

12,27 hrs.

**CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF
URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE**

**REPORTED DISTRESS SALE BY FAR-
MERS OF COARSE GRAINS LIKE
JOWAR, BAJRA AND MAIZE DUE
TO FALL IN PRICES**

श्री बाबुशिव परांजपे (जबलपुर) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आपकी आज्ञा से आबिलम्बनीय लोक महत्त्व के निम्नलिखित विषय की ओर खाद्य और नागरिक पुर्ति मंत्री का ध्यान दिनाता हूँ और प्रार्थना करता हूँ कि वे इस बारे में एक वक्तव्य दें :

“बाजार में ज्वार, बाजरा और मक्का जैसे मोटे अनाजों के प्रचलित मूल्यों में, जो सरकार द्वारा निर्धारित मूल्यों से बहुत कम हैं, गिरावट आने के कारण किसानों द्वारा उनकी मजबूरन बिक्री किये जाने के समाचार और इस मामले में सरकार द्वारा की गई कार्यवाही।

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD) : Government of India have announced the support price of Kharif coarsegrains, viz. jowar, bajra and maize of fair average quality at Rs. 124/- per quintal for 1983-84 marketing season.

2. As the price of bajra was reported to be ruling below support price in some States, the Government of India have decided that during the current kharif marketing season, price support operations for bajra would be undertaken by the Food Corporation of India or the State Governments agencies acting as agents of the F.C.I. These agents will purchase bajra according to the specifications already intimated to the State Governments. The F.C.I. has accordingly been advised to enter the markets of Haryana, Gujarat and Rajasthan for purchase of bajra as the

price of bajra was reported to have come down below support price in those States. The F.C.I. has also been advised to keep in readiness for entering the markets of any State where the prices of bajra fall below the support price level.

3. The F.C.I. has already entered the markets in Gujarat, Haryana, and Rajasthan, for the purchase of bajra. According to reports available, the wholesale prices of bajra in the important centres in these States, excepting Haryana, are now ruling higher than the support price fixed. In Haryana, it is reported that most of the grain coming to the market is below specifications.
4. The F.C.I. has reported purchase of the following quantities of bajra :

Haryana — 93 tonnes.

Rajasthan — 6 tonnes.

5. No decision has been taken by the Government of India to purchase jowar, maize, or other coarsegrains, in price support operations as normally these grains are locally consumed and whenever necessary, State Governments take up purchase operations. It is open to the individual State Governments to undertake such purchases where it becomes necessary in the interest of the farmers and distribute the grains through the public distribution system at prices to be fixed by them. This decision has been taken keeping in view the short shelf life of the coarse grains and consuming habits of the producing areas. The maize and jowar prices of fair average quality are ruling higher than the support price fixed by the important mandis of most of the States.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing goes on record except what Mr. Paranjpe says.

श्री बाबूराव परांजये : माननीय अध्यक्ष महोदय, मंत्री महोदय ने अपने वक्तव्य में इस बात को स्वीकार किया है कि जो निखन्त्रित मूल्य है, समर्थन मूल्य है, उससे कम कीमत पर किसान अपना मोटा अनाज बाजार में बेचने के लिये मजबूर हो रहा है। जैसा उन्होंने आगे कहा है कि सारी व्यवस्था कर दी गई है, परन्तु यह रिवाज है कि सरकार सच बात को ढकने की कोशिश करती है, सरकार किसानों के भले की बात करती है, परन्तु इनकी कथनी और करनी में जमीन-आसमान का अन्तर है। आज भी अनेक राज्यों में किसान अपना मोटा अनाज समर्थन मूल्य से कम भाव पर बेच रहा है। जैसे बाजरा राजस्थान में 80 से 105 रुपये के बीच में बिक रहा है, ज्वार 100 से 115 रुपये के बीच, मक्का 100 से 110 रुपये के बीच में बिक रही है।

मुझे याद है - जनता पार्टी के शासन ने एक निर्णय लिया था, सिद्धान्त के बतौर किसानों की भलाई के लिये निर्णय लिया था कि हर गाँव में सरकारी गोदाम होगा और किसान का अनाज जब बाजार में कम मूल्य पर बिकता नजर आयेगा तो किसान को अधिकार रहेगा कि वह सारा अनाज उस सरकारी गोदाम में डाल दे तथा उसको जितने रुपये की जरूरत होगी, कर्ज के रूप में वहाँ से ले सकेगा। जब बाजार मूल्य बढ़ जाएगा तब किसान उसको बाजार में बेच सकेगा। इस प्रकार का सिद्धान्त जनता पार्टी के शासन ने किसान की भलाई के लिये बनाया था यदि इस प्रकार की बात आप भी करते तो वह हमारी समझ में आ सकती थी, क्योंकि उस से किसान को वास्तविक रूप से राहत मिलती, लेकिन यहाँ तो बिलकुल विपरीत बात हो रही है। किसान को हर

चीज मंहगे दामों पर खरीदनी पड़ रही है, न खाद के दामों में कमी आई है, न मजदूरी कम हुई है और न डीजल के दाम कम हुए हैं। बिजली के दामों में भी कोई कमी नहीं आई है, उसको हर चीज की कीमत दुगुनी और तिगुनी देनी पड़ रही है, परन्तु उस के द्वारा उत्पादित वस्तुओं के दाम गिरते चले जा रहे हैं।

यह माँग इस सदन में कई बार उठी है कि किसानों के धंधे को व्यापार समझ कर किसान की लागत, मेहनत और मुनाफे को जोड़ कर उस का मूल्य तय किया जाय। इस प्रकार की बातें तो यहाँ पर बहुत होती हैं, लेकिन आचरण बिलकुल उल्टा होता है। हमारी सरकार इस बात को पसन्द करती है कि विदेशी किसानों को दुगुने और उद्योढ़े दाम दिये जाँय, क्योंकि शायद उन की गोरी चमड़ी है, लेकिन जब काली चमड़ी वाला देश का किसान, मूल्य की बात करता है तो उस पर ध्यान नहीं दिया जाता। यहाँ पर बम्पर क्राप्स की बात बहुत कही जाती है, लेकिन दूसरी तरफ विदेशों से अनाज आयात किया जा रहा है—दोनों बातों में कितना बड़ा अन्तर है। मैं चाहता हूँ कि इस मामले पर हमारा शासन विचार करे और अपने कुछ निर्णयों को बदले। आज हमारा किसान बहुत बुरी तरह से पिस रहा है। सरकारी आँकड़े यह कहते हैं कि कुछ वर्षों से इस देश में कृषि उत्पादन में स्थिरता आ गई है। जो बहुोत्तरी होती थी वह घट गई है। किसान की लागत बहुत ज्यादा आती है और जो दाम उस को मिलता है वह बहुत कम मिलता है, जिससे किसान धीरे धीरे कृषि-ब्राम्पस की तरफ जा रहा है। यदि ऐसा ही चलता रहा तो इस देश की पैदावार में बहुत कमी आ जाएगी जो देश के लिये बहुत खतरनाक बात होगी।

12.35 hrs.

(MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the
chair).

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, हम यह बात तो करते रहते हैं कि शायद 1990 तक हमारा देश कृषि उत्पादन में आगे बढ़ जाएगा और हमको विदेशों से अनाज नहीं मंगाना पड़ेगा। मेरा कहना यह है कि वह किसान जो पैदावार कर रहा है, उस को उत्पादन बढ़ाने के लिए एन्क्रेजमेंट मिलना चाहिए और उसके लिये कुछ आर्थिक सहायता मिलनी चाहिए। अगर ऐसा होता है, तब तो यह लक्ष्य प्राप्त कर सकते हैं अन्यथा यह बात हवा में ही रह जाएगी और इसका कोई विशेष असर नहीं होगा।

जब मैं किसानों की बात करता हूँ, तो मैं एग््रीकल्चर प्राइसेज कमीशन की बात भी करना चाहूँगा। उस में किसानों के प्रतिनिधि श्री रणधीर सिंह जी हैं, जो कांग्रेस (आई) के सदस्य हैं। क्या मंत्री जी मुझे यह बताएँगे कि कितनी रिपोर्टों में उन्होंने अपनी डिसेन्ट लिखवाई। किसानों के प्रतिनिधि के रूप में उनकी जो बात होती है, उसको उस कमीशन में मान्यता नहीं दी जाती और बाकी लोग मिल कर इस प्रकार निर्णय कर लेते हैं, जो कि किसान विरोधी होता है। मैं चाहूँगा कि मंत्री जी जब आंकड़े प्रस्तुत करें, तो वे ये बताएं कि कितनी डिसेन्ट श्री रणधीर सिंह ने लिखवाई।

