

[श्री भानुवत्त झा साजाए]

वे तो हम ने कर्ज लिया। तीसरी योजना में जितने घाउटले की आवश्यकता पड़ी, उस को चाहे हम ने बाहर से कर्ज ले कर पूरा किया और चाहे अपने देश में टैक्स लगा कर पूरा किया, लेकिन पूरा किया ज़रूर। लेकिन फिर भी फाइनेंशल टारगेट्स पूरे हो जाने के बाद भी क्या रिम्युनरेशन देश को मिला? कहां राष्ट्रीय आय बढ़ी? अगर वह बढ़ी तो कलकत्ता, बम्बई और मद्रास में बढ़ी जहां के बोलने वाले मੈम्बर पब्लिक सैक्टर पर तो प्रहार करते हैं लेकिन यह भूल जाते हैं कि इस देश ने प्राइवेट सैक्टर को कितना पैसा टैक्सों के रूप में वसूल कर के दिया। इस का रिम्युनरेशन आज तक उन को नहीं मिला। अगर हम ग्रामीण क्षेत्र की बात करते हैं, ग्रामीण क्षेत्र वाले और उसके साथ साथ कृषि की बात करते हैं तो वे प्राइवेट सैक्टर की बात करते हैं, हम सिंचाई की बात करते हैं तो वे अमी चन्द की बात करते हैं, हम बिजली की बात करते हैं तो वे कहते हैं कि प्राइवेट सैक्टर को इतनी ग्रांट क्यों नहीं मिली। प्रश्न स्पष्ट है। आज जो बात दिल्ली की समझ में आनी चाहिये वह यह है कि इस देश का प्लान गांव में ही बन सकता है। इस को हमें कभी भी भूलना नहीं चाहिये : लेकिन मालूम ऐसा पड़ता है कि ये यह समझते हैं कि :

जलते हैं तो ये ग्राम देश के जला करें

आराम नई दिल्ली अपना कब छोड़ेंगी

या रखेंगे मरघट में भी रेशमी महल

या खा कर ही चपाट सब छोड़ेंगी।

17.09 hrs.

RELAXATION OF GOLD CONTROL

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The Prime Minister is going to make a statement on gold control. This time that is taken, I will give for the Resolution. The hon. Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister and Minister of Atomic Energy (Shrimati Indira Gandhi): Sir, in the last session of Parliament, the question of gold control was raised during a discussion on the Finance Bill. The Finance Minister stated that the entire question of gold control would be reviewed with reference, *inter alia*, to the various points raised by hon. Members in the course of the discussion. To undertake such a review an informal committee was set up with Shri L. P. Singh, Union Home Secretary as Chairman, Shri B. N. Adarkar, Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, and Shri Pitamber Pant, Adviser, Planning Commission, as Members, and Shri Jasjit Singh, Gold Control Administrator, as Member-Secretary. The Informal Committee has submitted an interim report. A copy of this Report is placed on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-7010/66]. The main conclusion reached by the Committee is that there has been no economic or financial development of any significance since Parliament enacted the Gold Control Act, 1965, such as would warrant a change in the basic gold policy.

While Government agree with this conclusion of the Committee, they recognise that a measure of socio-economic reform which is aimed at changing centuries old traditions and customs cannot be expected to become fully effective within a few years. Restrictions aimed at discouraging the consumption of gold in the country have to be introduced gradually, though progressively, and a good deal of public education has necessarily to accompany control measures which are brought into force.

With these basic considerations in mind, Government have decided to take the following action:—

All the restrictions on making gold ornaments of more than 14-carat imposed under the Gold Control Order will be withdrawn. This will give relief to a large number of goldsmiths

and substantially meet the criticism voiced, and suggestions made, in this House and outside. It will also give society a longer time to adjust itself to a change, which would progressively minimise the use of gold for personal purposes.

In order that this relaxation does not lead to an increase in the smuggling of gold, which according to the Informal Committee, is of a sizeable order, it will be necessary to take certain other steps in pursuit of the long-term objectives of our gold policy. Government propose to prohibit the possession of "primary gold" such as gold bars, ingots, slabs, billets, shots, pellets, rods, wires. Persons holding "primary gold" legally, i.e., those who declared gold under the Gold Control Order, as well as those holding gold within the exempted limits, will be afforded reasonable time to dispose of it of either by sale to licensed dealers or by its conversion into ornaments. This will increase the availability of gold in the market for ornament making.

Government propose to bring the refineries under State-control with the objective of eventually bringing them under State ownership.

