

No. 223 dated 9th August, 1983.
[Placed in Library See No. L.T.
6870/83]

12.22 Hrs.

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA

NOTIFICATIONS UNDER APPRENTICES ACT

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English Versions) under sub-section (3) of section 37 of the Apprentices Act, 1961 :-

- (1) The Apprenticeship (Third Amendment) Rules, 1983 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 450 in Gazette of India dated the 18th June, 1983 together with Order published in Notification No. S.O. 2587 in Gazette of India dated the 18th June, 1983 notifying the ration of apprentices to workers in the trade under Hotel and Catering trades group.
- (2) The Apprenticeship (Second Amendment) Rules, 1983 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 451 in Gazette of India dated the 18th June, 1983 together with Order published in Notification No. S.O. 2586 in Gazette of India dated the 18th June, 1983 notifying the ratio of apprentices to workers in the trade of Fitter Structural under construction trade group. [Placed in Library see No. L.T. 6871/83]

DRUGS (PRICES CONTROL) (THIRD AMENDMENT) ORDER, 1983

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS (SHRI R.C. RATH) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Drugs (Prices Control) (Third Amendment) Order, 1983 (Hindi and English Versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 526(E) in Gazette of India dated the 4th August, 1983 under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1956. [Placed in Library See No. L.T. 6872/83]

SECRETARY : Sir. I have to report the following messages received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha :-

- (i) "In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Jute Manufactures Cess Bill, 1983 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 9th August, 1983, and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."
- (ii) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha, at its sitting held on the 11th August, 1983, agreed without any amendment to the Jute Manufactures Development Council Bill, 1983, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 9th August, 1983."

SHRI A.K. BALAN (Ottapalam) : It is a very serious matter.

SHRI A. NEELALOHITHADASAN NADAR (Trivandrum) : Three weeks have passed.

12.24 Hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

SITUATION ARISING OUT OF HEAVY CANE PRICE ARREARS DUE FOR PAYMENT TO CANE GROWERS BY SUGAR MILLS.

SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA (Vai-shali) : Sir, I call the attention of the Hon.

Minister of Food and Civil & Supplies to the situation arising out of heavy arrears of payment of sugarcane growers towards sugar mills and the action taken by Government in the matter.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI M.S. SANJEEVI RAO) : At the outset, I must thank the Hon'ble Members for affording me an opportunity to make a statement in this House on a matter which continues to agitate the minds of Hon'ble Members of both the House of Parliament as well as the general public.

The genesis of the problem is not far to seek. Problems of plenty could be as troublesome as the problems of shortage, if not more. In the entire history of the industry it has happened for the first time that a record sugar production year has been followed by a second year of production which is nearing previous year's record level of production. However, the problem of payment of arrears of cane price has not proved to be as difficult as it was believed to be some months back during the crushing season. Till 30th of June '83, out of a total cane price payable of Rs. nearly 1456 crores, Rs. 1254 crores has already been paid to total cane growers. The arrears as on 30.6.83 amount to Rs. 202 crores which constitutes 13.9% of the total price payable and cannot be considered to be unsatisfactory under the circumstances. Now that the cane crushing season has practically closed, the arrears will start diminishing at a faster pace through the sale of sugar already produced.

However, let me once again clarify that the role of the Central Government in this matter is, strictly speaking, limited to monitoring the position of cane price dues and issuing directions to the State Govts., for ensuring expeditious clearance of the arrears. It is really the role of the State Governments, who have the necessary field organisations and requisite powers, to enforce cane price payments. Only recently, the Chief Ministers were addressed to take effective steps in the matter. I understand the State Govts. are actively pursuing with the sugar factories the

question of payments. Recently, the State Govt. of U.P. has been able to secure a way and means advance of Rs. 40 crores mainly on the ground that the cane price arrears in the State are high and they want to clear the arrears.

On its part, to assist the sugar industry, the Central Govt. has liberalised bank credit facilities to the mills, created a buffer stock and granted an excise duty rebate. In addition, the RBI has been persuaded to change its system of valuation of the stocks held by the mills which will make available to the sugar mills a substantial additional credit which should help them to clear cane price arrears expeditiously. The price of free-sale sugar has also been kept at reasonable levels through the mechanism of carefully regulated monthly releases. To further improve the liquidity of the industry, the State Govts. have been advised to remit purchase tax on cane.

In respect of the 8 Centrally-managed sugar factories, it has been decided to clear the cane price dues of these mills. Sanction worth Rs. 6 crores has already been given and it is hoped that these mills will start clearing the cane price arrears within the next few days and should start the new season with a clean slate.

12.28 hrs.

(MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

(SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has stated that till 30th June, 1983, out of the total arrears of Rs. 1456 crores, Rs. 1254 crores have been paid off and only Rs. 202 crores are now payable. According to him, only 13.9 per cent is now due. He appears to be satisfied with the position. I am sorry to have to say that perhaps he does not realise that this 13.9 per cent includes a large number of cane growers who depend on their earnings from sugarcane to meet their important obligations; they have to provide for the marriage of their daughters, they have to pay for the education of their children and they have to pay for other necessities of life. Non-payment of cane

price puts them to great hardships and difficulties, and all these obligations remain unfulfilled. You can appreciate their plight. I know that the production of sugar touched 84 lakh tonnes last year and it will be 83 lakh tonnes this year. The Government claim that this high production is an index of the success of their sugar policy. I do not dispute that the production has gone up. But the existence of large arrears of cane price affecting mostly the small farmers is a matter of great concern and anxiety. I know the case of Motipur sugar factory in my constituency. The payment of cane price had not been made for several years. The farmers were suffering great difficulties; they were running from pillar to post for getting their dues. I had also to approach the Government repeatedly and after persistent efforts, the State Government made payment, but not the entire amount.

I know that this tendency to postpone payment of cane-price for a year or two may ultimately affect the production. I also know that a large number of farmers are switching from cane to cultivation of food crops.

Sir, this situation persists in spite of the fact that Government have taken several steps to help the millowners. They have liberalised bank credit to the mills; they have given rebate on excise duty; they have, through the dual price policy, enabled the millowners to charge more on non-levy sugar and have also undertaken to create buffersocks. Yet the situation has not improved and most of these mills are sick and incurring heavy losses.

According to a provision in the relevant legislation, if the cane prices are not paid within fourteen days of the supply of cane, the mills will be liable to pay interest at the rate of 15%.

Sir, the farmers have to wait for days to get their sugarcane weighed. Delay of a few days causes loss in weight due to dridge. They have made complaints but in vain. They, therefore, suffer loss not only in price of cane but they also have to be away from

their fields, hearths and homes. U.P. and Bihar top the list in the matter of arrears. The U.P. Government has been given a ways and means advance of Rs. 40 crores to clear the dues.

