LOK SABHA

Friday, December 22, 1978/Pausa 1, 1900 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MR. SPEAKER: Question No. 470.

SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH: Sir, I may submit that for the first time in 20 months, the ballot has brought my question to the top of the list. I hope, therefore, you will allow me three supplementaries to celebrate the occasion.

MR. SPEAKER: No.

Display of Price Lists

*470. SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO-OPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that shopkeepers are not obliged to display price lists of each of the various goods and articles available for sale in their shops;

(b) whether they have been exempted from the duty and obligation to display such price lists;

(c) if so, the reasons therefore;

(d) whether such absence of price lists has given rise to malpractices and considerable inconvenience to customers; and

(e) if so, the steps proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION, SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR GOYAL): (a) to (c). In exercise of powers delegated to them by the Central Govt. under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations have issued Prices and Stocks Display Orders. Under these Orders, the dealers are required to exhibit at prominent place in their business premises during business hours lists showing stocks and sale prices of goods and articles available for sale in their shops. Enforcement of these Orders is the responsibility of the State Governments. The Standards of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 1977 also provide for display of the quantity and sale price of each packaged commodity. According to information with us, no exemption from such Price Display Orders has been given.

(d) and (e). Do not arise.

SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, according to the statement made by the Minister, the answer given by the Minister, the Central Government seems to have washed themselves completely of their responsibility in this matter, because the enforcement of these orders is supposed to be the responsibility of the State Governments; but as regards Union Territories, I suppose the Union Government still has got some responsibility if not the entire responsibility. In spite of all that is stated here, according to information with us, no exemption from such display has been given, has at least the Government got information about complaints, innumerable complaints, complaints galore, from consumers in various parts of the country, the States as well as the Union Territories, with regard to absence of price lists in various shops selling these commodities? If that is so, what action has been taken with regard to those complaints of consumers?

श्री कृष्ण कुमार गोयल : जब कभी भी इस प्रकार की शिकायतें आती हैं कि किसी स्टेट में या यूनियन टैरिटरी में इस आर्डर की कम्पलायेन्स नहीं हो रही है और शाप-कीपर्स इसको स्ट्रिक्टली फालो नहीं कर रहे हैं तो सेन्ट्रल गवर्नमेंट से कन्सर्ड स्टेट गवर्नमैंट्स को और यूनियन टैरिटोरीज को बार बार इस तरह के आर्डर जाते हैं कि उनके द्वारा जो ऐसेंशियल कमोडिटीज एक्ट के आर्डर्स जारी तहत किये गये हैं उनको स्ट्रिक्टली लागू करें ।

श्री कृष्ण कामत : मेरे सवाल का जवाब नहीं मिला । मैं ने पूछा था कि क्या कार्यवाही की गई है और क्या प्यूनिटिव (primitive) एक्शन लिया गया ? सीनियर मिनिस्टर बतायें कि क्या एक्शन लिया गया, क्या कार्यवाही की गई है ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA): Sir, I entirely share the concern of the hon. Member. It is true that so far as Union Territories are concerned, including Delhi, naturally the Central Government can play a more effective role. Wherever these complaints were made to us, we told the Administration or the Executive Councillors, personally we discussed with them to take action and, Sir, in several areas actions have been taken. For the information of the House, from January to September 1978, the number of cases detected for violation of orders is 7,195, the number of persons prosecuted is 4,068; the number of persons convicted, because some prosecutios are still before the court, is 543. Then, besides foodgrains, the quantity of other commodities seized is 1,54,727 quintals. Summary trial cases fined are 3,124, the number of cases of conviction in summary trial cases is 477. There is a wrong impression that nothing is being done and no prosecutions are being launched.

SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH: What about the nature of sentence or punishment?

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: They vary. But again here I have instructed my officers that if there is any leniency shown while convicting the persons, then in that case we shall go to the appropriate authorities for conviction.

SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH: As a corrective measure, I would like to remind the Minister of what he stated in the House some weeks ago in response to the question raised by my hon. friend, Shrimati Ahilya Rangnekar, what he said in respect of the Resolution moved by her about the public distribution system. That would have been a very fine corrective measure with regard to this matter, but that seems to have practically broken down or may be still-born. That scheme seems to have been still-born. In the absence of that, I would like to know whether the Government is going to pursue that matter more vigorously and whether the public distribution system will be set up in the very near future. If that cannot be enforced, if that cannot be brought about, if that cannot be set up, then, will the Government at least promote the consumers' resistence movement in this country so as to keep the prices in check and prevent harassment of the consumers. At least that should be done.

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: As I have already clarified in this House, as regards the public distribution system, it was assured by me that we shall prepare our own scheme, the whole scheme has been prepared and it has been approved by the Cabinet. But, for the implementation of this scheme, as it involves several operations, right from production to distribution, viz., Production, Procurement, Storage Transport and distribution,—these are the five operations to be made—naturally, the State Governments shall have to be involved. Therefore, it is agreed that a Chief Ministers' meeting along with the concerned Ministers will be convened and this scheme will be thrashed out. I can assure this House that this is an assurance given by the Government and we shall take care to see that nobody can throttle the scheme.

