

**Shri K. C. Pant:**

**Shri Hem Raj:**

Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken certain concrete measures recently to hold the price-line of essential commodities in the country; and

(b) if so, the measures adopted in this regard and the result thereof?

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Manubhai Shah):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT-6560/66*].

#### **Prices of Essential Commodities in Delhi**

\*124. **Shri P. C. Borooah:** Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether a survey of the price structure in Delhi and New Delhi has been recently conducted by the Delhi Administration, based on the study of the prices of 35 essential commodities;

(b) if so, the result thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to stabilise the prices?

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Manubhai Shah):** (a) The Delhi Administration has been studying the retail prices of 18 essential commodities.

(b) and (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT-6561/66*].

**Shri Hem Barua:** In view of the fact that the prices of essential commodities are steadily rising in this country and the Government have not succeeded in putting a check on the rise in prices, may I know whether they have taken any drastic measures against the price rise?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** I have given a series of steps in these two state-

ments and if the hon. Member peruses them he will not fail to appreciate that many steps have been taken. However, I agree with him that the steps may not have been wholly adequate to meet the needs of the situation. Firstly, we have started a control room and appointed a commissioner of civil supplies. If I may circulate the report of the commissioner's working in the last three weeks, he has visited many States and many areas to see if essential goods reach the consumers at reasonable prices. Here we are mostly concerned with the Delhi Administration because it is directly under the Centre. But I am giving a review for the whole country also; I am not by passing any of your questions. What I am saying is that the question relating to Delhi Administration has been amplified here, likewise, control rooms are being established by the State governments. We have also made arrangements with the big manufacturers and mills and industries to rush goods where there are pockets of scarcity. In some cases there are voluntary price arrangements between the industry and the trade; these arrangements have also begun. There are various types of consumer co-operatives, fair-price shops, departmental stores, etc., which we are concerned with. All these in due course would be more or less bringing out satisfactory results.

**Shri Hem Barua:** Is it not a fact that the prices of essential commodities in this country have registered a further spiralling-up because of the Government's decision to devalue the rupee, and the Government has also contributed to this price rise by themselves agreeing to a 10 per cent rise in advertisement rates?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** Price rise which goes by the merits of the situation should not be clubbed with a general phenomenon. There was inflation in this country for the last many years because of the developments in a growing economy, and those inflationary conditions still continue.

Therefore, some price rise is inevitable, and here, as far as I could follow the hon. Member's point some spiralling price anywhere is unjustified. We are trying to curb and check it, and so many errors have taken place in respect of the retail trade.

**Shri Hem Barua:** All price rise is unjustified. My question was, whether the prices in this country have registered a further rise due to the Government decision to devalue the rupee and whether the Government have themselves contributed to this price rise by agreeing to a 10 per cent rise in advertisement rates.

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** I have actually denied that there is any relation between the 10 per cent advertisement rise and the general price structure. There is the statement here which I have placed before the House in answer to question No. 124, which gives a detailed statistical evaluation of the price rise that has been registered in the Delhi Administration and which is the picture generally for the whole country. If the hon. Member refers to it, he can ask me, pointing out which is the particular commodity or commodities with which he is expressing his disagreement.

**Shri P. C. Borooah:** As a measure of holding the price line, raids have been going on in Delhi to bring the grain-hoarders to book. But in today's papers, I read that these measures have been brought to a halt. May I know what is the reason for stopping these raids?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** As far as the hoarders at the wholesale level are concerned, there have been so many anti-hoarding measures not only today, but even in the past. What we are really concerned with here is, whether the consumer prices have greatly risen. I would invite the attention of the hon. Members to those essential commodities, about 28, plus another 47, which we have listed.

If any hon. Member can point out to me a particular item in which, in his personal experience or in the experience of others elsewhere, there is a steep rise in price, I will check it up and try to rectify.

**Shri P. C. Borooah:** It has been reported that the raids have been stopped now.

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** They have not been stopped. But we cannot be indiscriminately doing it. It cannot be an indiscriminate raiding. But the raids have not been stopped.

**Shri Surendranath Dwivedy:** Is the Minister in a position to deny that even after the steps that have been enumerated have been taken, there has been a 15 to 30 per cent increase in the prices of essential commodities during this period after devaluation?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** I would not like to subscribe to that view. Because from the statistics and the data available to me from the Control Room . . . . (Interruption).

**Some hon. Members:** No, no.

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** I am in the hands of the House. (Interruption).

**Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:** What is the actual fact?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** The facts are on record. If there is any contradiction, I am not going to say about it without further enquiry. I would request the co-operation of the House and the Members to point out to me the commodities in which, in their experience or in the experience of others, there has been any steep rise in price.

**Shri M. L. Dwivedi:** Does the Minister keep himself in touch with the prices? He gives us the impression that in a matter like this he is not keeping himself abreast about the price of commodities.

