

REVIEWS ON THE WORKING OF INDUSTRIAL FINANCE CORPORATION OF INDIA AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK OF INDIA FOR THE YEAR ENDED ON 30-6-1979 AND A NOTIFICATION UNDER CENTRAL EXCISE RULES, 1944.

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

(1) A copy of the Review* (Hindi and English versions) by Government on the working of Industrial Finance Corporation of India for the year ended the 30th June, 1979. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1154/80].

(2) A copy of the Review* (Hindi and English versions) by Government on the working of the Industrial Development Bank of India for the year ended the 30th June, 1979. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1155/80].

(3) A copy of Notification No. G.S.R. 435(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th July, 1980 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding excise duty concession to small manufacturers of certain goods, issued under the Central Excise Rules 1974. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1156/80].

12.17 hrs.

ASSENT TO BILLS

SECRETARY: Sir, I lay on the Table copies, duly authenticated by the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha, of the following four Bills passed by the Houses of Parliament during the current session and assented to since a report was last made to the House on 19 July, 1980:—

1. The Assam State Legislature (Delegation of Powers) Bill, 1980.

2. The Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Bill, 1980.

3. The Essential Services Maintenance (Assam) Bill, 1980.

4. The National Company Limited (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Bill, 1980.

12.17 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT IMPORTANCE

REPORTED DISAPPEARANCE OF TWO TRAINLOADS OF SUGAR DESPATCHED BY FOOD CORPORATION OF INDIA FOR MADHYA PRADESH.

MR. SPEAKER: Calling Attention—Mr. Banatwalla.

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN (Cooch Behar): Mr. Speaker, Sir...

प्रच्युत महोदय : समर बाबू इनको समझाइये ।

SHRI G. M. BANTWALLA (Ponnani): With your kind permission I call the attention of the Minister of Agriculture to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

Reported disappearance of two trainloads of sugar worth crores of rupees despatched by the Food Corporation of India for Madhya Pradesh and action taken by the Government thereon.

12.18 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair.]

(Interruptions)**

(Shri Mani Ram Bagri and Some other Hon'ble Members then left the House).

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing other than the call attention shall go on record...

(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nobody can obstruct the conduct of the House.... I will not allow it.

Mr. Minister, you please speak with a louder voice... louder than that.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI BIRENDA SINGH RAO): The Calling Attention Motion raised by the Hon'ble Members presumably refers to the news item appearing in Hindustan Times dated 24-7-1980 under the heading "Two train loads of sugar missing." The factual position in this connection has been got verified by the Food Corporation of India. At the outset I would like to make it clear that no train load of sugar sent from Maharashtra to Madhya Pradesh as reported by the news item has been found missing. The position regarding allocation and movement of sugar to Madhya Pradesh is as follows:—

Out of the total allocation upto June of 132715.8 tonnes of sugar to Madhya Pradesh, a total quantity of 1,20,349.3 tonnes have been allocated from the sugar mills in Maharashtra. Out of this till the end of June, a total quantity of 106274 tonnes have been despatched from those mills and a total quantity of 97030 tonnes have been received in Madhya Pradesh, the balance quantity of 9244 tonnes being in transit. The despatch of sugar from Maharashtra Mills to Madhya Pradesh is mainly through piecemeal wagons and to some extent through rakes, the percentage being approximately 75 per cent and 25 per cent respectively. This is due to the fact that rake loading is not possible from all the loading points due to scattered location of the mills. Normally the movement of piecemeal wagons takes about 15 to 20 days in transit. Therefore, the quantity of 9244 tonnes in transit by the end of June which is less than 50 per cent of the monthly allocation cannot be considered to be abnormal and there should be no misapprehension that the quantity has disappeared.

The Food Corporation of India keeps watch over the total quantity

despatched and received every month; since the quantity in transit is of the usual order, there is no cause for alarm.

As regards the wagons which are still in transit full information is not readily available. However, enquiries are already in progress to find out how many wagons, if any, have taken more than the normal time to reach their destinations. After receipt of the complete information in this regard, action as found needed will be taken.

SHRI G. M. BANTWALLA: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the statement made by the hon. Minister is rather unsatisfactory because it fails to throw any light on some of the important aspects concerning the reported point that sugar is missing.

