

to bring in a Bill on unanimous decision but despite our efforts...*(Interruptions)*
You don't listen to me but speak whatever you like. It has been our endeavour to reach a consensus and it always takes time. Consensus can't be reached at in a hurry.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: It is again Transplant. What is happening here?

[English]

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA:
Are we discussing the procedural matter on Human Transplantation Bill? I do not know. Which Bill are we discussing, Sir?

MR. SPEAKER: Human Transplantation Bill.

(Interruptions)

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA:
That is your outlook, what you want to do that. What is the hurry about it?
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: After we have gone to that Bill!

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA:
The Government wants to pass it in a hurry without having listened to my point he has prepared himself for the reply. This proves that the Government is in a hurry. They want to do everything in a whimsical manner.

[English]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Sir, he is in tension, ask him to relax with a cup of coffee.

16.00 hrs.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, Shri Nitish Kumar also should be invited for a cup of coffee.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: But it should be without sugar.

16.0 1/2 hrs.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

Sugar Situation

[Translation]

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that:

"The House may be adjourned,"

Such an adjournment motion is only moved when there is an emergency or a crisis in the country. The sugar situation in the country is responsible for this crisis. There is a great rise in the price of sugar and most of the people cannot afford to buy it at such an exorbitant price. This is a marriage season which is called the 'Lagan' period in the rural areas. Sugar is most required in this season by the poor and the rich alike. Besides, it is an important commodity for every household. Today, sugar is being sold at Rs. 18 to 20 per kilo and the Government is watching it as a silent spectator. The Government will have to answer for this, for the reasons behind it? The Government did nothing in this regard and the poor had

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to suffer on this account. You must make clarifications in this regard. Through you, I also want to raise some points.

The new economic policy was presented in this House. The Government had given some clarifications and it was also opposed at that time. While presenting the policy, the Government had submitted that this policy, besides strengthening the economic condition would also check the price rise. Now you can judge yourself, who was right the Government or the persons who were opposing it. Today prices of all commodities are soaring to new heights. The Government measures have been totally ineffective in checking the price rise. I would like to ask the Food Minister, was he not aware of it earlier? It was clear in 1993 that in the coming month there would be acute shortage of sugar. In the beginning of 1994, the prices of sugar started soaring, the Government remained inactive. The businessmen availed the opportunity and as a result thereof the price of sugar have risen to Rs. 20 per kilogram.

Thereafter, the Prime Minister called a meeting on 18th April in which STC and MMTC were ordered to immediately import sugar. Had an action in this regard been taken immediately after the Prime Minister's meeting then the Government would have controlled it and the people could have saved from such an embarrassment. When there was a steep rise in the prices of sugar, the STC officers also took incentive, but somehow Shri Kalpnathji dissuaded them. It is in the air in rural areas that elections are round the corner, that is why there is a rise in the price of sugar and the Government has earned crores of rupees. Earlier, I used to wonder, how one can become

a millionaire over night but after going through this experience, now I have to come to know that it is quite possible. But I am quite sure about one thing in this regard that some bungling has taken place otherwise this issue would not have been raised in the House. After the meeting of the Prime Minister the Ministry of Commerce did not pay any attention to it for the next 2 months and four days i.e. from 9th April to 13 May the Ministry kept quiet. It ruined the country. The Cabinet Secretary intervened and asked FCI to go for import of sugar but Ministry of Commerce later on stopped it. It proves that the Government was well aware about the soaring prices of sugar and it is the Government, which is responsible for this crisis. The Government should at least feel ashamed that they themselves are responsible for the suffering of the people. Thirdly, the Government are aware about the statewise production of sugar and that now it has been declining. Had the Government imported sugar in time then the businessmen could not have looted the people by increasing the price of sugar. You have data with you, the sugar Mills in Bihar were on the top but today they are lying sick. A number of other Mills are also facing closure and the sugar production is declining. There is a reason behind such a situation that the farmers, who sell their sugarcane to the Mills do not get payment on time. They were facing problems and they reduced the production of sugarcane. The Government also knows about this fact that due to the production of jaggery and khandsari the sugar production was also affected. In such a situation, the Government should have accepted in the House that they have committed a mistake. Instead the Government started giving vague arguments and some of them are sufficient to confuse you. I want to ask, what are the duties of the Government? The Government is meant

to provide facilities and safety to the people not to loot them. This Government is not paying any attention towards providing facilities to the common people. I therefore, want to submit that this Government has no right to remain in power. This is not a small issue, it is an important issue. Either you or the Government can solve this issue but the Government has not thought about its result. I want to submit that we have moved this motion for Adjournment to bring the drawbacks of the Government to the light. How this Government is working in a shameless manner. The Government on the other hand claims that it is the most efficient Government and only they can run this nation. Now you can decide yourself whether or not this Government is able to run this nation. With this I conclude.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the House do now adjourn."

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the discussion initiated by my hon. friend on the *Adjournment Motion* does not pertain to one Ministry only. Delay in import of sugar has resulted in skyrocketing of sugar prices. This issue does not pertain to the Ministry of Food alone, but is related to the Ministry of Commerce too. Though the Prime Minister's Secretariat and the Cabinet Secretary were also actively involved in the matter, yet I am seeing that the hon. Minister of Food is the only Minister, present in the House. This issue is very important and has wider ramifications on the life of commonman. Therefore, the Government should come out with clarifications. Which can be given by the hon. Prime Minister

alone as allegations have been levelled against the hon. Minister of Food.

Sir, when the role of the Cabinet Secretary is discussed, who will reply? I would like to know who will reply on the points relating to directions issued or decisions taken by the Prime Minister's Secretariat from time to time? Replies cannot be given by Shri Kalp Nath Rai. Therefore, I think that the Hon. Prime Minister should be present in the House if justice is to be done to the *Adjournment Motion*, as I stated earlier that the issue does not pertain to one Ministry alone. Though it had been estimated that due to anticipated decline in the production of sugarcane the production of sugar will also be less, yet no proper estimation was done to increase availability of sugar in the open market or through the Public Distribution System? From the beginning, it was known that sugarcane crop will not be good, yet no timely steps were taken. Facts and figures are not only quite astonishing but are also likely to create apprehensions in the mind. Unfortunately, the atmosphere prevailing in the country is such that oversees fishy in everything. Therefore, there is the need for making everything transparent. There is need to present all the facts before the House. However, this is not being done.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know when was the action taken on the note sent on 24th January by the hon. Minister of Food to the Cabinet, wherein it was mentioned that there was likelihood of shortage of 10 lakh tonnes of sugar. For 6 to 7 weeks, no decision was taken. I would like to know the reasons for the same? Secondly, was it not clear that there will be sugar shortage in the country? Upward trend in sugar prices was the warning signal, especially when there was no downward trend in sugar

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prices after the festival season was over, was clearcut the warning shot. During festival season, sugar prices tend to go little high but afterwards come down to the old level. However, nothing of this sort was witnessed this year. I can quote figures in this regard. These were the warning shots. In view of these warning signals, sugar imports should have been immediately undertaken. I would like to reiterate that for 6 to 7 weeks no decision was taken. In the meeting held on 8th march in connection with the note of 24th January a decision was taken to import sugar under O.G.L., but the decision got leaked. I am levelling these allegations with all seriousness. This news that India is going to import sugar under OGL reached the international market. Actually, international market of sugar is confined to in London and is controlled by a handful of companies there. These companies come to know that India is facing sugar shortage and imports will be undertaken under O.G.L. I would like to know why did not the Government decide on its own to import sugar? As a result of the leaking of the decision, sugar prices in the international market went up by \$50 to 60 per tonne. I can quote the statistics of earlier international prices of sugar which were less. At that time, sugar could have been imported without much ado. By making proper forecast of demand for sugar at low international prices, sugar could have been imported. However, delay was witnessed and even the news of delayed steps taken reached abroad which resulted in spurt in prices.

It is my belief that this scandal is of the magnitude of Rs. 1,000 crore. In international market, Rs. 300 crore extra was paid and if an evaluation of Indian market is made, then the consumers have paid Rs. 700 crore extra within the

country. The prices have skyrocketed. There is the need to look into all these things, because marriage season is on and in the summer season people drink more 'Sharbat'. Apprehensions cannot be allayed by giving clarifications.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to reiterate that delay of 6-7 weeks was witnessed. I would, therefore, like to know who is responsible for the same? The hon. Minister of Food will state that a note was sent to the Cabinet and the latter did not take any decision. A clarification in this regard should be given by the Cabinet. Indian consumers incurred losses while the foreign sugar traders cornered all the benefits.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is anticipated that in addition to the shortages in the open market, it is anticipated that PDS will also be witnessing shortage of one million tonne of sugar. I would like to submit that when the question of sugar imports was being discussed, nothing was being done regarding the Public Distribution System. Drought is the main reason for decline in the production of sugarcane. Sugarcane instead of reaching sugar mills was diverted for the production of 'Gur'. This resulted in fall in the production of sugar and consequently, decline in levy sugar for PDS. The poor purchase sugar from ration shops as sugar is also an essential commodity.

I remember one prices of onion had skyrocketed and hue and cry was witnessed everywhere. People sitting on that side were making an issue of it and were also shedding crocodile tears. Onion is pungent, but sugar too has also turned bitter during the sugar crisis. Sufferings of the housewives purchasing sugar at Rs. 20 per kg. could be imagined. However, if this is due to mismanagement

then who is responsible for this mismanagement or is it a scandal? Whatever was touched by Gandhiji got converted into Gold but Government is concerned in whichever treads, scandal is witnessed. The Government is converting everything into scandals. This is not the mischievous propaganda of the Opposition. The Opposition is just apprising the House and the Government of the sentiments of the people.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, should it not have been discussed as to whether imports will be undertaken for PDS? Whose responsibility was it to think about this? Why nothing was done in this regard? Statistics of the Ministry of Food are with me. Release order for sugar is given by the Ministry of Food and it tells the sugar mills as to how much quantity is to be released in a particular month. In the month less quantity of sugar was released. I would like to know the reasons for the same? In May, more quantity of sugar should have been released as alongwith it being summer month, there was marriage season also. The result was that people could not get adequate quantity of sugar from PDS. Even the poor could not offer 'Gur sharbat' to the bridegrooms family and will have to offer 'Sharbat' made of sugar. Even the poor purchased sugar at high prices from the market. What was the reason for the short supply of sugar at PDS shops? If imports had to be resorted to, then why the estimation was not made? Whose responsibility was all this? Sugar is being sold through PDS at Rs. 9 per kg. and on it, Rs. 3 per kg. is being given as subsidy.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, since the day our relations with the World Bank and the IMF have taken new turn provision or subsidies is acting as a big stumbling block and our decisions are increasingly

getting distorted. When it had been decided to import sugar and distribute the same through the PDS to the public, then the question of payment of subsidy should also have been decided. The hon. Minister of Finance time and again had indicated that subsidy will not be given. Had STC and MMTC imported sugar and incurred losses, then they would have been pulled up for the same as those selling sugar at cheap rates, are likely to be grilled. I would like to know whether the twin issues of import of sugar and the payment of subsidies should not have been decided together? These should have been sorted out earlier. Since these were not sorted out earlier. Since these were not sorted out early, delay occurred in importing sugar. This was also the reason for the increase in international prices and domestic prices. Only by April end, it was decided to import sugar for PDS. However, the decision was not implemented. Twin issues of extent of subsidy and payment of subsidy were not sorted out. Sugar shortage issue was being tackled by PMO and at this juncture, the Cabinet Secretary come into the picture. Before boarding the aircraft on 14th May for foreign tour, the hon. Prime Minister took the Cabinet Secretary to a side and taking his hand into his own—this I have read in the newspapers. I was not present there—told him that

[English]

Something will have to be done in regard to sugar.

[Translation]

The hon. Prime Minister was going on such an important tour, but instead of worrying about the issues to be taken up there and how those were going to

[Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee]

be settled, was worrying about the accentuation of the sugar crisis during his absence from the country. That is why the hon. Prime Minister took the cabinet secretary to a side and gave him some instructions. On being questioned, it was stated that it was the job of the cabinet secretary to discuss the sugar crisis with the Ministries of Food and Commerce. The hon. Minister of Food was on the tour of Gazipur. It was being said that he was not available. Had the hon. Minister of Food been a thin and weak fellow, this alibi could have been understood. The hon. Minister of Food cannot hide himself easily behind somebody. Therefore, the question of locating him does not arise. The Government states that the hon. Minister of Food could not be contacted. Through the District Magistrates anybody anywhere in India can be easily contacted. If the Government is not able to contact a Minister, when needed, then it all the more reflects the incompetency of the Government. Then in case of any emergency, it would also be difficult to contact the hon. Minister of State in the Ministry of Defence. In the absence of the advice of the hon. Minister of Food, a decision was taken, but the same was turned down by him after returning from tour. Reasons for revoking the decision are cited from the report of the Public Accounts Committee, headed by me.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Just to please you.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Only to save his own skin. I have that report with me. How does the history repeat can be know from this. Situation of 1989 got developed again in 1994. Only after extensive enquiry, the report

was submitted by the Public Accounts Committee. If I read out same portions of that report then it will be construed that it is the report of 1994 and not of 1989.

[English]

Initial delay of about three months in according approval to the import of sugar.

[Translation]

Earlier there was no need to import this much quantity of sugar. Earlier it used to be a matter of importing only one or two lakh tonnes of sugar and even then crisis developed. Even then Shri Sukh Ramji was involved in the controversy. Therefore, he could not make it to the Lok Sabha. However, the scandal at that time was also similar. Delay was seen in the matter of import of sugar. Issue of who is to be entrusted with the task of importing sugar was the bone of contention. Authority entrusted with the task of importing sugar gave the following reason for delay.

[English]

First tender enquiry floated on 23rd August, 1989 proved infructuous due to the failure of telex machine.

[Translation]

Later on, the officer informed that the machine was operational, but there was no paper in it. Since there was no paper in the machine that's why figures of prices were not available. Machine was not giving information regarding the names of persons/companies giving quotations and purchasers, yet the

Government was functioning. Preparations were on to import sugar. Time changes, but the functioning of the Government never changes. Magnitude of scandal this time is bigger. More sugar needs to be imported. People this time have faced more problems. Action Taken Report on the PAC report of 1989 is yet to be submitted. However, from the feedback, it is known that FCI refused to get involved in it and PAC also recommended that this is not the job of FCI. FCI only distributes sugar and if any deal is to be settled in London or at any other place on equal footing, then there is a need to be cautious. For these things experts are required and the experts are available only with STC and MMTC. Services of the officers of the Ministry of Commerce could also be utilised. One thing is to be certain and that is whenever deal is made it should be very transparent but nothing of this sort was witnessed.

Now, it is being informed that sugar is coming. Figures in this regard are available with me. Sugar has reached ports in less quantity. However, the quantity that has reached market is further less and the quantity which has reached shops is further more less. Cannot the availability in the market be augmented? I would like to know whether in this regard a Task Force could not be constituted to successfully handle sugar crisis? I am of the opinion that the Government did not do anything to handle the sugar crisis effectively.

