

श्री जनार्दनपुत्रः : वहां प्रेजीडेंट्स रूल है।

شہری جمیل الرحمن : وہاں

[پریزیڈنٹس رول ہے -]

श्री बीरेन्द्र पाटिल : मैं इस बात को मानता हूँ और मैं यह भी मानता हूँ कि सप्ताई करने की हमारी जवाबदारी है। लेकिन जहां तक डिस्ट्री-ब्यूशन का सम्बन्ध है, माननीय सदस्य कह रहे हैं कि लोक सभा और राज्य सभा के सदस्यों को शारीक करके डिस्ट्रिक्ट कमेडटीज बननी चाहिए और यह एक डिटेल् का मामला है और इसको स्टेट गवर्नमेन्ट को ही करना है।

Review of Land Ceiling Law



*86. SHRI JANARDHANA
POOJARY:

SHRI TARIQ ANWAR:

Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to review the Land Ceiling Act; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) and (b). The Governments of the States and the Union Territory Administrations (including Delhi), in which the Urban Land (Ceiling and Regulation) Act, 1976 is in force, have brought to the notice of the Government of India certain practical difficulties and lacunae in its provisions. These are being examined by a Working Group set up by previous Government of India in November, 1979. A representative of the Delhi Administration who was not there previously, has since been added to the Working Group which is expected to finalise its report by the end of April, 1980. After receipt of the report Government will be in a position to take a final view in the matter.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: The Land Ceiling Act is the outcome of the 20 point programme, that has to be implemented as announced by our Prime Minister. It is a well known

fact how rapidly and fast the population in the towns and cities is increasing. In a city like Bombay thousands of people are coming in daily. The housing of those people has become a difficult problem. It cannot be dealt with effectively and the result is that the slum is growing fast... (Interruptions).

AN HON. MEMBER: What is the question?

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: The very object of the government is to prevent concentration of urban land in the hands of a few and to remove speculation as well as profiteering and also to bring about equal distribution of land and help vulnerable sections of society.

MR. SPEAKER: Please put your question.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: My question is this. I know that there are loopholes that should be plugged.

MR. SPEAKER: You are deviating, you are not putting your question.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: My question is whether government is going to implement this law effectively and whether there is a time-bound programme for this.

SHRI P. C. SETHI: I am grateful to the hon. Member for having reminded the government of the laudable objectives of this Act. They still remain there. But even when this Bill was passed, it was envisaged: let us identify, what are the anomalies; let them be identified by actually implementing the Act. The Government was conscious that the Bill was not perfect and we wanted that it should be amended after some experience. The original idea of limiting land use and distributing it remains. Certain lacunae have come to our notice and if there is a question and if you permit me I am prepared to give out the lacunae that the state governments, union territories and a few other persons have pointed out to us. Therefore a working group has been appointed in

1979 November. We have now added one more member from Delhi. This working group was to give its report in March 1980. We have extended the date by one month; the group has been asked to give its report by April 1980. After the receipt of the report it is open for a national debate.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: In view of the statement made by the hon. Minister in the Rajya Sabha as well as statement made previously, there is apprehension in the minds of people that this Act would be scrapped.

MR. SPEAKER: He has already answered; they are awaiting the report of the committee.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Lakhs of people are staying on footpaths and railway platforms, on any land available. Daily, representations are made to us.

MR. SPEAKER: He has replied to that.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: May I know from the hon. Minister what is the declared surplus land?

MR. SPEAKER: I have already appealed to the Members to make the best use of the time. Still they are not doing so and taking the time of the House in this way. It is irrelevant.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: I have put the question.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is not allowed. Shri Tariq Anwar.

श्री तारिक अनवर : क्या मंत्री महोदय यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि क्या भूमि अधिनियम की वर्तमान सीमा घटाई जाएगी और साथ ही साथ क्या इसके लिए कोई टाइम-बाउंड प्रोग्राम सरकार बना रही है ?