Sir, the Government, in its statement, makes a total denial. We are told that no sugar whatsoever is missing. In the first instance, I want to assure the hon. Minister, through you, that this House really wants to help him and assist him. Therefore, let the hon. Minister not fight shy to take this House into confidence and let us know if the sugar is missing definitely. The House will definitely rise to the occasion in order to help our hon. Minister.

Sir, it is very amusing that while the Government says that no sugar whatever is missing, the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh has ordered a thorough enquiry into this issue of missing sugar. Are we to understand that the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh has ordered a thorough inquiry without any basis whatsoever? Are we to understand that when nothing is missing there is no basis whatsoever and still without any *prima facie* case the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh has ordered a thorough inquiry? I would, therefore, like to ask the government to tell us what are the basis on which the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh has ordered an inquiry. Whether the hon'ble Minister has come into touch

with the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh—who I am told is in town—with respect to this particular fact and the reported disappearance of the sugar and the inquiry ordered by the Chief Minister?

We must also know not only the basis on which the Madhya Pradesh government ordered inquiry into the disappearance of this sugar but also if the inquiry is complete whether any findings have come out and if so what are those findings? I would like to ask directly—forgetting train loads and all these things—whether there is or there is not any disappearance whatsoever of any amount of sugar or whether there is any considerable delay in respect of any sugar dispatches in Madhya Pradesh.

At least, one point has come up before the House very clearly from the statement of the hon'ble Minister that 9,244 tonnes, of sugar are in transit. We are further told that this sugar was meant for the month of June and they are still in transit. That means monthly allocations do not reach their destination in time for distribution during the month for which they are intended. This is bound to create great hardships. Let us, therefore, know what steps Government is taking in order to see that these monthly allocations reach their destinations in advance so that they are utilised for distribution during the month intended, thus avoiding any hardship to the general public.

There is every reason to believe that a scandal looms large over the entire procedure with respect to the distribution of levy sugar or the sugar policy as such or the dealings of the Food Corporation of India. The hon'ble Minister himself has said in the other House that 'During December, 1979, that is, during Lok Dal Government's period there was a leakage of the intention to introduce dual pricing and as a result of

this leakage there was considerable disappearance of sugar stocks in the market.' I am not here to defend the Lok Dal Government. I would ask the Government now whether it is not a fact that leakages with respect to sugar policy are taking place even now to the great advantage of sugar barons. Is it not a fact that information that two lakh tonnes of sugar was to be released on 11-12th May leaked out thus to the great advantage of the sugar barons? Is it not a fact that these leakages are taking place from the very residence of the hon'ble Minister? Is it not a fact that the residence of the hon'ble Minister has become a virtual guest-house with a permanent guest, Sadhu Singh, lodged in the room next to the room in which the files are kept? What is this guest doing over there may I know?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, are there no norms whatsoever with respect to the guests and the period for which they stay and with respect to the proximity with which they stay near the official files. Sir, I am very careful in my observations and, therefore, I say—because I am concerned with—that there should not once again be a Tul Mohan episode repeated now and, therefore, I ask with respect to this entire policy regarding distribution of sugar and sugar policy to clarify these matters that I have raised in order to see that both Caesar and Caesar's wife are above board. I hope that there would be a pointed reply to these questions that I have raised and I may further be allowed to raise questions after the hon'ble Minister's reply.

SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO:
Sir, the statement which I made is based upon facts verified through the Food Corporation of India and it appears that the information that the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh got was wrong, supplied by somebody. We have informed the Chief Minister also about the correct position as we know.

Sir, I am not in a position to say whether or not a few kilograms of sugar disappeared here and there or in the godowns or in transit. The hon'ble Member has said can I say no sugar at all disappears from the FCI godowns or wagons? The question is about train loads of sugar disappearing—two train loads of sugar. I hope the hon'ble Member knows that a train consists of any thing from fifty to sixty wagons and over a thousand tonnes of sugar gets loaded in each train.

As I said we are thankful to the hon'ble Member who has raised this question. Certainly Calling Attention motions like this help the Government exercise better vigilance and also put the officers on their guard but nothing more than the facts should be read into these Press reports.