Sir, in the last report of the PAC, a recommendation had been made that in future permission should not be granted to unregistered companies to trade in such items. Credibility of the unregistered companies is in doubt and these also did not have any previous track record. However, at the instance of the Cabinet Secretary, many decisions were taken to

allow unregistered companies. Therefore, the question is as to how did these come into picture and what were the reasons therefor? Further, I would like to know who will reply to all these questions? I submitted earlier that the hon. Minister of Food cannot reply to these questions and only the hon. Prime Minister can give reply as decisions were taken by the Cabinet Secretary. What was the need to allow unregistered companies? Though registered companies can trade in sugar, decision was taken to allow import of sugar under OGL from open market. Prices increased not only in India, but abroad too. Therefore, crisis developed in India. Prices also increased as sugar was not properly released by the Ministry of Food in the open market.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is very unfortunate that regarding sugar no coordinated policy is being adopted. Sometime, sugarcane production increases and sometimes it comes down. I remember that Acharya Vinoba Bhave had said that a competition continues between sugarcane and foodgrains. Foodgrains or sugarcane, either of the two can be grown. India needs foodgrains more than sugar. However, now demand for sugar is increasing because 'Gur' does not serve all the purposes. Now-a-days even 'Gur' is seeling at Rs. 20 per kg., but 'Gur Tea' is difficult to drink. What will be the requirement of sugarcane for producing Gur, Khandsari and sugar?

Was the Government not capable of formulating a consolidated policy after anticipating the things rightly? The State Governments would have to assist in this regard. Now, sugar prices have risen and the Government should review the prevailing situation with regard to profit earned by sugar mill owners and traders respectively. There is misappropriation and plundering everywhere and hapless

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common man is forced to purchase sugar at high price. It is true that people do not condemn the Government overtly, but there has been a scandal which is glaring example to the Government's incapacibilities.

There is another question whether licences should be given for sugar mills or not, and if these are to be given then in what number? Uttar Pradesh, has been demanding for a license and Punjab has already got it. It has to be decided as to how many licences will have to be given and how much sugar mill be required? There is one Government but it lacks coordination and different decisions are taken by different factions. Ministers blame the bureaucrats while the bureaucrats condemn the Ministers at their back; and the purchasers are only the sufferers. Mr. Speaker, Sir, that is why we are forced to bring the Adjournment Motion. This sugar scam should be investigated by a high level committee. However, in the first place the Government should give a satisfactory clarification to the House and the facts be placed there. Everything should be made clear. It is the second sugar scam since 1989. My submission is that the Government should take measures to prevent such scam in the future. But I am not confident that the Government would take some measures in this regard. Two sugar scams have already taken place during the reign of the present Government and if the Government continues to remain in power, a third will inevitably take place. This Government would certainly lose power if scams continue to take place, but that is a separate matter. I would like the Congress members also to think over the matters which are under the consideration of the Government. We have moved an Adjournment Motion, but that does not

mean that Government supporters, voters or consumers do not suffer due to price rise. One person or the other will have to raise the voice on behalf of people and the accused will have to be exposed and punished. It won't be possible to hide the things for long and favour the wrong actions of the Government. No matter even if the culprit is a cabinet Minister or a big bureaucrat, he will have to be accountable for wrong deeds. If this Adjournment Motion proves positive in influencing the Government, it would be a great success.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar to speak.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (Mayiladuturai): I have not given my name.

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE (Bombay North Central): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in a way it is very encouraging that a very serious issue of public importance has been raised on the first day of this Session.

SHRI ANNA JOSHI (Pune): It happens every day.

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE: Of course, I would have liked if the Opposition had agreed to a discussion and if it had not insisted upon an Adjournment Motion because it has some connotation of censuring the Government. A free discussion by the whole House would have been advisable as far as this issue is concerned.

Sir, it cannot be gainsaid that sugar is a daily necessity for every family. Therefore, the rise in the prices of sugar is a very sensitive issue. If I am right,

I think, in the past, one of the Governments had fallen because they could not control the sugar prices. It is very serious issue and the Government should take this issue very seriously. There is no doubt about it. I share partly the concern expressed by the Opposition regarding the hardship that is being caused to the common man because of this spurt in the sugar prices.

Now the main question is, what are the failings of the Government in this matter and what should have been done? Therefore, I had said earlier, it would have been better if the Minister was allowed to make a statement first on this clarifying the Government position so that there would have been a fair debate in this House. In any case, now this matter having been raised in this fashion, we are bound to participate in it from that point of view only. Now the main grievance or the main attack of the opposition is that there has been delay in taking steps. The conditions were known far in advance. And if the Government had taken steps at the right time regarding importing the sugar, then perhaps, this situation would not have arisen. Now the figures show that the sugar production in the first seven months of 1993-94 fell to 9.39 million tonnes compared to 10.27 million tonnes in the same period for the previous year.

16.43 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

And the National Federation of Sugar Factories had announced that 5.77 million tonnes of sugar stocks was there on the 1st of May this year. The import of sugar which was the only remedy for controlling the sugar prices was resorted to by this Government. And

the STC was directed, as I learn, to buy eight lakh tonnes. And the total quantity of sugar contracted by State Trading Corporation and the Metals and Minerals Trade Corporation had gone up to 4.81 lakhs. The schedule which is announced is that 40000 tonnes are expected to reach Kandla Port in June; 84000 tonnes are expected to reach in July; 275000 tonnes in August and so on and so forth. One of the reasons which is given is that import of sugar was required because of the shortage of production in sugar. For that purpose, if we analyse it, one of the reasons appears to be the policy regarding molassis which diverted the sugar production from sugarcane growers to *gur* and *khandasari* and, therefore, the production fell as far as this season was concerned.

If we see all the reports regarding the difference of opinion between the Prime Minister's office and the Food Minister which appeared in a section of the press. But these have been denied by the Food Minister himself and from the Prime Minister's office also.

Therefore, there is no substance in saying that there had been a muddle because of the differences of opinion between the different departments of this Government. The Food Minister had taken prompt steps for importing the sugar which was the only remedy for controlling the sugar prices and accordingly he had also taken the cue from the last Report of the Public Accounts Committee which had discouraged the involvement of the Food Corporation of India for importing the sugar. And, therefore, the Food Minister also took prompt action in correcting certain orders which were issued relying upon the recommendations of the Public Accounts Committee. Therefore, it appears th

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even though better and more prompt action could have been taken by the Government, at least, at certain time the correct actions were taken for importing the sugar through STC and MMTC so that this can be controlled. I hope that when this importing of the sugar is completed and by that time the new sugar season also will begin the whole crisis would come to an end and there would be relief as far as the common consumer is concerned.

Now, unfortunately, as far as the demand for sugar from India increased the prices in the international market also went up and that had also its own effect. It is said by the Food Minister—but I do not want to justify the sugar prices on that account—and I do not know on what basis that the sugar at present is the cheapest in India and that in the neighbouring countries the price is Rs. 20 per Kg. I do not for a moment want to justify this rise in the sugar prices on this count at all because the sugar prices in this country should be suited to the pocket of a common man and, therefore, we have got a public distribution system. The Finance Minister has announced that due to constraints of the finances he will not allow any subsidy as far as sugar is concerned. But he has gone further and said that just as 38 per cent average levy is there, here also for public distribution system full concession will be given in the subsidy as far as the public distribution system is concerned.

16.49 hrs.

[SHRI NITISH KUMAR *in the Chair*]

If that is also done, I hope that in the near future, the conditions will improve

and the hardships of the common man will come to an end and the festival season which would be approaching thereafter would be celebrated by the common man in a better condition.

It is because of the present policies of the Government. No doubt it is true that if the steps had been taken as early as February itself, this situation would not have arisen. In any case the steps of importing the sugar and also announcing the subsidy for the public distribution system, these two steps, will bring down the prices in the near future and we shall have no occasion further to censure this Government as far as the sugar prices are concerned. As I said, it would have been better if there had been a free debate in this House without censuring the Government.

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH (Sheohar): The hon. Member has said that it would have been better if there had been a free debate without censuring the Government. Is there any restriction on the debate now? Is he under pressure to speak?

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE: You are a seasoned parliamentarian. You know the difference between these two devices when they are used and the restraint on the Members of different political parties and I need not explain it to you.

What I was saying is that there is no point in censuring the Government on this issue. They have taken proper steps. The only thing is they should have taken promptly these steps, so that these hardships would not have arisen as far as the public is concerned.

With these words, I oppose this motion.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Muzaffarpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, my opinion is that this discussion should not be confined only to the import of sugar and the undue advantage taken by certain individuals. If the august House does not review the factors behind the present situation we would not be able to improve the situation. Rather we would have to bow to the conditions laid down by others to get sugar from them. If we go through the record of previous four years, we find that there has been a gradual decline in the production of sugarcane. The land under sugarcane cultivation is decreasing gradually and the sugarcane yield per hectare is also reducing resultantly.

I would like to refer to the figures of the economic review presented by the Government before introducing the Budget. The total sugarcane cultivation area during 1989-90 was 34 lakh hectares, having a yield of 65,000 kg. per hectare, totaling 22 crore 50 lakh tonnes. In 1990-91 the cultivated area increased to 37 lakh hectares having an yield of 65 thousand kg. per hectare, totaling 24 crore 10 lakh tonnes. Similarly, in 1991-92 the entire area under cultivation was 38 lakh hectares having an output of 66,000 kg. per hectare, totaling 24 crore 50 lakh tonnes. This is where the economic policy affects. These people are not ready to realise the things in this regard. Despite our repeated requests, we were told that the Government was reviewing the prospects of export to ascertain whether to adopt Karagil Continental Grain or some other Channel for export. Majority of these people would be ignorant of the fact that there are only six American companies which have maintained a monopoly in the world food grains market. In 1991-92 a new economic policy was introduced. Not even a year

had passed thereafter that the area under cultivation decreased from 38 lakh hectares to 36 lakh hectares and the production from 66 thousand kg. per hectare to 63,800 kg. per hectare. The reason was that the prices of fertilizers increased and farmers could not afford to use fertilizers of high quality. On the whole the total produce of sugarcane during 1991-92 was 25 crore 40 lakh tonnes. The target set by the Agriculture Minister for the next year was 24 crores 38 lakh tonnes and the actual production confined to 23 crore tonnes. Now comes the year 1993-94. These are Government figures and not mine. The cultivated area now reduced from 36 lakh hectares to 34 lakh hectares making a reduction of 3 per cent in total land under sugarcane cultivation. The target for production was 25 crore tonnes which has now been reduced to 23 crores tonnes. The figures regarding yield have not been furnished so far. I would like to warn not only the House but everybody, that it hardly matters as to which party forms the Government and who becomes the Minister. The most important thing is that as long as the present Government is in power, it should not be forced to take measures in this regard because the new economic policy implemented by it has already put the country in dire straits and is likely to deteriorate the situation further.

Propaganda is being made through radio and television that prospects for farmers in the world market have been brightened, and that they would be able to export their commodities. Sugarcane prices in our country have gone up. Besides, irrigation water and electricity have also become costlier to them. If taken as a whole, the sugar prices have increased more than the prices of sugarcane in the open market. This is something separate. But it is surprising that some bureaucrats have been giving

[Shri George Fernandes]

statements through newspapers for the last 10-15 days that sugar could be imported at such and such rate or that some companies had offered to reduce the rate by 100 dollars from their actual rate of 400 or four hundred and fifty dollars. All this is being done to create a misconception in the country, sugar prices in other countries have gone down during the last 5-6 years. But the individuals or the private companies which are involved in the import and who have personal benefits, get the prices increased one way or the other.

17.00 hrs.

As per the Far East Economic Review the sugar price, a year ago, was 241 dollars per tonne, which increased to 267 dollars per tonne by 6th June this year. There is a total increase of 26 dollars per tonne. If we are to import 15 lakh tonnes of sugar, it involves a misappropriation of Rs. 150 crore, that too in dollars. This is what has been happening. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee talked of it just now. The report to this effect was presented in April last year. But, the same thing has reoccurred this year also. It should be investigated by JPC, PAC or any other committee.

It is a matter of sugar price. PAC's 45th report was presented on 19th April last year. As per the figures furnished in it, the sugar prices during August 1989, September, 1989 and October, 1989 varied from 505 dollars per tonne to 396 dollars per tonne. After a gap of six years we have taken up the matter again in the House today when the sugar price in the world market is 400 dollars, and if OCIF purchases sugar at its own, then the rate comes to 267 dollars per tonne

as on 6th June i.e. today, World sugar market at present is depressed. But I would not like to go into those details. I am referring to all these points to make it clear that they hold discussions only to mislead the country. Therefore, people should be cautioned against fishy activities.

I would not go into the details of why and how the incidents took place, due to which the situation deteriorated to such an extent. But since the hon. Minister is present here, I would like to put some questions to him. I would like to know from him whether his Ministry had furnished a document to the Cabinet on 24th January, indicating that sugar scarcity was likely and therefore, measures for import of sugar should be taken immediately. I would also like to know whether it is a fact that nobody bothered to think in this regard till 9th March. It should also be please clarified whether any Cabinet Committee has been constituted and that whether the meeting of that Committee has already taken place? Was the matter regarding increase in sugar prices taken up and measures suggested in the meeting? We would like to know as to when the committee took decision to import sugar and whether the Public Accounts Committee Report of April 1993 was taken into consideration while taking decision in this regard.

[English]

"The Committee would also emphasise that the matter should be thoroughly examined by the Ministry of Food with a view to devise detailed remedial steps required to be taken in the matter of any future imports to be undertaken by the Ministry so as

to ensure that such imports are made in the most cost effective and timely manner."

[English]

[Translation]

When was the policy framed, when the document of the policy was published and finally when was it decided that sugar would be imported not through FCI or any other such agency but only through State Trading Corporation. When such a policy had been framed, why the other decision was taken by the concerned Ministry. It hardly matters whether the hon. Prime Minister or the Minister of Food is there in May or not, the Government as a whole is always there. Many hon. Members are of the opinion that after the first scam JPC was constituted, but there was nothing appreciable in the report they submitted. We would like to know that when neither the hon. Prime Minister nor the hon. Minister of Food had approved the proposal, on whose orders sugar was imported? I would also like to know why the Government broke the promise they had made in the Parliament to import sugar only through STC. After all a report of PAC is a parliamentary report and an invariably action taken report thereon should be furnished to the committee. Why this promise was broken?

We are surprised on the decision taken regarding invitations of tenders. Notice for tender was published on 17th May and the global tenders were expected to be submitted by 9.30 A.M. on 19th May, I do agree that everything has been globalised and fax facilities are available to convey the messages in time and that is what was done. We do agree to all this for a minute. Fax messages were sent, quotations were invited and the order was issued on 18th May by the concerned Ministry stating:

"Since, time is the essence of the matter, the Government feels....

[Translation]

We would like to know-which Government is being referred to? Because it includes the entire machinery. Even if the decision is taken by the concerned Ministry the entire Cabinet gets involved into it.

[English]

Which Government and what level of the Government?

[Translation]

They should not have been floated and now the Government claim that a special empowered committee is being constituted.

[English]

"Since time is the essence of the matter, the Government feels that a special Committee of the FCI Board should be empowered to take all final decisions regarding sugar imports on the tenders, enquiries floated by FCI. This Committee should consist of Chairman, FCI, as Chairman, M.D., FCI as Financial Advisor to the Ministry of Food and Additional Secretary, Ministry of Food, as member."

Thus special Committee is to take all final decisions.

[Shri George Fernandes]

[Translation]

There were four officers— Chairman, Managing Director, Financial Advisor and Additional Secretary of STC.

[English]

“....To take all final decisions of the Government which will later on be reported in due course for *ex-post facto* approval of the FCI Board.”

So, four people will decide.

“For any of the conditions of tender inquiry wherever found necessary and desirable for consideration of unsolicited offers outside the tender enquiries etc...”