हम बातें तो यह करते हैं कि सारा देश एक है परन्तु जहाँ तक अनाज का मामला है, हम प्रदेश की ही नहीं, संभाग की बात ही नहीं करते बल्कि जिलों पर आ जाते हैं और इस तरह से बहुत से हिस्सों में बंट जाते हैं। आप यह देखें कि यूरुप में 6 देशों ने मिल कर खाद्य का एक जौन बनाया परन्तु हमारे यहाँ तो हर जिले में बैरियर लगे हुए हैं और उसके कारण भ्रष्टाचार बहुत ज्यादा बढ़ रहा है।

किसानों को मजबूरी हालत में अपनी पैदावार को कम से कम दामों पर बेचना पड़ रहा है। जो बैरियर्स लगाए गए हैं, उनको अगर हटा लिया जाय, तो इस से किसानों को कुछ राहत मिलेगी। मैं चाहूँगा कि मंत्री जी इस सम्बन्ध में अपने विचार यहाँ रखें।

महंगाई का नजारा तो आप सभी जानते हैं। खाद हमारे देश में इतनी महंगी हो गई है कि खाद की खपत इस देश में बहुत घट गई है। मेरे स्थाल से नेपाल को छोड़ कर एशिया में सब से कम खपत खाद की हमारे हिन्दुस्तान में है। अगर खाद की कीमत कम होगी, तो किसान इस को खरीद कर ज्यादा फसल पैदा करना चाहेगा परन्तु आज उसकी जो आर्थिक क्षमता है, वह ऐसी नहीं है कि वह खाद खरीद सके। आप को जो आंकड़े दिये जा रहे हैं, मैं चाहूँगा कि आप इन पर भरोसा मत कीजिए। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि राजस्थान में कितनी मंडियों में कितने सेन्टर एफ०सी०आई ने खरीद के लिए चालू किये हैं और कितने काम कर रहे हैं। अगर प्रदेश से इस तरह के आंकड़े मंगाए तो आप समझ जाएंगे कि जो आप को बताया जा रहा है, वह कुछ और है और वास्तविकता कुछ और है। इसी प्रकार से आप मध्य प्रदेश से भी आंकड़े मंगा कर देखिये कि वहाँ कितने सेन्टर काम कर रहे हैं। यह विषय बहुत गंभीर है और इसका सम्बन्ध सारे किसानों से है और नौकरशाही ने जो आंकड़े भेजे हैं, उस के आधार पर ही आप ने कोई नीति बना ली, तो यह बहुत बड़ा अन्याय किसानों के साथ होगा।

मैं मंत्री जी से पुनः निवेदन करूँगा कि इन सारी बातों पर विचार कर के अबिलम्ब किसानों को राहत पहुँचाने के लिए कदम उठाए जाएं।

इतना कह कर मैं अपनी बात समाप्त करता हूँ।

श्री भागवत भ्वा आजाद : महंगाई और खाद की कीमतें क्यों बढ़ी और सम्पूर्ण खाद नीति क्या है, इन तमाम प्रश्नों का उत्तर इस प्रश्न के साथ नहीं दिया जा सकता। माननीय सदस्य ने दो प्रश्न पूछे हैं। एक तो यह है कि राजस्थान में कितनी मंडियां खुली हैं और वहाँ पर किस कीमत पर खाद दी जा रही है और कीमत वहाँ के बाजार में क्या है।

राजस्थान में अभी तक 13 मंडियां एफ० सी० आई द्वारा खोली जा चुकी हैं, 11 मंडियां स्टेट गवर्नमेंट की राजफंड ने खोली हैं और राजस्थान स्टेट वेयरहाऊसिंग कारपोरेशन ने 12 मंडिया खोली हैं। इस तरह से कुल 36 मंडिया खोली जा चुकी हैं और अगर जरूरत हुई, तो इस से अधिक और खोलेंगे।

(व्यवधान)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : How can he reply? You cannot ask a question like this.

श्री बाबूराव परांजयः अब तक राजस्थान में कितनी और कहाँ कहाँ मंडियां खोली गई हैं ?

श्री भागवत भ्वा आजाद : अब तक 36 मंडियां खोली गई हैं। अगर और आवश्यकता हुई तो और खोली जाएंगी।

जहाँ तक कीमत का प्रश्न है। अभी हमारे पास 15-11-83 की सूचना है। उसके अनुसार राजस्थान में बोल्ड की कीमत 130 रुपये, स्माल की कीमत 130 रुपये और जयपुर स्माल की कीमत 134 रुपये रही है। जब एफ०सी०आई० ने बाजार में खरीदना शुरू किया तो सब मंडियों में सपोर्ट प्राइस 124

रुपये से ज्यादा कीमतें थीं। इसलिए प्रसन्नता की बात है कि एफ०सी०आई० के बाजार में होने से कोई डिस्ट्रेस सेल नहीं हो रही है और किसानों को सपोर्ट प्राइस से अधिक कीमत मिल रही है।

SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR GOYAL
(Kota) :**

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : What Shri Chitta Basu says will only go on record.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE
(New Delhi) : Will your remark also go out of record ?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You can order it.

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat) : Sir, you might have heard an observation of the hon. Minister while he was replying to the question asked by the previous Speaker. He just swept away the question by saying that he is prepared only to answer the question which is related to the price of bajra, maize and the quantity of those coarse foodgrains which he proposes to purchase.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : That is the subject matter of the discussion on the Calling Attention.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : He cannot divide the economics of a country in water-tight compartments. That is your difficulty and I think that difficulty should not be mentioned by him also. As a matter of fact, if you allow me to say, this problem of the price of bajra, maize or any other agricultural produce is very much connected with the entire price policy of the Government and it cannot be taken up separately. I am not entering into that very wide subject at the present moment because I know the subject and on many occasions I have put across my point of view. But what is relevant today is that every paradoxical situation is there. On the one side there is Steep fall in the

prices of agricultural produce and on the other hand, there is a steep rise in the price of essential commodities, particularly the foodgrains. In the morning, you might have noticed the anxiety, anguish and the concern of the entire House. Of course, I cannot say the entire House, these people are very complacent, but the concern was expressed by this side of the House about the growing price rise of the essential commodities, particularly, the foodgrains.

Therefore, this is the paradox, The paradox is that there is fall in the prices of agricultural produce and simultaneous rise in the price of the foodgrains for the consumers. Therefore, these two subjects cannot be treated separately. As a matter of fact, my first charge against the Government is that the Government has betrayed so long a dismal lack of an integrated policy instrument in the matter of meeting the situation. This subject includes three issues, namely, the support price, the remunerative price and supply of foodgrains to the consumers at reasonable price through public distribution system. These three are inter-linked, indiscernibly interlinked, you cannot separate one from another. Anyway, he has already said that he is not prepared to answer these questions... (Interruptions). He will have to reply if he wants to convince us. If he does not care for the House, that is a different matter. But if he has got an iota of respect for this House, then he will have to answer it. Of course, he can go scotfree, because he has got the majority.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You can quote all the three prices obtaining in West Bengal and Kerala and ask whether it is a fact or not,

SHRI CHITTA BASU : I am really grateful to you for you have allowed me to raise the question of the price situation in West Bengal. I think you know it that the West Bengal Government have been demanding 4.5 lakh tonnes of foodgrains each month to meet the requirements of the public distribution system. Yet this Minister, I would rather say this Government—because, I have nothing personal against him—this Government has never been able to make available more than 2.5 lakh tonnes. Would

you accuse the Government of West Bengal for not supplying the minimum ration to the citizens? Similarly, I understand the Kerala Government wanted 2 lakh tonnes of foodgrains—it is your Government; the demand was made by Shri Kurunakaran, your colleague—but, instead of grating that quota, you reduced the existing quota and scale of supply. So, if the price rises in Trivandrum or in Calcutta, is Shri Jyoti Basu or the left Government responsible for it?

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Only Shri Chitta Basu's speech will be recorded.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : So, these problems are inter-linked. In the Present case, there has been a bumper crop of bajra this year due to good monsoon. But, instead of it being a blessing for the peasant, the good monsoon has been a bane. The bumper crop of bajra in Haryana, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh has resulted in a steep fall in price in the market. What action has the Government taken? It has asked the FCI to purchase bajra from the growers. But look at the purchases made by FCI. In Haryana they have so far purchased 93 tonnes. In Rajasthan the problem is very very complex and very typical. Shri Vajpayee has already mentioned what is the ruling price of bajra in several places in Rajasthan. Here the total purchase of bajra by the FCI is six tonnes.

