

[Sh. Girdhari Lal Vyas]

where everything may run smoothly. I feel that in order to run the system properly, more fair price shops should be opened on cooperative basis. A system should be evolved all over the country so that essential commodities could be made available to all at reasonable rates. It will be a service to the nation. You are rendering your good service to the nation and I hope that you will continue to do so by ensuring further improvements in the system. This will help crores of people in the country benefit from this system and strengthen their economic conditions. I hope that you will definitely evolve a system like this.

With these words I conclude.

[English]

17.46 hrs.

CONTEMPT OF THE HOUSE

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: As the House is aware, at about 14.40 hours today, a visitor calling himself Deve Singh Rawat, son of Shri Vijay Singh Rawat, shouted slogan from the Visitor's Gallery. The Director, Security, took him into custody immediately and interrogated him. The visitor has made a statement but has not expressed regret for his action.

I bring it to the notice of the House for such action as the House may deem fit.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. NAMGYAL): I beg to move:

"This House resolves that the person calling himself Dev Singh Rawat, son of Shri Vijay Singh Rawat, who shouted

slogan from the Visitors' Gallery at about 14.40 hours today and whom the Director, Security, took into custody immediately has committed a grave offence and is guilty of the contempt of this House.

This House further resolves that he be kept in the custody of the Director, Security, till the rising of the House today and thereafter released with a stern warning."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"This House resolves that the person calling himself Dev Singh Rawat, son of Shri Vijay Singh Rawat, who shouted slogan from the Visitors' Gallery at about 14.40 hours today and whom the Director, Security, took into custody immediately has committed a grave offence and is guilty of the contempt of this House.

This House further resolves that he be kept in the custody of the director, Security, till the rising of the House today and thereafter released with a stern warning."

The motion was adopted

17.48 hrs.

EXTENSION OF TIME OF THE SITTING

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What about extending the time of the House?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. NAMGYAL): We may extend the time of the House beyond 6.00 P.M.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Before taking up this Private Members Bill, I informed

the House that we would adjourn at 6 O' Clock. Now the Minister proposes that the House be extended beyond 6 O' Clock in order to resume the discussion on the Demands for Grants relating to the Ministry of External Affairs. If the House agrees, we may extend the time up to 07 O' Clock.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: All right. After 6 O' Clock, we shall take up Demands for Grants relating to the Ministry of External Affairs.

17.49 hrs.

FAIR PRICE SHOPS (REGULATION)
BILL *Contd.*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. P.J. Kurien to speak.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Idukki): Sir, I rise to support the Bill put forward by Shri Basavaraju. I congratulate him for bringing such an important Bill.

As you are aware, the Central Government is supplying foodgrains to the State Governments and it is the full responsibility of the State Government to distribute it through the public distribution system.

In our country there are thousands of retail shops where essential commodities are sold to the poor and ordinary people. They are supposed to stick to certain norms. They are supposed to sell these articles at fair price as the name itself indicates. They are supposed to display on board the price of the commodity that they are selling. But unfortunately the price of whatever they are selling are not displayed in the ration shops.

Therefore on the question of prices, the retailer or the shop owner can easily cheat

the poor illiterate people in the villages. Secondly, the poor people are cheated in terms of the quantity that they purchase also. In most of the shops what has been sold as a particular quantity mentioned will actually be less than what is mentioned by the shop owner. The poor villagers will not be able to recheck it. Therefore, in terms of quantity, quality and the price, in all these three ways the customer, the buyer is cheated.

I don't say, this cheating is being done with the collusion of the State Governments. I don't say that. But the complacency of the State Government is there. The officials of the State Government are colluding with the shop owners—not only retail shop owners, but wholesale shop owners also.

I here is a kind of vicious circle by which these atrocities are perpetrated on the poor people, on the poor villagers and the illiterate people who are buying from these fair price shops. The fact is that the State Government does not take serious note of this kind of malpractice going on under their nose. Some people say that those in authority or some of the State Governments are in collusion with the whole-sale distributors of essential commodities.

I have heard such complaints in the State of Kerala. When whole-sale shops are distributed by the State Government, especially by the present State Government in Kerala, they give the whole-sale shops to certain persons on a consideration. Because of that consideration, the Government officials are not able to touch that wholesaler. That wholesaler will be in collusion with the retailers and it works as a network and nobody touches anybody and from the retailer to the wholesaler both can resort to these malpractices and the political leadership will be supporting those who are perpetrating them. This is happening at least in Kerala and I am sure in some other States also.

AN HON. MEMBER: Throughout the country.