[Translation]

In other words tenders were invited but at the same time it was also decided not to bother about them. In case if a company offers to adjust the sugar prices as required, four persons are there in the Government who have been authorised to take the final decision. We would like to know from the hon. Minister whether all these decisions were taken by the concerned Ministry, if so, the basis on which agreements to this effect were made with sugar suppliers all over the world. State Trading Corporation comes under the Ministry of Commerce, and we have read not one but a number of statements given by the Commerce Secretary who alleged publicly that he was pressurised from higher circles? Who was there at higher level to pressurise the Commerce Secretary? He could have been either the Commerce Minister or the Cabinet Secretary. Did they really do so? Since it is a matter

of higher level, it could be from Prime Minister's office. Now a days there is a new trend - it can well be called an institute or something else - that every work is done in the same PMO.

[English]

PMO wants, PMO desires, PMO commands.

[Translation]

Was any instruction given from the Prime Ministers' office or did the Prime Minister himself order the Commerce Secretary? He did not refer to anybody by name, but he did give the indication. We also do not want him to refer to any of his colleagues or anybody in the Government by name. However, it has become clear from the statements of Commerce Secretary made in public that there was a pressure to transact the deal with some private companies. The names of two such companies have been revealed by the newspapers. I need not make the publicity of their names. You might be knowing their names. It is known to everybody as to who are associated with those companies. But it must be revealed in the House today as to who was the person to exert the pressure.

Our colleague Shri Digheji has rightly stated that it is not a free debate. We have not made it known in the morning itself that we to criticize the Governments today and we seek the reply of the hon. Minister during discussion today because not only his Ministry but also the entire Government have been put in the dock.

Sir, I would like to point out one thing more. We were worried about the amount of money involved. Sugar is consumed one crore tons a year. But the

consumption increased this year. It is likely to reach one crore and twenty lakh tons. If the price of sugar is raised by Re. one per kilogram arbitrarily at any level the people of India will have to pay Rs. one thousand crore on one crore tons of sugar. The wholesale price of sugar in the market was Rs. 933 per quintal during the month of January, 1993 and now it has reached Rs. 20 per kilogram or Rs. 2000 per quintal. This increase in price took place during the period of 17 months from January, 1993 to December, 1993 and May, 1994. The consumption of sugar at the rate of 10 lakh tons per month comes to 1 crore and 50 lakh tons in 15 or 16 months and even if the average price rise has been Rs. 5 per kilogram the people had been robbed of Rs. 7 or 8 thousands crores. The Government now must reveal the names of middlemen in the deal.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are raising this issue today because the situation is worsening too much. Sugar is being imported at the rate of \$ 400 per tons which is made available to people at the rate of Rs. 12 or Rs. 12.50 per kilogram. If the price is raised by Rs. 2 or Rs. 2.50 per kilogram, the people will be robbed of Rs. 500 crore to 1000 crore. The new economic policy of the Government has brought it to such a past that the hon. Minister is now compelled to ask the traders to sell sugar at the rate of Rs. 14.50 per kilogram and not at Rs. 15.50 per kilogram. But who will listen to him? The Hon. Minister should raise this question before the hon. Prime Minister or the hon. Minister of Finance who have introduced this new economic policy in the country and are bent upon selling it out. It dire consequences will have to be faced and the present crisis is just a beginning. Tomorrow the same thing will be repeated with regard to foodgrains and other items. In the light

of the new economic policy selling of land by the farmers in Maharashtra has been allowed by the Legislative Assembly. One can purchase any area of land and use it for horticulture. What is this? It is a step towards giving up cultivation of foodgrains, sugarcane and taking up to horticulture? The foreigners are misleading us. The people in the Government are bent upon leading this country to ruination.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I, therefore, request that we should discuss not only the issues as to who made how much money but also the issue as to how can we deal with the present crisis into which the new economic policy has thrown us. Our country has been the largest producer of sugarcane. We will have to discuss as to how can we restore this status of the country and what can be its permanent solution.

With these words, I conclude and urge that the Government should be censured. I urge upon the House to admit the *Adjournment Motion* and the Government should be shown its place.

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum): Mr. Chairman, Sir, let us get the perspective right. We are discussing the problem, not of the whole of our population; at least 50 per cent of our countrymen do not take sugar. Those who are below the poverty line and those who are around the poverty line, are not affected by any rise in the price of sugar.

Now I mention this also to highlight this fact that potentially whatever amount of sugar we are producing in the course of the last few years is being short supplied. Whatever we may be producing,

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[Shri Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee]

even this year, we say that we have a surplus of sugar production. We forget that 50 per cent of our population do not have that amount of purchasing power which will permit them to buy sugar. If you try to improve their condition, then whatever we consider to be our surplus will no longer remain so.

Add to this, that in the course of this year, or this year's sugar season, as my hon. friend Shri George Fernandes has indicated, the acreage of sugarcane was coming down over the last two or three years. The stock of sugar also was coming down in the course of the last three years. And the production of sugar also was coming down in the course of the last three years. Yet, no decision could be taken unless or until very late about intervention through imports in the sugar market in our country. This needs some explanation. I think he has very correctly pointed out the major sources of our problem. As if in a flash, the whole episode connected with sugar indicates two things: One is that the entire new economic policy in all its aspects will lead to this kind of problem and ruination of the people of our country. He has made an estimate of about Rs. 6000 to 7000 crore about the loot. Loot has two directions. Somebody has benefited. Somebody else has paid.

I was privately estimating that it may be around Rs. 5000 to 6000 crore. Anyway, this Rs. 5000 crore has been sacrificed by 50 per cent of our population in favour of a few. Some persons are benefited. Fifty per cent of our population have lost this Rs. 5000 crore.

Is this the new economic policy? This is the new economic policy! Let us analyse. Why is it that the Finance

Ministry appeared to be an obstacle according to some version of some Ministers? Because, the Finance Minister had promised somewhere else that he was trying to reduce subsidies as a part of the new economic policy. This whole question of subsidy is a part of the new economic policy. Therefore, some Ministers utilised this or may be, they are afraid of this; that without subsidy whether or not or will it be possible to have import intervention of sugar?

The new economic policy, combined with that our agreement on GATT is anti-agriculture and pro-industry. Let us analyse, let us see this.

In the statement of the Food Minister his reaction to this whole problem is given.

He forgets the cane growers. He says that he is giving more licences to sugar factories and his emphasis is on the industrial sector. That is exactly what follows from the New Economic Policy—neglect of our farmers, neglect of our agriculture and trying to get things done via the route of industry. The consequences...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI A. CHARLES (Trivandrum):
Can I put one question?

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: You can put your question later on. Let me carry on with my speech.

This approach is also a part of that approach, which is associated with encouraging the industrial sector and discouraging the agricultural sector.

Then, let us look at the hesitation for imports. Look at the problem of intervention within the economy. We

have been told by the GATT understanding, we have been told by the International Monetary Fund and others, that in terms of our Budget stabilisation, our fiscal deficit, etc., we cannot do certain things in the economy. And exactly as the Finance Minister did with his Budget figures, our Food Minister does with his food figures, with his sugar figures. As we have discovered in the course of our Budget discussion, the figures of the Finance Ministry were all fudged, they suppressed the figures of expenditure, and in glowing terms they presented the figures of revenue collection. Exactly in the same mode, the Food Minister says that we are producing very nearly what we have produced last year. Despite the fact that all indications—the acreage was less, the content of sugarcane was less than in the past so that extraction of sugar will be less than in the past—were there, he was continuing to bluff the economy by also saying, by adding that, as has been mentioned, we have unnecessarily low prices of sugar. Remember that 50 per cent of our population cannot buy sugar at that price. He comes out in a bravado saying that our prices of sugar are too low compared to our globalised international markets. Whatever he has learnt or picked up from his elder, the Cabinet Minister of the Finance Ministry, he is trying to disgorge before the people of this country. When all indications were there that there would be a shortage of about two million tonnes, he was bravely saying that there is no need to import because the Finance Ministry does not like it. Despite all his claims about accumulation of reserves, all his claims about accumulation of foreign exchange, his private advice is not to spend them on import. And then what happens?

Let us try to understand and let us try to find out how both the policy and

the perpetrators of the policy are of the same mode and are equally guilty and none is fit to rule the country any more.

Sir, it is said that the approach was New Economic Policy. Very bravely our Minister comes here and says, "We are not going to import anything in the public sector. Under New Economic Policy, we cannot emphasise the public sector. Therefore, OGL is being granted to private sector."

We asked him this question. He said, 'No'. There is no public sector import. We are granting open general licence and allowing the private sector. This unlimited faith in the private sector has been generated in us by the World bank and IMF. He is not directly concerned with them. He has been tutored by perhaps Shri Manmohan Singh and others. Therefore, he says that even when we have to import, hand it over to the private sector, the private sector in the meantime was behaving in a particular manner within the economy. To the extent imports are delayed the prices are rising. To the extent there is no assurance that there will be import intervention in abundance, the private sector failed in the market. If the supply is less because of existing level of demand, the prices have to rise. The touching belief in the market economy and the Economic Policy is reflected in the package. Let the private sector bring whatever they can at whatever price they can. There will be no subsidy. Whatever the price level, on the basis of that supply, the people have to pay. There is nothing to complain because our prices are very low. This is the kind of argument, this is the kind of psychological mindset that they have. That is what has led to this debacle. Look at the movements of different sectors within the Government.

[Shri Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee]

The Food Corporation of India should not import. Why? It is because the Public Accounts Committee had said so. I was the Member of the Public Accounts Committee when Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee was the Chairman. He also remembers it. Therefore, he uses that as a tool. Why often some of the Action Taken Reports of the Government say that we are not agreeable? In order to justify non-intervention and non-import, we are told that an Action Taken Report has been sent in February ..s year whereby they say that they accept that the Food Corporation of India should not import. Now, if this Action Taken Report says that we should not import, then another wing of the Government, the Commerce Ministry, says that we should import. That was the recommendation. Have we drawn the attention of the Cabinet to the fact import is a must in order to save the population of our country from a loot of Rs. 5000 or 6000 crores? And if we are prevented by the Public Accounts Committee then let the Cabinet order the STC and the MMTC to import as quickly as possible. Now, this is what has not been done. I agree with the earlier statement of Shri George Fernandes that it is not a matter of one Ministry, it is the entire Government, its entire Policy—the liberalised Economic Policy—which depends on the market, which allows the law of supply and demand to have its full play, which promises to others and prevents giving subsidy to any necessary item of intake of the population. Therefore, what has happened? I do not know who have shared. There is a statement that leakage of this information has led to enhancement of prices in the international sugar cartel—ISMA or RSA (Refined Sugar Association of London) or International Sugar Marketing Association.

They were raising the prices because despite this shortage within our country, we are perhaps the biggest or the largest producer of sugar in the world. Any shortfall in our country generates a pressure in the international market and since the believers in the market forces refuse to see this, those who control those who have monopoly in the market, are free to manipulate the prices according to their sweet will. That is the law of economics that monopoly prices prosper on the basis of shortage of supply. And, Sir, they have shared in the loot. I am sure, one of the most wonderful things as reported in the Press—I want the Minister to deny—is that global tenders this time were called in terms of rupee. And the story is—he does not know or may be because he is a part of the Government, he also knows—that there is over-involving on the high seas. Already which are contracted on the high seas, they changed hands. When the public sector are forced, because of the cry among the public and the people, to enter into the purchase of sugar, they are purchasing it at the high seas. No foreign exchange is involved. And whatever the international prices, we do not know. We know the story of over-involving. In this process itself, foreign exchange will be accumulated outside. But Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 6,000 crore of loot is the inside our country. That is the inside story. That also is going to be shared with the foreign multinationals. The Indian segment of the traders and producers in collusion with the political part of the Government, have shared the loot. This is a bigger scandal than the scandal of the Bofors. It is a bigger scandal qualitatively than the scandal that the JPC was trying to unfold, which was called a scam, because one single commodity generated a profit of Rs. 5,000 crore. Qualitatively, the significance of this sugar episode is exactly as in the case of that scam, we know. That was related to the 1991 July declaration of the New Economic Policy. Similarly, today

we are seeing the working out of this New Economic Policy on a commodity, despite the fact that fifty per cent of the population cannot consume. Nevertheless, the rest of the fifty per cent of the population is suffering from the impact of the same policy. Therefore, the first question that has to be answered is: where has this Rs. 5,000 crore gone? We have to find out whether it has gone to the industrialists, the traders or their political masters. The question is not merely that you have connived. I am saying on the basis of my experience in the Joint Parliamentary Committee that there is a share in the loot also. I do not know how many suit cases are involved. But it is normal to anticipate that Rs. 5,000 crore is not a small sum. It is normal to expect that when such things happen, that also happens. And they have to answer where this 5,000 crores of rupees have gone. Secondly, we have to pin down responsibilities about what is being criticised as pure and simple bungling—from the Cabinet Secretary, the Food Secretary, the FCI and the PM's Office.

In the JPC report also which we have brought out, there was a note of dissent and many questions remained unanswered. We do not want to have these questions unanswered in this case. I have a letter with me. I do not want to read it out. He says that he has offered sugar at a particular price which would have saved all this amount of money and the prices could have come down. He says that he has written such a letter to the Food Ministry also. If they deny, I will produce that letter.

17.41 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Sir, therefore one has to find out, under the verbiage of PAC, under the verbiage of some bureaucrat or the

political arm of the Minister, what was the directive from the PMO. This pinpointing has to be done. I am sure that whatever the reply is, it will not be satisfactory because many more details have to be unearthed. Many a link has to be discovered and to discover all such links, that, perhaps, requires another probe by a Committee of the House. This is inescapable and therefore, I did not desire that the new economic policy should be changed thoroughly immediately, at least on the basis of this experience including the approximation of the Patents Act. Including that all the things have to be changed, failing which the Government should resign. They have to own the responsibility for this scandal and if the Government wants to wait till the findings of the new Committee, let the Committee be established here and now.

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL (Sangali):
Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose the Adjournment Motion brought in the august House. But I would also like to point out that merely the Opposition of the motion will not absolve us of our duties. Every aspect of the problem that has cropped up should be discussed here and we should have a deep study into the problem.

First of all we have to see that the production of sugar in 1991 was 134 lakh tons which was the largest in the world. Thereafter, the production was reduced to 106 lakh tons in 1992-93. We should investigate the reasons behind this steep fall. We must discuss the factors responsible therefore deeply. Could we not provide remunerative price to the sugarcane growers which prompted them to switch over to oil seed production and

[Shri Prakash V. Patil]

which resulted in the decline of sugar production.

When the new Government came into power, it announced a new policy to decontrol molasses under the leadership of Shri Kalp Nath Rai. This has created such a situation today that it has become doubtful whether we will be able to give the stipulated remunerative prices to the sugarcane growers or not. Thereafter, in order to raise the production of sugar, the Government started giving some concessions to the sugarcane growers which brought about prospects for the increase in the production of sugarcane. But the production of sugar fell steeply in the year 1992-93 to 98 lakh tons only.

Now we are endeavouring to raise the production of sugar to the tune of 110 lakh tons and we are proceeding in this direction, but the sugarcane producers in Uttar Pradesh and other States opted to go for the production of jaggery (gur) and khandsari which resulted in the fall in the sugar production.

Keeping in view the production in 1991-92 and 1992-93 nobody bothered to fix the prices of sugarcane. What is the present rate? 50 per cent of sugar is stocked throughout the year. Due to the stock we have suffered the loss of the Rs. 300 crore on account of interest alone. Whenever there is bumper production sugar is supplied in large quantity for the Public Distribution System. Previously this quota was 50 per cent, but now it has been made 40 per cent. Previously the loss was four rupees per kilogram but now this has become five rupees per kilogram. We should think over the price of the sugar sold in the market also. Sugar is exported also. We

have suffered the loss of Rs. 400 crore due to the export. In such a situation we want to sell some quantity of sugar out of the remaining stock with us. It will fetch us higher price. But even this would not compensate the loss completely.

