

**Notifications under Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 and Indian wireless Telegraphy Act, 1933**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KARTIK ORAON) : I beg to lay on the Table :—

(1) (i) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (5) of section 7 of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 :—

(i) The Indian Telegraph (Fourth Amendment) Rules, 1981, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 920 in Gazette of India dated the 10th October, 1981.

(ii) The Indian Wireless Telegraphy (Commercial Radio Operators Certificate of Proficiency and Licence to operate Wireless Telegraphy) Amendment Rules, 1981 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 1022 in Gazette of India dated the 14th November, 1981. [Placed in Library See No. LT-2972/81]

(2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 10 of the Indian Wireless Telegraphy Act, 1933 :—

(i) The Indian Wireless Telegraphy (Possession) (Amendment) Rules, 1981, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 777 in Gazette of India dated the 15th August, 1981.

(ii) The Indian Wireless Telegraphy (Possession) (Amendment) Rules, 1981, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 903 in Gazette of India dated the 3rd October, 1981.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-2973/81]

**RE. DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193**

MR. SPEAKER : Today we are going to have a discussion on the situation arising out of the conspiracy by separatist elements against the integrity of the country. I would like the Members to take part in the discussion today and be present in the House because first time when this important issue was taken up for discussion, we had to adjourn due to lack of quorum. I will not appreciate that again. This is a very important issue and when this is set for discussion it should be discussed properly and thoroughly. It is a very important

thing and we must do our duty by participating in it.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (New Delhi) : Why not take it up at 2 PM ?

MR. SPEAKER : This is to be taken up at 3 p.m.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Even before that it can be taken up; immediately after lunch hour.

MR. SPEAKER : I will carry out as you like. I will see.

12.04 HRS.

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

**Agitation by farmers for remunerative price for cotton**

SHRI ARJUN SETHI (Bharatpur) : I call the attention of the Minister Commerce to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon :

“The reported agitations by farmers for remunerative price for cotton in different parts of the country, particularly in Maharashtra”

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : Sir, Under Section 24 of the Maharashtra Raw Cotton (Procurement, Processing and Marketing) Act, 1971, at the commencement of every cotton season the Cotton Coordination Committee established under sub-section (ii) ibid has to recommend to the State Government the guaranteed prices for the different varieties or grades of cotton and such prices are to be notified in the Official Gazette by the State Government. The Committee consists of four representatives of the Central Government and four of the State Government. For the year 1981-82 the Government of Maharashtra is aware that the guaranteed prices will be the same as during 1980-81. It is understood that the Maharashtra Marketing Federation has been paying the aforesaid prices and there has not been any difficulty in making payment on account of any uncertainty in this behalf. It would be clear that there is neither any uncertainty nor any responsibility on the part of the Central Government to fix prices.

On the basis of information made available by the State Government, it appears that a section of the farmers in Amravati District have been demanding a price of Rs.966 per quintal which is unrealistic when compared with last year's prices and current year market prices & trends. In support of their demand, a crowd of people which gathered at Nagri in district Amravati resorted to traffic obstruction on the Highway, stone throwing and also damaged public properties. After repeated attempts to disperse the crowd failed, the police opened fire with 410 muskets resulting in injury to three persons. The situation is reported to be under control and there have been no repercussions of this incident, as intimated by the State Government, anywhere else in the State.

**SHRI ARJUN SETHI :** It is the accepted policy of the Government that the growers should be paid a remunerative price for their produce so as to provide incentive for sustained increase in production. The hon. Minister has pointed out in his statement that the Committee have recommended for this year the same price as last year. So, at the outset, I would like to know whether the Government do not consider the rise in prices of inputs such as fertilizer, pesticides, diesel etc. while fixing the price of cotton. Because, as we all know, the prices of all these items have gone up tremendously. Has the Committee gone into the details of the rise in prices of these inputs and, if so, why has the Government not considered it wise enough to increase the price of cotton?