I would like to know from the Minister :-

- (1) the reasons for delay in payment of cane price on time ;
- (2) whether Government would take steps to ensure payment of interest also ;
- (3) whether the Government are aware of the delay in weighment and, if so, what steps have been suggested for minimising delay in weighment ;
- (4) what steps are being taken to make the sick mills viable ;
- (5) Has U.P. cleared the dues completely ? Whether Government of Bihar have also been given ways and means advance for this purpose ?
- (6) Why is it that eight factories belonging to the Central Government have also defaulted ?

SHRI M. S. SANJEEVI RAO : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I thanks the hon. Members for giving me the opportunity to inform them how effectively and efficiently, our Government has acted in solving this issue.

You are all aware that the problem of plenty can be as trouble some as the problem of shortage, if not, more. Last year, we had produced 84.38 lakh tonnes of sugar. This year we are about to produce 83 lakhs tonnes of sugar. What does this mean ? The installed capacity of these sugar factories—we have about 327 of them is 65.67 lakh tonnes. How can we produce sugar to the tune of 84.38 lakh tonnes ? That is entirely because of the Government

to see that the sugarcane are not burnt by the farmers like done in the Janata Government. In 1977-78, the farmers had all burnt the sugarcane.

SHRI HARIKESH BAHADUR (Gorakhpur) : In this year also.

SHRI M. S. SANJEEVI RAO : How do we do that? Generally, Sir, the sugar factories are run for 140 days in a year. We have made them to run for 200 to 210 days and have made them to produce 84 lakh tonnes of sugar. We have also given the excise duty rebate. You all know that in summer season, when the sugar factories run, the rate of their recovery will be much less. To accommodate them, we have given them the excise duty rebate. With all that, we have managed it very well. This year, the performance is the same. The net result of all this is that the last year's carryover of our stock was 33 lakh tonnes and, this year, the carryover stocks will be 47 lakh tonnes of sugar, and yet we are able to clear the arrears nearly to the tune Rs. 1254 crores. Now, the dues are only to the tune of Rs. 202 crores which means . . .

PROF. N.G. RANGA (Guntur) : For kisans Rs. 202 crores is a big enough amount.

SHRI M.S. SANJEEVI RAO : Sir, on 15th January, 1982 the arrears were 22.9 per cent but this year as on 15th January, 1983 it is 35.6 per cent. The difference is quite large but on 30th June, 1982 it was 9.7 per cent and this year it is 13.9 per cent.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : How much it will come to in terms of crores?

SHRI M. S. SANJEEVI RAO : In terms of crores it will be Rs. 156 crores. Then, Sir, we all agree we have to see that sugar is available to the consumer at a reasonable price. That is also our objective. Secondly, we must see that the farmer gets a reasonable price. Now, how can he get it until and unless the factories function efficiently and effectively? That is the reason why we have given a statutory price of Rs. 13 linked to a recovery of 8.5 per cent. The States like Maharashtra, Gujarat

and Karnataka who followed our statutory price and followed the Bhargava principle, that is, after the season is over they shared the extra realisation with the farmer, these States followed those principles properly and their rate of arrears is 1.5 per cent in the case of Maharashtra and about 4 per cent in the case of Gujarat and about 3.5 per cent in Karnataka. In other States they have given much more with the result the viability of the factories is not there and so they could not in time give the price. As such, the Government has given all the facilities, such as, we have increased credit through reduction in the margin and we have also created a buffer stock of 5 lakhs. Thereby we have increased the viability of factories and the net result is that there is improvement and the arrears have come down to 13.9 per cent. I am sure now that the purchase of sugarcane is stopped as the mills stopped producing from the end of June and they have started paying to the farmers, we are confident by 30th September, the cane arrears will be less than 10 per cent.

Shrimati Kishori Sinha has raised quite a few important point about interest. You will agree with me that the Centre does not have the means, mechanism and organisation except to give guidance to the State Governments.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY (Bombay NorthEast) : When You can change the Chief Minister by telephone how can you say you cannot do more than just guide them?

SHRI M. S. SANJEEVI RAO : I am requesting the State Government to look into it. Regarding sick mills out of 327 mills nearly 107 mills are technically weak mills in the country. So, we have created a soft loan so that these mills can take advantage of the loan and improve their working. Further, we have also created Sugar Development Fund wherein we have already allotted about Rs.90 crores for 1983-84 and with this we have to give the margin money required for the sick mills and with this they can utilise the soft loan and improve the sugar factories. I am sure that with this they will be able to improve the efficiency of the factories. You are all aware that quite a few of these 107 mills produce less than 1250 tonnes and not only we want to increase the capacity of these mills but we want to

improve the thermal efficiency. Now, how do we do that? We want to restructure and revamp those factories in such a way by improving efficiency with better equipment and devices, to see that the heat and steam leakages are stopped. I am sure that with these measures and also by giving additional money for the cane development and funds for research. We will not only be able to improve the efficiency of the factories but also produce better quality of cane. In a very highly competitive world as it is existing now, unless and until we increase the efficiency of the factories and also produce better quality of sugar, we cannot compete in the world market and improve the standard of living of our people. With this background, we are taking all these steps.

Now, she also raised about the arrears of U.P. and Bihar. I do agree that there is a heavy arrear in both these States. But, as I told you, they have not followed the Bhargava formula. Here it is left to the State Governments. We cannot force them and I am sure they will clear these arrears by our giving Rs.40 crores to U.P. Government. She also raised the issue of Bihar. It has not applied for any loan. Even if they apply for soft loan, it is entirely for the Finance Ministry to consider it. Let me assure you, once again, that the Government of India is taking every step to see that cane arrear comes down below 10% by 30th September 1983.

SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA (Aurangabad): Sir, I am glad to learn from the hon. Minister that he has been taking steps to improve the working of the sugar mills. He has told us that he has provided for soft loan and he has also created a Sugar Development Corporation. He is going to revamp and restructure the sugar factories. He has told us all the steps that he is going to take now. But from the tenor of his reply, I must say that he has shown a smug complacency as he has not realised that this 13.9% arrear includes a large number of small farmers and this percentage business is not going to give any satisfaction to those who have not been paid their dues. It may succeed in creating some kind of satisfaction to us in the House. But it will not satisfy them and the position remains that they continue to suffer.

With regard to Bihar, he has said that Bihar has not approached the Central Government. He said that if Bihar approaches for loan, it will be for the Finance Ministry to consider this. I think when the hon. Minister came to the House, He should have come fully prepared to consider our questions, that is, whether any request has been made by the Bihar Government and what has been the reaction of the Ministry of Finance, because Bihar is topmost in the list in the matter of arrears and the Central Government cannot escape responsibility saying that it has no direct responsibility and they are only to monitor the whole thing.