This year our production of sugar has been 32 lakh tonnes more than previous year. We are going to store it. When the Government does not have sugar for re-sale and levy then how can it release more quantity of sugar in the release mechanism. Moreover, there is no likelihood of getting higher prices for the outstanding sugar meant for re-sale. But we have imported 4 lakh tonnes of re-sale sugar through national sugar factories federation. Out of which 2 lakh tonnes of sugar has arrived and we are going to give it to the Government at the rate of Rs. 13 per kilogram for the Public Distribution System. Moreover we are ready to supply 2.5 lakh tonnes of sugar to compensate the shortfall in levy sugar. This has already been approved by the Government. If the import takes place, every kind of shortfall will be made up because the import is being made in large quantity.

The present prices of the sugar are fluctuating between 235 and 400 dollars. If the sugar is supplied at 235 dollars then it is not devaluation. Shri George Fernandes has rightly stated that the price of sugar is upto 400 dollars. The production of sugar in our country starts in the months of November and December. But its production starts in the month of July in Brazil. Sugar purchased in the month of July will be cheaper. At present the shortage of sugar in the market is to the tune of 10 lakh tonnes. Therefore, release mechanism should be changed accordingly. We have pointed out through the sugar federation that we will sell the

imported sugar at not more than Rs. 14.50 per kilogram. Even after the imposition of Government taxes we will sell sugar at not higher than Rs. 15.50 per Kg. We are ready to make such promise now. If the sugar is imported in the month of July then it will be cheaper. The sugar imported from Brazil is not sweet up to the mark because hybrid granules are not formed in it and it is mostly used for manufacturing sugar products.

Today there is shortage of 1.7 million tonnes of sugar in the international market. Therefore, the price of the sugar will be higher if we import sugar. Sugar should be imported in large quantity only after the new crop. The Government should not misuse its funds.

Since we are facing sugar crisis, people belonging to the backward classes should be made sugar available through the Public Distribution System. Even in such a situation sugar may be made available at the rate of Rs. 12 per kg. The sugar industry has suffered a loss of Rs. 700 crore. It has suffered a loss of Rs. 400 crore through the export. We must evolve a system that may enable us to produce maximum quantity of sugar and farmers should be given remunerative prices. Once it happened that the sugar industry decided to export 12 lakh tons of sugar. Something can certainly be done if it is thought comprehensively. The policy formulated by the Government will raise the production of sugar in the coming years. It takes one or one and a half years to grow sugarcane. Thereafter, we hope, this problem will be solved.

[English]

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN
(Gobichettipalayam): Mr. Speaker, Sir,
the Centre's new sugar policy has ended

in a spectacular debacle with sugar prices showing signs of spinning out of control. The current sugar crisis almost perfectly mirrors the sugar controversy which rocked the nation way back in 1989. The drama today reads identical to the one enacted half a decade ago.

In 1989, the prices of sugar had sky-rocked from Rs. 6.50 to Rs. 9/- per kg. in a matter of mere two months and then zoomed to Rs. 12 by September of the same year. The buck was passed on from one Ministry to the other and from one bureaucrat to the other. Ironically, the situation is no different—today when imports were first mooted in November last year, the price was 280 US dollars per tonne but due to inordinate delays, the country is paying 360 US dollars per tonne. The losses this time are expected to be almost double the 1989 figures.

The 1989 scandal contributed in the debacle of the Rajiv Gandhi Government at the hustings. This year's controversy between the Cabinet Secretariat and the Food Ministry, on the one side and, the Commerce Ministry, on the other, has centred around the floating of FCI tender. The Public Accounts Committee after a thorough investigation had indicated the Government for the scandal. The PAC plans to initiate an enquiry this time as well.

The most significant aspect of the sugar crisis is the deliberate stalling of imports even after it became evident that the shortfall of eight lakh tonnes in domestic production could not be met otherwise. I do not know why the Government has not taken any steps to import when officials in the Ministry underlined the need for it as early as November, 1993. The role played by the Commerce Minister, Mr. Pranab

[Shri P.G. Narayanan]

Mukherjee who never bothered to arrange the imports through the STC and MMTC despite the directives of the Cabinet Committee on prices given on March 9 and April 12 and the Prime Minister's intervention on April 18, is also surprising.

Had the Government cared to listen to the impassioned plea of the Food Secretary or even the Civil Supplies Minister that there was no escape from imports, the exchequer could have saved Rs. 225 crore as the price obtaining in November, 1993.

In the bargain, the consumer is forced to shell out rupees eight per kg. more than the price prevailing last December. The price of sugar has been rising for the past several months. It is clear that the Government has proved itself incapable of managing the sugar crisis. In a word, I think, the reason is inefficiency. The decision to arrest sugar prices has been taken at the higher level of the Government. The Prime Minister has given a direction and there are all sorts of mechanisms like the STC and the MMTC, the two institutions with considerable experience, but all the repute is misplaced and the experience largely useless. There is just no explanation for the illogical step of the Government. However, the situation can still be retrieved to some extent if the Government is really concerned about the difficulties experienced by the common man. So, the Government has failed to safeguard the interest of the common man in the country.

Sir, if anybody thinks that sugar prices have reached their zenith and would not rise further, he must be living in a fool's paradise because prices are

slated to go up further, especially in the States where elections are being held this year. It is common knowledge that whenever elections are held, prices of essential goods, including sugar, go up steeply as the contributions made for the election funds have to be recouped by the industry and trade. So, while this may be partly true, it is exactly because of this factor and the consequent spiral in sugar prices that the Government had announced on March 15 its decision to allow imports of sugar on Open General Licensing but took more than a month to notify the decision. The Government not only delayed the implementation of the import decision but also apparently helped the price rise.

However, the situation can still be retrieved to some extent if the Government is really concerned about the difficulties experienced by the common man because of the runaway rise in sugar prices. At the same time, the Government should get out of announcing free-sale quota every month. It is this mechanism which has proved to be the culprit for the present unwarranted increase in sugar prices. When the Government has permitted Open General Licence imports of sugar and adopted an aggressive liberalisation programme, it has no business to meddle with free-sale quotas once it has taken care of the weaker sections' needs through the levy sugar for the Public Distribution System. Will any inquiry fix the responsibility for all these omissions?

Needless to say, if the sugar market is allowed to function freely and so long as the buffer stock machinery is operated efficiently to discipline the market, one can expect that sugar prices will come down to a realistic level in due course. The sugar industry is the only industry

which is making huge profit which is unaccounted thereby creating a lot of blackmoney. Because of this development, there is underhand dealing by the Government officials. First, this has to be rectified. Otherwise, we cannot check the rising price of sugar.

Sir, this issue is a serious one which affects the common man. There is definitely a lot of bungling on the part of the Government in this regard. So, I demand a thorough enquiry by a Parliamentary Committee to go into the whole episode.

MR. SPEAKER: Next, I call Shri Surya Narayan Yadav to speak. If you want to speak, you can. If you do not want to speak, we are not going to compel you.

[Translation]

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV (Saharsa): Mr. Speaker, Sir, just now I was hearing the speech of the leader of the Opposition Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Why this Adjournment Motion has been introduced here?

18.00 hrs.

This discussion is on the topic of sugar and it is being alleged that there is a sugar scandal... (Interruptions) Please try to understand your own version. Whenever I refer to Shri George Fernandes or Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, why do you make an uproar? I am not hurling abuses on Shri Vajpayeeji, I am rather appreciating him. Sir. Whenever I lend my ears to Shri Vajpayee and Shri Fernandes, I start believing that there is a scandal. The people of the country understand that certain scandal is taking place there and it affects the psyche of

the common people very adversely... (Interruptions) Now, now let me speak here and do not interrupt me. So much propaganda has been made about this scandal that the Government employees or the common people or unemployed youth all have started believing that there has been a great scandal.

SHRI DILEEP BHAI JANGHANI (Amreli): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is 6 p.m. and the time of the sitting of the House has not been extended as yet how can its proceedings continue?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I think we should dispose of this matter today.

[Translation]

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA (Pali): It is a very important issue. Please admit it for tomorrow.

MR. SPEAKER: We therefore, should sit longer.

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV: Lok Sabha is country's supreme body which is responsible for enacting and implementation of laws. This 'Scam' has been discussed here so much that it has affected the Government employees and the common people of this country very adversely. By tarnishing the image of the country, where do they want to lead the country?

I would like to ask you one question. Shri Vajpayee was speaking just now. When your Government came in power there was shortage of onion. The Opposition was making scathing comment at that time. Was there no price hike at

[Shri Surya Narayan Yadav]

that time? Was that time not the scam of mustard oil? Was there not onion scam that time? Does scandal means a wholesale mess? I am not cutting any joke. When Shri George Fernandes starts speaking, he immediately switches over to the policy of liberalisation. While speaking on sugar he talks of the policy of economic liberalisation. Shri Chatterjee was speaking just now that sugar has become costly because farmers have been issued excess licences.

You are not a farmer. But I am. I know how much licences should be given to farmers...*(Interruptions)* Please listen to me...You are not a farmer. Had you been a farmer, your speech must not have been anti-farmers. I was hearing his speech with rapt attention. He did say that the shortage of sugar was due to issuing licence to sugar growing farmers. But he did not ask to provide licences to farmers for growing sugarcane. He did not ask to increase the cultivation of sugarcane and make the farmers self-reliant. It is suggested to import sugar. But I would like to state that had the farmers grown sugarcane in more quantity in the country, there would have been no sugar crisis. Shri Vajpayee was stating that...

[English]

MR SPEAKER: You have made a very good new point in regard to protecting the agriculturalists. Now, please give chances to others also to suggest other points.

[Translation]

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV: I am talking different from what other

have spoken. The law making body must know the accurate facts of laws. Shri George Fernandes is a learned person. He does not lack in knowledge. But I would like to claim that Shri George Fernandes is not a farmer at all. Had he been a farmer he would not have criticised the policy of economic liberalisation and deprived the farmers of their benefits. The example of Maharashtra was given just now...*(Interruptions)*...Please listen to me. Please give me a chance. He referred to Maharashtra and suggested to grow fruits, vegetables, paddy and wheat which will not be of any advantage to farmers. He implies to prevent the cultivation of mustard, tobacco, sugarcane etc. I want to submit that today farmers will have to be made self-dependent and successful. I think there have been some lapses on the part of the Government. Had the Government remained vigilant during February-March there would not have been the shortage of sugar. The Government are responsible for it. It would not be justified to call everybody a black marketeer, criminal or dacoit. Please tell me who is human being. It cannot be called humanity if one acts in a different way. Thus a human being may remain so and we should try to highlight the truth. We will, too cooperate with you in this matter.

Without taking much time, as the bell is ringing I would like to submit that all of us irrespective of the Opposition or ruling party should unitedly make arrangements to provide relief to the people of the country.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Ballia): Mr. Speaker, Sir, though I did not want to speak on the subject but the members who spoke earlier have inspired me to speak something on this subject. That is why the level at which we are holding discussion on such a serious

matter cannot be termed as injustice to the subject. Shri George Fernandes had raised some fundamental issues and sought reply from the Minister of Food. I do not know whether the Minister of Food would be able to reply. I know him for a long time. But known faces seem to be unknown today. Because they are not principled persons as their predecessors. The people do not hesitate in avoiding truth. I do not agree with Shri George that it is not possible to believe all the officials in bureaucracy. After all we have to run the Government and the country too is run by them. These people belong to our country. I do not possess much experience. With a little experience whatever I have, I can say that if most of the people who think about the welfare of the country are given proper directives they would have taken proper steps. In the matter of sugar I would like to raise one question and want to know from the Government whether directives are issued in time. If so, whether their proper implementation has been carried out? I know it. It is a fact that the Government was aware about the less production of sugarcane. It was not a secret matter. The entire world was aware of it. The Ministry of Food knew it. My friend, Shri Mukherjee knew it. It was mentioned in the Public Accounts Committee report that the Food Corporation of India must import sugar at any cost. But the condition was that it should be imported through STC or MMTC. The Ministry of Food had given an assurance to the Public Accounts Committee to implement this recommendation in toto. Afterwards, it was not possible for them to import sugar.

Sir, today it is very easy to level allegations against Shri Kalpnath. Just now one of my hon. friends was sitting here. At present he is not available. Earlier he was the Minister of State in

the Ministry of Law, Justice and Company Affairs. Had he tried to speak the truth he would have been sitting with us. Shri Kumaramangalamji, this apprehension troubles the people. Perhaps, Shri Kalpnathji is also terrified with the same fear. It has been said that the Minister of Commerce has not done anything. If the Minister of Commerce asks the Minister of Finance, he is ready to sanction it. This news has been regularly appearing in the Press, that nobody talks about Government files. Who will reply to it? Will it be replied by Shri Kalpnathji, Pranab Mukherjee or the Minister of Finance or my friend Shri Raoji, who is sitting at the helm of affairs. Of these, one will have to answer. Every Department has become inactive as restrictions in any way are imposed on them. These restrictions are not imposed due to our internal compulsions. As Shri George has rightly said that we have imposed restrictions because the Government has made some promises and given assurances to some people and it cannot go beyond that limit. Our people are facing starvation and sugar is being sold at higher rate, but we cannot make import because we cannot spend foreign exchange. We cannot enhance our Budget. These type of things are developing in our country.

Just now, the Minister of Agriculture has left the House. As my friend Shri Surya Narayan was saying rightly that the agriculture policy has been a success. Shri George has said that nowadays sugarcane is being sown comparatively on lesser area in Maharashtra. Grapes are being exported. We should congratulate the people of Maharashtra. I feel happy to see that grapes, 'Kinnu' and guava will be exported in the world market. In this way, we will earn foreign exchange. But it will result in non-availability of sugar to the people. These two things are inter-linked.

[Shri Chandra Shekhar]

While discussing GATT agreement had pointed out to the Minister of Food about his wrong policies. Scheme of agricultural production for the purpose of export is being formulated for the first time in our country. This scheme was first introduced in African countries 20-25 years ago in which food production was neglected and production of coffee and cocoa was encouraged. They earned a lot of money for 12 years. The people who were owing these industries were happy. But one day they ruined this industry. All industries were closed. Big farms now do not exist. Today African countries are facing starvation. Small countries cannot depend on other countries in the matter of food, sugar, wheat, rice and grams. Our country is a big country. It cannot depend on other countries. Not only I am saying these words but the people who believe in 'Swadeshi' and self-reliance had advocated this concept since independence days. I feel happy to listen the speech of the Prime Minister delivered in the session of All India Congress Committee in which he declares that our country favours Swadeshi, self-reliance conscious and believes in Gandhism. Gandhiji had taken a dream to see the village self-reliant. We feel ashamed in making the country self-reliant and declares this Government as Gandhian Government. We pronounce the policies of Gandhiji. This is the basic concept of our country.

Why should the farmers of Maharashtra sow sugarcane, when they get less remunerative price? They should sow grapes, to have more benefit, although the Government may spend more to import sugar.

The Minister of Finance creates hurdles and says that the Minister of

Commerce cannot import sugar. P.A.C. has issued directives that the Minister of Food cannot import sugar and it is said that the sugar should be imported through O.G.L. When an industrialist imports sugar, he imports it to earn profit and not to reduce the price of sugar and facilitate its supply to poor and thus does not help the Government.

Just now, my colleague was making deliberations. Perhaps he is associated with the sugar industry.

AN HON. MEMBER: He is Chairman.

