SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA: The hon. member pointed out to the list of business for next week and said, it was heavily congested. The Business Advisory Committee has allocated hours for these various items and we feel that within the time at our disposal, if there is nothing unforeseen, and no attack is mounted by any section, particularly, on the time of the House it will be possible for us to get through this agenda. He referred to the Ministries of Defence Planning and External Affairs which are high up in the sky, "Up above the World so high", that no guillotine can touch them. His main point was that the annual reports must be made available in time. I can assure him that every effort will be made to see that the annual reports reach hon. members in time so that the discussions can be meaningful.

13.12 hrs.

PUNJAB EXCISE (DELHI AMENDMENT) BILL*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Punjab Excise Act, 1914 as in force in the Union territory of Delhi.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Punjab Excise Act, 1914 as in force in the Union territory of Delhi."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: I introduce** the Bill.

STATEMENT RE. PUNJAB EXCISE (DELHI AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): I beg to lay on the Table an explanatory statement (Hindi and English versions) giving reasons for immediate legislation by the Punjab Excise (Delhi Amendment) Ordinance, 1979.

13.13 hrs.

MATTER UNDER RULE 377

EMERGENCY EXCESSES INQUIRY AUTHORITY, MANIPUR.

MR. SPEAKER: There is only one statement under rule 377. Mr. Sathe. You have to confine yourself to the statement you sent originally. No additions should be made. I have not gone into the additions.

SHRI VASANT SATHE (Akola): I want to raise a very serious matter with your kind permission. It is reported that when Mrs. Indira Gandhi received a letter for the first time from the Trikha Commission asking her to appear before him, a communication was sent to him immediately by her counsel requesting him to disclose his terms of reference and the notifications under which he was appointed. Strangely no reply was received to this communication, but another letter was received asking her to appear on another date which is now this 19th, to answer why contempt proceedings should not be started against her and why she should not be imprisoned. I have given a copy of that.

The request to the aforesaid effect was again repeated by Mrs. Gandhi's counsel but once again it was totally ignored and all that came to the notice of Mrs Indira Gandhi and her counsel was a report in the newspaper that

*Published in Gazette of India Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2, dated 16-3-79.

**Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

warrants of arrests have been issued against her by the Commission.

SHRI SHAMBHU NATH CHATURVEDI (Agra): On a point of order, Sir. Is this a matter to be raised at this forum?

MR. SPEAKER: After calling for the report of the Central Government, I have gone into the matter.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: The warrant of arrests have been issued in spite of the report transmitted by the Deputy Commissioner, Delhi to the authorities in Manipur that some summons earlier issued by the Commission could not be served as Mrs. Gandhi was out of station. In spite of this report, the authority issued warrants of arrests against Mrs. Gandhi This was nothing but a total highhandedness and unwarranted action on his part.

It may be recalled that sometime in January, 1979, it was reported in the press that Mr. Balraj Trikha who constitutes the Manipur authority had either resigned or had been removed from office. The circumstances in which this was done never came to light.

What made the whole thing more suspicious...

SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA (Delhi Sadar): On a point of order, Sir. Can he raise this issue here?

MR. SPEAKER: I said, after calling the report of the Central Government, I have gone into the matter. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI VASANT SATHE: What made the whole thing more suspicious was that almost a fortnight later another press report stated that he had been reappointed. It further transpries that his terms would expire on 28th of February, 1979. But there was no official communication or announcement to that effect. In the Times of India's issue of March 8, 1979, the following report appeared:

"Mr. Balraj Trikha, Chairman of the Emergency Excess Inquiry Authority, Manipur ordered contempt proceedings against the Law Secretary following an application by Mr. Achaw Singh, General Secretary of the Manipur Pradesh Janata Party today. Mr. Singh submitted before Mr. Trikha that the Law Secretary had written a letter to the Authority that the proposal for summoning Mrs. Gandhi before the authority should be dropped.

He said it amounted to interference in the administration of justice and contempt of authority committed by the Law Secretary as he had no business to issue such letters affecting the proceedings."

The sequence of events is extremely disturbing and creates strong doubt that Mr. Balraj Trikha, whose terms of reference and appointment are being kept as a closely guarded secret, is being instigated by some authorities functioning in Delhi in order to harass and villify Mrs. Gandhi. This is nothing but gross abuse of power on the part of the authorities.

In the light of the above, I would like to know as to who has appointed Mr. Trikha, what are his terms of reference. how and when and in what circumstances he has been reappointed and/or his terms have been extended and what is the whole purpose behind this highly suspicious exercise and total blatant abuse of power. The circumstances in which he has been reappointed leads us to the conclusion that there is a conspiracy and collusion for an ulterior purpose between Mr. Balraj Trikha on the one hand and the persons who are responsible at least for his reappointment. This is yet another instance of using judiciary for political ends. It could be noted that the Commission under the Commissions of Inquiry has no power or law to take contempt of court proceedings against any individual. This is a serious matter and I would urge upon the Home Minister to make a

[Shri Vasnt Sathe]

statement on the above. It is a very serious matter.

चौधरी बलबीर सिंह (होशियारपुर) प्वाइंट आफ आर्डर । यह कटेम्ट आफ कोर्ट की प्रोसीडिंग्स है, वह अगर गलत है तो वे कांपिटेंट: एथारिटी, हाईकोर्ट या सुप्रीम कोर्ट में जाकर अपील कर सकते हैं ।

MR. SPEAKER: I have gone into the matter. You cannot have a point of order against the Speaker's ruling.

चौधरी बलबीर सिंह आपने उनको कैसे इजाजत दे दी ।

MR. SPEAKER: I am not accountable to you.

12.23 hrs.

GENERAL BUDGET, 1979-80—GENERAL DISCUSSION—Contd.

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now take up general discussion on the budget.