As my friend Dr. Subramaniam Swamy, said, now the Central Government cannot say that they have no powers; they have no responsibility; they can change the Chief Ministers at their will. And if Chief Ministers do not act upto your instructions in this matter, you should change them.

I read a news item in the FINANCIAL EXPRESS that the pace of payment of arrears by sugar mills is likely to slow down, because the Government have released a higher quantity of levy sugar in the market, and as a result, the prices have come down; they have recorded a fall of Rs.100 per quintal. The sugar mills wanted Rs.1200 crores during the crushing season but instead they got only Rs.700 crores, as a result of which they could not mortgage or pledge a large stock with the Banks, and the payment was made only by the sale of those non-pledged stocks. But now it is feared that during the month of July and August, the pace of payment of arrears will slow down. The Minister is answering our questions today, the 16th August, and he has yet to know the real situation. He should have come with upto-date figures, how far he has succeeded in clearing the arrears in respect of the various mills. You have taken a large number of measures to help the sugar mills to pay the arrears and still they have not paid the arrears. What is the reason? The Government should have answered this question straightway.

Now, I would come to my specific questions. As a result of fall of free sugar price from Rs.450 per quintal to roughly Rs. 355 or Rs.360 per quintal, does the Govern-

ment think that a situation has arisen when the pace of payment of arrears would be slowed down or it will receive a set back ?

Then, there are certain sugar factories under the control of the Central Government. They may not have direct responsibility for the mills with the State Governments or the private sector, but they have in this case. In the statement, you have mentioned that necessary instructions have been issued as also a sum of Rs. 6 crores has been sanctioned for making payment. I would like to know from the Government the total amount of arrears due from these factories, and whether the amount of Rs.6 crore would be enough to clear the arrears completely and entirely. Why is it that these mills have defaulted, when they are under your direct charge ?

The U.P. and Bihar Governments have been asked to remit the purchase tax. Has the purchase tax been remitted ? When were the instructions issued ? Have the Government been able to find out the reason why their instructions have not been carried out ? Why are these mills continuing to be sick despite all the efforts and the measures that you have taken ? Even those sugar factories which are under the State control have been continuing to be sick. I ask why should this happen ? What is the actual reason for all this ?

Then, Sir, my friend spoke eloquently about the success of the sugar policy and has deprecated the Janata Government's policy saying that during that period sugarcane had to be burnt. My friend Harikesh Bahadur had a chance to tell him whether the sugar canes are being burnt now or not. But, I from my own experience will tell him that the farmers have found it very difficult actually supply their sugar-canes to the factories. The sugar factories take a lot of time in accepting the sugar-cane offered by the farmers and they have to wait for days together with the result they suffered from the drying up of the sugar-canes. And the Government did not reply to this question specifically as to what is being done to avoid this in future. Are the Government aware that last year the sugar-cane production was 80 lakh tonnes and this year they are going to have 83 lakh tonnes, but if the small

farmers are allowed to suffer through this kind of harassments and hardships, don't you think that there will be a trend of switching over from production of sugar-cane to the food-crops ? Is there no possibility ? I know there are quite a number of farmers who are now thinking of changing over to food crops. So, the Government must look into this question so that the sugar-cane growers are not put to needless hardships and inconveniences. I don't think it would be beyond the power of the Government to help these sugar factories in making payments to them which they have failed signally to do. With these words, I expect the Hon. Minister to answer these questions specifically.

SHRI M.S. SANJEEVI RAO : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I have myself said that the free-sale sugar price is coming down a little and we want it to be around Rs. 5/- a k.g. so that the viability of the sugar factories are sound and that they can pay the arrears to the cane-growers. We are taking effective steps inspite of the heavy stocks on hand to see that they are released at proper time so that the price of free-sale sugar does not come below Rs. 5/-.

SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA : Has it come down or not ?

SHRI M.S. SANJEEVI RAO : It came down a little, but we are taking measures to see that they do not come down further so that the viability of the factories is sound.

SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA : I have said they have come down by Rs. 100 a quintal. That is my specific point.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY : Who is the Minister evading the direct questions ? He is not answering that question.

SHRI M.S. SANJEEVI RAO : The eight factories he mentioned that have been taken over by the Government, they owe to cane-growers not more than about Rs. 5/- crores. And since we have given six crores of rupees, we are going to give this money to the farmers and see that within a few days not a single rupee will remain to be payable to the farmers.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : He was asking why there was arrear in the public undertaking sugar factories.

SHRI M.S. SANJEEVI RAO : As I told you we have tried to forgo the statutory price, which the Central Government has formulated. That is about Rs. 13/ per quintal, if the recovery rate is Rs. 8.5 and since we are living in the respective States, we have to fall in line with the State Government practices and we are clearing the arrears.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY : Why did you have arrears in the first place ?

SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA : Sir, he says that since the factories are in the respective States, to that extent they are to obey the orders of the State Governments in paying higher price of sugar, whether they are in UP or in Bihar. My question is if the purchase tax is going to be remitted, in that case the price will be less.

SHRI M.S. SANJEEVI RAO : Anyway, Sir, we are now clearing the arrears.

SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA : Along with the Interest ? Let him say, in the Central sector they must pay the interest if they fail to make payment within 14 days.

SHRI M.S. SANJEEVI RAO : That I tell you, Sir, that we go along with whatever the State Government practices are where the mills are situated.

SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA : The answer was. We cannot force the State Governments to pay the interest. Now the Central Government is running those factories-whether they are situated in U.P., Bihar or elsewhere. Then they incurred arrears. They have defaulted. So, they must comply with the provisions of the law and pay interest on these arrears. They must set an example. (Interruptions).

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : He is replying to Mr. Sinha.

SHRI M.S. SANJEEVI RAO : We follow the directions of the respective State Governments.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : He is following the rules of the State Governments. (Interruptions). He cannot go against them that is what he says.

SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA : Do the rules of the State Government over-ride the provisions of the law ? Let him say that.

SHRI N.K. SHEJWALKAR (Gwalior) : We are interested in knowing it. I am not putting a question.

SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU : ROSE.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mr. Shejwalkar and Mr. Naidu, you cannot raise any questions.

SHRI N.K. SHEJWALKAR : After all, to the specific question he has put, the Minister should reply.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : He has replied to Mr Sinha.

SHRI N.K. SHEJWALKAR : It is being slightly side-tracked.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : It is for Mr Sinha to say whether he is satisfied with the reply or not. It is between him and Mr Sinha.

SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA : Sir, I seek your protection. You must ask the Minister to reply to it.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : He knows the question. He will reply; he is an efficient Minister.