Moreover, the hon. Minister has stated that from the point of view of Government, Rs.966 per quintal, which has been demanded by the farmers, is unrealistic. It is not unrealistic on the part of the Committee, which has gone into the details of the pricing policy, to say that no rise in price should be given in favour of the growers?

12.06 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER IN THE  
CHAIR]

Similarly, so far as the pricing policy is concerned, it is the common practice for the Government to refer the matter to the APC. May I know whether this time they have not taken the recommendation of the APC? Because, time and again we are told that the APC is the appropriate authority, which recommends to the Government a remunerative price.

The hon. Members hailing from Maharashtra have requested the Government to ensure that the price of cotton is linked up

with the price of cloth. The present hon. Minister of Information and Broadcasting, when he was a member here in 1974, advocated that the price of cotton must be linked with the price of cloth.

So, I would like to know whether the Government considered this point while fixing up the prices of cotton as well as the cloth.

Sir, I would like to know further, in the interests of the cotton growers what specific steps the Government has taken to see that speculative trade does not take place and the interests of the growers are best served.

These are my specific questions.

**SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE :** Sir, so far as the APC is concerned, the APC fixes the minimum support price taking the various factors into account including the increased cost of inputs. But since last year the hon. Member knows that this minimum support price has no relevance in the sense that the existing market price is much higher. I would just like to give the figures in respect of certain varieties to show what has been the price trend in the last three years.

**SUPERIOR VARIETIES :**

Varalaxmi : In 1978-79 the support price was Rs. 385 per quintal, the minimum guaranteed price by Maharashtra Marketing Federation was Rs. 440 per quintal. In 1979-80 the support price fixed by APC was Rs. 415, the minimum guaranteed price in Maharashtra remained at Rs. 440. In the last cotton season the support price increased to Rs. 425 and the minimum guaranteed price on 7th November was determined at Rs. 490 and on 27th November it was determined at Rs. 530. That means, from 1979-80 it has increased from Rs. 440 to Rs. 530. (Interruptions). Therefore, the point is that there are two requirements that are needed. So, to maintain the monthly procurement, a guaranteed price is to be determined by the Maharashtra Government and it is to be gazetted. As the hon. Member is aware, the scheme was extended for one year on the condition that the minimum price will be determined by a Committee consisting of the representatives of the Government of India and the Government of Maharashtra including the Textile Commissioner.

**PROF. N.G. RANGA (Guntur) :** What about the growers?

**SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE :** Growers are not coming here because the Maharashtra Federation is representing them also. Therefore, this was decided. As the hon.

Member is aware, the Cabinet did not decide the minimum support price this time because according to whatever the APC recommended, the minimum support price of the medium variety would be roughly Rs. 397 per quintal.

**SHRI CHITTA BASU (Bārasat) :** What was the last year's figure ?

**SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE :** In 1979-80 the figure of that variety was Rs. 425. Last year it was Rs. 415.

**SHRI CHITTA BASU :** Last year, i.e., in 1980-81, the APC price was Rs. 304.

**SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE :** No, no. You are talking of J-34 variety. I am talking of Varalaxmi variety. There are a lot of varieties. So, don't mix them up. I am talking of, Varalaxmi, a higher variety which is the major concern right now. You are talking about Punjab J-34 variety. Therefore, what was decided is that they can determine the minimum guaranteed price at the last year's level and last year the price was determined thrice, once at the beginning of the season, another on 7th November and another on 27th November, 1980.

As the hon. Member has seen, it has gone up from Rs. 440 in 1979-80 to Rs. 530/- in 1980-81 cotton season. So, we thought that that would be the best price of this year. There was no uncertainty in regard to the minimum guarantee price to be determined by them. One point is to be kept in mind. It does not reflect the market price. Guarantee price is given throughout the year. Market price depends to some extent on the market situation of demand and supply. At some point of time it may go high and at some point of time it may go down.

While the minimum support price is being determined, as I have already mentioned, it is not relevant in the sense because nobody is asking anyone to operate any organisation at minimum support price. Market price is much higher than the recommended minimum support price. Therefore, C.C.I. or Maharashtra Marketing Federation or other co-operative organisations are operating at normal market price.