श्रीमती चन्द्रावती (भिवानी) : स्पीकर साहब, मैं कह रही थी कि बजट को जो लोग एप्रिशिएट कर रहे हैं उनके पास प्रश्न नहीं है, उनके पास जबान नहीं है, उनके पास रेडियो नहीं है, उनके पास अखबार नहीं है, वे अपना एप्रिशिएसन यहां पर नहीं भेज सकते हैं । मैं कहना चाहती हूं कि आज तक इतने बजट यहां पर पेश हुए लेकिन स्लम्स पर कभी विचार नहीं किया गया । पहली बार इस बजट में स्लम्स का जिक्र आया है और यह बताया गया है कि उसपर कितना रुपया खर्च किया जायेगा । इसी तरह से जहां तक लैट्रिन्स और बाथ की बात है, हमें पता है कि गांवों में हमारी बहू-बेटियों के लिए लैट्रिन जाने के लिए कोई जगह नहीं है । पहले जंगल हुआ करते थे लेकिन आज वह भी नहीं है । यहां पर चाकलेट की बात कही गई, क्या मैं पूछ सकती हूं कि कितने फीसदी बच्चे चाकलेट खाते हैं ? •0001 परसेंट बच्चों को भी चाकलेट नहीं मिलती, उनको इसका नाम भी पता नहीं है । जहांतक टूथपेस्ट की बात है, मैं जानना चाहती हूं कितने फीसदी लोग टूथ-पेस्ट इस्तेमाल करते हैं और कम्पनी वाले टूथ-पेस्ट की कितनी कीमत वसूल करते हैं ? आप मशीन की बात करते हैं, लेकिन सिंथर मशीन की जात 160 रुपए की आती है । इन सारी चीजों को मिला कर, आप उस में पूरा नफा भी मिला लें, तो भी उस की कीमत 350 रुपये से ज्यादा नहीं होनी चाहिये, लेकिन 500 रुपये में बिक रही है ....

श्री अलगेशन सत्यम : 800 रुपये में बिक रही है ।

श्रीमती चन्द्रावती : मैं आप की मार्फत अर्ज करना चाहती हूं कि आप एक कमीशन बैठाइये, जो इन कारखानों में चीजें बनती है उन की कीमत को निर्धारित करे । आज बड़े-बड़े पूंजीपतियों का गिरोह या सिण्डीकेट बना हुआ है, जिसे शायद टैरिफ बोर्ड कहते है, वही इन की कीमतों को निर्धारित करता है । मैं मानती हूं कि इस साल चौधरी साहब ने बजट पेश किया है, लेकिन साइकल के टायरों की कीमत पहले क्या थी और आज क्या है ? ट्रक और ट्रेक्टर्स के टायरों की कीमत पहले क्या थी और आज क्या है ? इस लिये मेरा कहना है कि जब तक डायरेक्ट टैक्सेज नहीं लगेंगे, तब तक कन्ज्यूमर्स के लिये आफतें आती रहेंगी क्योंकि ये पूंजीपति और कारखानेदार जितना टैक्स लगता है सब कन्ज्यूमर्स से वसूल कर लेते है । जो साड़ी 1955 में 12 रुपये की थी और वह 60 रुपये में आती है । जो उस वक्त 60 रुपये में आती थी, आज 250 रुपये में आती है, लेकिन किसी ने आज तक नहीं कहा कि इन की कीमतें इतनी ज्यादा कैसे बढ़ गई ? यह पैसा सरकारी खजाने में नहीं जाता है । सुन्दर नगर में मैंने देखा—10-10 लाख रुपये के मकान बने हुए हैं, लेकिन उन की कीमत दो-दो लाख रुपये आंकी गई है । बसन्त-विहार में बड़े-बड़े महल बने हुए हैं—लेकिन उन की कीमत दो-दो लाख रुपये आंकी गई है । मैं चाहती हूं कि आप एक कमीशन बनायें, जो इन की जांच करे, तब आप को मालूम होगा कि टैक्स की कितनी ज्यादा चोरी होती है ।

आप देखेंगे कि इण्डस्ट्रीयल प्रोडक्ट्स की कीमतें बढ़ी हैं, लेकिन जो किसान पैदा करता है, उस की कीमतें घटी हैं । हमारा जो छोटा किसान है, मार्जिनल फार्मर है, जब उस की उपज घर में आती है, वह उस को रोक नहीं सकता, क्योंकि उसे कर्जा चुकाना होता है, बच्चों के कपड़ों पर और दूसरी चीजों पर खर्च करना पड़ता है, नतीजा यह होता है कि उस को अपनी उपज को बाजार भाव पर बेचना पड़ता है । लेकिन जो किसान रोक सकते हैं, चार-छः महीने अपनी उपज को रोक कर बेचते हैं तो उन को सही भाव मिल जाता है—इसी लिये मैंने अर्ज किया है कि हमारा छोटा किसान इस से बहुत ज्यादा प्रभावित है । 1966-67 में कपास का भाव 300 से 500 रुपये के बीच में था और उस वक्त अढ़िया पाथजीन साढ़े-तीन या चार रुपये गज बिकती थी, लेकिन आज कपास 260 रुपये में बिकी है, एक महीने तक मंडियों में पड़ी रहने के बाद बिकी है, लेकिन पाथजीन का भाव आज 11 रुपये गज है—लेकिन क्या कहीं किसी ने इस के खिलाफ आवाज उठाई ? विभासबाई जो हाथ से बनती है, उस को 3 रुपये 60 पैसे से बढ़ा कर 1 रुपये 60 पैसे किया है—मैं फिगर्स के मामले में बहुत करैक्ट नहीं हूं—लेकिन आप इस बात को देखिये कि उस की कीमत कम की गई है, लेकिन किसी