Sir, the hon'ble Member has said sugar is not reaching in time every month. Allocation of sugar is made from month to month but it does not mean that sugar released for a particular month against the allocated quota has to reach its destinations within the same month. There is always something in the pipeline and the allocation from one month is carried over to the other month. It is not necessary that the quota released for a particular month and the amount of sugar that reaches the State are always the same or the supplies received are always less than the allocated quota. It may even be more than the allocated quota in certain cases. For the month of April, May and June I can give you the figures. The total allocation per month for Madhya Pradesh is 20,825 tonnes and in April, against this 20,825 tonnes, 16,975 tonnes were received by them within that month. In the next month, that is, in May, 19,687 tonnes were received. In June (about which he made specific mention) against this allocation of 20,825 tonnes, 30,222 tonnes were received in this month and that was 50 per

cent more. It is very difficult to arrange that the quota for a particular month must be supplied to the godowns within the same month because after all the movement has to take place. The transit also takes some time. As I said from Madhya Pradesh to Maharashtra there is this long distance of 1200 K.M. From Maharashtra mills to Madhya Pradesh where sugar has to reach, piecemeal wagons take near about 15 or 20 days. Sometimes it may even be more for loading sugar in wagons takes time. It is very difficult for the FCI to know which wagon is shunted at which station and how much more time it will take to reach its destination and so on. So, on that account, we cannot say how many wagons are in transit and in what place; but the normal expectation is that they will reach within the normal period. In any case if we find there has been any pilferage or any sugar has disappeared, the hon. Member need not worry; we will take the most stringent action against the delinquents. We are aware of the position and we have further been warned by press reports and we shall exercise better vigilance.

I am very much pained to hear what the hon. Member has said about some guests staying in my house in proximity to files. Normally I work in office. But I also take certain files to my House. But it does not mean that this is for the use of certain other people. Every Minister tries to dispose of as many files as he can but all the time he cannot sit in the office. And I don't think the hon. Member would like that any rule should be framed about laying down the norms as to who should stay in a Minister's house and who should not stay in a Minister's house. If he will kindly help me, I am prepared to send all my guests to the hon. Member's house, if he likes. In that case, I will not allow any one in my house from outside my family; if the hon. Member would give me this help, I will send them all to

him. But if that is not done, I wish to say, after all, I am a political person; I have friends; I have guests visiting me; and people close to me; and even people who are not so close to me can always have certain claims on me. Somebody has given some wrong information to the hon. Member. If he tries to make any sort of insinuation that my guests live in my house and they leak out secrets and so on, in this matter I am very particular, and I wish to say, nobody so far in my political life has been able to raise a finger against my integrity.

DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT (Rajgarh): Sir, I and my colleagues are extremely pained at the way this statement is placed before the House; it is a mere eye-wash. The Statement suffers from the fault *superssion veri ad suggesto falsi*. We have been told that a certain quantum of sugar is in transit and we need not worry about it. Would the hon. Minister please tell us on what date, from which Mill and what quantity from where was despatched? Let it be in transit. If it has been loaded, give me the dates on which it was loaded, whether in wagons or rakes, how much quantity from which mill in Maharashtra and when did it leave the loading station? Then only we will be able to know whether it is lost in transit or not. The hon. Minister has said that it will reach in normal time and we need not worry about it. It is now 3 months before it was despatched, but so far it has not reached the destination. It is not the report of the "Hindustan Times" only but it has also appeared in 'Nai Duniya', 'Yug Dharam' and 'Nav Bharat' and in a large number of papers published in Madhya Pradesh. Since then you have not made any enquiries and you have not come up before the House with factual details as to the transit position, about the loading of the sugar, particulars of wagons and rakes, when it was despatched, from what point in Maharashtra it was

despatched and the date on which it was despatched.

Secondly, possibly when we referred to 40,000 metric tonnes, in your statement you have mentioned that does it pertain to the quantity which was despatched from Maharashtra only? May I ask him whether sugar has been despatched from any other State? If so, to what extent? The June quota has not been given so far. Today we are almost at the end of July. Festival season is approaching and I do not know whether the entire quantity of sugar of thousands of metric tonnes will be delivered or not, when will it be despatched. May I therefore ask the hon. Minister whether he has also sent sugar from other centres than Maharashtra and when will the backlog of June quota to Madhya Pradesh be completed and by what date? These are the factual details which I want to know. Otherwise he has said that wagons are still in transit and full information is not readily available. They may be in some way-side stations. But when will it reach the destination? I want to know whether it is in Bhopal, Indore or any other place. I would request the hon. Minister to give this information to the House and if anyone is found guilty or reliction from his duty, what action you propose to take against them. We should know what action has been taken against whom.

SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO: The hon. Member has asked me to give details about the mills and the dates on which the wagons were loaded and he wants to know the number of wagons. He might even want to know the number of bags put in the wagons. That is not possible for me to give at this time. But the fact remains that there is nothing abnormal in the situation.

DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: You said about 90 days maximum.

SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO:
Not 90 days. Only 15 to 20 days. I have given more than sufficient information. But if there are certain hon. Members who are not satisfied, I am helpless. Information regarding the number of wagons, the dates on which they were loaded, the particulars of the sugar mills from which they were loaded and stations from which they were loaded will not help to say that sugar has disappeared. (Interruptions)

DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT:
You have not supplied the information asked for?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You allow him to reply.

SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO: I have told you that as much as more than 30,000 tonnes of sugar reached Madhya Pradesh against the June allocation of 20,000 tonnes. If you want to know how much reached this morning in Madhya Pradesh, I am not in a position to tell you. Why are you trying to read more than what actually exists? Sugar has been reaching there. Normally allocation has not fallen short of supply. We are trying to see that the movement takes place and the supplies are maintained properly. I am giving you all the assurance. But if you try to put blame on me, FCI, my house, my friends and outsiders who cannot defend themselves, and want to throw mud, you are welcome to do that, but this would not help the situation at all.

श्री पियूष तिरकी (अलीपुरद्वार) :
उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मंत्री महोदय कह चुके हैं कि जो मंडली कोटा है वह किसी महीने में ज्यादा भी आ जाता है और किसी महीने में कम भी आता है। मझे मंत्री महोदय से यह सवाल पूछना है कि जब किसी स्टेट के लिए मंडली कोटा ज्यादा पहुंच जाता है उस स्थिति में जो कार्ड होल्डर्स हैं उनको क्या ब्यादा दिया जाता है अथवा नहीं क्योंकि

जो एक्सेस में कोटा चला जाता है वह ब्लैक मार्केट में बिक जाता है? इस सम्बन्ध में मंत्री जी थोड़ा सा बताने की कृपा कर।

I would like to know whether there is no coordination between the Railways, FCI and the State Government concerned in this matter. Does the Food Corporation of India keep a watch over the total quantity despatched and received every month and what check is exercised over malpractices that may occur and who is to fix the responsibility? May I know whether there have been any such instances previously also and if so, what remedial steps were taken by the Government?

SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO:
There is a very good coordination between FCI and the railways. It is only because of that that we have been able to meet the difficult situation. There was a lot of pressure on the railways in various fields; they had to move coal, diesel, sugar, food-grains and even water supply had to be maintained by railways in certain drought-affected areas. The distribution of sugar is entirely in the hands of the State Government. If they want to give additional quota and they have got sugar stocks for the purpose, we do not stop them from issuing more sugar than the normal rationed amount. This is upto the State Government to increase or decrease the rationed quota for the card holders according to the supplies that they get. The hon. Member may next come forward and ask how many ration card holders are there in each State. To answer that I will take about a year to give the information to him; I may give such information to him next year... (Interruptions).

श्रीमती प्रमिला बन्धवते (बम्बई उत्तर-मध्य) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, विन्दुरतान टाइम्स में जो न्यूज आई है, उसी आधार पर आज यह कालिग-गटेशन है और हमारे मंत्री महोदय

ने उसका ऊपर जमाव किया है। उससे ऐसा लगता है कि हिन्दुस्तान टाइम्स की न्यूज गलत है और झूठी है। मैं यह पूछना चाहती हूँ कि इस प्रकार की गलत न्यूज क्यों छपी, जब कि यह एकजिमेदारी का काम है। दूसरी बात मैं यह पूछना चाहती हूँ कि मध्य प्रदेश के के मुख्य मंत्री के राज में क्या चल रहा है, उसके बारे में कुछ न बताते हुए उन्हें इन्कवायरी करने को कहा है। इस बात की भी हमारे मन्त्र के मंत्री सफाई करें।