In regard to the scope of eliminating the role of the speculator so far as cotton is concerned, to a considerable extent we have been able to do that because Maharashtra Marketing Federation purchases 15 to 16 lakh bales, C.C.I. also purchases about 12 to 13 lakh bales. Certain other co-operative agencies in Punjab and Haryana also purchase 7 to 8 lakh bales. Therefore, nearly 50% of the total production

which is roughly about 80 lakh bales is being purchased either by the Co-operative organisation or by the public sector organisations and as a result of that we have been able to stabilise the price.

One point we shall have to keep in mind while determining the price of cotton and that is with reference to the price of the yarn because after all yarn is being used by 10 lakh handloom workers. So for a ratio is concerned, as I am told—I am not an expert but our office has given me the figures—cotton contributes 70% of the price of yarn. Therefore, if the price is fixed at Rs. 966 per quintal, which nobody has recommended—neither the Maharashtra Government nor even the M.Ps with whom I had discussed—the question will arise at what price we shall have to give yarn to the weavers. Therefore, a balance is to be struck between them and that attempt is being made.

I would not be able to give further detailed information because just now I have initiated discussions with the Maharashtra Government and the Committee which has been set up they will also be meeting and after that it would be possible for me to overcome the problem which has come.

**SHRI CHITTA BASU (Bārasat) :** The statement, as a matter of fact, does not really cover the principal issue which has been raised. The principal issue, if you take note of the Motion itself, is the remunerative price for a cotton in different parts of the country, particularly in Maharashtra. Therefore, the principal or focus of the Motion is remunerative price for the cotton growers. I agree with the hon. Minister that this remunerative price is connected also with other factors viz., the linkage between the price of cotton and yarn, import policy of the Government in regard to cotton, rôle of the C.C.I. the monopoly purchase scheme as practised by Maharashtra Government.

**PROF. N.G. RANGA :** It is not monopoly.

**SHRI CHITTA BASU :** There are some other issues viz., whether it is to be given or should be given to the cotton growers for stepping up production and for higher quality production. These are the major issues or factors which are connected with the question of remunerative price.

Coming to the central point of the remunerative price, the House should know and particularly the hon. Minister should know what we really mean by remunerative price. The remunerative price is that price which covers the cost production plus certain marginal profit.

PROF. N.G. RANGA : Risk also.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : I include risk element, transport element, in calculating the cost of production. Risk element is there. I include it in the elements which cover the cost of production.

The problem is that the concept of remunerative price which we understood is not the same as that of the Government.

PROF. N.G. RANGA : Why ?

SHRI CHITTA BASU : You shall understand from the figures. You shall understand why it is so. The figures will show. The remunerative price, I gain repeat, is the price which covers the entire cost of production of cotton plus a marginal profit for the growers. As I said earlier, the risk element and all other things are covered in the calculation of cost of production.

There are figures prepared by the Maharashtra cotton growers Association. Very recently, I had been there and I had an occasion of having a detailed discussion with some of the leaders. According to the cost sheet that they have produced—I know, that has also been approved by the Maharashtra Government—the cost of cultivation per quintal of cotton is Rs. 517.12 p. These figures relate to last year. They prepared this thing last year.

Now, coming to Prof. Ranga's query, this cost of production has been calculated by the cotton growers of Maharashtra after taking into account all these things, the element of risk, etc. and that comes to Rs. 517.12 p. This figure of Rs. 517.12 p. is on the basis of cost of agricultural labour, that is, family labour and on the basis of Rs. 4.50 p. as the daily wage for the agricultural worker. The computation was made on the basis that agricultural labourers are paid at the rate of Rs. 4.00 for the female worker and Rs. 4.50 p. for the male worker. But if we take into account the minimum wage guaranteed for the agricultural workers in the country, it should be Rs. 10 and, on the basis of that, the cost of production comes to Rs. 632.75 p. This is my concept of the remunerative price. I think the whole House will approve this concept of remunerative price.