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: He is the son of late Shri Vasant Dada Patil.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: Pardon me. He is son of a person for whom I have a great respect. Today, Shri Vasant Dada Patil would have thought it ten times as to why the sugar is being sold in the market at the rate of Rs. 18-20 per kilo instead of Rs. 10-12 per kilo. Would the Government conduct an inquiry into it? Would somebody be held responsible for it? Are sugarmill owners ready to take the responsibility? The Minister of Food should ponder over it.

Suddenly what happens? Prime Minister goes on a foreign trip. The Minister of Food visits his constituency. Three Government officials whose names, I would not like to mention take a unanimous decision to import sugar worth Rs. 400 crore. Why? Who has authorised them to do so? Nobody knows it. Just now Shri George was saying that global tenders are invited on a day's notice. On the second day, they had tried to cancel the tender on 8 hours' notice. When the Minister of Food arrives in Delhi he is

informed that directive had been issued by the Prime Minister's Office. When the Minister of Food desired to record it on the file, it was not carried out. The same very officer had given an assurance that directive issued by PAC headed by Atal Bihari Vajpayee would be implemented. When he was asked why he had done so despite the fact that he had given the assurance in writing, then the file was removed from the Ministry of Food and subsequently found in P.A.C.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask whether it is the way to run the country? Only by abusing Ministers or some other people will not yield any result. Until the file is recovered from the PAC, the P.M.O. cannot contradict in the matter and declare that the Ministry of Food has committed a mistake. Constantly for seven days there had been press reports in the national and international media that the Minister of Food had violated the orders of the Prime Minister. But the P.M.O. had not acted. When it is known that the Ministry of Food had given an assurance in writing to the P.A.C. through the same official, then the statement is issued that there is no difference of opinion, between the Ministry of Food and the P.M.O. I do not know the view point of the Minister of Food. I also do not know whether the Prime Minister is aware of the matter or not. But the P.M.O. is functioning in a very different way. Press reported that the officials take decision themselves. In a Cabinet form of Government, it is the first time that the decision is taken by an official without the knowledge of the concerned Minister on the plea of directives received from the P.M.O. When the officers were asked to record it in the file, they refused. I am not concerned about whether the sugar is sold at Rs. 5/- or Rs. 5000/- per kg. But these tendencies are dangerous and one day

these officers will sell out the country and we will not be able to know about it. It is not a simple matter. That is why I am compelled to speak. Do not take the debate as merely a loss of Rs. 4000 or 5000 crores. I do not want to go into who the culprit was or what was the amount of bribe. The question is whether we are running a civilized administration or democracy? In a parliamentary democracy the Cabinet members may have difference of opinion. The Government will have to decide and assign the responsibility who had authorised the officials for inviting global tender without informing any Minister. How does the P.M.O. come in between the two? The Prime Minister, the Minister of Commerce and the Minister of Finance were not aware of the fact. The Minister of Food too was not aware of this decision. I know it as he has already given his statement. Later on they backed out from their statements. Secondly, the Secretary had issued a statement against the Minister. A senior officer of the Ministry of Commerce had said that a high official had pressurised him many times on phones, to import from such companies which are not even registered. All these things are happening. Through you I would like to urge upon my Congress friends not to make it a party issue. Do not give political colour to every issue. I know it that you will defeat this motion. I know that you will get the majority. You have seen that the people of the country had rejected you and us also twice even after having majority. What will happen if all the people are rejected in politics. The politicians will be disheartened. What will happen to the country? You will have to ponder over this problem.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have to pay a little attention as the P.A.C. functions as per your directive. Is it an ordinary

[Shri Chandra Shekhar]

thing that the assurances given to the P.A.C. have been disappeared from the files of Ministry of Food? It should be observed from this angle that the economic policies will play a pivotal role. In the world, nobody will help us in making us prosperous and wealthy. Shri Pranabji has been with us since 1962. He is one of my old friends. We have intensively worked together to revive the economic policies of that time for years. One day I had said that he has become the citizen of the world whereas I remained an Indian. I surprise to see Shri Pranabji. I know Shri Kalpnathji since his student life. He was happy with the socialist movement and even today he is in high spirits while talking. But I don't know why he is keeping mum? Why did not he speak today? Is the portfolio of the Minister is too important, to obscene self restraint. The man who has no idea of decorum, the dignity of the country cannot be safe in his hands. I am not demanding his resignation. There is no need to tender resignation. Fortunately hon. Shri Arjun Singh has come. I would request him. "Arjunasya Pratigya Dwai, Na-Cha Dainyam Na Playanam." Do not be humble and renounce the world. I am not asking to protest it in the House but you can resist it at least in the Cabinet. This matter should be examined. How will the inquiry be conducted? Personally, I am not against any person, I have nothing to do in the matter. But it pains me when I see that the entire dignity of the country and the parliamentary democracy is being tarnished and high officials are fighting each other and disgracing bureaucracy. These people are running our administration. It may not be so as we are compelled to form our opinion about all the officials. Just now Shri George has expressed the same view point. A dangerous bell is ringing not for him but

for the entire nation. Therefore, I would like to request to take up the matter seriously. If you are able to issue directives to these officials in the right perspective, it would benefit a lot.

[English]

SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO (Bapatla): Speaker, Sir, we all know that sugar tastes sweet, but it is very unfortunate that in our country it tastes sweet for only a few traders, industrilists, politicians and a few bureaucrats. For a common man it tastes bitter. Sir, you may please see the price of sugar in the last three-four months. There is a great variation. In December 1993, the price of sugar was Rs. 1260 per quintal. In the month of February, it was Rs. 1305 per quintal. It was Rs. 1400 per quintal in the month of April and in May it was Rs. 1650 per quintal. This variation in the price of sugar has in turn affected the common man heavily and we are very much concerned over this price hike. I do not know whether it was due to the fault of the Commerce Ministry, Food Ministry, Cabinet Secretary, Deputy Secretary or the Government as a whole. All these people are trying to blame each other for this kind of mismanagement and for the Government's inability to control the sugar price. We really wonder whether this Government is interested in protecting the common man's interest or they are just interested in quarrelling among themselves!

According to me this hike in price is due to the utmost delay in taking decisions on the part of the Government as a result of which the prices in the international market shot up. The London Commodity Exchange rates in the month of April were 322 Dollars per quintal. In the month of May it was 338 dollars per quintal and when

we placed order in the month of August, it became 400 dollars per quintal. So, when the buyer is in a hurry, the seller gains in negotiations. This is how thousands of crores of rupees of the public exchequer are wasted. The amount comes to about Rs. 320 million.

MMTC and STC have been given orders to purchase sugar but there also bungling has taken place. When the private people are purchasing at a lower price, say about 320 dollars per quintal, STC is purchasing it at 400 dollars per quintal or even higher than that. STC struck a deal with the ETL thereby denying 20 other bidders to float their tenders at a lower price.

Sir, Marcrich is the world's largest trader in sugar. They quoted much lower price than the STC and the MMTC but on two conditions. They are, the delivery should be taken in the warehouses and the payment should be made in Rupees. Not only this company but even other private companies had imported sugar at much lower prices. Previously, Mr Mulji, the Chairman of the STC had owned a company called GES. In May, they imported two lakh tonnes of sugar at much lower price. Dharmapur had imported 13,000 tonnes and the ESSAR had imported 26,000 tonnes of sugar. Kothari Soya had imported 26,000 tonnes and Kothari Sugar had imported 26,000 tonnes of sugar. There are also other companies which had imported sugar at much lower prices. They ranged from \$ 358 to \$ 398 per quintal. These are the differences in prices between the private companies and the STC and the MMTC. These prices were negotiable but the opportunity was denied to other companies. So, the STC had quoted much higher price.

Sir, when the prices were increasing in this manner, India exported sugar to

USA and other European countries. The last consignment worth 1 lakh tonnes of sugar was exported between November 1993 and February 1994 to these countries. We are aware that production was about 135 lakh tonnes in 1991-92, in 1993, it was 106 lakh tonnes and during 1993-94, the production is estimated to be 98 lakh tonnes whereas the output is only 59.26 lakh tonnes. In those circumstances, knowing fully well that our requirement every year is about 130 lakh tonnes in addition to the ten per cent increase in consumption every year, the Government did not respond properly to taking adequate precautionary measures for tackling the situation in the country. Because of this, the common man had suffered heavily. The price had increased to a large extent and sugar was selling at Rs. 17/- per kg. In spite of all these things, they were blaming one another. I would say that the Government is responsible for all these things. The Government should come out with the real picture. Why should there be a licensing system for the sugar mills when they are controlled by the big sugar lobbies of UP and Maharashtra? This was done in order to get money from these sugar lobbies. Because of this the party in power will be able to get money from these sugar lobbies. These are the things which are to be rectified. Whether the Minister resigns or not, the Government should take the responsibility.

I again demand that the Government should take the full responsibility and do the needful.

[Translation]

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA (Madhubani): Mr. Speaker, Sir, during the last three years, the new economic policy has made an impact on the

[Shri Bhogendra Jha]

economy and the common man of this country. I would like to say that it is not by sheer chance that the production is decreasing. Nowadays, the production of an item is not measured acre or hectare-wise only. The question of productivity has assumed great significance because we don't have more land in our country for its cultivation. In regard to production of sugarcane, our Government has absolved itself from the responsibility of supplying quality seeds and fertilizers, making arrangements for irrigation facility to avoid any inconvenience during drought, modernising the mills and some other related works. Rather they have transferred it to the trading institutions.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, today all sugar mills functioning under Sugar Corporation in Bihar and four other nationalised mills—Samastipur, Rayyam, Lohat and Sakari—are even not able to produce 4 quintals of sugar. In this case, the Government of India and the Government of Bihar are following the same policy. I am not going in a different way but this is the very basis of the original policy. They want that the production and productivity should not increase, the machines should not be modernised and State Sugar Corporation become defunct. If there is shortage of sugar, the Government and its new economic policy is wholly responsible for that. Now the question is that if the production of sugar has declined, it was known to all. Then why should there be increase in the prices due to less production? Our senior colleagues have said that if there is less production, the prices of sugar would increase. Today, the economic theory of Adam Smith, Marshall and Kenith is unhesitatingly being imposed on the people. The price is determined by taking into account the cost, labour, capital and raw material. It

can be understood that if there is short supply, it cannot reach all the people or it will be available in less quantity but under which economic theory the prices increase exorbitantly.

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR (Gopalganj): You are seeing that all the Members have encircled Shri Kalpnath Rai. He should be give an opportunity to clarify his position. He would definitely speak openly.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: At the moment, Shri Kalpnath Rai has control over sugar and that's why there is sweetness in his voice, that is why the Members have encircled him. If there is shortage of any commodity, will the writ of the robbers and dacoits run large in our country and will they charge the prices as asked for? There should be a rule or base on the basis of which prices should be fixed. They say that the market will have a check on the man. Will this market take the whole society under its check to rob a few people? The people who obtain loan from the bank and store sugar in the godowns plunder the country when its demand is high in the market. Just Shri Chandra Shekhar was telling that one of his friends from Maharashtra has said that sugar prices will come down. Shri Chandra Shekhar was surprised but I am not. Now the wedding season is passing off and the rainy season is due for set off. The demand of sugar will go down in the market and the prices will decrease. When the prices of sugar shall be fixed then they will say that the sugar is available on reasonable rates and therefore, the prices of sugarcane were not raised. This is a way they loot the people because on the one hand, they claim that the prices of sugar are low and on the other hand, they give less price for sugarcane. In this way, they loot both ways. The prices are not

coming down because of their efforts. They have given the reigns in the hands of the plunderers of this country and till their writ run large, the prices of sugar will also come down. I think even if they resort to import of sugar in a month or two, the prices of sugar would go down in the rainy season. Whether Jakhar Saheb speaks openly in favour of protecting the interests of the farmers or not, but I think the farmers are being looted. It means the country is being looted. Shall we again resort to import of sugar from Jawa as it used to be imported during our childhood? It was our little effort which made us self-reliant in the field of sugar production and even we resorted to export of sugar. Today, we have to go in for import of sugar by expending a lot of money. The point of argument is that why this commodity was not imported earlier?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would also like to say that the severe onslaught of new economic policy, which we are suffering in every aspect, has put every Ministry and efficient officer in an indecisive position as to where this policy should be adopted. Sir, the important point is that when did the Government get an inkling of it? Our Food Minister, Shri Kalpnath Rai is sitting here. He did not tell earlier that there is a shortage of sugar and it will have to be imported. As has been stated that they invited the tenders in January, then who is responsible for this lapse? After all, somebody will have to pay the price of it.

Sir, I know that there are internal bickerings among various ministries. We have also read about this in the newspapers but the whole country is being looted. It is not a question of one Minister or the other or one bureaucrat or the other. I would like the hon. Prime

Minister to come in the House and reply to the debate personally. It would be better because no officer can come in the House to reply. When the hon. Minister was leaving for abroad, nobody had an inkling of it. The House was adjourned *sine-die* on 13th May. It was told that the hon Minister of Food was untraceable at that time but he was very much in India. It is because of this the Food Ministry officials took such an important decision like import of sugar. However, it is true that global tenders were invited but the bidders were given 24 or 36 or 48 hours to send their bids. Though, the Public Accounts Committee had made recommendations in this regard yet they acted against these recommendations. As my friend has said, I would not like to complain that why did they accept our recommendation? If they had accepted our recommendation, why did they call tenders from black-listed bidders? Is there any rule in this country or not? Will the meaning of new economic policy be that anyone can be given tender and it can be accepted within hours? All this is going on and will have serious repercussions. It is not only the question of sugar. The most important thing is that in which direction our financial base is slipping and how its policy would be assessed?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I understand that several ministries are involved in it. Therefore, the hon. Prime Minister should come in the House and reply to the debate. He should take the people into confidence so that the doubts over this dangerous step—not only in the case of the prices of sugar, economic policy of the country and foreign exchange—are cleared by him. Next year, the farmers will produce less sugarcane and will tell the Government that it gives them less prices and spend the money lavishly in the foreign countries so that one who is

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not even a producer or consumer, becomes rich by looting the farmers. Does the Government has any such device as can ensure recovery from these plunderers? The hon. Finance Minister has a number of ways to adjust unearned income or money but does not he have any justification how the amount of Rs. 5 crore or Rs. 6 crore was plundered just in two months? However, it was a serious bungling. The news has appeared in the newspapers that recently a meeting of the ruling party was held in which they had claimed that they would adopt the new food policy in a balanced manner *i.e.* they would let the cat drink the milk but simultaneously, they will keep a watch over it. I would like to say that in this case, they should come out with a proof that what type of checks they are exercising and what is the way out to recover the above amount of Rs. 5 or Rs. 6 crores? Further, they should also let us know about the assurance which they propose to give to the farmers and consumers of this country so that there is no recurrence of such a lapse.

Sir, not speaking much on this subject, I support the Adjournment Motion moved by our friend, Shri Ramshray Prasad Singh. As this motion has been introduced unanimously, I think this time they have shown their weakness also. Now, they should not oppose its during the voting. Whosoever is responsible for it, he should punished and brought before the people or the House.

SHRI SHYAM BIHARI MISRA (Bilhaur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, at present the prices of sugar have reached at their zenith. We have been debating over this issue for a long time and everytime it centred around only one point that there

has been delay in the import of sugar. We should find out who is responsible for not issuing the order for import.

Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards this point that at present, there is no scarcity of sugar in the country and if there is shortage of sugar in the market or the prices of sugar have increased, the Ministry of Food is solely responsible for that. In the beginning of this year, the pending balance of sugar in the country was 31.13 lakh tonnes. The production so far is to the tune of 93 lakh tonnes. Now, the total comes out to 124.13 lakh tonnes. However, till September, another 4 lakh tonnes will be added. In this way, the total stock of sugar will reach upto 128.13 lakh tonnes. Whereas, the consumption of sugar during the last year was 120 lakh tonnes, this year the consumption in the open market is likely to be 115 lakh tonnes. Thus, we will still be left with 13 lakh tonnes sugar. They would again say that despite this much of stock, why are the prices rising?

I would like to inform you that a sugar lobby is operating in the country in which big sugar mill owners and a few big traders of the Government are also involved in it. The common traders are not involved in it and hence, they are not getting any benefits out of it. It is on the wishes of these close traders of the Government that the prices have been raised.

I would like to speak on one more point that as per the 1991 census, the total requirement of sugar in the open market was about 6 to 6.50 lakh tonnes per month. But the Ministry of Food supplies sugar in less quantity every month because the Ministry has become a tool in the hands of the sugar lobby.

Now, they are not able to come out of it.

In the meeting of the Consultative committee, I had cautioned the Food Secretary as well as the Hon. Minister of Food, but no attention was paid to it. Recently, on my request, a meeting was called on 10th May in which I had stated that the prices of sugar are rising and they have not been able to control it. In the other meeting called by the hon. Minister, the traders as well as the mill owners were also invited.

I would like to request the hon. Food Minister to reply to this point that whether due to release of less quota during the month of May, has the prices not increased? The prices have increased due to the policy adopted by the Government to release sugar in the open market. This policy could not be controlled by the hon. Minister or the Ministry but it has been controlled by the sugar lobby.

In this connection, I, time and again, warned the authorities concerned. The people belonging to sugar lobby were also sitting there. At that time I had also said that the prices of sugar are likely to rise. As mill delivery rate of sugar is Rs. 1421 per quintal and if Rs. 85 as excise duty and Rs. 30 as other expenditure are added to it, the prices of sugar per Kg. comes to Rs. 15. Therefore, its retail price should not be less than Rs. 16 per Kg.

What are the reasons for giving the same price for sugarcane to the farmers? When the prices of sugarcane were fixed, the rate of sugar was Rs. 900 per quintal. Thereafter, molasses was decontrolled. It has its own story. I would not like to go into its details. The sugar lobby also had a hand in it. There is a

practice that if the prices of sugar rise, the prices of molasses will also rise. Fifty per cent of this price-rise will either go to the farmers or the consumers. When molasses was decontrolled and it was sold at the rates varying from Rs. 20 per quintal to Rs. 100 per quintal, had its 50 per cent share gone to the farmers or the consumers? I had raised this point in the meeting but no attention was paid to it. Why did the prices rise? The demand of sugar in the open market was 6.25 lakh tonnes but in January only 5.75 lakh tonnes was released. In February, 5.65 lakh tonnes, in March, 6 lakh tonnes and in April, 5.45 lakh tonnes sugar was released. At that time, the price of sugar was Rs. 12 per Kg. When the supply was curtailed, the prices rose upto Rs. 13 per Kg. In May, sugar lobby made a strategic move as a result thereof only 4.90 lakh tonnes sugar was released, and the prices shot by Rs. 2.50 per Kg. It is evident from the figures given by them. According to these figures, the wholesale market price of sugar was Rs. 1260 per quintal in December, it was Rs. 1302 in February and Rs. 1400 in April and when less quota was released in May, the prices rose upto Rs. 16.50 per Kg. In the meeting of the committee, I was told that 92 thousand tonnes sugar had been imported whereas not a single piece came to India. Again, in the meeting held on 10th May, I had said...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Don't refer to the meetings again and again.

SHRI SHYAM BIHARI MISRA: I had warned them that sugar has not reached the market so far. Therefore, they should release 6.25 lakh tonnes. If 6 lakh tonnes sugar had been released in May, the prices would not have increased. But despite our repeated warnings, they did not budge. The result was that when 4.90 lakh tonnes sugar

[Shri Shyam Bihari Misra]

was released, the prices rose by Rs. 2.50 per Kg.

I would like to know from the hon. Food Minister that under what circumstances less quota of sugar was released in May. However, he has a simple answer that on 15th March, they had permitted import of sugar under open general licence. But, did they calculate that what quantum of sugar reached India? What is the position today in regard to import of sugar? Are you still going to cut down the quota? In June, 5.60 lakh tonnes sugar was released. I had cautioned them that it was the season of festivals and wedding ceremonies. Therefore, they should release at least 6.5 lakh tonnes sugar. When sugar is already available in the stock, why is it not being released? I do not understand this logic. Every time it is said that sugar is being imported. Even we have less stock of sugar, which is released under P.D.S. However, we can expect less stock of sugar meant for open market in October or November because by that time a new year would start and imported sugar would reach India. But as per the past experiences, less quota is released every time.

So far, we have entered into an agreement for import of 6.81 lakh tonnes sugar, out of which only 2,90,345 tonnes sugar have reached the port. Out of this, 2,30,448 tonnes sugar has been unloaded and 1.27 thousand tonnes has reached the market so far. The remaining sugar has not reached the market but you would calculate that it has come in the market.

I would like to say one more thing. The powers of stocking the sugar in India

have been vested with sugar mill owners. For a wholesale trader the limit of sugar stock has been fixed at 250 quintals and there is a restriction that he would have to sell it off within 7 days after receiving the stock. It shows that sugar mills are having regulatory hold over its stock. The traders have no stock with them at the moment. If some Government traders are having sugar stock, it is because they have recently imported sugar under open general licence. The Government has given exemption to those sugar traders who import sugar and keep its stock as they wish. All others are not getting the benefit of such relaxation. The release policy of the Government is the main reason for hike in the prices of sugar. If the Government releases 6 lakh tonnes of sugar for next month the sugar prices will fall. The Government had issued orders for import of sugar under the open General licence on March 15th. At that time big traders made deal at the rate of Rs. 275 to 297 but now why it is being sold at the rate of Rs. 380. Does the Government have any control over it? Has it imposed any restriction? Today sugar is being procured at the rate of 294, 275 and 280. But the Government has not imposed any ban over the profit earned. Recently the Government has thanked the sugar mill owners. The Government is releasing 12 thousand tonnes sugar for PDS on no profit no loss basis but I do not know whether that quantity of sugar was released or not. I had tried to know whether that quantity of sugar was sold on no profit no loss basis or not. Now this sugar is lying at airport which costs Rs. 10 or Rs. 10.50 per kg. but it is being sold at the rate of Rs. 14-15. Besides this it is being said that import of sugar has been delayed. I, had apprised you in December-January that sugar must be imported. At that time it was told that there was no scarcity of sugar but later on the scarcity was felt.

I wish to make it clear that the Ministry of Food and the Minister of Food are responsible for the hike in prices of sugar which has gone upto Rs. 16.50 per kg. It is a different matter who are the people involved in or responsible for import policy. It is the policy of the Government which is responsible for hike in prices of sugar. I, therefore, demand that it should be investigated and the facts should be kept before the House.

The Governemnt has just now implemented the Jaggery control order and the production of Gur is stopped at present because it is a seasonal business. The gur already produced would be consumed by next October. Fresh gur will come in December. I had requested the Government not to issue this order. The Government had issued an order in which the traders were told to sell out all the stock of gur which they possess within the fifteen days. If the present stock of Gur will be sold within 15 days under the Jaggery control order issued by the Government from where the gur will be available in the market and who will buy it. Though I requested the Government several times for ensuring availability of Gur yet the Government imposed control over it in Haryana and Western Uttar Pradesh. People are facing great difficulty due to this Jaggery control order. Many people have filed cases in High Court and Supreme Court and the Supreme Court has given stay over it. Big traders are earning profit from it but the small general traders are suffering badly. I would like to state that the Minister of Food should give its clarification and the Jaggery control orders should be withdrawn only then jaggery will be available for common man. With these words, I support this resolution.

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH (Aonla):
The Gur has been provided to wine

producers so that wine could be produced and sold.

SHRI UMRAO SINGH (Jallandhar):
Mr. Speaker, Sir, the debate on sugar should have been sweet but it has become sour. It should be taken seriously and a solution must come out.

All the people know and it is correct also that due to the less production of sugarcane the production of sugar has come down.

19.00 hrs.

It is stated in the argument which is given here that sugar should be imported, but it is not the solution. Here the debate is going on but the issue is whether sugar should be imported or not but actually we also look into this fact whether import of sugar is in the interest of the country or not.

The leader of the opposition Party has mentioned the name of Gandhiji in this context. If Gandhiji would have been alive he would have not said that sugar should be not imported but its use should be minimised. I would like to say that less consumption of sugar is in the interest of the country. During the time of famine former Prime Minister Shri Lal Bhadur Shastri had given a slogan for north Indians to stop consumption of rice for giving it to South Indian people. We accepted his advice and stopped eating rice. Atal Bihari Vajpayeeji should have told his friends and this House to make an appeal to the public that in view of the sugar crisis the consumption of sugar should be minimised. I do not say that the prices of sugar will come down if it will be imported or and whether wasting of foreign exchange on the import of sugar is correct or not? My friends are

[Shri Umrao Singh]

saying that there had been a scam in sugar import and actually sugar was not imported at all, in view of it I would like to say whether sugar is imported through FCI, MMTC or State Trading Corporation, in next session also, Shri George will level charges against the Government that there had been some scam in sugar import. The Government will be blamed for the decreased production of sugar or import of sugar because the prices of sugar will be not reduced. This issue can be solved only by providing subsidy on sugar.

This problem cannot be solved without raising the production of sugarcane. Today sugarcane growers are facing great hardships. The crop of sugarcane is reaped once in a year but its prices are low and thus the farmers sow less sugarcane. Farmer can reap three crops and earn more profit. If he does not sow sugarcane. So, in my view the scarcity of sugar in the country can be removed by giving remunerative prices for sugarcane so that the farmer will sow the sugarcane crop in the next season.

Perhaps you do not know that at the doors of sugarmills farmers have to wait for two or more days for supplying sugarcane in the chilled days of December and January. It is very difficult thing especially in winter. We do not try to go deep in such things. We should reduce the consumption of sugar, if we want to solve this problem permanently. People of other countries do not take sugar in coffee or tea and here Atalji is saying that time has come for taking 'Sharbat'. Where are we going by advising our people to consume more sugar, rather we should have advised them to consume less sugar. Sir through you I request the Minister of Food to make an

announcement in this respect that he has given up sugar from today itself. It will improve his health. I can claim that consumption of sugar should be reduced to meet the demand of sugar in the country. It has been said that sugar is sweet and hot but I would say that it is poisonous also. The Minister of Agriculture is also sitting here who is also a big farmer. I request him to raise the production and quality of sugarcane so that sugarmills will get sufficient sugarcane to meet the demand for sugar in the country. Import of sugar is not in the interest of the country. In my opinion, we should appeal to the public of the country for reducing the consumption of sugar as it was done by Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri for non-consumption of rice by north-Indians.

With this I oppose this Resolution. It is not in the interest of the country and more foreign exchange is spent on this item. Mr. Nirmal Kanti has mentioned that 50 per cent among poor people do not use sugar and if 50% people can live without sugar why others cannot do so. Mahatma Gandhiji has taught us this thing and we cannot follow his principles, if we eat more sugar.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Mr. Speaker, Sir, today we are discussing a serious issue. The role of Cabinet Secretary of the Government of India and the Ministry of Food and the Minister of Food and Ministry of Commerce is doubtful in this sugar scandal. Judicial commission should be set up to investigate their roles. I demand in this august House to ensure the punishment to the guilty persons for the cleanliness of the polity of the country.

As my colleagues have mentioned that policies are responsible for this

sugar scam, but I would like to say that along with policies, persons and their efforts are also responsible. The debate is not on the issue that prices of sugar have gone up due to the declined sugar production and untimely its import. I refuse to accept this fact and argument, because for the past three years the country has produced more sugar than the requirement. Now during the fourth year sugar production has declined I would like to read out the datas in this regard. Sugar production was 1 crore 9 lakh tonnes in 1989-90, during 1990-91 it was 1 crore 20 lakh tonnes and during 1991-92 it was 1 crore 34 lakh tonnes. At that time while addressing this House, the President said that India had become one of the biggest sugar producing country and we can export sugar. Last year also 160 lakh tonnes of sugar was produced, which was just equal to our requirement. Now after producing surplus sugar continuously for three years if the production of sugar is declined only 7-8 lakh tonnes why the prices of sugar have risen. The Government is responsible for it. It has to give its reply to this House. I would like to say that the Government's policies, the implementing Minister and officials, all are equally responsible for it.

The next thing I would like to say that the Government should not have gone to international market for the import of sugar. Whenever the production of sugar declines in the country, the Government altercates the ratio of free sale and sale of sugar at controlled price once at a time of sugar scarcity, Government of India imposed a levy and collected 55 per cent sugar from mills for selling it at controlled price through PDS. Now Government has changed the ratio and 35 per cent sugar is sold through PDS and 65 per cent is in open market. New sugar mills are given exemption

from supplying of levy sugar, and thus I would like to say that the Government of India has handed over the open market in the hands of sugarmills owners.

Sir, during the current year, when production of sugar declined, it was the responsibility of the Government of India that percentage of levy sugar would have been raised and would have collected more sugar in its buffer stock but it was not done. The second thing is when we were discussing the open Licence Policy in the House, the hon. Minister said in reply to one question that the concerned Member should go to market and purchase sugar as much as he desires. How the Government will sell sugar at reduced rates during Monsoon season replying to the question about the hon. Minister told that Sugar Mills will start production by July onwards. The hon. Minister made an impression that he is taking sugar scarcity very seriously, but it was only an eyewash. I would like to read out the names of sugarmill owners who kept with them surplus stock of sugar and imported sugar under general open policy. They are all the big sugarmill owners--Asia Sugars, Balrampur, Dhampur, Bhopal Sugar, Aruna Sugar etc. I will not read out all the names. Those were the big and famous sugarmill owners who imported sugar under this policy and sold it in open market. I would like to say that sugar is imported from Thailand and Pakistan. This sugar has been bought at higher rates. The Government has paid an additional 50-60 dollars at every tonne of sugar and thus wasted the previous foreign exchange of the country. These sugarmill owners controlled the market by buying this sugar and looted the common public of the country and this was done under the patronage of the Government. I would like to say that Rs. 700 crore of farmers were outstanding with sugarmill

[Shri Mohan Singh]

owners in the year when 134 lakh tonnes of sugar was produced. What measures you have taken for its payment. The payment of last year was made during this year when sugarmills started production. Hon. Minister has given assurance that payments of arrears will be made by June this year but payment was made by selling sugar this year. Due to this fact farmers sold their sugarcane to Khandsari and sugarcane crushers, where they got Rs. 60 per quintal. But you say that sugar production has declined due to diversion of sugarcane. The jaggery and khandsari also contain sugar contents where has that gone? I would like to say that this jaggery and khandsari have been smuggled from Uttar Pradesh to Nepal and Bangladesh but the Government has not taken any action against those smugglers. I would like to know whether this was not the responsibility of the Government of India and Ministry of Food.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): It is the responsibility of the State Government.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): At that time a rally was held in Uttar Pradesh and Minister of Food was its incharge. For the benefit of sugarmill owners the prices of molasses were raised and it was decontrolled. I do not have figures as to what extent the palms were greased but it was said that 50 per cent of profit earned by sugarmill owners on molasses will be given to farmers. But farmers got nothing. If the Government has any courage then announcement should be made that in proportionate to the profit earned by sugarmill owners, farmers will be given bonus on prices of

sugarcane. This will reveal your intention towards welfare of farmers. But you will not do that. Today, horders, smugglers and blackmarketeers are looting the public but the Government of India is not taking any action in this regard.