SHRI M.S. SANJEEVI RAO : I have already answered. Now about the third point which is very relevant, about the sick mills

which are still there, in spite of our efforts. (Interruptions). Mr Shejwalkar is an expert on atomic energy. He should raise more questions on it. (Interruptions).

SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA : This is a specific question about interest; and Central Government should honour the provisions of the law.

SHRI N.K. SHEJWALKAR : We are not concerned with State Governments.

(Interruptions)

SHRI M.S. SANJEEVI RAO : I will answer his question. As I told in the beginning itself, how will the common man get his sugar at a reasonable price, how will the farmer get a reasonable price, until the mills are healthy? If you want deliberately to make them unhealthy; how will they function? (Interruptions) I am coming to your point—I want to give the background. If the statutory price given by the Central is Rs. 13/- per quintal, when the recovery rate is 8.5%, and if some of the State Governments force the sugar mills to give a higher price.....(Interruptions) and if they fail to pay the arrears, how will they pay the interest on top of it? That is why we do not want to enter into the controversy. We leave it entirely to the State Governments to solve the issue. As regards the eight sugar mills, we would like to fall in line with whatever the State Government says.

SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA : Let the Minister recall the announcement made by the Central Government, that it will be Rs. 17.25 per quintal. How does he take shelter behind Rs. 13/-? Secondly, he is not answering my specific question about interest, which the Central Government should honour.

(Interruptions)

13.00 Hrs

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : He said, what the State Government follows, only the Central Government can also follow the same rules. There should not be any con-

flict between the State and the Centre. Don't put him into trouble. He has made it very clear. He will only follow what the State Government follows with regard to it.

SHRI N.K. SHEJWALKAR : You should protectus.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have only communicated to you what he said. It is for him to reply.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER - He has put a specific question. He wants to know whether the Central Government—because it is a Central Government undertaking will pay the interest. You give a specific reply to him.

SHRI M.S. SANJEEVI RAO : We will follow the State Government's direction.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Why can you not say that you cannot follow it?

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY : Why can you not say that you will or you will not follow it?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You can give a straight reply.

(Interruptions)

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY : You can adjourn the House if you like so that he will have some time to consult his officials and come back prepared. But he cannot evade the questions. Calling Attention is meant for questions. He is evading the questions. I want to know the answer of his question so that I can ask him some other questions.

SHRI M.S. SANJEEVI RAO : I have already informed the House that there are about 326 mills now running in the country. Out of them, about 107 are technically weak mills. Even through we have created the

soft loan facility, the mills are not able to raise margin money. With that background, we have created this Sugar Development Fund wherein we will also create money to the tune of Rs. 90 crores so that we will give this margin money to them, so that in turn they will utilize it to get soft loan. We hope with this arrangement they will be able to become healthy.

As regards Bihar, I have already informed him that Bihar Government has not asked the Central Government about it. But if they ask about it, I am sure, the Finance Ministry will consider it very sympathetically. What they have done in U.P. should definitely help the State Government to see that they get enough money to pay arrears.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet at 14.05 hrs.

13.03 hrs.

The Lok Sabha adjourned for Lunch till five minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Eleven minutes past Fourteen of the Clock

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

श्री अशफाक हुसैन (महाराजगंज) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मंत्री महोदय ने अपने बयान की शुरुआत इस बात से की है कि गन्ने और चीनी की पिछले दो सालों में रिकार्ड पैदावार हुई है। रिकार्ड पैदावार का इनाम उन काश्तकारों को सरकार की तरफ से दिया जा रहा है कि उन का कितना बकाया रखा जाए। उस बकाए के लिए आप बहाना यह तलाश कर रहे हैं कि जिम्मेदारी राज्य सरकारों की है। जो आंकड़े आपने दिए हैं। उन आंकड़ों में आप यह कहते हैं कि 13.9 परसेंट का बकाया है और पिछला इससे ज्यादा बकाया था। इस पर आप बहुत खुश हो रहे हैं, लेकिन

13.9 प्रतिशत के पीछे वास्तविकता क्या है? यह समस्या उत्तर भारत की मुख्य है और उत्तर भारत में भी खासकर बिहार और उत्तर प्रदेश हैं। सबसे ज्यादा परेशानी और कठिनाई बिहार और उत्तर प्रदेश की है। बिहार में ही कुल बकाया 54 प्रतिशत है और उत्तर प्रदेश में 32 प्रतिशत, इस पर यदि आप खुश होते हैं, तो खुश हो लीजिए। इसी के साथ पिछले साल के बकाए के बारे में जवाब आपने इसी हाउस में दिया है। सबकी बात न कहते हुए, मैं सिर्फ दो-तीन खास बकाओं के बारे में कहना चाहता हूँ। एक चीनी मिल सिमवा बाजार है, जिस पर पिछले सिजन का बकाया 66 लाख 30 हजार रु० है और इस साल का 1 करोड़ 30 लाख 62 हजार रुपए है। इस साल भर में उस मिल ने 1 करोड़ 88 लाख रु० की चीनी की पिराई की है। अगर आप कुछ चीनी का भुगतान कर भी दें तो इसके अलावा चार महीने की तनख्वाह मिल के जिम्मे मजदूरों की है और बाजार का ब्याज भी उसके जिम्मे हैं। यही एक मिल ऐसी नहीं है, जिसके जिम्मे पिछले साल का भी बकाया है और बहुत सी मिलें ऐसी हैं जिनकी तरफ बकाया बाकी है, लेकिन कोई कार्यवाही नहीं हो रही है। उसी के करीब "छितौनी" मिल है जिस की तरफ 32 लाख रुपये का बकाया है। हरदोई की मिल की तरफ 1 करोड़ 76 लाख रुपये का बकाया है, ये सब बकाये इस सीजन के नहीं, पिछले सीजन के हैं। मोइउद्दीनपुर की तरफ 40 लाख का बकाया है, रोहनकला की तरफ 52 लाख का बकाया है और अमरोहा की तरफ 48 लाख का बकाया है।

अब मैं उस समस्या की तरफ आता हूँ जिस का जिक्र मेरे पूर्ववक्ता ने किया था लेकिन जिस का आपने उत्तर नहीं दिया। मेरा तात्पर्य गोरीबाजार की चीनी मिल से है जो केन्द्र के द्वारा संचालित होती है, जो केन्द्र की 8 मिलों में से एक मिल है। इस मिल की तरफ, जिस की सारी जिम्मेदारी आप की है, 87 लाख

89 हजार रुपया बकाया है। अब आप देखिये जो केन्द्रीय एक्ट है, आप ने जो कानून बनाया है वह क्या कहता है? एसेन्शियल कमाडिटीज एक्ट के तहत आप ने कैन-कन्ट्रोल आर्डर बनाया और 2-2-1978 को आप ने इस में फर्दर एमेण्डमेंट किया, सैक्शन 3(ए) इस में जोड़ा गया। वह साफ-साफ शब्दों में कहता है :

“Where producer of sugar or his agent fails to make payment for the sugarcane purchased within 14 days of the date of delivery, he shall pay interest on the amount due at the rate of 15 per cent per annum for the period of such delivery beyond 14 days”.

