

पर निकलता है वह किसानों की खेती को बरबाद करता है, यदि उसका उपयोग पेपर बनाने में हो जाय तो इस समस्या का भी समाधान हो सकता है।

काटन कारपोरेशन आफ इण्डिया के बारे में भी कुछ उचित व्यवस्था की जानी चाहिए। काटन कारपोरेशन बाजार में तब आता है, जब छोटे-छोटे किसान अपनी रई बाजार में बेच चुके होते हैं, जिससे किसानों को अपनी उपज का ठीक पैसा नहीं मिल पाता है। इसलिए समय से काटन कारपोरेशन आफ इण्डिया बाजार के घन्दर घाए और छोटे किसान को काटन पैदा करते हैं, उनकी काटन को खरीदकर उन को उचित मूल्य मिल सके, इस प्रकार की व्यवस्था करना नितान्त आवश्यक है। इसलिए मैं मंत्री महोदय का ध्यान इस ओर आकृषित करना चाहता हूँ और मैंने जो प्वाइन्ट उठाए हैं, उनके ऊपर मंत्री जी जोरदार कार्यवाही करें।

इन शब्दों के साथ मैं कामर्स मिनिस्ट्री की डिमान्ड्स का पुरजोर समर्थन करता हूँ और आपको धन्यवाद देता हूँ कि आप ने मुझे बोलने का समय दिया।

14.21 hrs.

STATEMENT *RE* PLACING OF CERTAIN FIRMS IN ABEYANCE FOR IMPROPER IMPORTS OF TALLOW.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, the Minister will make a statement.

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, statement on certain firms placed in abeyance for improper imports of tallow...

श्री मनीराम बागड़ी (हिसार) : मेरा प्वाइन्ट आफ आर्डर है।

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is on the agenda.

श्री मनीराम बागड़ी : 376। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या इस बात की इतिला सदन को दी गई कि यह जो स्टेटमेंट कर रहे हैं यह पुरानी पालिसी पर कर रहे हैं या नई पालिसी एडोप्ट कर रहे हैं और उस पर स्टेटमेंट दे रहे हैं।

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is no point of order. Let the Minister make the statement.

श्री मनीराम बागड़ी : एजेण्डा पर अगर कोई गलत बात आ जाए, तो क्या उसके बारे में नहीं कह सकते। पालिसी जो पहले की बनी हुई है, उस पर स्टेटमेंट दे रहे हैं या जो चार्ज लगा है कि इन-इन कम्पनियों ने टेल्सो रिलीज किया, उसके बारे में स्टेटमेंट दे रहे हैं या फिर कोई नया पालिसी स्टेटमेंट दे रहे हैं।

DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT (Rajgarh) : Whether it is a personal statement by the Minister or it is a policy statement.

(Interruptions)

SHRI HARIKASH BAHADUR (Gorkhpur) : Sir, I rise on a point of order. (Interruptions) I have given notice of breach of privilege against the Minister on this particular issue. If he is to make any statement let him make the statement on my notice of breach of privilege

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is no point of order. Let the Minister make his statement.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: The factual position is that on receipt of reports about imports of animal tallow by certain firms in an unauthorised manner, inspections of 48 firms in various cities of India were carried out by the inspection teams deputed by the Office of the Chief Controller of Imports & Exports. On the basis of the information, material and documents collected by the inspection teams during their inspections, it was found that 193 firms were prima facie involved in unauthorised import of animal tallow on or after 5.6.1981 when imports of all kinds of animal tallow ceased to be on OGL. These firms fall broadly into three categories: (1) those who import licences were utilised for such imports of animal tallow; (2) those who actually effected such unauthorised imports; and (3) those who abetted in such unauthorised imports or in misutilisation of such unauthorised imported tallow. Accordingly, pending further investigation, Office of the Chief Controller of imports & Exports placed 193 firms under abeyance for a period of six months, in public interest, in terms of Clause 8 B of the Imports (Control) Order, 1955.

None of these 193 firms including M/s. Oswal Woollen Mills Ltd., G T. Road, Ludhiana; M/s. Oswal Agro Mills Ltd., Ludhiana, Kishan Chand & Sons Ludhiana, Mansingka Baothers, Calcutta, Godrej Soap Ltd., Bombay and Allana Oil Mills, Bombay, has been removed by the Office of the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports from abeyance so far. Since investigation against M/s. Jain Shudh Vanaspati Ltd., New Delhi could not be finalised within six months the abeyance was extended on 1-2-1984 and on completion of investigation, the firm has been debarred for 5 licencing periods upto March, 1988 under Clause 8 of the Imports (Control) Order, and the abeyance circular dated 1.2.1984 has been modified to that extent by the debarring circular dated 2.3.1984.

Thus, in view of the above position, it is obvious that the Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce and Department of Supply has stated the

position in conformity with the facts in reply to the Unstarred Question No. 6940 on 6.4.1984 and did not at all mis-load the House.

I would like to clarify now the context in which the letter dated 20.1.1984 of Shri S.N. Bhatnagar, Dy. Director (V), Directorate of Vanaspati, Veg. Oils and Fats referred to by the Hon'ble Members in their notices, was issued. Apart from the 193 firms mentioned in the abeyance circulars issued by the Office of Chief Controller of Imports & Exports, the Directorate of Vanaspati, Veg. Oils & Fats on its own, issued instructions to S.T.C. to keep allocation to seven other firms in abeyance on account of similarity of their names with some of the aforesaid 193 firms included in CCI & E's Abeyance circular or considering them to be sister concern of any of the said firms. Shri P.S. Cheema, Chief Director, Directorate of Vanaspati, Veg. Oils & Fats has himself clarified this in his letter No. I-VP(5)83 dated 12.1.1984 to the Chief Controller of Imports & Exports, which runs as under:—

“We have received representations from some of the vanaspati units whose allocation has been stopped by us on the ground that their sister concerns are listed in the Abeyance Orders issued by CCI&E. Since we had some informal reports about the connections of the various vanaspati units with the parties mentioned in Abeyance list issued by you (that is CCI&E) we advised SC to keep their allocations in abeyance to be on the safe side. Although we have no material to prove the connections of the various firms listed in the Abeyance Orders with the vanaspati units our information is based on informal reports as well as similarity of the names listed below. This is from the letter of the Vanaspati Director.