Sir, this is the function and performance of the FCI, and of this the Government is proud and it boasts and feels that their policy is the pro-peasant policy, they are very much for the interests of the peasants and they want to protect their interests. But does this prove? Even a municipality can purchase six tonnes of bajra, or even somebody a clerk can purchase six tonnes of bajra. And you are proud of your FCI that it gives the record that you are able to purchase only six tonnes of bajra from Rajasthan when the situation is very very critical.

Again, in this Government order there are certain loop-holes, gaps, working against

the interests of the peasants. They say: "It is reported that most of the grain coming to the market is below specification." That is, you have fixed up the support price at Rs. 124 without taking into account the cost of cultivation.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE
(Jadavpur) : You pay some money...

(Interruptions)

SHRI CHITTA BASU : I am coming to that. If you know it, you say.

Sir, first of all you have determined the support at Rs. 124 per quintal. Did you take into account the cost of production? (Interruptions). In that case, you, the former peasant leader, say that it is not necessary to determine anything in the case of fixing the support price. This is a wrong idea, a wrong theory. Their position is, you should know, that in the matter of calculating the support price the cost of cultivation is not to be taken into account. It is merely a mercy that the Government is doing by purchasing. Therefore, the support price is invariably, according to the Government policy, much below the remunerative price. Point No. 1 is, you cheat the peasant, exploit them. (Interruptions). Sir, don't disturb me.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : He is going to put the question.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : I am putting the question.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I rang the bell to inform you that you have prepared sufficient background. Put your question now.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : Now I put my question. May I know whether the Government is prepared to change this very basic policy of determining the support price by taking into account the cost of production, reasonable margin and the risk allowance?

Secondly, may I know whether the Government has provided adequate funds to the Food Corporation of India to launch a massive purchase operation in the villages? May I also know whether the Government is prepared to open purchasing centres for every 2000 population so that in the easily accessible areas the peasants can sell their produce at the Government or the FCI purchasing centres?

Secondly, I have raised the question as to how the Government's policy is anti-peasant. Take for example, sugarcane. They have not been able even to fix the price. (Interruptions). Atal Bihariji, you should also know that they have fixed the price for the last year. But the arrears have not yet been paid to the sugar-cane growers. What is the good of fixing another amount if you cannot pay the legitimate arrears? It is not a commissioned rate of money; the peasants have shed their blood, they have produced on the basis of their toil and moil, and your Government company has purchased it and you don't pay the arrears. Again the support price for the jute and the support price for the cotton are determined in a way that the entire question of cost of production is not taken into account.

This is their policy. Their policy is to fleece the growers. By fleecing the growers, they want to fatten the monopolists who use the agricultural produce as their input for manufacture. Their policy is to deprive the vast masses of our country of the right to have foodgrains at cheaper and reasonable rate.

This is the threepronged attack of the Government, to fleece the growers, to fatten the monopolists and to deny the people of the right to have foodgrains at cheaper and reasonable rate. Therefore, I want to know whether the Government, having regard to these failures of their policy, having regard to the fundamental lacunae of their policy, will revise the policy on the basis of take-over of wholesale trade in foodgrains and provide adequate subsidy so that the foodgrains supplied through the

public distribution system can be made available at cheaper and reasonable rate. He may ask: Wherefrom to get funds? In the Budget for the year 1983-84 Rs 800 crores have been budgeted for food subsidy. Is it not a fact that the Government spent Rs. 1700 crores for the Asiad games? If they can spend Rs 1700 crores for the Asiad games, is it impossible for the Government to raise the food subsidy by another Rs 500 crores?

The three-pronged policy of the Government should be to protect the interests of the growers to supply the foodgrains at cheaper and reasonable prices to the consumers and, in order to achieve that, the Government must have physical control over the stocks and for that, is necessary to take over the whole trade in foodgrains. Is the Government prepared to change their policy on the basis of this pro-people policy?

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I appreciate the hon. Member's move to re-state the policy of the party on this Calling Attention which says:

“to call the attention of Minister of Food and Civil Supplies to the reported distress sale by farmeres of coarse grains like Jowar, Bajra and Maize due to fall in the prices prevailing in the market which are much below the price fixed by the Government and the action taken by Government in the matter.”

Am I showing disrespect to the House if I do not reply to what all the hon. Member has spoken? I have been in this House since the House has been constituted in the country—except missing one term, I have been here all the time. I fully respect and know the Rules of Procedure of the House. Therefore, Shri Chitta Basu should not hit below the belt by saying, if I do not reply to him as to what the West Bengal Governments allotment is what the Kerala's allotment, is then I will be showing disrespect to the House. (Interruptions) Either you speak or I speak. Either you hear me or I hear you. If I am not saying about cotton price,

about jute price and about sugar price, am I showing disrespect to the House?

The hon. Member has got a right to roam around the whole economic policy, the price policy, the food policy and so on. I have not got that liberty. Therefore, kindly never say that I am showing disrespect to the House if I cannot speak about cotton or jute or sugar, if I am not speaking about the entire price structure in the country, if I am not saying about the take-over of wholesale trade in foodgrains which has been discussed many times in the House. How am I to reply to all these questions? If I do not reply to all that on a Calling Attention which is about the distress also of Jowar, Bajra and Maize I am told that I show disrespect to the House. Please do not hit below the belt. This is not a parliamentary method; this is an unparliamentary method.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : What is unparliamentary? Don't you know your Government's policy? He is not only the Food Minister but he represents the Government. Is it not Parliamentary?

He is in the present Government. He happens to be a Member of the Government and he is supposed to know the Government policy and to explain the Government policies to this House.

13.00 hrs.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : The Hon. Member should know that a Call Attention is meant for Government's policy on food management or anything. If this is what the Hon. Member's knowledge is, what can I do about it?

SHRI CHITTA BASU : Listen to me.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You please reply to the relevant points that he has raised with regard to Call Attention.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : I will reply to that only. I will reply about

that part of the question which is about Call Attention.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : I am on a point of order. Is not a Member entitled to raise certain questions which appear in the statement ? Please say whether a Member is entitled to seek clarification on an issue or not.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : I am also on a point of order.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You have raised these things, and he has said that it does not pertain to Call Attention. There is no dispute about that. Please do not get diverted, You please reply to that matter.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : What is that ? I want your ruling. He cannot hit me below the belt.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : You have done that.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : You have done that. You have mentioned in this statement that the Government proposes to purchase the foodgrains jowar in order to distribute through public distribution system. He has brought in the question of public distribution system.

(Interruptions)

SHRI CHITTA BASU : I am perfectly within my right to raise all these questions. It is for him either to answer or not to answer but he cannot hit me below the belt.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please sit down. The rules are very severe. You should only put a question. When a discussion takes place, all these things arise.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : I am very much within the limits. I never cross my limits.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You are very knowledgeable and senior Member of the House, I need not tell you the rules.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : You should know you need not tell that, I know the rules, I have not gone beyond the purview of the rules.

(Interruptions)

SHRI CHITTA BASU : You may say "I do not answer". But he cannot say that "I cannot answer" It is our right to defend our rights. He cannot say that I have conducted in an unparliamentary way.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Everybody has got freedom of speech here. You can speak. There is no harm:

SHRI CHITTA BASU : He cannot say that I have conducted in an unparliamentary way. That he must withdraw. He cannot say that I have made any unparliamentary remark.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : I had said that if I do not speak about cotton, sugar and jute, it is not a disrespect to the the House. I had only said that the Hon. Member can speak anything I have only said that my friend Shri Chitta Basu had hit below the belt.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BHAGWAAT JHA AZAD : It is unparliamentary. I will show how. Let me speak now.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : Have I not the right to ask ?

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : I know my words. To tell a Minister that if he does not reply on a call attention about the coarse grains, about cotton, sugar and other things, he shows disrespect to the House, is a very serious charge and I regard it as unparliamentary. What is wrong about it ?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now you are getting diverted. The subject is lost.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : He is within his right to answer my question on jute. Am I not entitled to know what is the price of bajra in the public distribution system ?

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI (Bombay North-West) : Concentrate on something above the belt.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : I agree to that suggestion.

The Hon. Member, so far as this call attention is concerned, has talked about the cost of production of bajra and price. Therefore, what I am going to say is when Agriculture Price Commission recommends a support price, it takes into consideration the cost of production plus remuneration for the farmer. And we have fixed the price of coarse grains to the recommendation of the Agricultural Prices Commission. Therefore, any support price announced by the Government for any foodgrains consists of cost of production plus remuneration for the farmer. In this case, the support price of Rs. 124 for coarse grains also includes that.