**Shri Surendranath Dwivedy:** I want to know whether they have any information. He says that Members

should point out to him, I want to know whether the Government have got information in this matter.

**Mr. Speaker:** He has given that information in the statement.

**Shri Surendranath Dwivedy:** I beg your indulgence. If you see the question itself, it was asked, what steps have been taken, and the results thereof. (Interruption).

The question itself refers to not only the steps taken, but the results thereof. In the long statement, they have not mentioned the results achieved after taking steps.

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** The detailed statement I have placed contains prices before devaluation i.e. on 30th May, 66 and after devaluation on 15th July and 22nd July, so that hon. Members will know that this is the result of the steps taken by the Government which are enumerated in the other statement.

**Mr. Speaker:** What is contained in the statement, he need not repeat.

**Shrimati Savitri Nigam:** What steps has the Minister taken to see that the prices do not go up in the rural areas? May I know whether he is aware or not that the prices in rural areas of two or three things like cement, foodgrains and edible oils and textiles, have gone up by 10 to 15 per cent?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** Last month, we had a meeting of the Civil Supplies Commissioners of all States. In each district, the Collector has been empowered under the Essential Commodities Ordinance and Act to notify to the Central Commissioner here any scarcity. I can assure the House, whether it is cement, cloth or oil, if we receive any information from them, we immediately rush supplies. In another report that I have supplied we have shown how much products have been moved.

**श्री हुकम चन्द कल्लुशाय :** आवश्यक चीजों के जो दाम हैं वे दाम रेडियो से हर

रोज प्रसारित किये जाते हैं लेकिन बाजार में जब हम उस भाव पर किसी चीज को लेने के लिए जाते हैं तो हमें जवाब मिलता है कि इस भाव पर आपको वहीं से चीज मिल सकती है, हमारे पास से नहीं मिल सकती है और आप वहीं जाकर लीजिये। मतलब यह है कि उस भाव पर बाजार में वह वस्तु नहीं मिलती है। क्या सरकार को यह भी मालूम है कि तेल का भाव सवा पांच रुपये किलो हो गया है? ये सब जो दाम बढ़ रहे हैं इनको बढ़ने से रोकने के लिये सरकार ने कौन से विशेष कदम उठाये हैं? सरकार ने जो कठोर कार्रवाई करने की घोषणा की है उसके फलस्वरूप कितने लोग पकड़े गये हैं और कितनों को सजा हुई है?

**श्री मनुभाई शाह :** रेडियो से जो दाम प्रसारित होते हैं उसके बारे में हमारे पास, रेडियो डिपार्टमेंट के पास अस्सी से सौ चिट्ठियां औसतन रोज आती हैं जिनमें ऐप्रिसिएशन होता है और कहा गया होता है कि इस ब्राडकास्ट की वजह से सामान्य नागरिक को इस मुल्क के अन्दर यह पता चल जाता है कि सही दाम क्या हैं और उन सही दामों पर उन्हें चीजें मिल भी रही हैं। ऐसे भी केसिस हैं जिनमें यह कहा गया है कि हमें उस दाम से नहीं मिलती हैं। ये जो इस तरह के केसेस होते हैं इनमें हम कार्रवाई करते हैं। रेड करके लोगों को पकड़ते भी हैं और जहां जिस चीज की कमी होती है उस चीज को हम वहां रखा करते हैं। यह सब इन्तजाम किया गया है ताकि ठीक दाम पर लोगों को चीजें मिल सकें, उनका बटवारा ठीक ढंग से हो सके। इसमें कोआप्रेसन का सवाल है। अकेली सरकार कुछ नहीं कर सकती है। मैं मेम्बरों से अपील करता हूं कि वे कोआप्रेसन दें। मैं कोई डिफेंस नहीं ले रहा हूं। लेकिन हम चाहते हैं कि सहयोग होकर एक सदन के मेम्बर का और पब्लिक का भी। जहां कहीं भी कोई कठिनाई हो, कोई तकलीफ हो उसको वे हमें बतायें और हम उसको दूर करने की कोशिश करेंगे।

श्री मधु लिमये : आप अपनी जिम्मेदारी से भागना चाहते हैं ।

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : मैंने पूछा था कि कितने केस पकड़े हैं और कितनों को सजा हुई है ।

श्री मनुभाई शाह : ऐसा तो नहीं हो सकता है कि आज पकड़ें और कल सजा हो जाए । यह कैसे हो सकता है । कुछ देर तो लगती है ।

श्री मधु लिमये : छुटभइयों को तो आप पकड़ रहे हैं और बड़ों को छोड़ रहे हैं ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : इस तरह से बोले जायेंगे तो कुछ भी नहीं लिखा जाएगा ।