आप गौरी बाजार मिल और जो सात अन्य केन्द्रीय मिलें हैं उनके बारे में बतला दीजिये-क्या आप ने केन्द्रीय आदेश का उलंघन किया है या पालन किया है? यदि उलंघन किया है तो क्यों? यदि पालन किया है तो क्या आप ने इन्टरैस्ट का पेमेंट किया है?

आप हमेशा इस नवाल को यह कह कर टाल देते हैं कि प्रदेश सरकार के पास फीड आर्गनाइजेशन है, वे ही इस की जवाबदेही दे सकते हैं, अमल करा सकते हैं। आप का काम केवल निर्देश देना है। अभी आप ने मुझे 9 अगस्त को एक पत्र लिखा है, उस पत्र में भी यही कहा है। मैं आप से यह जानना चाहूंगा-केन्द्रीय सरकार ने क्या कभी यह निर्देश दिया है कि बकाया रकम पर व्याज दिया जाय? क्या केन्द्रीय सरकार ने राज्य सरकारों को इस मकसद के लिये कोई चिट्ठी लिखी है? मैं यह बात इस लिये पूछ रहा हूँ - यह कानून केन्द्र का है, इससे परेशान किसान हैं और आप इस पर अमल नहीं होन दे रहे हैं। आप कहते हैं कि अमल करना राज्य सरकार की जिम्मेदारी है, अगर राज्य सरकार की जिम्मेदारी है और आप का काम केवल निर्देश देना है, उस को मानिटर करना है, तो क्या आप ने इस को मानिटर किया है या नहीं किया? अगर

मानिटर किया होगा तो आप को पता चला होगा कि किसी मिल ने व्याज नहीं दिया है? आप ने मानिटर किया होगा तो आप को पता चला होगा कि केन्द्रीय सरकार की आठ मिलों में भी व्याज नहीं दे रहे हैं। इसलिये मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि केन्द्रीय सरकार ने किस तारीख को निर्देश दिये कि व्याज की रकम दी जाय-इस के बारे में मैं साफ-साफ जवाब चाहता हूँ।

आप प्रदेश सरकार की बात करते हैं-प्रदेश सरकार के मुख्य मंत्री को पत्र लिखने पर वहां से जो जवाब आता है-प्रदेश सरकार ने मुझे पत्र लिखा है कि -

“पत्रोल्लिखित विषय में प्रभावी कार्यवाही हेतु गन्ना सचिव को कह दिया गया है एवं उनसे यह अपेक्षा की गई है कि इस मामले में की गई कार्यवाही से आपको अवगत करा दें।”

यह पत्र मेरे नाम से है और 25 जून का है। 25 जून को गन्ना सचिव से इस मामले में की गई कार्यवाही से मुझे अवगत कराने को कहा गया था। आज 16 अगस्त है और आज तक गन्ना सचिव ने मुझे कुछ भी अवगत नहीं कराया है। पिछले महीने मैंने मुख्य मंत्री और गन्ना सचिव को फिर पत्र लिखा था। लेकिन उसका कोई जवाब नहीं आया। अब किमान करे तो क्या करे। आप मामले को राज्य सरकार पर डालते हैं राज्य सरकार आप पर डालती है। आप इस तरह से इसका तमाशा न बनाइये। मैं आपसे फिर निवेदन करूंगा कि किसानों का गन्ना बकाया को जल्दी पास कराने के लिए उचित कार्यवाही की जाए। यह आपकी जिम्मेदारी है। आप इससे भाग नहीं सकते। उत्तर प्रदेश में 32 परसेंट और बिहार में 4 परसेंट किसानों का बकाया है। आप उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार से कहें कि उत्तर प्रदेश के किसानों को बकाये को एक महीने के अन्दर भुगतान कर दिया

जाए। इस पर आप अविलम्ब कार्यवाही कीजिए।

गन्ना किसानों के जिम्मे भारी रकम बकाया पड़ी है क्योंकि उन्होंने गन्ना सोसायटियों से और दूसरी सोसायटियों से खाद्य और बीज की शकल में कर्जा लिया हुआ है। उस पर उनसे ब्याज वसूल किया जा रहा है, उन पर कुर्की आ रही है। किसान यह फैसला नहीं कर पा रहा है कि अब वह क्या बौये? वह चावल बौये, गन्ना बौये या क्या बौये? यहां केन्द्रीय सरकार को निर्देश देना चाहिए किसानों के जिम्मे जो भारी रकमें बकाया हैं उनकी उनसे वसूली रोक दी जाए। यह मैं आपके सामने प्रस्ताव करता हूं और आपसे आशा करता हूं कि आप अपने जवाब में यह साफ साफ बतायेंगे कि इस पर आप क्या कार्यवाही कर रहे हैं और अब तक आपने राज्य सरकार को क्या आदेश दिये हैं और उन पर क्या अमल राज्य सरकार ने किया है।

SHRI M. S. SANJEEVI RAO : I have mentioned to you earlier, this year is an unprecedented year. You are all aware how best we are managing this very awkward situation. We have in our stock/nearly carry over of 47 lakhs of sugar and naturally the market is dull. So, with all this adverse circumstances I can assure you that we are doing very well.

Coming back to one or two points which my friend Shri Ashfaq Husain made—he referred to two factories one in U. P.-Siswa Bazar and the other in Bihar.

श्री अशफाक हुसैन : यह तो मैंने मिसाल के तौर पर दिया है।

SHRI M. S. SANJEEVI RAO : These are all individual cases. We would certainly request the State Governments to look into it.

Regarding the third one—Gauri Bazar Sugar Factory, we have agreed that we owe

nearly Rs. 5 crores. We are going to clear the entire amount very shortly. Finance Ministry has given us Rs. 6 crores. With that we will wipe it out.

Regarding the other question of interest for which he has been repeatedly saying, let me tell the House, had the State Government acted prudently and pragmatically like Gujarat, Maharashtra or Karnataka, they would not have this ugly situation.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY : Karnataka has Janata Government.

SHRI M. S. SANJEEVI RAO : Whatever it is. You are the Member who will insist why are you interfering with the State Government? We have to give guidance. Whoever follows our guidance will do well. Just because Karnataka Government followed our guidance they have done well. They did not do on their own. In spite of the adverse situation we are managing very well and I am very confident that by 30th September, the arrears will be definitely less than 10%.