The hon. Member has asked about sufficient funds. In such a purchase, in such procurement operations, the Reserve Bank provides the credit at a concessional rate, and the FCI has got full funds to purchase as much as is necessary.

The hon. Member has said, by quoting 90 tonnes and 6 tonnes in Rajasthan what an operation by the Government; it is only deceiving the farmers. The fact should be understood in the proper perspective. Why did we enter the market for bajra procurement operation? Because it was reported by the State Governments and we knew that the price was below the support price, that is, Rs. 124. The moment Government entered into the market, what is the position that I have already quoted in my reply to the first question; I have quoted that the price in Rajasthan today, that means as on 15-11-1983, is Rs. 135 Rs. 130 and Rs. 134. Therefore, when the price is above the support price—our centres are already opened in Rajasthan; I have said that already, FCI 13, RAJFED 11, State warehousing Corporation 12 and a few more will be opened—there is no need for any purchase.

Another question was about specifications. It was to be understood in the proper perspective. What all purchases are made are not stocked, are not dumped anywhere, but they are sent to the consumers. The rice I purchase in Punjab and Haryana is sent to Kerala, West Bengal and different parts of the country. That means, the FCI has to purchase fair average quality and that is determined not only by us but also by the Health under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act and other things. In Haryana today the fair average quality, after FCI's entering into the market, is not available to us; the farmers are selling their fair average quality above the support price and it is taken by others. Therefore, when we say 90 tonnes and 6 tonnes, it is not that we have only opened centres not purchased. We have the centres, staff and money ready. Our interest is that the farmers should get a price above support price, and they are getting that. Wherever they are not getting that, even for States like Maharashtra, we have given instructions to the FCI to be ready if the price goes down in these States. I have already cleared this.

I am sorry if the hon. Member feels offended by my remarks. I thought, as he was telling me, he would also take my remark in that attitude. But I have now understood that the tolerance of the hon. Member for my remark is not there; I would not speak henceforth. When he came to me and talked, I thought we were very good friends from the old days, but now I feel that since I have become a Minister, I am losing my friends. It is alright. But I only say this; how can I reply on this. Let Mr. Vajpayee, an old Parliamentarian, say this. How can I reply about cotton, about jute and about sugar?

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : About sugar, you can. How can you consume bajra without sugar?

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : I would like to wind up by saying that, so far as other coarse grains like maize are concerned, in all important markets in the country, their price is above the support price. Only in the case of bajra, we were reported, and we have made all preparation;

we have sufficient funds and we have opened centres, and our only purpose is not to allow the price to go below Rs. 124; that, we are looking after.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : I can assure him that I do not want to lose his friendship.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, SPORTS AND WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : Sir, I have a submission to make. Since it is taking long, since the Call-Attention is running in the lunch-hour, I request the hon. House to dispense with the lunch break, so that we can complete this.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Dr. Vasant Kumar Pandit.

SHRI A.K. BALAN (Ottapalaw) : Sir, what is your reaction to the Minister's request ?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : We agree. The lunch hour is dispensed with.

SHRI A.K. Balan : We do not have lunch to-day only, but the people of Kerala do not have lunch daily. The public distribution system in Kerala has crumbled down.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You have made sufficient representation. Why can't you meet the Minister ?

SHRI A. K. BALAN : Supply of essential commodities through fair price shops has crumbled down in Kerala. This is one of the 20 points programme.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I am also interested in your getting rice. I also recommend your case. Please meet the Minister. The calling attention is on that. Dr. Vasant Kumar Pandit is on his legs. Am I to teach you the rules?... Mr. Nadar, you are a leader of the Party. Please sit down.

SHRI A. NEELALOHITHADASAN NADAR (Trivandrum) : That is why I am

asking. I feel my responsibility to the people. People of Kerala are starving. I am raising this question.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please sit down. Dr. Vasant Kumar Pandit. He is going to ask all your questions.

DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT : (Rajgarh): I stand to support the views expressed by my two colleagues earlier. Those points I will not repeat.

The statement laid by the Minister over-simplifies the whole position and tries to play down the fact that in some States coarse grains were sold under distress. Year after year we find this phenomenon. When the harvest is good, the farmer suffers and the smaller farmer suffers the most. While replying to my colleague, Mr. Chitta Basu, the hon. Minister said that the moment they entered the market the price shot up to Rs. 134, 130 and 135.....

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now they are taking a delegation to you.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : What should I do, Sir ? Should I meet them or should I hear and reply to the hon. Member?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : After this is over, you can talk to him, He has to reply.

DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT : The moment the FCI entered the market, the prices went up to Rs. 134 Rs. 130 and Rs. 135. My question to the hon. Minister would, therefore, be : why did the situation go out of your hand earlier? Why is the small farmer year after year forced to go in for distress sale and suffer ? Let us go to the basic question behind this. Those who have been elected from the rural sector have sufficient experience. A sort of cartel, a sort of vicious circle is operating at the purchasing level. One of the most important points on which the poor farmer's produce is rejected is the bogey of the quality.

In a situation like this, when a crisis arises and, when there is a good harvest, I

would like the Government to be lenient so far as the quality, part of it is concerned the point here is that the purchasing Centre is far away from the producing fields. A farmer has to come from 10 to 15 K.M. in his bullock, cart and to unload the grains in the mandi and wait for days for the weighing and, sometimes, for his payment. Although the hon. Minister has assured us that the F.C.I. has got a large amount of funds at their disposal, the channelising of the funds to lower level is very much found wanting. Even the State Agencies which are operating as the procurement agents do not pay the farmers in time and they make them to come again and again. In this kind of a peculiar situation, the poor farmer is forced to sell their produce. The big traders are hand in glove with the F.C.I. staff and force the poor farmers to sell their produce at a much lower rate than even the support price. There were numerous complaints about this. I would like the hon. Minister to apply his mind and find out the black sheeps of the F.C.I. which are operating at the collecting centres in collaboration with the traders.

The Warehousing Corporation has taken up an ambitious programme but that has failed to give results. I would take this opportunity of requesting the Government that from now on and, in future, they should have a network of the silos constructed and also godowns so that whatever grains are collected in may be kept in the silos. The small farmers are weak holding power and the big farmers take advantage of them and, even the collecting agents take advantage of them. There should be networks of godowns and silos that have been constructed in the rural centres. When a situation like this arises in future, the grains can be stored there. There are now several mandis. My experience is that they ask the small farmers to wait for long and they have no holding power per the money power to stay in the Mandi for days together. I would expect the Minister to tell me whether the godown facilities or the holding facilities of the F.C.I. at various rural centres are sufficient enough not to warrant a situation like this. Mention has been made about Haryana, Rajasthan and other places. May I also draw the attention of the hon. Minister that the situation

is not far better even in Madhya Pradesh? I do not know whether he has the reports from other adjoining States. Of course, in Madhya Pradesh, particularly, in those areas where there have been good harvests of jowar and bajra, why such an endemic situation should arise with regard to the distress sale? I would, suggest to the Government that the Civil Supplies Department should work in close coordination with the Agriculture Department particularly when there is now a lacuna in our food policy—in the agricultural policy — on the cropping pattern.

There is nothing like crop patterning in the whole country. The farmers would be easily convinced to change the crop pattern so that a situation of this kind of glut and distress sale would not arise.

Sir, the statement over-simplified the whole situation and the Minister further simplified it by saying that the moment they entered the market the prices shot up. But there is no fool-proof method. Why the Government could not enter the market earlier. Why did they allow the situation to result in distress sales? Therefore, I would request the hon Minister to make a reply to my submissions about founding of the centres, the number of collecting centres, some fool-proof method whereby corruption at that end is ended and also the godown facilities to be built up in future to save such a situation to happen.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : Sir, I am sorry if I carried that impression to the hon. Member that I have simplified the entire situation. It is not so. Government is anxious to pay the farmer the remunerative price-cost of production plus some remuneration and it is with this view that Ministry of Agriculture from time to time announces the support prices. When we announce the support prices it is expected that the farmers will not have to sell below that price. The moment it happens we immediately come into the picture. We have not allowed the situation slip out of the hands. When we announce the support prices of a large number of commodities we keep a watch and monitor the prices and

the moment we find that in some grain the price is going below the support price the support price we come in the market. We have fixed the support prices of coarse grains, namely, Bajra, Jowar and Maize. The moment it came to our notice that in the case of Bajra in some mandis of some States the price is going below the support price we entered the market. Therefore, I would like to say that we have not at all the intention that we should over-simplify. Rather our intention is to help the farmer.