श्री बागड़ी : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरा एक व्यवस्था का प्रश्न है ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आप चलने दीजिये ।

श्री बागड़ी : अध्यक्ष महोदय, रूल 376 के तहत मेरा एक व्यवस्था का प्रश्न है । हम लोग सवाल का नोटिस देते हैं, लेकिन आप हमको मौका नहीं देते हैं । मेरे बारे में खास तौर से इस तरह का व्यवहार किया जाता है । आखिर मेम्बरों को बुलाने के बारे में आप क्या तरीका अख्तियार करते हैं ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : माननीय सदस्य अभी आए हैं और उन्होंने शिकायत करनी शुरू कर दी है । इस से पहले सवाल में मैंने माननीय सदस्य को बुलाना चाहा, लेकिन वह मौजूद नहीं थे ।

श्री बागड़ी : इस सवाल के वक्त तो मैं मौजूद हूँ । जब तक आपकी निगाह हम पर न पड़े, तब तक हमको मौका न मिले, तो फिर हमें सवाल देने का क्या फायदा है ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : अगर किसी सवाल के बारे में इतने नाम होंगे, तो मैं सबको मौका नहीं दे सकता हूँ ।

**Shrimati Ramdulari Sinha:** May I know to what extent the Super Market has been able to influence the existing prices of different essential commodities, to what extent the consumer goods are likely to be distributed through this channel and what is the administrative set-up of such Super Market organisation?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** I am glad that the hon. lady Member has raised this question. I would like to draw the attention of the House to the first store under the Super Bazar Scheme which has been opened here. It had a very healthy effect on the prices of consumer goods. I would invite hon. Members to go there and see for themselves and tell me whether my statement is correct or not.

श्री श्रींकार लाल बेरवा : अध्यक्ष महोदय, जनता भूखों मर रही है और मंत्री जी हंस रहे हैं । मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि सरकार ने अभी जो भाव निश्चित किये हैं, वे कब तक रहेंगे । इन भावों में और घटा-बढ़ी करने की कब तक संभावना है ?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** Sir, it is a loaded question. Already he assumes the prices to be higher than what I have said in the statement. We are keeping a daily watch. What is wanted is to point out any defect in the statement and whether the prices are like that or not.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : प्रश्न यह है कि क्या मूल्य और बढ़ेंगे तो नहीं ।

श्री श्रींकार लाल बेरवा : ये भाव कब तक रहने की संभावना है ?

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : क्या ये भाव इससे आगे तो नहीं बढ़ेंगे ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : अगर माननीय इसी तरह सवाल करना जारी रखेंगे, तो कार्यवाही कैसे चल सकती है ?

He wants to know whether there is a proposal to raise the prices further by the Government.

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** No, not at all.

**श्री जगदेव सिंह सिद्धान्ती :** अध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरा नाम भी है। मुझे भी अवसर दिया जाये।

**अध्यक्ष महोदय :** अगर किसी सवाल के लिये पचास नाम हों, तो मैं सबको एक साथ कैसे बुला सकता हूँ ?

**श्री बागड़ी :** आप मेम्बरों को नम्बरवार बुलाइये।

**अध्यक्ष महोदय :** अगर मुझे यह हिदायत दे दी जाये कि मैं सीरियली बुलाऊँ, तो मुझे कोई ऐतराज नहीं है।

**श्री मधु लिमये :** अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं लिखित बयान के बारे में एक स्पष्टीकरण चाहता हूँ।

**अध्यक्ष महोदय :** श्री राम सेवक यादव।

**श्री रामसेवक यादव :** मैं आपके द्वारा मंत्री महोदय से यह निवेदन करूँगा कि देहातों और शहरों में दामों के बारे में जो वस्तुस्थिति है, वह कुछ और है और यहाँ जो उत्तर दिये जाते हैं, वे बिल्कुल भिन्न हैं। ऐसी स्थिति में प्रश्नों का कोई मतलब नहीं रह जाता है। मैं मंत्री महोदय से यह जानना चाहूँगा कि क्या वह स्वयं देहातों में जाकर दामों की वस्तुस्थिति के बारे में जानकारी प्राप्त करेंगे या नौकरशाही द्वारा दी गई झूठी खबरों और गलत सूचनाओं को ही आधार बनाए रखेंगे ?

