

only inflation. Whatever commodity you sell for Rs. 4/- in Delhi, it is sold for Rs. 6/- in Srinagar. Our road was closed for 60 days, with intervals last year. When the road gets closed there is hoarding of essential commodities and the rise in prices takes place. It is all because of transportation difficulties. Our supply line passes through Punjab. There is the Punjab problem which poses a great problem to us also. So, we want an early solution of the Punjab problem in our own interest also. You do not understand our problems. You pamper and encourage members to speak untruth...*(Interruptio s)*.

SHRI P. NAMGYAL : It is my right to speak. I have been elected by the people. We have a right to know where all this huge amount of foodgrains supplied by the Central Government is going. I believe, you are smuggling it out across the line of actual control *(Interruptions)*.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : I conclude by reciting one couplet :

न खुदाई मिली न विमाले सनम  
न इधर के रहे न उधर के रहे ।

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Janardhana Poojary will lay papers on the table.

श्रीमती प्रमिला दंडवते (बंबई उत्तर-मध्य) : इस बहस को खत्म हो लेने दीजिए। इसके बाद इसको लिया जाए बीच में क्यों?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : He has got to go ahead. It is only a routine thing. Nothing very particular. I say that it is only for a few minutes.

श्रीमती प्रमिला दंडवते : एक दो मिनट का सवाल नहीं है। यह व्यवस्था का सवाल है।

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY : He cannot lay this on the Table unless the amount given is less than Rs. 50 lakhs. He has not submitted a separate memorandum that it is less than Rs. 50 lakhs. He should first make a statement that the relief given is less than Rs. 50 lakhs. Is it less than Rs. 50 lakhs.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : Yes.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY : He should give it in writing.

18.32 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE—

Contd.

Notifications under Customs Act and Central Excise Rules

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : I beg to lay on the Table :

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962 :—

- (i) Notification Nos. 309-Customs and 310-Customs published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd November, 1983 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding concessional rates of customs duties on components of motor cars.
- (ii) Notification No. 311/83-Customs and 312-/83-Customs published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd November, 1983 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to Palm Stear in imported for the manufacture of soap, grease or fatty acids from basic customs duty in excess of 15 per cent *ad valorem* and auxi-

liary duty of customs leviable thereon.

[Placed in Library See No. LT—7069/83].

(2) A copy of Notification No. 277/83-Central Excise (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd November, 1983 making certain amendment to Notification No. 35/83-CE dated the 1st March, 1983 regarding reduction in the basic excise duty on aerated waters in bottles, issued under the Central Excise Rules, 1944.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT—7070/83].

18.34 hrs.

DISCUSSION ON STATEMENT MADE  
BY MINISTER OF FINANCE ON  
PRICE SITUATION—Contd.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : First of all, I would like to express my gratefulness to the Hon. Members who have participated in the discussions and have made contributions.

15 Members have made their observations including the mover of the resolution who raised a discussion on the statement made by me.

I would like to make one point clear. I do not share the views of those Members who have expressed that the situation is alarming or panicky. At the same time, I do not say that everything is all right. The statement which I have placed before the Members of the House contains the facts and the objective assessment of the situation. I have not tried to hide anything nor have I tried to highlight that in the months of October and September, there has been an over-all decline of 0.3%. I have expressed my concern because the normal declining trend which was found in other years

from the mid-September, this year that declining trend is a little weak. But, at the same time, one need not come to the conclusion that the situation is alarming. Had it been alarming, I would have shared with the House that the situation is alarming because we had the experience of 21% annual rate of inflation. We had the experience in the backdrop of drought situation when we had to face an annual rate of inflation in the neighbourhood of more than 21% and that situation we had to inherit from you....

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY :  
You created that Government.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : But that was possible and you yourself have admitted.

18.36 hrs.

[MR SPEAKER *in the Chair.*]

I have pointed out in the statement that from 21.4% it came down to 16.7%, then it came down to 2.4% and then went up to 6.2%. Surely, this year it is a little more compared to last year and naturally it is a matter of concern. But, at the same time, it is not unmanageable.

Then the question comes : what measures we are going to take to manage the situation and to control it. Already we have taken certain measures. If you just look at it from the demand side and also from the supply side, from the supply side we have already taken steps to ensure the availability of the goods in short supply by importing which is a short-term measure and at the same time by ensuring long-term measures by giving incentives to production. I have highlighted some of these aspects - reduction of fertiliser price. You just make a comparison. Please don't go by emotion. Please make a comparison between 1982-83 before the decision of reducing fertiliser price and after that. You have seen that the fertiliser offtake has increased and as a result, production is going to be increased. Similarly, the steps taken