Name of the parties allocation of which has been suspended	Name of the sister concern appearing in abeyance list
1. Vegetable Oils Ltd., Bombay	Godrej Soaps Ltd., Bombay, which has been in abeyance.
2. Indian Vegetable Products Ltd. Bombay	Allana Oil Mills, Bombay.
3. Oswal Vanaspati & Allied Industries, Ludhiana	Oswal Woollens Ltd., Ludhiana.
4. Kishanchand & Company Ltd., Industries Ltd., Ludhiana	Kishan Chand & Sons., Ludhiana.
5. Mansingka Industries Pachore	Mansingka Brothers, Calcutta.
6. Mansingka Oil Industries, Khandwa.	—do—
7. Rajasthan Vanaspati Products Ltd., Bhilwara	—do—

In view of the foregoing, you are requested to kindly advise us as to what action should be taken in the matter."

It is obvious that *sub moto* action was taken by the Directorate of Vanaspati to be on the safe side as they had no formal proof of connection of these firms with any of the 193 firms under abeyance as per CCI&E office circulars.

Since the application of the abeyance circular issued by the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports was confined to the 193 firms mentioned therein and did not extend automatically to any sister concerns thereof and there was no information with either the Directorate of Vanaspati or with the Office of the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports that the seven other firms put in abeyance by the Directorate of Vanaspati had actually committed any of the violations under the Imports Control regulations, namely, allowing their licences to be utilised for unauthorised import of animal tallow, actually effecting such imports or abetting in any such unauthorised imports or misutilisation of the imported goods, the Office of the Chief Controller of Imports &

Exports issued the following reply to the Chief Director of the Directorate of Vanaspati:—

"The abeyance circulars apply to those firms whose names are specifically mentioned therein and do not automatically effect their sister concerns."

On receipt of the aforesaid clarification, the said Directorate of Vanaspati withdrew its own earlier instructions to STC to keep in abeyance the allocation already made. The letter of Shri S.N. Bhatnagar, Dy. Director, Directorate of Vanaspati Veg. Oils and Fats., referred to by the Hon'ble Members runs as under;—

"I am to refer to this Directorate's letter of even number dated 3rd & 7th January, 1984 on the above mentioned subject and to say that the allocation of imported oils of the following units for the month of January, 1984, which was kept in abeyance may please be released immediately:—

1. Vegetable Oils Ltd., Bombay
2. Indian Vegetable Products, Bombay

3. Oswal Vanaspati & Allied Industries, Ludhiana
4. Kishan Chand & Co., Oil Industries, Ludhiana
5. Mansingka Industries, Pachora
6. Mansingka Oil Industries Khandwa
7. Rajasthan Vanaspati Products, Bhilwara."

From the above position, it is crystal clear that the word 'abeyance' used in Shri Bhatnagar's letter dated 20.1.84 refers to the abeyance instructions issued suo motto by the Directorate of Vanaspati and not to the abeyance circulars issued by the office of CCI & E. None of the 193 firms has been withdrawn from abeyance by the CCI & E office.

Therefore the answer given by the Minister of State, stating that no abeyance order in respect of any of the 193 firms has been withdrawn so far is factually correct and has not misled the House.

No favour has been given to any of the 193 firms put in abeyance by the Office of the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports.

As regards the charge of graft against me by Shri R.N. Rakesh, MP, I firmly deny it. Even the Hon'ble Member making the charge knows that the charge is not true. In my public life, I have kept the observance of moral standards and ethics above office.

14.30 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL)
1984-85—(CONTD.)

(ii) Ministry of Commerce (Contd.)

DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT :
Sir, I have a point of information. I am not raising a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No point of order can be raised on the Minister's Statement. Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, Mr. S.P. Thorat, to speak on the Demands for Grants for the Ministry of Commerce. He is not there. Then, Mr. Shanmugam to speak.

***SHRI P. SHANMUGAM (Pondicherry) :** Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to make few suggestions on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Commerce for the year 1984-85. Unless the trade gap is filled up by augmenting exports and by reducing the imports the industrial economy of the country cannot show signs of recovery. It augurs well for the nation's economy that after our capable Minister of Commerce has assumed the office the exports have gone up and the importers are getting reduced.

I would confine remarks to my constituency Pondicherry Union Territory. I would like to bring to the personal attention of the Minister of Commerce that in Pondicherry town the Anglo-French Textile Mill, commonly known as Rodier Mill, has remained closed for the past ten months. 7600 workers without their wages for the ten months are hovering between life and death. The unbearable misery of starvation has led 30 of them to commit suicide and their dependents have become destitutes. I do not know how many suicides may take place before the Mill is re-opened. 40,000 people, who are dependents on these workers, are struggling to survive, putting up a brave face against the pangs of hunger. You know, Sir, that if hunger is not appeased, then the hungry man turns violent. Such a situation is likely to happen in Poncherry if immediate step for re-

** Not recorded.

* The original speech was delivered in Tamil.