and its prices have gone down from Rs. 18 per kg. to Rs. 5.30 per kg. and actually there are no purchasers now;

(b) the reasons why Government are not coming to protect the marginal farmers by fixing a minimum price and exporting the cocoa beans to U.S.S.R. or to any consuming country; and

(c) whether Government propose to construct a cocoa processing factory in public sector or in co-operative sector to consume this valuable food product?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) and (b). As per information received from the State Governments, there has been an increase in production of Cocoa. International prices of Cocoa beans in the past were higher and since bulk of the requirement was being imported, local prices were correspondingly higher than they are now. There is no restriction on the export of Cocoa and the item can be exported by any exporter to any country including U.S.S.R. Kerala Cooperative Marketing Federation is purchasing wet cocoa beans from farmers at Rs 5.30 per kg.

(c) The State Government are considering the establishment of Cocoa Processing Units.

SHRI GEORGE JOSEPH MUNDACKAL: Sir, for the last five years, the Government of India, the State Government and other agencies have been encouraging cultivators to plant more cocoa. Anyway, now the production is more and we have produced a lot of cocoa in our State. Unfortunately, the price has crashed from Rs. 18 a kilo to Rs. 5.30 a kilo for wet beans. The APC is fixing the prices for other agricultural commodities. Why can't the Government assure a minimum price or a fixed price for this cocoa? Now, at Rs. 5.30 per kg. the Marketing Federation of Kerala is purchasing and why can't the Central Government purchase wet beans and they are not purchasing dry beans. And the cultivators are finding it very difficult to dispose of their commodities.

(b) Russia is purchasing a lot of cocoa from West African countries. Why can't the Central Government try to sell it or export it outside the

country so that we can retain the price and give a subsidy to the cultivators. The international price is less and so the Government can give subsidy also to the cultivators and encourage them.

(c) Now, the cultivators are between the devil and the deep sea. The State Government is saying that the Central Government has to set up cocoa processing units and the Central Government is saying that the State Government is doing it. Actually both are not taking any steps for setting up the processing units in our country. The multinational company, the Cadburys, has only encouraged cultivators to plant more cocoa and now they have withdrawn from the field. So, I request the Minister to take some initiative in this regard. The Central Government must take some steps to set up some cocoa processing unit because nobody knows the know-how and technical details. So, we have to have technical collaboration with foreign countries to set up some cocoa processing units in our country.

MR. SPEAKER: No question? It is only a request.

(Interruptions)

SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN: Sir, cocoa is grown in this country mainly as a mixed crop in the coconut and arecanut gardens areas. This practice has been recommended by the Government of India to supplement their income. Cocoa can be exported to any country, the hon. Member himself can do it. Why should Government come into the picture?

MR. SPEAKER: He wants that steps should be taken to safeguard the interests of the farmers.

SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN: We are taking all measures to safeguard the interests of farmers. It is being

used here not only by Cadburys, there are other parties also using it. Nearly 2,000 tonnes of dry cocoa are being used in this country.

SHRI GEORGE JOSEPH MUNDA-CKAL: Eighty per cent used to be consumed by Cadburys, but now they are not purchasing. They are doing some humbug, and not giving proper price. They were giving free seedlings to farmers, but when they find that there is surplus production, they are depriving them of the benefit. That is why Government of India should take the initiative to export it to help the farmers, because the State Government cannot take up that responsibility.

SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN: There was a strike in the Cadbury factory and that is why they were not able to purchase. Now that strike is over, and they will come forward to purchase. Also, regarding export, the government is examining the question how best we can do it.

SHRI SUBHASH CHANDRA BOSE ALLURI: Cadburys were giving seedlings and also fertilisers to the farmers some time back, and many farmers in Karnataka as well as Kerala have grown cocoa, but what is happening now? May I know whether Government are aware that imported cocoa which is of inferior quality is fetching a higher price than the superior quality cocoa grown in this country? By taking the plea that Indian cocoa is inferior or that it contains some ingredient which is not good for chocolate

making, they are trying to exploit us. So, will Government establish a processing plant by themselves, so that they can export it through STC or co-operative societies or some other agency? May I know whether Government are thinking in these terms?

SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN: Yes, Sir, we are thinking in terms of setting up a processing plant. Hitherto the import was under OGL, but now we are canalising it only through the STC. We will also watch and see whether the imported cocoa is necessary. If it is not, we will use only our own cocoa.

MR. SPEAKER: He wants to know whether you have stopped exploitation by these companies.

SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN: We have stopped it. If the imported variety is inferior, why should the users give a higher price? They will give only the proper price.

Relaxation in Prohibition Policy

*823. **SHRI KUNWAR RAM:** Will the Minister of SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether all States are relaxing the prohibition policy; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b). The information is being collected from the State Governments and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.