श्री अशफाक हुसैन : इन्ट्रैस्ट के बारे में जो मैंने कहा था, उसका जवाब नहीं आया है।

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY : Sir, the call-attention motion was initiated by Mrs. and Mr. Satyendra Narain Sinha.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : No, no. By Shrimati Kishori Sinha and Shri Satyendra Narain Sinha. He should not say like this. They are hon. Members of this House.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY : Yes, it was initiated by Shrimati Kishori Sinha and Shri Satyendra Narain Sinha. Incidentally, they are married to each other. They are both farmers and they have put the Minister in great difficulty before lunch-hour. We hope, after lunch-hour, he has come suitably briefed and come back to answer the questions they have asked, because they are still unanswered, thanks to your protection of him instead of us. The question is, will they pay the arrears or not? Leave it to

your conscience whether you will allow the farmers of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar actually to rot because the Government is not abdicating the responsibility towards them which under the law, they are supposed to do but they are not.

श्री मनीराम बागड़ी (हिसार) : हरियाणा का भी नहीं दिया है।

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY : Mr. Bagri is right. He is right for a change. This sugar industry is a most vital rural industry. In fact, if it is properly looked after and developed, it will provide millions of employment plus a variety of by-products. You do not know, molasses, alcohol and even synthetic rubber are produced out of sugar. This is a tremendously complex industry and I am sorry this is being deteriorated because of Government's neglect and callousness.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is increasing its production.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY : They are saying that they are having problems with the production.

Now the Minister has been informing the House in one direction. But the whole country and the press of the country know the truth. Take FINANCIAL EXPRESS of 5th August, 1983. He has given statistics up to 30th June. As Mr. Satyendra Narain Sindha has said, why have you come with this outdated statistics? Why don't you come with the recent figures? I know why he has not come with the recent figures before the House because the recent figures contradict what he says. Now let me read out the relevant portion. This is the FINANCIAL EXPRESS :

“The clearance of sugarcane price arrears due to farmers which have got accelerated in May and June is expected to receive a set-back.”

This is what the FINANCIAL EXPRESS which keeps a very close watch on such matters says. In fact if you take July and August, there has been a set-back and the statistics are hidden from the House.

Therefore, what he has told us about clearing etc. is wrong. I have seen with my own eyes last week when I was in the district of Gonda in Uttar Pradesh and there a delegation of farmers come to see me. They were literally in tears.

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY : Rather you have gone to see them.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY : Yes I have gone to Gonda and they came to see me. How has the sugarcane man come here I do not know. He is one of the defaulters.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Ask him whether he has paid the arrears.

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY : Sir, our sugar factory paid at the rate of 2.36, highest in the country.

SHRI HARIKESH BAHADUR : He is increasing our number.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY : It is a matter of sadness that the Minister is informing the House that problems of plenty could be as troublesome as the problems of shortage, if not more. This is a very sad position that if the farmers produce for the country, than the Government is not in a position to manage that surplus. How can that be?

I do not know in this country, things are happening which do not happen anywhere else in the world. The Minister had a dig at the production of sugar during the Janata Rule. He said, on another occasion that in 1979 there was a production of only 40 lakh tonnes of sugar. Now, he says, the production is about 84 or 85 lakh tonnes. I am not able to understand this. If the production of sugar has gone from 40 lakh tonnes to 85 lakh tonnes, how is it that price of sugar which was Rs. 2.20 paise a k. g. during the Janta rule has gone to nearly by Rs 6/—a kilo? Which economics is this in the world? Nowhere in the world an increase in production is coupled with an increase in the price. But these people have produced this kind of situation.

SHRI XAVIER ARAKAL (Ernakulam) :
The price of sugar during the Janata rule was Rs. 10/—a k. g.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY :
There will be a breach of privilege against him.

SHRI HARIKESH BAHADUR : The price was Rs. 42 a k. g. in Ranchi in the year 1980 when the Government came to power.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Dr. Swamy did not know many things during the Janta rule.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY : I have been a professor of Economics and I am teaching in my class room that when production goes up the prices fall. These people make me forget my economics. production also increase, and the price also increases because they are collecting commission on the way. That is the reason why the situation is like this and the sugar mills association and the sugar mill-owners know that they can get away breaking the law and not paying the arrears. They are collecting commissions and they would not do anything. Here, Shri Ashfaq Husain has just quoted the relevant sections in the law that you are obliged to pay the arrears. This is what the law says. When the Central Government mills are breaking the law, you are not giving any protection to the farmers.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur) : They are all perverted economists.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY : That is right. They are all perverted economists. He does not know what is meant by "perversion".

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :
I leave it to them.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mind it, one professor is trying to teach another professor.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY : The Minister is actually deputing for the real

Minister. I can say, he is acting for the real Minister. He is an electronics man and he is giving all statistics. But he does not understand that the statistics do not mean anything for the farmers. Now, take, as he has said, that the arrears are only 14% of the total payments. Now, he has distorted the facts. If the arrears of 14% translated into different regions, they would have completely given a different meaning. For example, in Maharashtra, it is only 1.8 or 1.4 per cent of the arrears. In Karnataka where the Janata Party is in power, it is also something ridiculously small. Whereas in Uttar Pradesh it is 31% in Bihar, it is 54%. Now, this is what has to be brought out. The Minister cannot hide the fact behind the aggregate statistics. Let it be broken down. In U. P. and Bihar when you go into it further down, you find that there are poorer districts where the arrear of payment is almost 100%. In Gonda where I went there, I was shocked to learn that it is something like 92%. And this is what the Minister is not bringing to the House and he is hiding behind the old statistics.

What is happening is there is double squeeze on the farmers. The double squeeze is that the private money lenders and the nationalised banks are demanding money. Is it not a fact? Even Prof. Rangaji is on my side. On rare occasions, he comes to my support. Now, on one side, the banks are squeezing and the bank officials are squeezing the farmers. There is no control on them and Mr. Pattabhi Rama Rao does nothing to keep them on check.

(Interruptions)-

Therefore, Sir, this is a double squeeze. I want to know what he is going to do for the farmers. We have raised the Call-Attention Motion to get electronic data on what percentage and so on. We want to know what relief the poor farmers are going to get. We are not prepared to accept the argument that the State Governments can do what they like. This Government is not a federal Government. Under our constitution, it is basically unitary with subsidiary federal principles. (Interruptions). You ask any Constitutional expert. He was supposed to be in the Constituent Assembly. In fact, there is a demand to make it more federal. That is

a different matter. Today for them to say this after what has happened now in Bihar where at mid-night the Chief Minister who had the majority was summoned.....
(Interruptions) I am only saying what power they have, and that power should be used in favour of farmers. There is a double-squeeze. I want to know what he is going to do for them. On the one hand they are not being paid their dues by the mills and on the other hand the nationalised banks and other agencies Electricity Board, etc., are demanding their payment, they are attaching their properties, they are driving them to destitution. There is no protection for them. So, that is my first question.