आज यह कहा गया है कि 32 करोड़ ६० की चीनी डिसअपीयर हो गई। लेकिन हमारे मंत्री महोदय ने कहा है अगर चीनी का हिसाब देखें तो काम से काम 8 करोड़ ६० की चीनी है, तो 8 करोड़ ६० भी काम नहीं होता है। अगर डिसअपीयर हुई है, तो क्यों हुई है, इस बारे में मंत्री महोदय को सोचना चाहिए। आज पूरे हिन्दुस्तान में लैवी का चीनी राशन में लोगों का नहीं मिल रही है। मजबूर होकर लोगों को चीनी खुले बाजार में 8६० 10पै० या 8६० 25पै० और कई-कई जगहों पर 8६० 50पै० में खरीदनी पड़ रही है। हमारे मंत्री महोदय ने पहले खुद कहा था कि मह ड्यूल-प्राइसिंग-सिस्टम श्री चरणसिंह की गवर्नमेंट ने जमाने में अपनाया गया था और उसी की वजह से दाम बढ़ने लगे। आज जब एसेम्बली में इलैक्शन आ गए, तो उनको पता चला कि ड्यूल प्राइसिंग सिस्टम से ही काम होता है, और उसको उन्होंने जारी रखा। आपने दो मिलियन टन चीनी इम्पोर्ट की है। हमारे देश में बैंक-लाग की चीनी 21 लाख टन है। यदि हम इन सब चीजों का देखें और सरकार के हितों के मुताबिक भी 50 लाख टन चीनी का अन्दाजा हो गया होगा, लेकिन मिल-ओतर्स ने कहा है कि 46 लाख टन है, तो इस तरह से हमारे देश में 69 लाख टन चीनी है। अगर हम हिसाब का देखें तो हमारे देश में चीनी 58 लाख टन वन्जयूम होती है, जब कि आपने 8 लाख टन इम्पोर्ट

करने का कहा था। इतना कम मत हुए भी चीनी का दाम बढ़ते है और चीनी का कारी होती है और राशन का दुकानों पर 2६० 95पै० में भी चीनी नहीं मिलती है। इस बात का अन्दाजा आप स्वयं लगा सकते हैं कि यदि इतनी चीनी को खुले बाजार में बेचें तो उसकी कितनी कममत हो सकती है। आज भी गांवों लोगों को चीनी नहीं मिलती है। बलकटर के दफतर से चीनी वहां चली जाती है, इसका किसी का पता नहीं है। शहर में गरीब लोगों को भी चीनी नहीं मिलती है। मध्यम वर्ग के लोगों को भी चीनी नहीं मिलती है और चीनी का दाम दिन पर दिन खुले बाजार में बढ़ते जा चले रहे है। यदि चीनी का दाम आने वाले समय में 10-12६० दिला हो जाए, तो यह भी कोई आश्चर्य की बात नहीं होगी।

मैं मंत्री महोदय से यह पूछना चाहती हूँ कि चाहे चीनी ट्रेन में ही या ट्रक में हो, लेकिन इस प्रकार की गलत काम को रोकने के लिए वे क्या करने वाले है। फूडवार-पोरेश अनाज खरीदने के लिए जाता है, तो वहां भी किसानों को गुमराह करते हैं और वहमें हैं कि तुम्हारा माल स्टैंडर्ड का नहीं है। उस माल को होलसेलर्स जाकर खरीद लेते हैं और वही माल फूड वारपोरेशन को लोग खरीदते हैं। बीच में जो बमीशन होता है, वह फूड वारपोरेशन के लोग और होल सेलर्स आपस में खा जाते हैं। यह किसानों के बारे में इतिहास है, जो मैंने आपको बताया है। होल सेलर्स को पूरी सप्लाई लाइन पर बन्जा होता है। मैं आप से पूछना चाहती हूँ कि आप शहरों के बारे में कोई निश्चित नीति तय करेंगे या नहीं? देश में लोग चीनी के लिए तड़प रहे है। चीनी का दाम बढ़ते जा रहे हैं। 8 से 9 रुपए विलां हो गए है, दूसरी चीजों का दाम बढ़ रहे है, गरीब लोग क्या खायेंगे। इस प्रकार की बातें बार-बार न हो, इस के लिए सरकार की कोई निश्चित नीति होनी चाहिए।

आप पूरी चीनी अपने हाथ में ले कर लोगों को देने की व्यवस्था करें तो आज भी पूरे साल के लिए चीनी हर व्यक्ति को मिल सकती है, आपने 425 ग्राम चीनी हर व्यक्ति को देने की व्यवस्था की है, मैं समझती हूँ कि उस से ज्यादा मिल सकती है। चीनी के वटवारे की व्यवस्था इस प्रकार से की जाय, जिस से ऐसी अव्यवस्था पैदा न हो।