The hon. Member has made a point about quality that in some cases Government should not be very about the quality. Sir, it is true sometimes on account of unseasonal rains the kernel of the grain is not destroyed but it is dis-coloured. In such cases we have relaxed the specification in Haryana, Punjab and other growing centres but I have also to take into account the interest of the consumer to whom it should be acceptable. Therefore, the hon. Member's suggestion is right that when unusual thing happens and we have done it in the past but it cannot be a general rule for all times. In that case for those for whom you are procuring you are depriving them of the good quality or at least fair average quality.

Then, the hon. Member has raised a question about weight and payment. It is true that when the farmers bring their grains to the mandis, they must give them in proper weight and there was some difficulty in that. When I took up the charge, I noticed the difficulty in the market of Punjab and I have set the thing right. I took up the matter and asked the FCI about it. I have put a task-force there. I have said, before we have the procurement season, let us be ready with all these things. And we are doing it. If some difficulty comes up and if it is brought to our notice, we immediately take corrective action. And I would like to say that it is a must that weight must be correct. The payment also must be full. We always take that into consideration. Whenever we have any complaint, we look into it immediately. The hon. Member also raised the point that when you make procurement and then suddenly if an occasion arises, in that case, you must also be ready with the godowns for proper storage. As

you know, the Warehousing Corporation started in a very small beginning. Now FCI has got its own godowns ; Central Warehousing Corporation has got its own godowns. And also apart from that we have to take on hire. It is not possible for us within the short period that the FCI is operating to have all full-scale arrangements to do everything. We have to keep the imported grains as well. We are doing our best to have the maximum coverage under godown and silo so that the grain which we procure will be properly stored for public distribution.

Then the hon. Member said about Madhya Pradesh. There, Bajra is not very much in production. Maize crop is there. And in Madhya Pradesh, the Maize crop price at present is around Rs. 150 per quintal. It is above the support price. So also in the case of Jowar, in Madhya Pradesh, we have got Rs. 133 and Rs. 134. Therefore in Madhya Pradesh, in respect of these two coarse grains that are there, at present we have not the occasion to enter the market because the price that is prevailing there is above the support price.

Sir, I hope that I have covered all the points raised by the hon. Member. Apart from the question which he has raised, he has also given some right suggestions like godowns and silos, to which I feel great pleasure to give my reply and in the end I will do my best.

श्री सूरज भान (धम्बाला) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, किमान की बात तो सभी करते हैं, लेकिन बढकिस्मती की बात यह है कि मिनिस्टर आये और चले गये, किसान की हालत पहले से ज्यादा खराब होती चली गई और किसान को मजबूरन कहना पड़ा :

हर चारागर को चरागरी से गुरेज था,
बरना हमारा मर्ज कोई लादना न था ।

अभी मंत्री महोदय ने कहा है कि किसान की उपज का दाम फिक्क करते बक्त उस की

कास्ट का भी ध्यान रखा जाता है। मैं इस बात का जिज्ञास नहीं करना चाहता था, चूंकि आप ने जिज्ञास किया है इसलिये जिज्ञास कर रहा हूँ। मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ—आप एक सिम्पल-सा फार्मूला एडाप्ट कर लीजिये—बेस ईयर 1970 मुकर्रर कर लीजिये और देखिये 1970 में गेहूँ के बदले में कितना खाद आता था और आज कितना खाद आया है। उसी हिसाब से गेहूँ के दाम बढ़ा दीजिये। किसान की हर पैदावार के दाम उसी हिसाब से बढ़ा दीजिये। इसमें कोई शेरशराबे या ऐतराज की बात भी नहीं है। किसान को अभी तक लाभप्रद दाम बिलकुल नहीं दिये गये हैं, आप की दाम नीति ही गबत है, लेकिन आप इस में कुछ नहीं कर सकते, क्योंकि यह दूसरी मिनिस्ट्री का काम है। फिर भी आप इस के बारे में कुछ जबाब दे सकें तो अच्छी बात है।

आप ने कहा कि जब सरकार को पता लगा कि बाजरे की कीमत गिर रही है तो हमने इन्टरवीन किया। कृपा करके यह बतलाये—आपको एक्जैक्टली कब पता लगा और किस सोर्स से पता लगा या तब पता लगा जब आदरणीय अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी जी और राजस्थान के भूतपूर्व मुख्य मंत्री श्री मीरों सिंह शंखावत ने पिछले महीने राव बीरेन्द्र सिंह जी से बातचीत की। इतना ही नहीं राजस्थान के चीफ मिनिस्टर के घर पर उन्होंने पिछले महीने की ता० 31 को भूख-हड़ताल भी की। क्या भूख हड़ताल और राव साहब से बातचीत के बाद पता लगा या उस से पहले भी इस की कोई इतिला आई थी। कितनी मंडियां खुल गई हैं? मेरी जानकारी यह है कि इस महीने की 9 तारीख को ये मंडियां खुली हैं। 31 तारीख को भूख हड़ताल हुई। इस 31 तारीख और 9 तारीख के बीच मैं आप क्या करते रहे। अगर इस से पहले इत्तिला आ चुकी थी, तो वह बताइए।

आप ने कहा है कि राजस्थान में 36 मंडियां खोली हैं। मैं ने आज ही सुबह श्री मीरों

सिंह शंखावत से बात की और उन्होंने बताया कि सिर्फ 26 मंडियां खुली हैं। अगर 36 सेन्ट्स आप के खोले हैं, तो कहां कहां खोले हैं, यह आप बताइए। राजस्थान में 27 जिले हैं। आप ने 36 मंडियां खोली हैं। एक जिले में दो भी नहीं आती और वहां का एक एक जिला बहुत बड़ा है। मैं हरियाणा की बात बाद में करूंगा। वहां पर 150-150 किलोमीटर का फासला तय करके मंडी आना पड़ता है। और कम से कम 50 से 100 किलोमीटर का फासला तय करना पड़ता है। अब ट्रेक्टर वाला किसान तो ट्रॉली में भर कर अपनी प्रोड्यूस ले आएगा लेकिन जो बैलगाड़ी वाला किसान है, वह उस पर नहीं ला सकेगा। अब अगर वह किराये पर लाएगा, तो उसको इतना किराया देना पड़ेगा कि उस को अपनी प्रोड्यूस बेचने के बाद कुछ भी नहीं मिलेगा।

एक आपने फेयर एवरज क्वालिटी की बात लगा दी। यह एक बहुत बड़ी बीमारी है, जिससे किसान को बहुत नुकसान हो रहा है। इसके कारण कुछ बिचौलिये बीच में आ जाते हैं और कई बार ऐसा होता है कि मंडी में आने के बाद एफ०सी०आई का इंस्पेक्टर या कोई और व्यक्ति यह कहता है कि यह तो खराब है और इसकी क्वालिटी अच्छी नहीं है। उसके गुणों कम दाम पर उसको खरीद लेते हैं और फिर 124 रुपये के हिसाब से एफ०सी०आई० को बेच देते हैं। क्या इस किस्म की बंगलिंग को आप दूर करेंगे?

इस के साथ ही आप ने यह बात कही कि 93 मीटरी टन आप ने हरियाणा में खरीदा और 5 मीटरी टन राजस्थान में खरीदा। अब राजस्थान में 36 मंडियां हैं। इस तरह से $\frac{1}{6}$ मीटरी टन एक मंडी का हिस्सा जाता है। क्या किसान पुड़ियों में बांधकर उसको लाए थे, जो इतना ही आपने खरीदा। तो मेरा

कहना यह है कि दूर दूर पर आपने मंडियां खोल रखी हैं और अगर आप बाकई में किसानों को फायदा पहुंचाना चाहते हैं, तो कम से कम ब्लाक लेवल पर मंडियां खोलिये ताकि वे ठीक ढंग से काम कर सकें। आप ने गिनती पूर दी और कह दिया कि 36 मंडियां खोली हैं। ये कहाँ कहाँ पर आप ने खोली है।