The second is—I come back to this point ; there will be a big HALLA GULLA from there if you do not give us protection; the law which Mr. Satyendra Narain Sinha quoted.....

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Are you threatening the Chair or the Minister ?

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY : I am only informing. I am not a member of the TULF.

Shri Satyendra Narain Sinha raised the question of payment of interest on arrears. You cannot avoid that. He quoted the exact law. Mr. Ashfaq Hussain gave the exact provision in the law. So, he has to answer that.

The second question is why is it that in respect of Contrally-managed sugar mills you are not paying interest on the arrears. I want to know for how long these arrears of Rs. 5 crores have been outstanding. He has said that Rs. 6 crores have been set aside. For payment of arrears of Rs. 5 crores, why is it that Rs. 6 crores have been set aside ? Is that Rs. 1 crore for party purposed ? I do not know. I plead ignorance Why has he set apart Rs. 6 crores for paying Rs. 5 crores of arrears ? This is a question which he must answer.

AN HON. MEMBER : Service charge.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY : May be service charge. I do not know. He has to tell us.

When he says that it is going to be paid soon, I want to know how soon. Is he giving a deadline ? August 15 should have been the deadline. But August 15 has gone. Are you going to give September 1 as the deadline ?

Finally, I would like to know whether he is aware that some of the things he has said in his statement white washing the whole affair have been contradicted in the press. For example, the FINANCIAL EXPRESS of 5th August says that "the U.P. and Bihar Governments (the two States which top the list of cane-arrears) have not yet granted the promised remission of the purchase tax on sugarcane bought by the mills to compensate for the high price of cane paid by them". (Interruptions) He says that concessions are being given, excise duty rebate, etc. There are statements being made by Ministers of State Governments that it has not been possible to make the rebates. He has the responsibility to answer whether these rebates are indeed being paid. Secondly, I want to know whether it is a fact that the credit needed by the sugar mills, as they claim, was Rs. 1200 crores and they were actually given Rs. 700 crores and that they are advancing this as the reason.

Finally, I want to know whether it is a fact that the Sugar Mills Association has approached them recently saying that because of the low price of free sale sugar, these arrears are there and that the Government should close their eyes in case they jack up the free sale sugar price and whether the Government is about to agree to an increase in the price which the Sugar Mills Association may charge. I would like to come back to the same point again ; I want him to give a deadline by when all these arrears would be cleared.

SHRI M.S. SANJEEVI RAO : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have clearly stated earlier that on 15th January, 1982 the percentage of arrears was 22.9 per cent and on 15th January, 1983 it is 35.6 per cent. With that big gap we could bring it down as on 30th June, 1983 to 13.9 per cent.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY : What about on 1st August, 1983.

SHRI M.S. SANJEEVI RAO : Naturally it will come down. Sir, I will stick to my percentages and prices because as I told you the sugar mills owed to the farmers to the tune of Rs. 1456 crores. We have cleared most of it and we have yet to clear Rs. 202 crores. Compared to this 202 crores in the corresponding last year it is Rs. 156 crores but I only appeal to the Members to realise what a strain it is for the Government and millowners that they have to carry nearly 47 lakh tonnes of sugar. You are an economist.....

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY : Sir, he is answering questions which I have not asked.

SHRI M. S. SANJEEVI RAO : The price of free-sale sugar could not go further down otherwise the viability of sugar factories will be jeopardised. With all this background the Government has taken adequate steps. We have reduced the margin money from 25 per cent to 17.5 per cent. We have also given cash-credit facilities to the tune of 125 per cent more than the last year. On the top of it we are asking the banks to make evaluation instead of Rs. 333 per quintal at a higher level and, as such, the sugar factories will have additional money to the tune of about Rs. 40 crores. We are doing all this. We are also allowing buffer stock of 5 lakh tonnes and all the money is to be provided by the Government of India. With all these facilities we are making the sugar factories viable in spite of the obstructions made by Dr. Subramaniam.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY : Sir, my specific questions have not been answered. You ask him to answer the specific questions asked by me.

श्री मनोराम बागड़ी : सवाल यह नहीं है। सवाल यह है कि किसानों का पैसा दिया जाएगा या नहीं ?...

(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record without my permission.

Shri Harikesh Bahadur.....

श्री मनोराम बागड़ी : मेरा प्वाइंट आफ आर्डर है। अगर कोई मिनिस्टर गलत जबाब दे चाहे सवाल किसी का हो तो हर मेम्बर को सवाल पूछने का अधिकार है।

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I cannot direct the Minister to reply the way in which Dr. Swamy wants.

(Interruptions)

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY : He has ignored my questions completely.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I cannot direct the Minister.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MANI RAM BAGRI : Why can you not ? (Interruptions).

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Only Dr. Swamy can object, not you.

श्री मनोराम बागड़ी : फिर आप मुझे निकाल दीजिए पार्लमेन्ट से।

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)**

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY : I am objecting. He has not answered my questions to my satisfaction.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, do you want to add anything more to what you have already said ?

SHRI M.S. SANJEEVI RAO : I have already said.....

(Interruptions)

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY : I have asked whether he is going to pay interest on arrears or not. (Interruptions). This is how you treat the farmers.

SHRI HARIKESH BAHADUR : This shows the callous attitude of the Government towards the farmers. They are facing a lot of problems.

(Interruptions)

SHRI HARIKESH BAHADUR : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the questions which have been continuously raised are : what is the reason for Government not paying the dues to farmers with interest on arrears ? Why has the Government already passed the Order ? It is a statutory Order. I would also like to quote the Sugarcane Control Order of 1966. This is a basic question. I do not know why the hon. Minister is hesitating to give a categorical reply to these questions. These questions must be replied to. The statutory order of the Government is being violated by the State Governments as well as by the Central Government ; both the Governments. This is a very dangerous situation. If this kind of situation is allowed to be developed, then they can just violate the Constitution of this country. How can you give protection to the farmers and the people of this country, if the orders which are being passed by the Government or the laws which are being framed by the Parliament are violated by Government itself ? It is a very dangerous situation and my submission is that the hon. Minister should first go and consult the Prime Minister and then come here and reply to our questions. This business can be postponed now. We want the reply to this particular question. This is a pertinent question and very important question and it really relates to the farmers. (Interruptions).

One problem that is being faced by the farmers is that they are being harassed by various Government agencies for repayment of the loans that they have taken from those agencies. Farmers are being asked to pay back the loans, but they do not have the money because their money is with the sugar factories.