दूसरी बात—जून की 30 लाख टन चीनी मध्य प्रदेश का मिल गई है। राशन में आप जो चीनी देते हैं, वह 15 दिन की दी जाती है, लेकिन कई जगहों पर एक महीने की भी मिल जाती है। मेरा निवेदन है— यदि किसी महीने की चीनी उपभोक्ता का न मिले तो आपने महीने की चीनी के साथ उस को पिछले महीने की चीनी भी दी जाय। आज क्या होता है, दुकानदार को पास जाते हैं तो वह कहता है कि पिछले महीने का कोटा खत्म हो गया, वह नहीं मिलेगा, आगे के महीने को मिलेगा। वास्तव में दुकानदार के पास जब वह चीनी आती है तो उस को बाहर बेचने के लिए दे देते हैं, जो खुले बाजार में ब्लैक में বিক্রय है।

मैं चाहती हूँ कि इस पर कड़ा नियन्त्रण होना चाहिए। फूड कार्पोरेशन आफ इंडिया के कामों की भी निगरानी होनी चाहिए। मैं जानना चाहती हूँ कि मंत्री महोदय इस सम्बन्ध में क्या कार्यवाही करने जा रहे हैं ?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The next is Prof. Dandavate; therefore, leave some questions for him also.

श्री बीरेन्द्र सिंह राव : डिप्टी स्पीकर साहब, माननीया बहन ने जो कहा है कि अखबार वाज दफा गैर-जिम्मेदाराना बातें लिख देते हैं—मैं उन से पूरी तरह से सहमत हूँ। अखबारों को ऐसी खबरों को बेरिफाई कर के छापना चाहिए। अखबारों को ऐसी खबरों को, जिन से स्केअरसिटी का अन्देशा पैदा होता हो,

भाव बढ़ाने का डर हो और उस चीज की कमी दिखाई देती हो, वे खबरे जल्दी नहीं छापनी चाहिए, वे हम से पूछ सकते हैं।

चीफमिनिस्टर साहब को भी, मैं समझता हूँ यह चाहिए था कि पहले हम से बात कर लेते। हो सकता है किसी अफसर ने बिलकुल गलत इन्फॉर्मेशन दी हो और इस के अन्दर मुझे यह भी शक है कि जो भाव बढ़ाना चाहते हैं, चीनी से नाजायज फायदा कमाना चाहते हैं, वे चीनी की कमी दिखा कर इस तरह की खबरें निकालवाने में उन का हाथ हो, ताकि चीनी का भाव 8 रुपए से 10-11 रुपए तक पहुँच जाय और वे उस से पैसा कमा सकें।

श्री जगपाल सिंह (हरिद्वार) : सरकार अपने हाथ में ले ले। ऐसे लोगों को सजा दी जाय।

श्री बीरेन्द्र सिंह राव : सजा देने की बात तो तब आयेगी जब किसी अफसर की गलती साबित हो। अगर किसी अफसर की गलती सामने आयेगी तो उस को हम पूरी सजा देंगे। लेकिन इस वक्त तो हमारे सामने ऐसी कोई चीज नहीं है, सजा कैसे दें। मैं माननीया बहन जी को यकीन दिलाना चाहता हूँ—अगर हमारा कोई भी सरकारी कर्मचारी पकड़ में आयेगा तो हम उसको सजा दिए बगैर नहीं छोड़ेंगे। अगर वही चोरी होती है तो चोर को पकड़ने के लिए हम बिलकुल तैयार हैं। अगर आप हम को बतायें कि कहां चोरी हो रही है, तो हम आप के साथ चल कर चोर को पकड़ेंगे, इस काम में हम कोई कमी नहीं छोड़ेंगे, लेकिन यहां तो चोर पकड़ने की बात इस वक्त नहीं है।

श्री जगपाल सिंह : 9 रुपए किलो चीनी बिकवाने में आप की ब्यूरोक्रेसी शामिल है।

श्री बीरेन्द्र सिंह राव : चोरों को पकड़वाने में आप हमारी मदद कीजिए। मिनिस्टर

को चोर बतला कर चोर नहीं पकड़ा जा सकता ।

श्री जगपाल सिंह : मैं मिनिस्टर को चोर नहीं बतला रहा हूँ ।

श्री बीरेन्द्र सिंह राव : आप तो मुझे मुलजिम बना कर कटहरे में खड़ा करना चाहते हैं ।

फूड कारपोरेशन के काम की भी हम सख्त निगरानी करते हैं, लेकिन हमारे निगरानी करते-करते भी जबरदस्ती की बात होती है, जबरदस्ती को इल्जाम लगाते रहेगे तो आप मिनिस्टर की या सरकार की हैल्य नहीं कर रहे हैं । मैम्बरस के प्रिवलेज है तो हमारे भी कुछ प्रिवलेज है । मिनिस्टर के न सही, लेकिन कम से कम मेम्बर की हैसियत से तो मैं कह सकता हूँ कि मेरे भी सब के बराबर प्रिवलेज है । इतनी बात मैं जिम्मेदारी के साथ जरूर कहना चाहता हूँ ।

13.00 hrs.