फिर आप ने कहा है कि बाजरा खरीदना शुरू कर दिया है और मकई और ज्वार के खरीदने की जरूरत नहीं पड़ी। क्या इसके लिए भी भूखहड़ताल करनी पड़ेगी? मुझे आज ही श्री भैरों सिंह शेखावत ने कहा कि 100 और 115 रुपये के दम्यन अच्छी मकई और ज्वार बिक रही है। इसको भी आप देखिये और यह न हो कि इन की खरीद के लिए भी भूख हड़ताल करनी पड़े। ... (व्यवधान) ... मैं पालीटिक्स की बात नहीं कर रहा हूँ, मैं तो कह रहा हूँ कि किसानों के हित के लिए आप कुछ कीजिए: इस के अलावा मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि इत्तिफाक से राजस्थान में 4 साल के बाद यह बाजरा पैदा हुआ है और पूरे 4 साल तक वहाँ अकाल रहा। उन चार सालों में उन की हालत क्या हुई है। प्राइवेट मनी लेंडर्स, गवर्नमेंट की कोआपरेटिव सोसाइटीज का कर्जा उन के सिर पर तलवार की तरह लटक रहा है। इसलिए लाजमी तौर पर उनको कर्जा अदा करने के लिए डिस्ट्रेस सेल करनी पड़ती है। कम से कम आप इतना करवा दीजिए कि आप के जो सरकारी बैंक हैं या जो सरकारी क्रेडिट कोआपरेटिव सोसाइटीज हैं, उन से वापसी मुलतबी क्षिण दिया जाए। 4 साल से वे अकाल में हैं। तो उनको बिना ब्याज कर्जा दिलवाइए, ताकि वे प्राइवेट मनी-लेंडर्स के चंगुल में न फसें। सरकारी एजेन्सियों के थ्रू आप कर्जा बंटवाइए, ताकि वे अपना कर्जा दे सकें।

इसके साथ ही साथ एक मुझाव देना

चाहूंगा और यह पूछना भी चाहूंगा कि जैसा अभी आदरणीय श्री बी.के. पंडित जी ने कहा कि क्या आप कुछ गोडाऊन नहीं बना सकते हैं। मेरा मुझाव है कि हर ब्लोक लेवल पर आप एक गोडाऊन बनवा दीजिए और अगर इससे ज्यादा बना सकें, तो और भी अच्छी बात होगी। इतना ही नहीं, जो उनकी पैदावार, है, उसकी जो आप ने सपोर्ट प्राइस डैक्लेयर की है, उसका कम से कम तीन-चौथाई पैसा इमीजिएटली किसान को देकर उस की प्रोड्यूस को स्टोर में जमा कर लें ताकि फौरी जरूरतों को वह पूरा कर सके। उस को अपनी वेटी की शादी करनी है या कपड़े खरीदने हैं या कुछ और लेना है, तो अगर उस को तीन-चौथाई दाम मिल जाएंगे, तो वह उनको पूरा कर सकता है और बाद में अच्छी सपोर्ट प्राइस जब मिलने लगे, तो गोदाम से निकाल कर उस को बिकवाया जा सकता है। कम से कम इतना तो बताइये कि मैंने जो मुझाव दिये हैं इनको आप पसन्द करेंगे या नहीं?

इसके अलावा एक दिक्कत और आ रही है। हरियाणा का मेरा जातीय तजुर्बा है और हरियाणा के बारे में आपने भी माना है कि वहाँ कीमतें कम हो गई हैं। वहाँ कीमत कम होने का सबसे बड़ा कारण यह है कि डिस्ट्रिक्ट्स में वेन लगा हुआ है। इत्तिफाक से मेरे पास जो काफी तो वह अम्बाला में रह गई, वरना मैं आपको उसकी फोटोस्टेट काफी दिखाता। डिप्टी कमिश्नर और कलेक्टर ने यह आदेश दे रखे हैं कि जिले से बाहर ये चीजें नहीं जा सकती। इसका कोई लीगल प्रोविजन नहीं है। एक वक्त था जब पूरा मुल्क एक जोन था अब आपने उसे घटा कर जिले तक महदूद कर दिया है। एक जिले से दूसरे जिले में जाने की इजाजत नहीं है। कम से कम इस बीमारी को तो आप बन्द कीजिए जिससे कि किसानों को और उपभोक्ता दोनों को फायदा हो।

मैं यह भी जानना चाहूंगा कि आपने हरियाणा, गुजरात, आंध्र प्रदेश और मध्य-प्रदेश में कितनी मंडियां खोली हैं और कब से वे खरीद कर रही हैं या नहीं कर रही हैं ? (व्यवधान)।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैंने लगभग मोटी-मोटी सारी बातें कह दी हैं। आखिर में मैं एक ही बात कहना चाहता हूं। किसान के अगर आप हितैषी हैं तो आप मेरे सुझावों पर ध्यान दीजिए और यह बताइये कि आपकी नीति क्या है।

श्री भागवत भ्मा आजाद : माननीय सदस्य ने किसान की बात कह कर के अपनी बात प्रारंभ भी की और खत्म भी की। यह बात सही है कि किसान की बात वह भी करते हैं और किसान की बात हम भी करते हैं। फर्क इतना है कि वह बात करके रह जाते हैं, और हम जो कहते हैं वह करते भी हैं। उदाहरण के लिए किसान की मुख्य उपज के हमने सपोर्ट प्राइस का निर्णय लिया। यह निर्णय, चाहे बीच में कोई भी सरकार आई हो, उसके पहले भी था, उसके बाद भी है। आज किसान को भी कीमत मिलती है, वह कीमत उस कीमत से अधिक मिलती है जो उसे पहले मिलती थी।

यह आपने सही कहा कि किसान को दी जाने वाली कीमत में उसका कास्ट आफ प्रोडक्शन, इनपुट्स की कीमत को भी जोड़ना चाहिए। इसके लिए एग्रीकल्चर प्राइसिज कमीशन कीमत तय करता है और वह कीमतें तय करते वक्त इन तमाम चीजों को नजर में रखता है। इनको नजर में रख कर ही वह प्राइसिजका निर्णय लेता है। उन प्राइसिज में कास्ट आफ प्रोडक्शन भी आता है, इनपुट्स

की लागत भी आती है और उन पर एवरेज लाभ क्या हो, वह भी आता है। सरकार साधारणतः एग्रीकल्चर प्राइसिज कमीशन की सिफारिशों को स्वीकार करती है और ऊर्हीं के अनुसार काम करती है। इसका सबूत यह है कि चाहे धान हो, चाहे चावल, हो, चाहे गेहूं हो, चाहे ज्वार हो, चाहे बाजरा हो, इन चीजों की कीमतें भी क्रमशः बढ़ती हैं और कास्ट आफ प्रोडक्शन के हिसाब से दाम बढ़ाये गये हैं। सपोर्ट प्राइस इस बात का उदाहरण है।

आपने कहा कि राजस्थान में हमने 36 मंडियां खोली हैं, लेकिन खरीदा कुछ ही क्विन्टल। अपने आँकड़ों को भी बार-बार दोहराया है। आप यह भी कहना चाहते हैं कि आपकी पार्टी के मेम्बरो ने वहाँ भूख हड़ताल की। वह भी मैंने सुन लिया है। लेकिन मैं आपको कहना चाहता हूं कि हमको राजस्थान के मुख्य मंत्री और हरियाणा के मुख्य मंत्री ने रिपोर्ट दी। ज्यों ही हमें रिपोर्ट दी, हमने 27-28 अक्टूबर को निर्णय लिया कि एफ.सी. आई. इसको प्रोक्योर करेगी। क्योंकि अब तक कोर्स ग्रैन के सम्बन्ध में चाहे मकई हो, ज्वार हो, बाजरा हो, यह निर्णय था कि राज्य सरकारें अपनी एजेंसियों के जरिये इनको खरीदें। यही निर्णय मैं आपके ध्यान में लाना चाहता हूं और ज्वार के सम्बन्ध में आपका जो प्रश्न है, उसका भी यही जवाब है। बाजरे के सम्बन्ध में हमने निर्णय लिया है लेकिन ज्वार और मेज के सम्बन्ध में जो मैंने अपने स्टेटमेंट में कहा उसकी तरफ आपका ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूं-

“No decision has been taken by the Government of India to purchase Jowar and Maize or other coarse grains in price support operations

as normally these grains are locally consumed and whenever necessary State Governments take up purchase operations. It is open to the individual States to undertake such purchases where it becomes necessary in the interest of the farmers and distribute the grains through the public distribution system."