श्री पी० सी० सेठी : माननीय सदस्य ने बहुत अच्छा सवाल किया है, लेकिन बेधकल यह है कि बकिंग ग्रुप की रिपोर्ट आने से पहले यह सीमा घटाई जाये या बढ़ाई जाये, यह कहना संभव नहीं है। 4 साल में जो इसका इम्प्लीमेंटेशन था है वह इतना टाई है कि उस पर विचार करने की आवश्यकता है, उदाहरण के तौर पर

the number of persons who have filed statements of vacant land held by them in excess of the ceiling—3,87,261, the number of statements disposed of since the enactment of the Act,—13,853; the extent of vacant land in excess of ceiling limit found—1,54,784 hectares, land acquired and vested with the State Government—1,357 hectares, the number of applications for exempting vacant land—70,483, the number of applications disposed of—9,514, extent of vacant land exempted—14,239 hectares, the number of applications received for permission—12,191, number of schemes approved is only 286.

SHRI A. T. PATIL: May I know the lacunae that are indicated by the different Governments and the Government of India? Has the lacuna in respect of extent of limit beyond the water also been indicated to the Government of India? This has special reference to the Bombay metropolitan conglomeration.

SHRI P. C. SETHI: It will take a lot of time of the House. If you permit me I shall circulate the lacuna indicated by the State Governments and the Union Territories.

MR. SPEAKER: Please circulate.

SHRI P. C. SETHI: I would lay it on the Table of the House, if you permit me.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: Does the Minister agree with the overwhelming view that the urban land Act is primarily responsible for the rise in the residential rents in the urban areas? Will the Committee which is reviewing this law, in its terms of reference, consider the feasibility of wholesale scrapping this Act?

MR. SPEAKER: This has already been replied.

SHRI P. C. SETHI: This Government does not believe in wholesale scrapping.

(Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER: There is nothing more in this question. We take up Question No. 87. Shri Chandrabhan Athare Patil is not there.

Shortfall in Production of Vital Drugs

*88. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state: *

(a) whether it is a fact that production of several vital drugs such as anti-T.B. drugs has come down in the last few months in the country;

(b) if so, reason for such fall there-of; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to avert the shortfall?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) There has been a shortfall in the production of some vital life-saving drugs including PAS and its salts (an anti-T. B. drug) during the period April to December 1979 as compared to their production in the corresponding period of 1978.

Shortage of vital life-saving formulations have been reported in respect of some brand products. Equivalent brands are available in these cases.

(b) The shortfall in production is due to a number of reasons such as powercuts, industrial unrest, non-availability of packaging materials like aluminium foils, non-availability of some basic raw materials like caustic soda, ethylene oxide, escalation in the cost of inputs etc.

(c) Government monitors the production of vital life-saving bulk drugs as well as the production and distribution of life-saving formulations. In specific cases of constraints brought to the notice of the Govt., Government takes remedial measures, to the extent possible. For instance, in respect of non-availability of packaging materials, Government have reduced customs duty on import of aluminium foil and allowed its liberal import

by putting it under O. G. L. Government have also allowed bottle packing without change in the existing selling prices. In regard to canalised bulk drugs, Government have, apart from arranging the needed imports to supplement indigenous production, also authorised, in respect of certain items, direct imports by actual users.

In cases of shortages of vital life-saving formulations, immediate remedial measures are taken including advice to the concerned manufacturers to rush supplies to the areas of shortage.

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: I have read the statement. Here it has been admitted that the essential drugs and the life-saving drugs are in shortfall in production. But the remedies suggested are so vague and so ineffective, rather totally inadequate to meet this crisis.

In to-day's Economic Times on the front page there is a news,

"Drug Units Jack Up Basic Prices—The drug units which have jacked up the prices of Category IV formulations are mostly foreign held ones."

This is one aspect. The entire drug industry is virtually under the control of foreigners and their monopoly houses. The news report further says:

"Industry sources said that the industry was compelled to raise the prices of these products because of the continuing delay by the government in allowing price increases for a large number of items, despite sharp rise in the prices of various inputs."

Sabotage is going on and in violation of Government orders and instructions, they have jacked up the prices. But what is the remedy suggested in this statement? It says:

"In cases of shortages of vital life-saving formulations, immediate remedial measures are taken including advice to the concerned manufacturers to rush supplies to the areas of shortage."