जहाँ तक वितरण सारा सरकार के हाथ लेने के बारे में हमारी बहन का सुझाव है, उस के बारे में मुझे यह कहना है कि जब 65 परसेन्ट चीनी अपने हाथ में ले कर तकसीम कर रहे हैं और उस में मुसीबत पड़ी हुई है, तो सरकार 100 फीसदी का वितरण कैसे करेगी । यह सरकार के लिए एक बहुत भारी काम होगा ।

दूसरी बात यह है कि सारी चीनी अगर सरकार ले ले और उस को बेचना चाहे और तकसीम करना चाहे, तो गरीब लोगों को 2 रुपए 85 पैसे में वह चीनी सप्लाई नहीं कर सकेंगे और फिर चीनी का भाव लाजमी तौर पर बढ़ेगा । यह ध्यवस्था इसलिए रखी गई है कि ब्लैक मार्केट में, ब्लैक मार्केट इसे नहीं कह सकते बल्कि फ्री मार्केट में, जो लोग खर्चा बर्दाश्त कर सकते हैं,

जो मिठाई खाने वाले लोग है, वे कुछ ज्यादा पैसा दें लेकिन 65 फीसदी शूगर कंट्रोल में ले कर 35 फीसदी मिल-मालिकों के लिए छोड़ दी है और उन्हें कुछ छूट दी है कि वे अपना कुछ नुकसान पूरा करें क्योंकि कास्ट प्राइस से भी कम 2 रुपए 85 पैसे पर लोगों को चीनी देते है ताकि कम से कम कंट्रोल्ड शूगर जितना हम तकसीम कर सकते हैं, वह सब देशवासियों को मिले, कम आमदनी वाले लोगों को मिले । हम कोशिश कर रहे हैं कि दाम कम हो लेकिन यह बात नहीं हो पाएगी कि हम सारी शूगर कंट्रोल कर के बेचना शुरू कर दे ।

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): On the 24th of July, 1980, the Hindustan Times carried a box item in which the news given was not a 'fake news' but it was a specific news. The heading was 'TWO TRAIN LOADS SUGAR 'MISSING''. It was further quoted that the sugar that disappeared was worth Rs. 32 crores and it was 40,000 tonnes of sugar that had disappeared. The news item began with 'The Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister has asked the authorities to make a thorough enquiry into the reported disappearance of sugar'.

After listening to the statement from the hon. Minister I doubt whether Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh had entrusted the responsibility of enquiry on the Union Minister for Agriculture to find out whether there has been any disappearance. From his statement it appears that this news item is completely baseless.

In this statement there are comments that are related to the transit, that are related to the piece-meal and rake movement of sugar wagons. He has already said that in regard to the wagons which are still in transit, full information is not readily available. From my past experience I can tell the hon. Minister that if he is keen to know from the Railway Board what exactly the position of wagons in transit is, if you

just put a telephone call to the centre concerned, you can always find out how many wagons had started from a particular point, at what point they have reached and how many are in the pipeline. This information can be had within a few hours only. I can tell you from my experience, it is always possible. Therefore, I am surprised that after such a dangerous news item that had appeared in the press, how is it that the officials of the F.C.I., I do not directly put the responsibility on the Minister, how is it that the officials of the Ministry did not immediately contact the Railways to find out as to how much sugar is there in the pipeline.

There is one important reference. There the Minister is correct. He said that the despatch of sugar from Maharashtra Mills to Madhya Pradesh is only through piecemeal wagons and to some extent through rakes, the percentage being approximately 75 per cent and 25 per cent respectively.