The sugar factories are not paying them the money. If the farmers get the money due to them, they would be in a position to repay the loan. While they are being harassed by these agencies, the State Governments are not looking into this problem of the farmers. We have raised this issue time and again, but the Government has been callous in their approach to this question. They have not taken up the matter with the State Governments and instructed them not to harass the farmers. The farmers are being harassed even by the agencies of the Central Government like banks etc. At least the Central Government should direct its own banks that they should not harass the farmers. As I said, if the farmers receive their dues from the sugar factories, they would be in a position to pay back the loan, but they are not getting it. From all sides the farmers are being subjected to several types of tortures and difficulties.

Further, will the Central Government provide to the State Governments from some Central fund the total amount of arrears due to the farmers, so that the State Government can distribute it to the various sugar factories, who, in turn, can pay it to the farmers against the arrears due to them. Is the Government going to have such a proposal or some such scheme ? If the Government does not have any proposal at present, I would request the hon. Minister to consider and make such type of arrangement so that the farmers may be saved from various kinds of harassment.

Finally, was there any Narsimhan Committee appointed by the Central Government which suggested to the Government to discourage growers from growing sugarcane ? This was because if they continue to grow sugarcane, other commodities like rice, wheat, pulses etc. would have to be imported. Since that committee has suggested like that, has the Government decided to discourage farmers from growing sugarcane ?

SHRI M.S. SANJEEVI RAO : Mr. Deputy Speaker..... (Interruptions).

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You hear his reply first; this is not the proper method. He is replying.

SHRI M.S. SANJEEVI RAO : Sir, I have repeatedly told this august House that the role of the Central Government is to give guidance, and it is for the State Governments to.....

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY :
What about the Centrally-managed mills ?

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Let him complete his reply, otherwise I will have to go to the next item ...Should you not hear me ? Am I to teach you like school children ? Let him reply, and it is for Shri Harikesh Bahadur to say whether he is satisfied or not.

SHRI M.S. SANJEEVI RAO : I have told you how effective our Government is to protect the farmers. There is a record sugarcane production in this country. We have taken adequate measures to help the farmers. The factories instead of working for 140 days are working for 200 days. This is to see that all the sugarcane produced by the farmers is taken by the mills. To give you the background, let me tell you that the sugarcane production used by the mills was only 35% earlier.

Fiftyfive per cent was for Gur and Khanāsari. But because of the effective way the Government have done their homework, we could consume sugar to the tune of 45%. The reason why the farmers come to the sugar factories is that we have given better services to the farmers. So, turning back to the point raised about loans, I do agree this is an important factor. We will request the State Governments to help them.

(Interruptions)

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY : He is not replying to the question on payment of arrears.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Let him complete his reply.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Subramaniam Swamy, let him complete his reply.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY : That question must be answered.

(Interruptions)

SHRI M.S. SANJEEVI RAO : I have already stated to this august House that the Government has fixed a statutory price and the pragmatic and pragmatismal governments like Maharashtra, Gujarat and including Karnataka. where there is Janata Government rule, they have followed it.....

(Interruptions)

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY : Sir, he is playing the tape again.

SHRI M.S. SANJEEVI RAO : With the net result their arrears to the farmers are now very small.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY :
What have you to say on interest payment on arrears ?

SHRI M.S. SANJEEVI RAO : The states which have not followed this, they have got into the trouble. For that we are taking adequate measures.

Mr. Harikesh Bahadur has raised a point whether the Central Government will help the State Government ? The UP Government has approached the Central Government.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY :
Interest payment on arrears. That is what you should ask him to reply.

SHRI M.S. SANJEEVI RAO : The Central Government has taken measures to help the farmers. Similarly, if the other State Governments want some help, certainly the Finance Ministry will look into it.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY : Sir, we are completely dissatisfied with his answer.

(Interruptions)

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY : This is an anti-farmer Government and you have participated in it.

[Dr. Subramaniam Swamy and some other hon. Members then left the House.]

14.58 Hrs.

STATEMENT CORRECTING ANSWER TO SQ No. 768 OF 27.4.1983 RE LICENCES FOR MANUFACTURE OF MINI-MICRO COMPUTERS.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI M.S. SANJEEVI RAO) : The following answer was given in reply to part (a) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 768 on 27.4.1983 :

- (a) About 140 units have been granted licences and Letters of Intent for the manufacture of Mini-Micro Computers.

The corrected reply is as follows :-

- (a) "About 140 industrial approvals including small scale approvals, Letters of Intent and Industrial Licences have been issued for the manufacture of Mini/Micro-process or Based Systems."

Reasons for delay in sending intimation for correcting the reply :-

After part (a) of the question was answered, it was noticed that there was a factual error in regard to the exact/correct number

of units involved. The TOTAL industrial approvals, including approvals in the small scale sector, plus Industrial Licences/Letters of Intent in the large scale sector were found to add up to 140. Part (a) of the question, however, refers only to "licences and letters of intent". Strictly defined this would exclude small scale units. Therefore, the entire population of parties to whom approvals had been issued - both large scale units and small scale units - had to be carefully scrutinised and both the exact number and the scope i.e. large and/or small scale units, had to be defined. This took some time to do with the care required.

15.00 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) DEPLORABLE CONDITIONS OF COMMUNICATION SYSTEM IN MIRZAPUR

श्री रामधारे पन्डिका (राबर्ट्सगंज) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मिर्जापुर जनपद में टेली कम्युनिकेशन सिस्टम अत्यंत शोचनीय स्थिति में हो गया है। परिणामस्वरूप मिर्जापुर के औद्योगिक विकास के लिए आधार संरचना तैयार नहीं हो पा रही है। औद्योगिक क्षेत्र के रेनूकूट, ओबरा, चुकं, डाला, राबर्ट्सगंज, अनपरा, बीना, शक्तिनगर से जहां एक ओर टेलीफोन की खराब व्यवस्था होने के कारण संपर्क करना असंभव हो गया है वहाँ पर दूर-दराज के क्षेत्र दुद्धी, विठमगंज, म्योरपुर, बमनी मेड़िहान आदि आदिवासी तथा पिछड़े इलाके में संपर्क करना कठिन है। सरकार का टेली कम्युनिकेशन सिस्टम की व्यवस्था करने का मुख्य लक्ष्य औद्योगिक क्षेत्रों में लगे उद्योगों को सुविधा प्रदान करना तथा जनपद के दूर दराज के गांवों का प्रशासनिक दृष्टि से संपर्क बनाए रखना है। परंतु टेलीफोन की बराबर शिकायत होने के कारण लक्ष्य प्राप्त नहीं हो रहा है और जनता में घोर असंतोष व्याप्त हो गया है।