You have heard what is actually being given. The APC has fixed a price for cotton at Rs. 304 for a particular variety. I agree that the particular variety is not the variety you have mentioned. That variety is 320-F/414-F/J-34. But what has been the actual practice in Maharashtra? Even the guaranteed price which he has mentioned has not been made available to the cotton

growers of Maharashtra. I know it from my personal experience. What they have told is that they never got more than Rs. 380 per quintal last year. Even the guaranteed price was higher than that, as per the statement made by the hon. Minister.

Therefore, you will agree that the cost was Rs. 517 on the basis of lower rate of wages to the workers but the cotton growers got only Rs. 380/- at the highest and, therefore, the average cost per quintal of cotton was about Rs. 137/-. That is, each farmer lost an amount of Rs. 137/- by producing a quintal of cloth. This is the situation.

Therefore, I think that the demand for the cotton growers all over the country particularly in Maharashtra for higher cotton price is justified and the Government has got nothing to oppose it. They should not oppose it. Their demand is justified. I demand that the whole House will support the justified demand for higher price for cotton all over the country particularly the cotton growers of Maharashtra. (*Interruptions*).

The most respected Mr. Chavan last year joined us in the Dandi march demanding higher price for agricultural produce. He might have changed side but I hope that he has not changed his philosophy.

You have not changed your philosophy. Would you lend your good offices to see that the demands of the cotton growers of Maharashtra are conceded to and will you also lend support to the justified movement?

The question of linkage is very important. I do not want to go into much details on this but I can only inform the Hon. Minister that his predecessor Mr. D.P. Chakravarty when he was Commerce Minister of Government of India in a Conference at Nagpur agreed with the organisers of the Conference that there should be linkage between the price of cotton and the price of yarn and for that purpose, a Committee was set up. But, nobody knows what has been the recommendation of that Committee.

Mr. Sathe has been referred to. I know that he was one of the big champions of the movement of cotton growers on the demand of linkage of prices of cotton and yarn.

To illustrate this particular point, I will only read a report from an editorial of the *Economic Times*. I quote:

"The price index of cotton fell from 208 in 1976-77 to around 165

during the two years, 1978-79 and 1979-80. The indice for yarn and cloth, however, continued to move up during this period. From 193 in 1976-77, the price index for yarn rose to 233 by 1979-80. During the same period, the index for cloth improved from 172 to 200."

Therefore, the rise in the price of cotton is not reflected by the rise in price of cloth. Cotton price is much higher than the rise in price of raw cotton. Therefore, unless there is a proper linkage between the price of the two, it will always be going in favour of textile barons and tycoons.

My charge against the Government is that they decide the price of cotton having the interest of the textile magnates and textile barons and tycoons in their heart. They run with the hare and hunt with the hound.

Unless the Government changes this policy of appeasement of textile barons and tycoons, the cotton growers cannot be given fair price.

I hope that the Government changes its basic policy.

Coming to the policy of import, there is a very big conspiracy in it. When there is stock of indigenous cotton in our country, the Government goes in for import of cotton.

I would draw the attention of the Minister to an editorial comment of the *Economic Times* which reads:

"The cotton textile industry may have several problems, but shortage of raw materials is not one of them."

This is not my view. The *Economic Times* in its editorial states that shortage of raw material, namely cotton was not a problem for the textile industry. But the Government has decided to import five lakh bales of cotton from abroad. This Government, I accuse do not agree to give a fair price to the agriculturists of our country, but they import cotton at a higher rate just to depress the price of cotton in the country. Therefore, unless the import policy of cotton is changed—in the case of wheat we have seen it; it is not necessary for me to explain; the same policy is being pursued in the matter of depressing the price of cotton in our country— unless the Government changes

its policy, justice cannot be done to the cotton-growers of the country.

I would refer to another point, and that is very simple, the role of the CCI. Only yesterday the news has appeared given by the PTI, not by me or you, Sir....