In order to safeguard that smuggled gold is not freely converted into ornaments, declarations will need to be filed by persons possessing ornaments above a limit to be specified. This limit will be so fixed, however, as to ensure that by far the larger section of the people who possess gold ornaments in reasonable quantities will not be required to make such declarations.

Fiscal policies as well as public education will be directed towards weaning people away from the gold habit which costs us large amounts of foreign exchange at a time when we are required to mobilise all available resources to finance our development.

Government propose to give effect to these modifications as early as possible after providing for the necessary legal and administrative arrangements.

Shri Ranga (Chittoor): I want to make one observation. I do not wish now to go into the merits of the statement. In the light of the statement that Government has made, I suggest that Government take immediate steps to see that all those goldsmiths who have been arrested and kept in jail over the whole of India, in different places, are released immediately. (Interruptions).

Shri Raghunath Singh (Varanasi): We can discuss it tomorrow.

Shri Ranga: Let them gain time, so that they can give instructions.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath (Hoshangabad): On a point or order....

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty (Barrackpore): This is a case in which there has been.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri (Berhampur): We are not discussing now. The Prime Minister had graciously informed us the other day when we made a request to her that she would sympathetically consider the cases of the goldsmiths who had been agitating. My information is that in the various States and also in Delhi, ten people who are on hunger strike are still in jail. It would be very gracious if these people are released. (Interruptions).

Shri Tyagi (Dehradun): We have got it in mind. They will be released. (Interruptions).

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order. Why are the members excited over this?

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: On a point or Order. In the normal or ordinary course, the statement, welcome as it is, made by the Prime Minister would have been blocked under rule 343. But I did not raise that point and I did not raise that objection under rule 343 because it is an

[Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath]

important matter. But it is listed for discussion tomorrow at four o'clock, and no Member shall anticipate the discussion on any motion etc. etc. and, therefore, this statement would have been blocked. But I did not deliberately raise it because it is an important issue affecting millions of people outside. We expected that when she chose to make the statement, the statement would go farther than this. My hon. friend Shri Ranga has already raised this important issue, and we thought that she would have had g'dace to conclude her statement with a reference to the release of all the goldsmiths who have been arrested in the course of their agitation, and unlawfully detained.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There is no point of order. That statement will help the discussion tomorrow.

Shri Tyagi: The State Governments have to be consulted. So, how can a decision be taken here by the Central Government? (Interruptions).

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: These interruptions will not be recorded. (Interruptions).*

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Shri Pandey.

Shri R. S. Pandey (Guna): I support the sentiments expressed by my hon. friends that all those goldsmiths who have been arrested should be released. I have got every sympathy for those who have been arrested, and I would appeal to Government that they should accept the suggestion by my hon. friends opposite.

Shri Tyagi: Without taking the State Governments into consultation, I am afraid that it would be irregular for the Central Government to make any such announcement.

Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri: Let Shri Tyagi read the Constitution again. Let him not be pettifogging and mean-minded at this stage when the Prime Minister is inclined to make a statement.

*Not recorded.

श्री मधु लिये (मुंजर): मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि गिरफ्तार किये गए स्वर्णकारों को तो छोड़ ही देना चाहिए, लेकिन एक और बात है कि परसों जिन लोगों को जेल में रखा गया, उन के साथ जेल-अधिकारियों ने और सिपाहियों ने बड़ा बुरा व्यवहार किया है। एक आदमी, जसवन्त सिंह को पीटा दिया गया है। (व्यवधान) माननीय सदस्यों को बुरा क्यों लग रहा है। क्या कैदियों के साथ ऐसा व्यवहार करना चाहिए ?

Shri Bagnath Singh: How can these things be discussed at this stage?

Shrimati Indira Gandhi: We had said that we would seriously consider releasing the goldsmiths and our attitude is the same. But I would appeal to them now to give up their hunger-strike. That was the main thing.

श्री श्रींकार लाल बेस्वा (कोटा): उन को पीटा न जाये। उन को जेल में पीटा गया है।

Shri Nambiar (Tiruchirapalli): Their release will solve all the problems.

17.18 hrs.

RESOLUTION RE: REORIENTATION
OF PLANS—contd.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The House will now take up further consideration of the resolution moved by Shri Harish Chandra Mathur.

Shri Ranga (Chittoor): I have only a very few observations to make on this resolution.

श्री शिव नारायण: उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, इस रेजोल्यूशन पर मुझे भी बूलाइये। एक प्राक्सिस के चार सदस्यों और दूसरे प्राक्सिस के तीन सदस्यों को मौका दे दिया गया है। मैं प्रस्ताव करता हूँ कि इस रेजोल्यूशन के लिए एक घंटा समय और बढ़ा दिया जाये।