Does the Government have the figures of the people against whom action was taken.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say that the bureaucracy of India in connivance with the Khaddar-clad politicians are plundering the people of India. This is the second great scandal after the securities scam. A judicial commission should be constituted in order to purge the public life and an inquiry should also be conducted into the matter. With this demand, I conclude.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Pranab Mukherjee to speak now.

(Interruptions)

DR. VASANT NIWRUTTI PAWAR (Nasik): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thought you announced my name.

MR. SPEAKER: I think, all the names with me are exhausted now. Do you want to speak?

DR. VASANT NIWRUTTI PAWAR: I will just speak for five minute.

MR. SPEAKER: All right, you can speak for five minutes.

DR. VASANT NIWRUTTI PAWAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the outset, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to

speak on this Adjournment Motion. I stand here to oppose this Motion because this Motion is based totally on political motive. The Government is quite aware about the sweetness as well as the bitterness of sugar. As it has been said that one Government had fallen because of the sugar policy, we are quite aware of the bitterness of sugar.

In the past, there was an import of foodgrains. At that time also, same type of speeches were made by the opposition Members. I am a doctor and I have a friend who is a gynaecologist. That friend gynaecologist once told me...

MR. SPEAKER: No gynaecologist and those things now.

(Interruptions)

DR. VASANT NIWRUTTI PAWAR: Their motive is totally political. Everything they are seeing with a black glass. They are making allegations of scam, this and that. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: There is no time for all that now.

DR. VASANT NIWRUTTI PAWAR: It is a fact that the production of sugar has gone down. In 1991-92, 134.11 lakh tonnes of sugar was produced; in 1992-93, 106 lakh tonnes of sugar was produced and in 1993-94, it came down to 86 lakh tonnes. The cost of production has gone up. The production cost which is incurred by the sugar Rajya Sakshik has gone up. I must say here on this cooperative sector in Maharashtra, now you private farmers have contributed to our country. They have

Mr. ... a loss of Rs. 5 per kilogram on matter of ... For that they have incurred the FCI ... Rs. 2000 crore and they have

helped this nation. You will not understand it because you know only the sweetness. Because of the drought condition in Maharashtra, diversion of cane to gur and khandsari, the sugarcane price reached a low level and the cultivation of sugar was less. That is why, the Government has done proper thing by increasing the sugarcane price and it has been increased up to Rs. 36.5 per quintal. This Government has paid back the arrears of the previous Government. As it has been mentioned, about Rs. 475 crores has been paid by this Government to the farmers. The Government has taken proper steps. The decision of import of sugar was declared in this Parliament on 15th March, 1994. The OGL import was allowed and raw sugar was also left duty free. The Surface Transport Minister has agreed for berthing vessels and the Minister of Railways has also helped us. For monitoring of this import of sugar, a committee is there and the committee is having weekly stipulation. Alternative sweetness like gur, khandsari has been allowed to enter the market as also restriction on the stock holding limits and restrictions on the turn-over today have been imposed on the gur dealers, that is, by the Gur Control Order. That is perfectly in order. 6.13 lakh tonnes of sugar was contracted by imports through STC and MMTC. As per my knowledge, the first vessel has arrived in Madras. Further about 1.36 lakh tonnes of sugar is arriving in the Indian ports this month and not later than the end of July. About 6.81 lakh tonnes has been imported by the private parties. Out of this, 2.30 lakh tonnes has arrived till today. Arrangement by the PDS has been maintained and we have to wait till the next season starts. The PDS cost is Rs. 9.50 per kilogram. And this is still available in the PDS shops. The Government is committed to this. We have to just wait for increasing availability and it will show a definite

[Dr. Vasant Niwrutti Pawar]

decline in the future. The production has to be improved and more price to the sugarcane growers must be given. More sugar factories have to be set up. All these efforts are done by the Government and that is in proper order. Hence, I oppose this Adjournment Motion.

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would just like to make a very brief reference to a couple of issues which have been raised in connection with the import of sugar. As the hon. Members are well aware the decision to import sugar was taken on 9.3.94 and on the same day the Ministry issued the notification for importing sugar under OGL and it was also exempted from the duty. Naturally, Sir, when the decision was taken to import under OGL there cannot be any question of giving any directives to the State agencies. State agencies were also advised that if they, according to their commercial judgement, found it necessary to import, they can do so. But there was no question of giving any directives or instructions to import sugar. MMTC started importing sugar in a limited quantum in April itself and they contracted for import of about 78,000 tonnes. STC intervened in the market when it was found after one month that private sector agencies were not importing sugar under OGL upto that quantum which was expected. Then when we asked STC and MMTC to step up their purchasing, uptill now, they have contracted—STC and MMTC taken together—around 6.26 lakh tonnes which will be made available from now to October-November. The first shipment has already arrived.

The second question which I would like to clarify is about the prices. It has

been pointed out and some figures have also been quoted that private parties have bought sugar at \$ 350 per tonne. One Member quoted the figure as \$ 350 per quintal. It is not per quintal, but it is per tonne. They said that they bought sugar at \$ 350 per tonne on FoB. If you add \$ 50 towards freight, it comes to \$ 400 per tonne. And exactly the average price at which MMTC bought sugar comes \$ 382 per tonne including the freight. Similarly, STC had bought sugar at an average price of \$ 392 per tonne and when they wanted the advancement of the cargo, they have paid more for some cargo. For example, in the June shipment we had advanced the cargo and they bought it at a higher price. But the average price, according to the contract which they have made comes to \$ 392 per tonne. As far as MMTC is concerned, the average price comes to \$382 per tonne and in the case of STC it comes to \$ 392 per tonne.

And how the prices have fluctuated in the London market? People are saying that cheap sugar was available. If cheap sugar was available then why the private parties could not buy it? We are told that the price was less by \$ 100 or \$ 40 or \$60. But how is it that the private parties did not take advantage of that cheap sugar? How is it that all these offers are coming to STC and MMTC? What special advantage STC and MMTC have got? Duty free clause is applicable to everybody. So, these issues are to be found out. At what price, just at that Bangladesh bought sugar in the international market; at what price bought sugar at international what was the price level? As you can figures are available on the everyday. The moment India can buy sugar on a large scale, prices shot up like anything, I think 324.50 per tonne on the spot. unity to

on the 15th of April. On 18th of April, we decided that STC and MMTTC would intervene in the market in a massive way. The prices went up to \$343.50; then it went upto \$ 358 and on 27th May, it went upto \$ 359 per tonne. This House will have to address itself to this problem. On earlier occasions also I told that if we just intend to purchase anything, be it sugar, be it edible oils, be it any other commodity, the moment we take the decision that we are going to import, people think that India is going to import in a big way and immediately a cartel is being formed and we have to face the situation.

Therefore what mechanism could be thought of, that we should think of. In respect of other matters, I am not going to discuss them in detail in this intervention because those are the issues which my colleague, the Minister of Food, can competently deal with. I can assure the hon. Members that if there is a lapse on the part of anybody, the Government will surely look into it and will take appropriate action at appropriate time. What will be that appropriate action will be decided by the Prime Minister.

[Translation]

SHRI KALP NATH RAI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, with regard to the adjournment motion brought by Shri Ramashray Prasad Singh and Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, I would like to say that this House was in session for February, March, April upto 13th May and during these three months no discussion, in Rajya Sabha or Lok Sabha took place on this question. I have listened to you; now you should also listen to me.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it became a matter of discussion only when on 19.5.94, the FCI floated tenders for importing

sugar without the knowledge of the hon. Minister. I am a Minister today and you too have been a Minister once. The bureaucracy executes the decisions taken by the Minister. I cancelled the decision taken by them on this, because hon. Vajpayeeji was the chairman of PAC and that Committee had submitted its report on sugar scandal of 1989 and the then Prime Minister had asked to CBI to probe the matter. If the Parliament is supreme, then PAC is the mini-Parliament. PAC is composed of the most learned MPs of all the parties. They submitted their report in which following three things were enumerated.

[English]

"No unregistered company should be allowed to import sugar. Responsibility should be fixed for the sugar bungling. The Committee would also emphasize that the matter should be thoroughly examined by the Ministry of Food with a view to devise the detailed remedial steps required to be taken in the matter of any future imports undertaken by the Ministry so as to ensure that such imports are made in the most cost-effective and timely manner. The Committee would like to know the detailed strategy proposed to be implemented by the Ministry in future in this regard."

"The Committee feel that if the import had been made through OGL, it would definitely have been both cheaper and quicker. The Committee feel that the better course at that time would have been to permit import through OGL."

[Translation]

Our Ministry has taken action on the action plan formulated in this regard. The Committee submitted its Report on

[Shri Kalp Nath Rai]

19.4.93 and on 18.2.94 they said on the action taken programme given here by our Ministry:

[English]

"Now, in future, only STC will import sugar because it is an expert party-has a knowledge of import and export."

The second thing written by our Ministry was:

"Now no unregistered company will be allowed free import of sugar in future."

The third thing written was:

"The Food Corporation of India's work will be only to transport and handle the sugar which has come on the ports."

[Translation]

The fourth thing written was that it was the action plan. PAC, the apex Parliamentary Committee conducted an inquiry into this scandal of 1989 and the CBI is probing the matter and this report has been given unanimously by our today's leader of the Opposition and the erstwhile Chairman, PAC and we formulated an action strategy after that report was received. Hon. colleague, Mohan Singhji may tell me what shall I do when such thing happens without the knowledge of the Minister and tenders are floated for an order worth Rs. 400-500 crores... (Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Either sack that officer or resign.

SHRI KALP NATH RAI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the second question raised

here is about sugar. Hon. Vajpayeeji knows that a debt of Rs. 475 crore was outstanding on the farmers of India when I took charge of the Ministry of Food. Of that an outstanding sum of Rs. 460 crores has been paid. There were reports that the farmers of India were sowing Soyabean and Sunflower in place of sugarcane. Thus, there was need to do something by which the farmers would cultivate more and more sugarcane. Mohan Singhji, tell me, has the Central Government increased the prices of sugarcane as much after 1947 as have been increased after I took the charge of this Ministry... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE (Vijayawada): You have not helped the farmers. (Interruptions) You have helped the sugar factories. (Interruptions) You have not passed on the benefit to the farmers. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI KALP NATH RAI: We are all the representatives of the people. You have been in power, not once but many times. You know the number of times the Central Government increased the prices of sugarcane... (Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): How much benefit was passed on to the farmers?... (Interruptions)...

SHRI KALP NATH RAI: I listened to him as one would to one's younger brother. He spoke even what he should not have spoken. After 1947 such exorbitant prices have never been paid to the farmers... (Interruptions). Mr. Speaker, Sir, with the well wishes of the hon. Prime Minister, we decided to

increase the prices of sugarcane. Because of this price increase, crores of Indian farmers have grown sugarcane in such abundance that the next time, when we meet, India will produce so much sugar that we will be exporting the surplus stock.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like you to impress upon my friends here to listen to me carefully. I wish Atalji listened to me for 2-4 minutes. I don't have to speak much but as is being said here why did not we import sugar in November? According to the sugarcane production data sent to us by the Ministry of Agriculture in November and December, the production of sugarcane this year has been only, a little more than that of the last year. This year's estimated sugar production is 1 crore 7 lakh tonnes as compared to last year's production of 1 crore 6 lakh tonnes, according to those figures. You know that there was an increased production of sugar during November and December but since the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, hon. Mulayam Singhji removed the ban on producing Gur, sugarcane, that could produce 10 lakh tonnes of sugar was diverted to making gur. It was at that time that we sent a note to the Cabinet Secretariat saying that there will be less sugar production, now, and the country will face a shortage of sugar. Therefore one million tonnes of sugar should be imported. My Ministry sent the note on 24th January. Subsequently, a decision in this regard was taken in the first Cabinet meeting on 9th March. Two types of sugar are sold in the country—one type is sold at Rs. 9 per kg. through public distribution system right from Kanyakumari to Kashmir and this is managed by the Chief Ministers of respective states and the second type of sugar released under the free-sale quota by our Ministry is sold in the free market

on the basis of competition. In order to maintain the price stability of the free-sale sugar, we made an announcement in this very Parliament on 15th March about the import of six or six and a half lakh tonnes of sugar and just now Mishraji has said that of that 2 lakh tonnes of sugar has reached Indian ports. As a result of that the prices of sugar have registered a fall in the market of Delhi. You may confirm it if you wish so. *(Interruptions)* You confirm it for your own satisfaction.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, today, one can buy as much sugar at the rate of Rs. 14.50 per kg. as one likes because it is available in Delhi's Consumer goods godowns and 500 outlets. *(Interruptions)*

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we decided to import sugar under OGL on the recommendations of the hon. Vajpayeeji because the committee had suggested that we can get relatively cheaper sugar if it is imported through OGL.

We have fixed Rs. 9 per kg. as the rate of sugar for the poor people who used to buy it at the same rate. *(Interruptions)*

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Joshi, this is very wrong. You are getting up every time.

[Translation]

SHRI KALP NATH RAI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through PDS, sugar is being sold @ Rs. 9.05 per kg. throughout the country and such quotas have been sent to all the State Governments. Now the responsibility of making available this sugar at the same rate in their respective states lies on Shri Shekhawatji, Shri

[Shri Kalp Nath Rai]

Mulayam Singh Yadavji and Shri Laloo Yadavji. *(Interruptions)* Just now our friend Shri Mohan Singhji asked what has the Government of India done? Against how many black marketeers, hoarders and smugglers has action been taken? Hon. Mohan Singhji, this is the responsibility of Shri Laloo Yadav and Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav. *(Interruptions)* Mr. Speaker, Sir, it was because, sugarcane was diverted to prepare gur. Today, I would like to say that under OGL, sugar has come into the market and the Ministry of Commerce has procured 6.5 lakh tonnes of sugar for the poor people and we assure them that the price of Rs. 9 will be maintained until the commencement of seed time on 1st November and price of free sale sugar... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh): Tell us how did it happen in FCI. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI KALP NATH RAI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, our friend, Mohan Singhji asked why was molasses decontrolled. We have increased the prices of sugarcane for farmers by decontrolling molasses, a cause for which leaders like Shri Chandra Shekhar, Chowdhary Charan Singh, Basant Dada Patil and Shri Gonda Singh had to go to jail. *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: But, who are benefiting out of this decontrol of molasses? Have you passed on 50 per cent of the profit to the farmers which you promised to them? *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI KALP NATH RAI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, lastly, I will conclude by saying that the question is whether this country will be run by democracy or bureaucracy. We have already taken a decision on it. *(Interruptions)*

Hon. Chandra Shekharji, you said that Atalji is your Guru (teacher) and you are my Guru... *(Interruptions)* you said that today, I must speak the truth. I have to say only one thing:

Ham karein kya dariya agar labrez maikhane mein hai

Ham to itni jante hain jitani paimane mein hai.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in case Chandra Shekharji were the Prime Minister and I were in his Cabinet, then my duty was that

[English]

I will obey him one-hundred per cent.

[Translation]

With these words, I conclude.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now I shall put the motion to the vote of the House. Let the Lobbies be cleared—

Now, the Lobbies have been cleared.

The question is:

“That the House do now adjourn.”

The Lok Sabha divided:

Division No. 2]

[19.52 hrs.