So far as the other question is concerned, here, we are very much aware that consumers' resistence movemnt is equally important and it is for the first time that I got an allocation of Rs. 10 lakhs made for encouraging this movement and we convened a meeting of all the voluntary organisations known to my Ministry and they have now formed a Federation for consumers. We are giving all possible encouragement. It is a free and voluntary body and this movement will be encouraged. I can assure again that all possible cooperation will be given by the Government to this consumers' resistence movement in the country.

श्री राजमूर्ति : मंत्री महोदय ने बताया है कि कायदे के मुताबिक हर दुकान पर प्राइस लिस्ट लगनी चाहिये। लेकिन यह देखा गया है कि शापकीपर्स लोगों को धोखा देने के लिये और चीजों को छिपाने के लिये प्राइस लिस्ट नहीं लगाते हैं। दुर्भाग्य से हमारे देश में अधिकतर लोग पढ़े-लिखे नहीं हैं और गरीब लोग हैं। वे ऐसट नहीं कर पाते हैं कि लिस्ट लगाई जाये। क्या सरकार की निगाह में कोई ऐसी स्कीम है, जिसके अन्तर्गत विजिलेंस कमेटीज बनाई जायें, जिनके द्वारा लोग चुप चाप मालूम करें कि किस दुकान पर लिस्ट लगी है और किस दुकान पर नहीं लगी है? इस तरह दुकानदारों के दिलों में डर और खतरा पैदा हो जायेगा कि लिस्ट न लगाने से सजा हो सकती है और इस डर से सब दुकानदार प्राइस लिस्ट लगाने लग जायेंगे।

श्री मोहन धारिया : विजिलेंस का काम अच्छे ढंग से हो, इसलिये मैं ने जो स्कीम तैयार की है, उस में यह व्यवस्था की गई है कि हर एक फेयर प्राइस शाप के लिए, चाहे वह प्राइवेट सैक्टर में हो और चाहे को-आपरेटिव सैक्टर में हो, एक एक विजिलेंस कमेटी रहेगी, और इस कमेटी में हमारे चुने हुए रिप्रेजेंटेटिव्ज पार्लियामेंट के मैम्बर, या एसेम्बली, कारपोरेशन या पंचायत समिति के मैम्बर और दूसरे नागरिक रहेंगे। मैं ने यह बात भी उस में रखी है कि अगर विजिलेंस कमेटी विजिलेंस करने के बाद यह फैसला करती है कि कोई फेयर प्राइस शाप डीलर अच्छी रीति से काम नहीं करता है, तो उस का लाइसेंस जरूर कैन्सल कर दिया जायेगा। नागरिकों की तरफ से अच्छा विजिलेंस होने पर ही हम यह काम कर सकते हैं। हर दुकान पर पुलिसमैन रखना मुमकिन नहीं है। नागरिकों का सहयोग ले कर ही हम यह काम कर सकते हैं।

SHRI V. ARUNCHALAM ALIAS 'ALADI ARUNA' During the year 1975 and also 1976, due to the drastic steps taken by the Central Government, I understand that in all textile goods, in every meter, the price was printed and because of that the public was benefited. But now since the price is not being printed in the textile goods, the merchants are exploiting the consumers. Will the Government come forward to direct the State Governments to take steps to see that the price is printed in every meter of textile goods so that the public will be benefited?

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: So far as controlled cloth is concerned, the prices are printed. Besides, so far as other textile cloth particularly meant for the common man is concerned, I am having discussions with the Minister of Industries, but I do agree that, there also, the price for the consumer should be printed. I agree with it in principle.

Besides, we are also encouraging the packaging system so that on all these packs, not only for cloth or textiles but for other things also, the prices could be printed so that we can give these commodities also of a good variety.

SHRI BIJOY SINGH NAHAR: I want to know from the Minister whether he has made any arrangement for people's participation in this respect so that the general people of the locality are also represented and can take interest. Your publicity drive should also be there so that the people will know that every shop is bound to keep the prices there. Have you made any such scheme?

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: As I said earlier, I would very much like Vigilance Committees for all localities, particularly for all fair-price shops in the country, and elected representatives of the people and some other social workers also should be involved in this matter of vigilance.

So far as publicity is concerned, naturally we try to publicise, but I agree that some more emphasis is necessary and, with the involvement of the people, this should be possible.

National Tourism Policy

*471. SHRI DURGA CHAND: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are formulating a National Policy on Tourism;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and by what time the policy would be declared;

(c) whether the State Governments have been consulted or are being consulted in the formulation of policy on tourism;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) what suggestions the Himachal Pradesh Government have given about the State's potentialities for tourism for being incorporated in the National Policy on tourism?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK): (a) and (b). A draft paper on the National Tourism Policy has already been prepared and circulated to the concerned authorities of the Government for their views, before it is finalised by Government for being laid on the Tables of the two Houses of Parliament.