आप कहते हैं कि हर ब्लाक पर मण्डी खोलिए। कहना आसान है लेकिन करने में कास्ट आफ आपरेशन कितना आएगा और वह चीज कंज्यूमर के रूप में आपको किस भाव पर मिलेगी। इसके बावजूद जहाँ-जहाँ हम आवश्यकता समझते हैं वहाँ तक जाते हैं। मुझे इस बात की प्रसन्नता है कि हमने इस बात का जगह-जगह रेडियो और टेलीविजन के द्वारा प्रचार किया है कि बाजार में एफ. सी. आई. बाजरा खरीदने के लिए आ गया है। आपने राजस्थान के बारे में कहा कि वहाँ पर 6 टन क्वों खरीदा गया। वहाँ पर आवश्यकता ही इतनी थी। वहाँ पर बाजार भाव अधिक है इसलिए आवश्यकता ही नहीं पड़ी और हम तो चाहते हैं किसी जगह भी आवश्यकता न पड़े।

हरियाणा के बारे में आपने कहा कि फेयर एवरेज क्वालिटी की बात की जाती है। अगर ऐसा नहीं करेंगे तो कल को आप ही कहेंगे कि अच्छा अनाज नहीं मिलता, उसकी क्वालिटी फेयर एवरेज होनी चाहिए। इसलिए हम फेयर एवरेज क्वालिटी के नीचे का सामान नहीं ले सकते हैं। हाँ अभी जैसा पंडित जी कह रहे थे कि समय समय पर हम

इसी को लेकर न चलें। इसमें कुछ ढिलाई की जानी चाहिए। जब हम देखते हैं कि ऊपर का रंग कुछ खराब हो गया है लेकिन अंदर का असली सामान बरबाद नहीं हुआ है तो हम उसको भी खरीद लेते हैं। इसके लिए हमको जनता को समझाना पड़ता है कि इसका ऊपर का रंग कुछ ठीक नहीं है लेकिन अंदर माल बिल्कुल ठीक है। पंजाब, राजस्थान और हरियाणा में इस तरह की बात हो चुकी है।

आपने सुझाव दिया है कि किसान का गल्ला खरीद लीजिए, तीन चौथाई दाम दीजिए। यह प्राइस सपोर्ट हम आपरेशन के बक्त नहीं कर सकते। जब आता है उसी बक्त हम फुल पेमेंट करते हैं। जो सुझाव आपने दिया है वह अच्छा है। किसान के दूर-निर्देश के लिए यह अच्छा है और यह काम राज्य सरकारें धू को आपरेटिव या अन्य किसी साधन के धू कर सकती हैं।

आपने पूछा है कि आपके बक्त में जोन घट कर जिला हो गया है। इसके पहले की सरकार में एक ही जोन था। मैं उनकी सूचना के लिए बताना चाहता हूँ कि उसके पहले जो सरकार थी उसमें भी जोन एक ही था और अब भी एक ही है। अगर किसी राज्य सरकार ने बेडियर डाला है तो उससे पूछेंगे कि क्या बात है। ऐसा कोई डिस्ट्रिक्ट बाइज जोन नहीं बनाया गया है। ना समूचा देश इन सामानों के लिए एक जोन है।

श्री सूरज भान : श्री भजनलाल से पूछिए।

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI (Bombay North West) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not wish to accuse the hon. Minister of either hitting below the belt, or adopting any unparliamentary methods ; nor do I accuse him of any particular kind of interference or contempt for Members of the Opposition who have raised this Calling Attention. But one cannot escape the feeling that when Members of the Opposition draw the attention of the House and the Minister to a matter of such great public importance as the existence of widespread distress sales, and when five Members put their signatures upon a motion for Calling Attention in which they slowly say that there are distress sales going about in the whole country, one would have expected much greater attention and much greater courtesy from the hon. Minister.

SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA (Nagpur) : I also agree with this.

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI : I really must say that the statement which the hon. Minister has furnished to the House does not reveal what it ought to reveal. It keeps back information which ought to be in his possession but which, for some reasons best known to him, he is not able to furnish to the House, or is not willing to submit to the House.

What is remarkable is some of the tongue in cheek statements which are being capable of supported by facts, figures and evidence ; but again facts, figures and evidence are being sedulously kept back. The first problem which had been raised in a very poignant form by Mr. Chitta Basu is about the support price which has been fixed at Rs. 124 per quintal. Now, the Minister is able to assure us whether this support price includes cost of production plus something more. But the real point of our complaint and the grievance of the kisan is this. The question is not whether the kisan is getting cost of production plus something more ; the real question is the kisan getting a fair share of the national cake, which is not ? Is it or is it not true that the overall economic resources of the States are an inhibiting and controlling factor in the fixation of

support price ? Now, if the overall economic resources of the States are an inhibiting factor, then is it or is it not a very serious criticism which the Minister must answer ? Is your priority in this matter right ? I charge that your charge is totally perverse. Are you concerned more with the maintenance of the hearth and home of the farmers or are you concerned more with the maintenance of Five-Star hotels in the various cities of India ? Are you concerned more with the flowing stream or the water resources of the farmers or are you concerned more with fountains and swimming pools in the Capital ? If your economic aid available to the States was higher and was made higher by avoiding this conspicuous and avoidable expenditure on other useless items, will you or will you not be able to improve the fate of the farmers much better and raise the supports price of the commodities which he produces ?

In the whole policy statement I find one instrument which I call an instrument of deception, but it is certainly a snag or a loophole—this so-called price fixation for fair average quality. In other words, whenever you find that the poor farmer is compelled to make a distress sale, you will tell him that he is making a distress sale because his product does not come up to the standard specification and that is why he is not able to get fair price and the government is not going to pay him a supporting price and, therefore, government is not relieve this distress. This kind of a thing we ought to know ; we want greater information on this. What is it that you consider fair average quality ? When is it that you consider that the farmer has not been able to produce the kind of thing which you want conforming to proper specification. What is more important is this. If a farmer for reasons beyond his control—not because he is incompetent or because he does not attend to his farm or production or he does not bestow sufficient labour—for natural causes, for God's acts, for nature, is not able to produce the product of fair average quality, as you understand it, then, on the contrary, he is entitled to greater assistance from the

States, he is a case of much more under-served want than anybody else, and he must be supported and assisted in eking out miserable existence.

I would have expected the hon. Minister at least in the statement to tell us whether the story of the opposition members for the distress sale is a true story or he does not believe that story or the distress sale is going on or not. I wanted the statement to become frank. It lacks in frankness and candour. That is my charge. I want that information now. Are you or are you not satisfied that the distress sale by farmers are really going on? But there is an implied confession; the confession is that there are distress sales but the distress sales are only on bajra, not on other coarse grains.

Because he does say that the FCI has decided to go into market and pay the supporting price for at least bajra. Therefore obviously bajra sales were taking place, which were distress sales and this confirms the veracity of the statement of those who have brought in this Calling Attention motion. Now, why does not the Minister then tell us that to the best of his information, there are no distress cells of any kind so far as grains other than bajra are concerned? On that I would request a clear cut statement. But, a clear cut statement is the last thing which I see in this statement of the Minister.

Then, another grave matter of public importance which I want to ask the Minister. After all this distinction which he has made between bajra on the one hand and the other coarse grains on the other, is in truth and in substance, a discrimination not between, foodgrains but is also a discrimination between, in substance the cast of those farmers who are involved in producing bajra and the cast of those farmers who are producing other foodgrains and it also makes a discrimination on regional lines. Because these grains are not being all produced in the same area. They are coming from different areas. Therefore in substance you are making a discrimination against some regions as compared to the

other regions. Now for making this—and I do not want to go into what cast is being supported, which class of farmers are being deliberately wooed by the Government and who are being discriminated against, I do not want to create cast distinctions in this country—what is more wanted from him is, and he should give some good reasons why these distinctions are being made. And I find that the statement is absurd on this point. There are two reasons given in his statement, on the second page, in paragraph 5 of his statement, saying that normally these grains are locally consumed. Locally consumed is none of your business. The question is, are these grains in the local market being sold at much below the support price which you have fixed? So this is an irrelevant consideration which you have given. And the second reason which you have is that whenever necessary the State Governments have to take up purchase operations. That is not a justification at all. The original policy of discrimination which you have made between one food-grain and another, and between the castes and regions were responsible for those sales. Therefore, both the reasons given in paragraph 5 are utterly irrelevant and the Minister should tell me now what criterion is there, how much difference of rate should be there, how full justice should be made of State Government going in for purchase operations,—most of them are controlled by you go into the market and pay the market price which more than which is due to the farmer.

And the last line,—

“The maize and jowar prices of fair average quality are ruling higher than the support price fixed by the Government in the important mandis of most of this States.”

is most deceptive, and as I called it, it is the instrument of deception, even otherwise I would expect the Minister to give us some more facts, as to which are the mandis selected by you, which are the centres which are selected by you, where the support price is more than the ruling price? All this shows lack

of vigilance and at least lack of due care and caution which I expect from a Minister.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : I say, when the hon. Member said that he expected more respect and courtesy, that it is out of courtesy and respect and under the rules of Parliamentary business that we have come out with this statement.

Hon. Member wanted me to tell him straightway whether there were some distress sales or not. He says, that my statement is silent. What he calls, 'distress sales' it is a question of terminology. I have already said in my statement very clearly and it is very abundantly clear in the second paragraph.