In view of various infra-structural difficulties in the country, the situation is bound to continue like that. There will be only some loading points where rake movement will be possible; at other places, it will be basically a piecemeal movement. Taking note of this fact, I would like to make a constructive proposal. In the light of this particular instance, will the hon. Minister be amenable to the suggestion that let there be certain points where by motor transport you can bring the sugar and put the stocks of sugar there and at those suitable points a greater degree of rake movement can be arranged? Very often, the various States and consumers are not able to get their adequate quota of sugar because piecemeal movement is carried on and as a result of that, as he has rightly said, very often longer duration of time is taken to move the sugar from one place to another. Therefore, in view of this news item and in view of whatever you have said will you try to build up certain centres where the millowners

—whether they are cooperative sugar factories or private sugar factories—will be asked to bring the sugar to those particular loading points where the rake movement is easy? Thereby such complaints can be completely eliminated.

There is another important point. I want to know whether the entire movement is taking place only in one particular direction. Very often, railway movement is a closed circuit movement. If some commodities are moved from point A to point B and some other commodities are moved from B to A, the wagons which carry sugar to M.P. are kept for some time in M.P. for some other commodities to be loaded and then they come back to the point where the sugar is to be loaded again. That is the closed circuit movement. In this particular case, I want to know whether the movement of sugar is part of the closed circuit movement and as a result of that whether more time is taken and therefore, more sugar is remaining in the pipeline and as a result of that perhaps at places like M.P. and a number of other places, they are not able to get this. Lastly, I want to know whether the sugar quota received for the fair price shops in M.P. is received exclusively from Maharashtra or it is also received from other centres and whether the sugar that is received from Maharashtra mills is adequate to meet the requirements of the open market as well as the fair price shops.

SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO: I am thankful to Prof. Dandavate for his suggestions. He knows about the railways. But we have already been working on the suggestions that have been given by him. M.P. gets most of its sugar from Maharashtra and some quantity from the State itself. Within the State there are certain sugar mills. There is difficulty in rake loading because out of the 47 loading points in Maharashtra, only 8 rake loading points are there. To these 8 points, as Prof. Dandavate

[Shri Birendra Singh Rao]

suggested, sugar is brought by road for loading into rakes. But if we do not have more loading points where rake movement can be arranged, it is not possible to do anything more than what we are doing. As regards his suggestion for road transport to be utilised so far as it is possible we are doing it. But we have to see that the transport cost for handling sugar does not go beyond a certain point, because we have to keep the selling price at Rs. 2.85.

As regards his suggestion that Railways should have been contacted to know how many wagons have taken overdue time in transit, I may inform the hon. Members that not only the FCI but I personally contacted the railway authorities to find out how far this information as has appeared in one of the dailies was correct. I personally talked to the Member (Traffic) of the Railway Board. He told me that he would take a few days to find out this. The FCI people contacted the railway authorities. They were not able to get the full information on this issue as to where a particular wagon is in transit. It may be that the wagons may reach the destination after some days. But for the purposes of replying to the calling attention motion I do not think that would be very important because, as I have assured the House, there is no question of any wagon disappearing as has been reported by the 'Hindustan Times'.

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER (Durgapur): Sugar from the wagons may disappear.

SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO: There is always a possibility of pilferage. But we are not discussing that at the moment.

PROF. MADHU DANAVATE: When it is said that the sugar has disappeared, it does not mean that the train has been hijacked. Very often it happens that the wagons due to technical mistake of someone, may have been diverted to some other spot

and as a result of that it does not reach the exact spot where it is supposed to go.

SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO: The report does not suggest what Prof. Dandavate says. Rs. 3.2 crore has been mentioned as the value of the disappeared sugar. Of course, the trains and the wagons cannot disappear. Nobody can lift them and walk away. When the sugar is despatched, the quantity is known. When the sugar is received at the destination, the quantity is known. When the delivery is given, the quantity is known. So, there is no question of any large quantity disappearing in transit. Otherwise, the FCI people at the receiving end would know.

Prof. Dandavate mentioned about distribution. I have given all the information that the House needed. There is no need to further waste the time of the House.

13.13 hrs

LEAVE OF ABSENCE FROM THE SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The Committee on Absence of Members from the Sittings of the House in their First Report have recommended that leave of absence be granted to the following Members for the periods indicated against each:

(1) Dr. B. N. Singh—11th to 28th March, 1980 (Second Session).

(2) Shri K. Ramamurthy—9th to 30th June, 1980 (Third Session).

(3) Shri M. S. K. Sathiyendran—9th June to 6th August, 1980 (Third Session).

(4) Shri Vasant Rao Patil—19th July to 14th August, 1980 (Third Session).

(5) Shri Misryar Khan—11th June to 31st July, 1980 (Third Session).