AYES

Abdul Ghafoor, Shri	Choudhary, Shri Ram Tahal
Acharia, Shri Basudeb	Choudhury, Shri Lokanath
Advani, Shri Lal K.	Choudhury, Shri Saifuddin,
Agnihotri, Shri Rajendra	Chowdhary, Shri Pankaj
Anjalose, Shri Thayil John	Das, Shri Dwaraka Nath
Asokaraj, Shri A.	Das, Shri Jitendra Nath
Baliyan, Shri N.K.	Datta, Shri Amal
Bandaru, Shri Dattatraya	Deshmukh, Shri Chandubhai
Barman, Shri Palas	Dharmabhiksham, Shri
Barman, Shri Uddhab	Dhumal, Prof. Prem
Basu, Shri Anil	Dikshit, Shri Shreesh Chandra
Berwa, Shri Ram Narain	Drona, Shri Jagat Vir Singh
Bhargava, Shri Girdhari Lal	Fatmi, Shri Mohammad Ali Ashraf
Bhattacharya, Shrimati Malini	Femandes, Shri George
Chakraborty, Prof. Susanta	Fundkar, Shri Pandurang Pundlik
Chandra Shekhar, Shri	Gangwar, Dr. P.R.
Chatterjee, Shri Nirmal Kanti	Gangwar, Shri Santosh Kumar
Chaudhary, Shri Rudrasen	Gautam, Shrimati Sheela
Chauhan, Shri Chetan P.S.	Ghangare, Shri Ramchandra Marotrao
Chauhan, Shri Shivraj Singh	Gohil, Dr. Mahavirsinh Harisinhji
Chavda, Shri Harisinh	Gopalan, Shrimati Suseela
Chhatwal, Shri Sartaj Singh	Gowda, Prof. K. Venkatagiri
Chhotey Lal, Shri	Hossain, Shri Syed Masudal
Chikhliia, Shrimati Bhavna	

Jai Prakash, Shri	Malik, Shri Puma Chandra
Janarthanan, Shri M.R. Kadambur	Mallikarjunaiah, Shri S.
Jatiya, Shri Satyanaran	Mandal, Shri Sanat Kumar
Jeswani, Dr. K.D.	Mandal, Shri Suraj
Jha, Shri Bhogendra	Manjay Lal, Shri
Joshi, Shri Anna	Maurya, Shri Anand Ratna
Joshi, Shri Dau Dayal	Mishra, Shri Ram Nagina
Kalka Das, Shri	Misra, Shri Janardan
Kamal, Shri Shyam Lal	Misra, Shri Satyagopal
Kanaujia, Dr. G.L.	Misra, Shri Shyam Bihari
Kanodia, Shri Mahesh	Mollah, Shri Hannan
Kashwan, Shri Ram Singh	Mukherjee, Shrimati Geeta
Katheria, Shri Prabhu Dayal	Mukherjee, Shri Pramothesh
Katiyar, Shri Vinay	Mukherjee, Shri Subrata
Khan, Shri Sukhendu	Munda, Shri Kariya
Khanduri, Maj. Gen. (Retd.) Bhuwan Chandra	Murmu, Shri Rup Chand
Khanoria, Major D.D.	Narayanan, Shri P.G.
Koli, Shri Ganga Ram	Oraon, Shri Lalit
Kori, Shri Gaya Prasad	Pal, Shri Rupchand
Krishnendra Kaur (Deepa), Shrimati	Pandeya, Dr. Laxminarayan
Kumar, Shri Nitish	Passi, Shri Balraj
Kunjee Lal, Shri	Paswan, Shri Ram Vilas
Lodha, Shri Guman Mal	Paswan, Shri Sukdeo
Mahajan, Shrimati Sumitra	Patel, Dr. Amrit Lal Kalidas
Mahato, Shri Bir Singh	Patel, Shri Brishin
Mahendra Kumari, Shrimati	Patel, Shri Chandresh
	Patel, Shri Haribhai

Patel, Shri Somabhai	Sanghani, Shri Dileep Bhai
Pathak, Shri Harin	Sarode, Dr. Gunvant Rambhau
Pathak, Shri Surendra Pal	Scindia, Shrimati Vijayaraje
Patidar, Shri Rameshwar	Shah, Shri Manabendra
Patnaik, Shri Sivaji	Shakya, Dr. Mahadeepak Singh
Prakash, Shri Shashi	Sharma, Shri Jeewan
Pramanik, Shri R.R.	Sharma, Shri Rajendra Kumar
Prasad, Shri Hari Kewal	Shastri, Acharya Vishwanath Das
Prem, Shri B.L. Sharma	Shukla, Shri Astbhuja Prasad
Premi, Shri Mangal Ram	Singh, Shri Brijbhushan Sharan
Purkayastha, Shri Kabindra	Singh, Dr. Chattarpal
Rai, Shri M. Ramanna	Singh, Shri Hari Kishore
Rai, Shri Nawal Kishore	Singh, Shri Mohan (Deoria)
Raj Narain, Shri	Singh, Shri Rajveer
Raje, Shrimati Vasundhara	Singh, Shri Ram Prasad
Ram, Shri Prem Chand	Singh, Ramashray Prasad
Ram Singh, Shri	Singh, Shri Rampal
Ramdew Ram, Shri	Singhl, Shri Satya Deo
Rana, Shri Kashiram	Sivaraman, Shri S.
Rao, Shri D.Venkateswara	Soren, Shri Shibu
Rawal, Dr. Lal Bahadur	Sur, Shri Monoranjan
Rawat, Shri Bhagwan Shankar	Swami, Shri Sureshanand
Rawat, Prof. Rasa Singh	Tandel, Shri D.J.
Ray, Shri Rabi	Tej Narayan Singh, Shri
Ray, Dr. Sudhir	Thakore, Shri Gabhaji Mangaji
Raychaudhuri, Shri Sudarsan	Tirkey, Shri Pius
Reddy, Shri B.N.	Tomar, Dr. Ramesh Chand
Roy, Shri Haradhan	Topdar, Shri Tarit Baran
Roypradhan, Shri Amar	

Topiwala, Shrimati Dipika H.

Varma, Shri Satish Chandra

Tripathi, Shri Lakshmi Narain Mani

Veerappa, Shri Ramchandra

Tripathi, Shri Prakash Narain

Vekaria, Shri Shivilal Nagjibhai

Trivedi, Shri Arvind

Verma, Shri Phool Chand

*Umrao Singh, Shri

Verma, Prof. Rita

Vadde, Shri Sobhanadreeswara Rao

Verma, Kumari Vimla

Vaghela, Shri Shankersinh

Yadav, Shri Chun Chun Prasad

Vajpayee, Shri Atal Bihari

Yadav, Shri Devendra Prasad

Varma, Shri Ratilal

Yadav, Shri Ram Kripal

Zainal Abedin, Shri

NOES

Adaikalaraj, Shri L.

Bhoi, Dr. Krupasindhu

Ahirwar, Shri Anand

Bhonsle, Shri Tejsingh Rao

Ahmed, Shri Kamaluddin

Bhuria, Shri Dileep Singh

Aiyar, Shri Mani Shankar

Birbal, Shri

Ajit Singh, Shri

Brohmo Chaudhury, Shri Satyendra Nath

Anbarasu, Shri R.

Buta Singh, Shri

Antulay, Shri A.R.

Chacko, Shri P.C.

Arunachalam, Shri M.

Chaliha, Shri Kirip

Banerjee, Kumari Mamata

Chandrakar, Shri Chandulal

Bansal, Shri Pawan Kumar

Chandrasekhar, Shrimati Margatham

Bhadana, Shri Avtar Singh

Charles, Shri A.

Bhagat, Shri Vishweshwar

Chaudhary, Shri Kamal

Bhakta, Shri Manoranjan

Chaudhri, Shri Narain Singh

Bhardwaj, Shri Paras Ram

Chaure, Shri Bapu Hari

Chavan, Shri Prithviraj D.

Chennithala, Shri Ramesh

Chidambaram, Shri P.

Gogoi, Shri Tarun

Chinta Mohan, Dr.

Gomango, Shri Giridhar

Chowdary, Dr. K.V.R.

Gudadinni, Shri B.K.

Chowdhary, Shrimati Santosh

Gundewar, Shri Vilasrao Nagnathrao

Chowdhury, Shri A.B.A. Ghani Khan

Handique, Shri Bijoy Krishna

Dadahoor, Shri Gurcharan Singh

Harchand Singh, Shri

Dalbir Singh, Shri

Hooda, Shri Bhupinder Singh

Damor, Shri Somjibhai

Imchalemba, Shri

Deka, Shri Probin

Inder Jit, Shri

Delkar, Shri Mohan S.

Islam, Shri Nurul

Dennis, Shri N.

Jaffer Sharief, Shri C.K.

Deora, Shri Murlī

Jakhar, Shri Balram

Dev, Shri Sontosh Mohan

Jangbir Singh, Shri

Devarajan, Shri B.

Jangde, Shri Khelan Ram

Devi, Shrimati Bibhu Kumari

Jawali, Dr. B.G.

Dighe, Shri Sharad

Jayamohan, Shri A.

Faleiro, Shri Eduardo

Jeevarathinam, Shri R.

Farook, Shri M.O.H.

Jhikram, Shri Mohanlal

Fernandes, Shri Oscar

Kahandole, Shri Z.M.

Gaikwad, Shri Udaysingh Rao

Kairon, Shri Surinder Singh

Gajapathi, Shri Gopi Nath

Kaliaperumal, Shri P.P.

Galib, Shri Gurcharan Singh

Kamal Nath, Shri

Garnit, Shri Chhitubhai

Kamble, Shri Arvind Tulshiram

Gavit, Shri Manikrao Hodlya

Kamson, Prof. M.

Gehlot, Shri Ashok

Ghatowar, Shri Paban Singh

Kanithi, Dr. Viswanatham

Giriappa, Shri C.P. Mudala

Karredula, Shrimati Kamala Kumari

Kasu, Shri Venkata Krishna Reddy

Kaul, Shrimati Sheila

Kewal Singh, Shri

Khanna, Shri Rajesh

Khursheed, Shri Salman

Konathala, Shri Rama Krishna

Krishan Kumar, Shri S.

Krishnaswamy, Shri M.

Kshirsagar, Shrimati Kesharbai Sonaji

Kuli, Shri Balin

Kumaramangalam, Shri Rangarajan

Kuppuswamy, Shri C.K.

Kurien, Prof. P.J.

Lakshmanan, Prof. Savithri

Made Gowda, Shri G.

Malik, Shri Dharampal Singh

Mallikarjun, Shri

Mallu, Dr. R.

Marbaniang, Shri Peter G.

Mathew, Shri Pala K.M.

Mathur, Shri Shiv Charan

Meena, Shri Bheru Lal

Meghe, Shri Datta

Mirdha, Shri Nathu Ram

Mujahid, Shri B.M.

Muniyappa, Shri K.H.

Muralee Dharan, Shri K.

Murthy, Shri M.V. Chandrashekara

Naik, Shri A. Venkatesh

Naik, Shri G. Devaraya

Naikar, Shri D.K.

Nandi, Shri Yellaiah

Nawale, Shri Vidura Vithoba

Nayak, Shri Mrutyunjaya

Nayak, Shri Subash Chandra

Netam, Shri Arvind

Nikam, Shri Govindrao

Nyamagouda, Shri S.B.

Odeyar, Shri Channaiah

Padma, Dr. (Shrimati)

Palacholla, Shri V.R. Naidu

Pandeya, Dr. Laxminarayan

Pandian, Shri D.

Panigrahi, Shri Sriballav

Panja, Shri Ajit

Panwar, Shri Harpal

Patel, Shri Harilal Nanji

Patel, Shri Praful

Patel, Shri Shravan Kumar

Patel, Shri Uttambhai Harijibhai

Patil, Shri Prakash V.

Patil, Shrimati Pratibha Devi

Patil, Shrimati Surya Kant

Pattanayak, Shri Sarat	Roshan Lal, Shri
Patwar, Dr. Vasant Niwruiti	Sadul, Shri Dharmanna Mondayya
Peruman, Dr. P. Vallal	Sahi, Shrimati Krishna
Pilot, Shri Rajesh	Sai, Shri A Prathap
Prabhu, Shri R.	Sanipalli, Shri Gangadhara
Prabhu Zantye, Shri Harish Narayan	Sawant, Shri Sudhir
Pradhani, Shri K.	Sayeed, Shri P.M.
Prasad, Shri V. Sreenivasa	Selja, Kumari
Rahi, Shri Ram Lal	Shankaranand, Shri B.
Rai, Shri Kalp Nath	Sharma, Shri Chiranji Lal
Rajeshwaran, Dr. V.	Sharma, Capt. Satish Kumar
Ram Awadh, Shri	Shingda, Shri D.B.
Ram Babu, Shri A.G.S.	Shivappa, Shri K.G.
Ramamurthy, Shri K.	Shukla, Shri Vidyacharan
Ramchandran, Shri Mullappally	Siddhartha, Shrimati D.K. Tharade
Rao, Shri J. Chockka	Sidnal, Shri S.B.
Rao, Shri P.V. Narasimha	Silvera, Dr. C.
Rao, Ram Singh Col.	Singh, Shri Abhay Pratab
Rao, Shri V. Krishna	Singh, Shri Arjun
Rath, Shri Rama Chandra	Singh, Shri Motilal
Rathva, Shri N.J.	Singh, Shri S.B.
Rawat, Shri Prabhu Lal	Singh, Deo, Shri K.P.
Reddaiah Yadav, Shri K.P.	Singla, Shri Sant Ram
Reddy, Shri A. Indrakaran	Sodi, Shri Manku Ram
Reddy, Shri A. Venkata	Solanki, Shri Surajbhanu
Reddy, Shri G. Ganga	Sukh Ram, Shri
Reddy, Shri M. Baga	Sukhbuns Kaur, Shrimati
Reddy, Shri M.G.	Sultanpuri, Shri Krishan Dutt
Reddy, Shri R. Surender	Sundararaj, Shri N.

Suresh, Shri Kodikkunil

Unnikrishnan, Shri K.P.

Swamy, Shri G. Venkat

Upadhyay, Shri Swarup

Tara Singh, Shri

Urs, Shrimati Chandra Prabha

Thakur, Shri Mahendra Kumar Singh

Verma, Shri Shiv Sharan

Thangka Balu, Shri K.V.

Verma, Kumari Vimla

Thomas, Shri P.C.

Vijayaraghavan, Shri V.S.

Thorat, Shri Sandipan Bhagwan

Thungon, Shri P.K.

Vyas, Dr. Girija

Tindivanam, Shri K. Ramamurthee

Wasnik, Shri Mukul

Tope, Shri Ankushrao Raosaheb

Yadav, Shri Ram Lakhan Singh

Topno, Kumari Frida

Yadav, Shri Ram Saran

Tytler, Shri Jagdish

Umbrey, Shri Laeta

Yadav, Shri Surya Narayan

MR. SPEAKER: Subject to correction, the result* of the Division is:

from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:—

Ayes - 177

Noes - 217

The motion was negatived.

I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha, at its sitting held on the 13th June, 1994, has passed the following motion:—

Motion

19.57 hrs.

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following message received

"That this house concurs in the recommendation of the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha do agree to leave being granted by the Lok Sabha to withdraw the Bill further to amend the Constitution of India, which was passed by the Rajya

*The following members also recorded their votes:

AYES: Shrimati Saroj Dubey, Shri V. Dhanajay Kumar, Shri Yogananda Sarin, Shri Ramkrishna Kusmaria.

NOES: S/Shri Umrao Singh, Vilas Muttemwar, Satya Pal Singh Yadav, Lakshaman Singh, S. Jaya Surya Prakash Reddy Kotta, Kumari Sushil Maruti Deoram Shelke, Shri Bapu Sahib Thite.