(c) to (e). There is a continuing dialogue between the Central and State Departments of Tourism on various matters concerning development and promotion of tourism in the country. The views and various suggestions received from time to time from the State Governments have been fully taken into account while formulating the draft paper on tourism policy. The National Policy on Tourism will be a general statement which will define the parameters of tourism and the aims and objectives of the Government in developing tourism in the country. It will not therefore attempt to highlight the tourism potential on a State-wise basis.

श्री दुर्गाचन्द : अध्यक्ष महोदय, माननीय मंत्री जी ने कहा है कि ड्राफ्ट पेपर आन दि नेशनल टूरिज्म पालिसी बन गया है, उस को कंसर्न्ड एथारिटीज के पास भेजा हुआ है, उस के बाद वह पार्लियामेंट के दोनों सदनों में पेश किया जाएगा। मैं उन से यह कहना चाहूंगा, दो साल हो गए हैं, इस ड्राफ्ट पेपर को तैयार करने में सरकार ने अभी ही बहुत देर कर दी है जिस के कारण टूरिज्म के प्रति जो कुछ होना चाहिए था जितना हमारे देश में पोटेंशल है उस के मुताबिक वह आज तक नहीं हुआ। 1976-77 में ऐडमिनिस्ट्रेटिव स्टाफ कालिज आफ इंडिया, हैदराबाद के द्वारा किए गए टूरिस्ट सर्वे में बताया गया है, इस में सात सेंटर्स ऐसे हैं जिन में 3 लाख 59 हजार फारेन टूरिस्ट्स आए यानी 62 परसेंट और सातवां नम्बर है आखिर में जयपुर, उस में 12.97 परसेंट यानी 75 हजार से ज्यादा नहीं आए। इस के मुकाबिले में मैं बताऊं स्पेन दुनिया में एक ऐसा मुल्क है कि जिस की आबादी से ज्यादा टूरिस्ट वहां आते हैं। ....(व्यवधान).. मैं इस की बैकग्राउन्ड बताना चाहता हूं। स्पेन की आबादी 3 करोड़ 60 लाख है और फारेन टूरिस्ट उस में 4 करोड़ आए जब कि हमारे देश में जो टूरिस्ट आए उन की संख्या 3 लाख और 75 हजार एक साल की है। तो मैं उन से जानना चाहता हूं कि नेशनल पालिसी ड्राफ्ट जो उन्होंने बनाया है उस में डोमैस्टिक टूरिज्म और फारेन टूरिज्म के लिए क्या क्या प्रोपोजल इनकारपोरेट किया है ताकि फारेन टूरिस्ट ज्यादा से ज्यादा इस देश में आयें और डोमैस्टिक टूरिस्ट्स जो हैं वह हमारे हिस्टारिकल मान्यूमेंट्स जैसे ब्रिटिश मान्यूमेंट्स हैं या और दूसरे मान्यूमेंट्स हैं उनको देखने के लिये जायें ?

श्री पुरुषोत्तम कौशिक : यह बात सही है कि टूरिज्म पालिसी तैयार करने में कुछ समय लगा। चूंकि पहली बार टूरिज्म पालिसी बनाई जा रही है इसलिये बहुत विस्तृत रूप से उसके अध्ययन की जरूरत है और काफी लोगों से सलाह मश्विरे की आवश्यकता है। अब जितना भी विलम्ब हुआ है, वह करीब करीब टूरिज्म पालिसी तैयार हो गई है और जो सम्बन्धित विभाग हैं, मंत्रालय हैं उन की राय के लिए वह भेजी गई हैं और मै उम्मीद करता हूं कि टूरिज्म पालिसी अगले सत्र में निश्चित रूप से सदन के पटल पर रख दी जायेगी।

अभी तक कुछ ही शहरों में पर्यटन के आकर्षण को विकसित करने का प्रश्न रहा है और टूरिज्म पालिसी तय करते समय निश्चित रूप से इस बात को ध्यान में रखा गया है। हमारी यह कोशिश है कि न केवल कुछ ही राज्य टूरिज्म उद्योग से लाभान्वित हों बल्कि इस देश के सभी प्रदेशों को उन का आनुपातिक लाभ मिल सके। हम ने इस दृष्टि से तय किया है कि आने वाली पंचवर्षीय योजना में हर प्रदेश में कम से कम केन्द्रीय पर्यटन विभाग की ओर से दो स्थान विकसित किये जायेंगे और यह स्थान उन के अतिरिक्त होंगे जो कि राज्य पर्यटन विभाग अथवा राज्य पर्यटन विकास निगम अपने साधनों से योजना आयोग द्वारा उपलब्ध कराये गए साधनों से विकसित करते हैं।

यह भी सही है कि कुछ देश ऐसे हैं जहां पर उन की आबादी के बराबर पर्यटक आते हैं लेकिन अपने देश में यह दो कारणों से सम्भव नहीं है। एक तो जितनी आबादी अपने देश की है उतने विदेशी पर्यटक हम यहां पर नहीं बुला सकते हैं और दूसरे जो विदेशी पर्यटक हम बुलाते हैं उस में हम को यह भी देखना चाहिये कि जो कुछ आज आकर्षण के केन्द्र हैं उन में अधिक संख्या में पर्यटक