

12.15 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Fifty third Report

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY
AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SHEILA
DIKSHIT) : I beg to move :

“That this House do agree with the
Fifty-third Report of the Business
Advisory Committee presented to the
House on the 21st April, 1988.”

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

“That this House do agree with
the Fifty-third Report of the Business
Advisory Committee presented to the
House on 21st April, 1988”

The motion was adopted

(Interruptions)

[English]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE
(Rajapur) : You are [not listening to us
even on procedural matters. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : After the Report.

*At this stage Prof. Madhu Dandavate
and some other Hon. Members left the
House*

MR. SPEAKER : Now, matters under
Rule 377 Shri Yashwantrao Gadakh
Patil.

SHRI YASHWANTRAO GADAKH
PATIL (Ahmednagar) : Sir, I want to
raise the following urgent matter under
Rule 377.

SHRI N.V.N SOMU (Madras North) :
Sir, I am on another important matter.

MR. SPEAKER : Now it is not allow-
ed. Nothing doing.

(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : I have called Mr.
Patil. The Hon. Member is on his legs.

(Interruptions)**

SHRI N.V.N. SOMU : We are walking
out.

*At this stage Shri N.V.N. Somu and
other Hon. Members left the House*

12.16 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[English]

(i) Need to declare the Ahmednagar Fort as
a National Monument

SHRI YASHWANTRAO GADAKH
PATIL (Ahmednagar) : Ahmednagar Fort
is of historical importance in our freedom
struggle. During the period 1942 to 1945
our great national leaders including Pandit
Jawaharlal Nehru, Maulana Abul Kalam
Azad, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Acharya
Narendra Deo, Barrister Asaf Ali, Sardar
Vallabh Patel, Pt. Govind Ballabh Pant,
Acharya Kripalani, Pattabhi Sitaramayya,
P.C Ghosh, Shankarrao Deo, Harekrishna
Mehtab were imprisoned in this fort.
Recently the Defence authorities have chan-
ged the form of the barracks in which the
above mentioned leaders were kept in
imprisonment. Only the outer original
form of walls is kept intact. The roof of
the barracks has been demolished and
concrete slabs have been put on the old
walls. Only the name plates of the concer-
ned national leaders have been kept in each
room of the renovated barracks and the
rooms are being used as the offices of the
Defence Department.

The room in which Pandit Jawaharlal
Nehru was imprisoned has been completely
changed and it has been converted into a
big hall in which all the photos of National
Leaders who were imprisoned there are
kept. This creates the impression as if

all these leaders were imprisoned in one room only.

The people of Ahmednagar district have expressed great displeasure in this regard, I reiterate the suggestion made by me earlier that the Ahmednagar Fort may be declared as a 'National Monument'. It may also be developed as tourist centre.

[*Translation*]

- (ii) Need to provide more financial assistance to the Government of Rajasthan to meet the situation caused by drought in the State

SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL (Kota) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Central Government had given 5 lakh metric tonnes of wheat for wage payments last year free as a special assistance to combat drought situation in Rajasthan. But this year it has not given free wheat. That is why the State Government is not being able to provide employment to even one person in every family. 50 lakh families have been affected by the drought. The Rajasthan Government is in a position to provide employment only to 10 lakh people, whereas the Gujarat Government is providing employment to 2 persons in each family. The Centre has fixed the daily wages of a worker at Rs. 7 while the State Government is paying Rs. 10.50. The Central Government is not giving assistance for expenditure on other items. The State Government has to provide employment to the families alternatively due to limited employment potential available in the State. Therefore, one family gets employment only for 15 days in a month. According to the recommendations of the Eighth Finance Commission it is the duty of the Central Government to provide entire expenditure on commodities. The Centre has sizably cut down the assistance proposed by the Central study group for the first time. The supply of wheat to the fair price shops is inadequate. Drought affected people are getting 5 kgs wheat per person whereas it should be 10 kgs. per individual. The situation may aggravate in the coming months of April, May and June. Therefore, more financial assistance should be urgently provided for this period by the Central Government.

[*English*]

- (iii) Need to take steps to check prices of drugs

SHRI MANVENDRA SINGH (Mathura) : Pricing policy announced by the Government recently and exemption which has been granted from price control to SSI units of category II formulations recently has resulted in steep increases in prices varying from 40% to 200% causing misery to the poor. There are increased sales of spurious and substandard drugs induced by the Pricing Policy. There is a hue and cry all around. For instance one injection of Mitomycin (anti-cancer) which was earlier sold for Rs. 49 is now sold at Rs. 230. One bottle of Phosfomin which was earlier available for Rs. 14.40 is now sold for Rs. 26. One bottle of Dilosyn (cough syrup) is sold for Rs. 9.53 while earlier it was sold at Rs. 5.03 and so on. Government have also announced increases in prices merely by adjusting mark up and without verifying the purchase prices of raw materials, dispensing with submission of applications by the producers and following the provisions of paragraph 6 of DPCO, 1987. There appears to be no justification for such sharp increase.

The drug companies have been given free hand under the Pricing Policy to exploit poor consumers.

I, therefore, request the Government to take necessary steps to check prices of drugs to safeguard the interests of consumers.

12.20 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[*Translation*]

- (iv) Need to provide adequate facilities and concessions to spastics

*SHRI RANJIT SINGH GAEKWAD (Baroda) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to raise through you, a matter of urgent public importance under Rule 377 in the House.

*Translation of the matter originally raised in Gujarati.