"As the price of bajra was reported to be ruling below support price in some States, the Government of India have decided that during the current kharif marketing season, price support operations for bajra would be undertaken by the Food Corporation of India . . ."

Therefore, I have not hidden anything from you. Furthermore, if you wanted to know this you tell me, I say that in the bazaars of Haryana and Rajasthan, I got the information from the Chief Ministers, that the prices there were the ruling prices which were lower than the support price and, and that is why I said what I said in the statement.

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI : Would you not call it a distress sale ?

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : That is a question of terminology. When we fix the support price for certain grains, we do not anticipate anything. Sometimes, when bumper production is there, then there is a tendency of the prices going down. When the price goes down, we step in. You can very well that we came four days, six days or eight days late. But the fact remains that we also have to assess the

situation. We cannot always keep everything ready there because it also means that whatever operations I do, whatever cost is there, it ultimately is compounded on the consumer for whom you also represent. At this hour you are telling me this. But tomorrow possibly when there is difficulty in the distribution system, you will tell me that. Therefore, we will have to keep a balance between the consumer's ultimate interest and the producer's. Therefore, that always makes me to fluctuate and find out the golden means as to where I should operate. That is my difficulty.

You have said about the economic cake and its constraints. Well, it is known that the economic cake in the country is always subject to certain constraints. Even a developed country has got its own constraints, because they want more and more. Compared to that we are less developed and we have our own constraints too. How can we deny that ? So, the hon. Member is right. But the economic cake and its constraints are taken into consideration by the Agricultural Prices Commission which consists of experts. They take into consideration the inputs, increase in prices, cost of production and also a fair margin of profit to the farmer and then the price is fixed. The Government normally accepts their recommendations. It is with this recommendation that we have accepted this price.

The hon. Member has raised the question about the fair average quality, but has argued that this is a weapon which is used against the farmer. This is not correct. This is a weapon or an important consideration which I have to keep in mind for the consumer. If all the produce of the farmer is not consumed, what will the farmer get and what will happen to us ? And the hon. Member will bring a small packet and tell me, look Mr. Azad, this is something which is not average fair quality and you have given me rotten grain. So I have to take into consideration that from the date of purchase upto the date of

delivery to the consumer in the fair price shop the grain must be such that it should have the essential quality of good consumption. It is no pleasure of mine that we will reject or we will say no to some kind of a grain of the farmer. Not at all. Then why do we fix the price and why do we have an elaborate arrangement? I quite agree that there might be some anti-social elements in the market. As Mr. Suraj Bhan has said, there are some fellows who purchase the grain at the price lower than Rs. 124/- and then sell to FCI. There are anti-social unscrupulous elements in all societies. But they are exceptions to the rule and not a general rule. That is why, Government has got the Acts and the field staff to operate over them. Therefore, a fair average quality is determined. You have asked me to give the details. It is a long thing. I do not want to waste the time of the House on this. I can lay a copy on the Table of the House. I would like the hon. Member know about it and give his suggestions. But please keep in mind that there are two parties—the producer and the consumer. One cannot survive without the other. If what FCI is procured in one year is not consumed, then the FCI will go into liquidation. Then what will happen to the farmer? Similarly, if the farmer does not produce, if Punjab and Haryana do not give me the surplus that they are giving all the time, then how will I send the grain to Kerala, whose Members always press me that I have given only 1.2 lakh and I must give them 2.2 lakh tonnes?

In spite of that, it is essential that we should have the fairest quality in which I have got a big distinction. For example, bajra shall be the dried mature grains, shall have uniform size, shape and colour, shall be in sound merchantable condition and shall also conform to food adulteration standards. Then, we have got grade 1, grade 2 and grade 3. Take, for example, Foreign Matter. When you ask me that bajra contains so much foreign material, we have the distinction for that. For example, in grade 1 it should be 1.5 per cent, in grade 2 it is 2.5 per cent and in grade 3 it is 3 per cent. That is why the price is slightly

lower. For grade II, where the foreign material is 2.5 per cent, I have Rs. 1.50 less. For grade III, where there is 3 per cent foreign material, I have a put the price less by Rs. 3. Similarly, it has been described as to for other foodgrains how much percentage should be there, for demand and discoloured grains how much percentage should be there, similarly for shrivelled and immature grains how much percentage should be there, for slightly damaged grains how much percentage should be there and for weevilled grains how much percentage should be there. These percentages are fixed by the exports so that the ultimate analysis where the grain procured is reached, should be accepted. The hon. Member has suggested about the natural calamity. It did happen in Haryana and Punjab where unseasonal rains came. We have a strong demand from the State Governments but this demand comes every year whether natural calamity is there or not. That pressure I am always subjected to that I must lower the specifications I am subjected to two pulls and pressures—one from them and the other from the consumers. Therefore, sometimes I have to take the unpleasant decision. In times of difficulty, we did relax the specification but in that I had to argue very much with the State Governments to please accept such grains that are discoloured but not only damaged. So, I have to please both sides.

14 Hrs.

About the discrimination, I would like the hon. Member to appreciate that it is not possible for us. When fix the support price, the idea behind is not that every thing that goes on will be by the Central Government. There are State Governments also to operate and therefore the position is that when we do this we always expect the State Governments also to do this. Take, for example, wheat and rice. Everywhere all over the country, right from Kamrup to Kuchh and from Kanyakumari to Kashmir, we are dealing with these on a large scale. In every State we classified the variety and fixed the price but that is so for bajra, maize, etc. I cannot impose, through public distribution system, maize or bajra or jowar in States it is not produced,

where it is never consumed. That is we have to make this distinction. Normally these coarse grains are short-lived and they are consumed in local areas. For example, bajra can go to Rajasthan but Rajasthan has got a bumper crop of this. It shall not accept bajra. Where shall I send it? It can go to Gujarat but they also have good production of this. Therefore, it is very difficult for us. You cannot expect us to purchase and dump them and put the entire loss in the FCI. Then you will shout on me that I have put the FCI to loss. Therefore, with certain kinds of grains, there is no intention or idea that there should be any discrimination. The only point is that we have the compulsion of situation and the kind of grains, that is why we do that. In the last part of my statement I have said not discrimination but I have said that until now all these grains were being purchased by the State Governments also. For example, Maharashtra has purchased jowar almost every year and has always alerted its markets that whenever there is less support price for any of the grains, they should enter the market. I have also told FCI to do the same. Therefore, the entire policy, the entire principle behind this is to keep a balance between the consumer and the purchaser and keeping that in mind, we fix the support price, we procure it and we distribute it.

14.05 hrs.

TEA (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Minister of Commerce and of the Department of Supply (SHRI WISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Tea Act, 1953.

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Tea Act, 1953.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI WISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : I introduce the Bill.

14.06 hrs.

STATEMENT REGARDING TEA (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE

The Minister of Commerce and of the Department of Supply (SHRI WISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) : I beg to lay on the Table an explanatory statement (Hindi and English versions) giving reasons for immediate legislation by the Tea (Amendment) Ordinance, 1983.

14.07 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) NEED TO MERGE PAPER TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE, PILOT PLANT AND CENTRAL PULP AND PAPER RESEARCH INSTITUTE AND ITS TAKES OVER BY GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

श्री जगपाल सिंह (हरिद्वार) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, एशिया में अपनी तरह का अकेला सहारनपुर का कागज प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान आरम्भ में हाई स्कूल उत्तीर्ण छात्रों के लिए तीन-वर्षीय सार्टिफिकेट कोर्स एवं बी० एस० सी० उत्तीर्ण छात्रों के लिए दो-वर्षीय डिप्लोमा कोर्स तथा सम्पूर्ण देश के कागज एवं सम्बन्धित उद्योगों के लिए आपरेटर एवं सुपरवाइजर तैयार करने वाला संस्थान है। यह संस्थान 1977 से बी० एस० सी० उत्तीर्ण छात्रों के लिए एक अन्य कोर्स डिप्लोमा इन्स्ट्रुमेंटेशन कोर्स—चलाता रहा है। कई बार इसे राष्ट्रीय संस्थान बनाने हेतु इसकी घोषणा कई। केन्द्र सरकार द्वारा नियुक्त एक अध्ययन दल ने सारे देश का भ्रमण करने के पश्चात् कागज प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान, सहारनपुर को ही राष्ट्रीय पल्प एवं पेपर अनुसंधान केन्द्र में परिवर्तित करने की सिफारिश की थी।

1977 के बाद इस संस्थान की विकास योजनाएं काफी प्रभावित हुई हैं और इसकी अविकसित स्थिति को सुधारने के लिए एवं इस संस्थान को राष्ट्रीय संस्थान बनाने के