

सरकार कीमतें रोकने में निकम्मी साबित हुई है। अगर इस देश के लोगों को कत्ल करना है तो फिर धीरे-धीरे हलाल न किया करें। इस तरीके को ब्याप रोकें।

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, as you have yourself observed the objection is more to the merits of the Bill rather than to its introduction. But since the Hon. Member labours under a mis-apprehension I would like to explain the position. Originally the import of edible oils was under OGL and traders were free to import. Government found that they were exploiting the market and therefore we deprived the traders of the OGL and canalised the import through STC. When we canalised through STC some of the traders manipulated contracts saying, we have entered into contracts prior to the date of canalisation by the SIC, and therefore, they said they are entitled to import. We said that unless it is registered with the Import Controller, this cannot be accepted. Nevertheless they went to Court and got an order saying that in respect of those contracts which had been entered into earlier, they are entitled to import. Government found that the difference between the CIF price and the market price is somewhere about 7 to 8 thousand rupees and if the private traders were allowed to import under the CIF, then, they would make a killing of 7 to 8 thousand rupees per tonne. Therefore Govern-

ment said, we will increase the import duty and if they imported they will have to pay this heavy duty. The import duty under the customs tariff, the statutory rates, was only 60 per cent. Since this did not cover the difference between the market price and CIF price, Government had to come by way of an ordinance to raise it to 200 per cent so that none of these people who manipulate contracts will be able to import this. This is the position. I am only sorry that his eloquence increases in geometrical proportion with a lack of knowledge on the subject.

MR. CHAIRMAN: the question is :

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Customs Tariff Act, 1975.”

#### THE MOTION WAS ADOPTED

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Sir, I introduce\* the Bill.

#### STATEMENT RE-CUSTOMS TARIFF (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 1981.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table an explanatory statement (Hindi and English versions) giving reasons for immediate legislation by the Customs Tariff (Amendment) Ordinance, 1981.

\*Introduced with the recommendation of the President.