**श्री मनुभाई शाह :** माननीय सदस्य का अभिप्राय कुछ और हो सकता है, लेकिन हकीकत यह है कि हम देहात तक पहुंचे हैं, जहाँ से यहाँ इन्फ्लेशन आती है। हर एक स्टेट में कंट्रोल रूम बनें हुए हैं, जहाँ इस प्रकार की सब इन्फ्लेशन इकट्ठी होती है। अगर कोई मेम्बर साहब यह महसूस करते हैं कि हम ने जो प्राइस बताई है, वह ठीक नहीं है, तो वह हमारा ध्यान दिला सकते हैं।

**श्री रामसेवक यादव :** दाम इस से ज्यादा हैं।

**अध्यक्ष महोदय :** इस में मैं क्या कर सकता हूँ ?

**श्री बीनेन भट्टाचार्य :** ये दिल्ली के रेट हैं। (Interruptions).

**श्री मधु लिमये :** यही तो मैं पूछना चाहता था। (Interruptions).

**अध्यक्ष महोदय :** मेम्बर साहबान को खुद सोचना चाहिए कि अगर बीस माननीय सदस्य खड़े होते हैं, तो मैं उन में से सिर्फ एक को ही बुला सकता हूँ। लेकिन अगर बाकी के उन्नीस माननीय सदस्य भी बोलना शुरू कर दें, तो मैं कार्यवाही को कैसे रेगुलैट कर सकता हूँ ? अगर माननीय सदस्य चाहते हैं, तो मैं सवाल देने वाले मेम्बरों में से सीरियली बुला सकता हूँ।

**श्री शिव नारायण :** अध्यक्ष महोदय, अगर किसी सवाल के बारे में 75 नाम हैं, तो और किसी सदस्य को मौका नहीं मिल पाता है। मेरा सुझाव है कि आप सिर्फ पहले नाम को बुलाइये और फिर हाउस में सब माननीय सदस्यों को मौका दीजिए।

**श्री सहोदराबाई राय :** अध्यक्ष महोदय, मुझे भी मौका मिलना चाहिए।

**अध्यक्ष महोदय :** श्री कामत।

**Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:** I rise on a point of order. Sir, you will be pleased to recall that my hon. colleague, Shri Dwivedy, put a question enquiring about the rise in prices throughout the country and the Minister in a facile manner tried to evade a complete answer to the question by saying that a statement is laid on the Table of the House. The statement relates only to Delhi, while the question was about the whole country, because people are suffering over the whole country. Therefore, I want to know what the position is,

and whether it is a fact that in the wake of devaluation, when the Prime Minister was beguiling the people with her diversionary slogan of swadeshi, the prices of swadeshi fruits and swadeshi vegetables have shot up and even the Swadeshi Asoka Hotel has raised its rates and, if so, what measures are being taken by the Government against the Swadeshi hoarders, blackmarketeers and profiteers all over the country.

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** I hope the hon. Member will allow me to have my say so that I can explain the whole thing. If he refers to Question No. 122—because there is confusion between the questions and that is why the House is being misled—it refers to the various measures taken by the Government after devaluation to control the prices and to see that the consumers get commodities at fair prices. I enumerated . . .

**Shri Surendranath Dwivedi:** No.

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** Delhi is quite separate.

**Shri Surendranath Dwivedy:** No, in that very question the last para asks "if so, the measures adopted in this regard and the result thereof".

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** The statistical results are not required. What I have said is in a qualitative manner. I cannot put 10,000 commodities here. I have enumerated in the detailed statement that by and large in every part of this country, every State including rural areas, the prices have not risen unreasonably anywhere. . . . (Interruptions).

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order. What does the House want now?

**Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:** A discussion.

**Some hon. Members:** Yes, a discussion.

**Mr. Speaker:** Does the Minister agree to that?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** I am prepared for a discussion.

**Mr. Speaker:** Let a notice be given. I will allow a discussion on that.

**Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:** The discussion on this will be held in the no-confidence motion itself. Why should there be a separate discussion?

**Mr. Speaker:** What could I do if they want a separate discussion? Now, next question. Shri Sezhiyan.

### Salem Steel Plant

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\*123. Shri Sezhiyan:

**Shri Nambiar:**

**Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey:**

**Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia:**

**Shri Kishen Pattnayak:**

**Shri Bagri:**

**Shri Ram Sewak Yadav:**

**Shri Madhu Limaye:**

**Dr. P. Srinivasan:**

**Shri Kajrolkar:**

**Shri Kapur Singh:**

**Shri Buta Singh:**

**Shri Ramachandra Ujaka:**

**Shri Dhuleshwar Meena:**

**Shri Muthiah:**

Will the Minister of Iron and Steel be pleased to state:

(a) whether reports on the establishment of a steel plant based on the Neyveli lignite and Salem iron ore have been submitted by the Japanese experts and Messrs. Dastur and Co. and if so, whether any decision has been taken thereon;

(b) whether the Salem steel plant will be included in the Fourth Five Year Plan; and

(c) if so, the provisions made in the Plan allocations therefor?

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Iron and Steel (Shri P. C. Sethi):** (a) to (c). Both the Japanese Consulting Institute and Messrs. M. N. Dastur and Co. Private Ltd. have submitted their reports on the