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE  
(Rajapur) : CPI?

SHRI CHITTA BASU : Do not have an allergy for CPI.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I like them very much.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : It is a PTI report from Bhatinda :

"The Cotton Corporation of India has virtually suspended its cotton procurement operation in 20 out of the 26 cotton markets in Punjab in which it operated last year.

"According to official sources, this step had been taken following directions from the head office to purchase with parity rates fixed at Rs. 510 per quintal.

"The sources explained that, in the remaining six markets, cotton purchases were nominal. The CCI purchased only 243 bales of cotton from these centres against the daily average arrivals of 4,200 bales in Punjab markets."

The average daily arrival in the market is 4,000 and odd bales. The CCI purchased only 200 bales, and they have stopped purchasing because the price is Rs. 510. Government is not willing to purchase cotton, Punjab variety, at Rs. 510. May I know from the hon. Minister in this context whether they would give directions to the CCI to purchase as much as possible at remunerative prices, if not remunerative at least at fair prices.

Coming to another point, namely, the monopoly purchase scheme of Maharashtra Government.....

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please try to conclude. You have taken 20 minutes. You are a very senior Member. How can I teach you? There are three more hon. Member to ask questions.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: The monopoly purchase scheme of Maharashtra Government, I am told, is not a permanent one. It depends on the sanction or green signal

from the Government of India. They wanted extension for ten years, but the Government has agreed to extend only by one year. I do not agree that the cotton purchase scheme of Maharashtra Government is foolproof. But it is a step forward towards compulsory procurement. The problem cannot be solved unless the entire cotton production is purchased by the Government. That is the ideal condition. But it is not possible at this time to have that monopoly procurement all over the country. But the Maharashtra Government has taken a step forward towards that and this Government at the Centre does not like that scheme or does not want it to continue that for any longer period. I would like to ask whether the Government would continue to support that scheme and see that the scheme is also made foolproof and more money is given by the RBI to make larger purchases so that the cotton-growers may get a fair and remunerative price.

Lastly this Government always gives soft loans to the textile magnates for modernisation and these textile magnates are never interested in modernisation. But little has been done by the Government to give aid to the cotton growers by way of giving inputs at subsidised rates. Therefore, may I know whether the Government has got any such proposal of giving inputs for the cotton growers at subsidised rates and also to see that all encouragement and aid is given to the cotton-growers for stepping up of production and also improvement of quality.

Lastly, this needs an overhauling of the policy and the overhauling of the policy should be based on the idea of going in for compulsory procurement of cotton and in that respect the Government should take immediate steps. Would the Government take steps of the nature as in Maharashtra but for other States also where cotton is grown?

**SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE :**  
The hon Member has in his long observation covered a number of subjects. I would not go into arguments. What should be the remunerative price? He has quoted some statistics. I also have some statistics with me.....

**SHRI CHITTA BASU:** You give it.

**SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE :**  
Like economists and politicians no two statisticians will ever agree.

What should be the remunerative price including the labour and other things— which he mentioned? These are taken into account by the APC but you never agree with the APC. Sometimes we also do not agree with the APC. When APC and the Planning Commission take into account and fix the price at Rs. 690 per quintal for cotton you can arrive at what should be the price of yarn, what will be its effect on the 10 million persons engaged in the handloom sector. I am not going into the fabrics. I am just confining observations to the users of yarn. Your argument is very simple and sitting there you can say, 'Subsidise it'. I will like you to please remember the last part of our observation of providing subsidised inputs. In the Budget statement if the Finance Minister, accepting your proposal, comes forward with a heavy dose of deficit financing to give more subsidies, what will be the hon Members' reaction? Therefore, I am not going into that aspect.

He has said that we are determining the policy of cotton procurement and cotton price keeping an eye on the interests of the textile mill-owners. The hon Member has conveniently forgotten that the Government of India is the biggest textile magnate because it has 103 textile mills under NTC. No individual owner in this country has got 103 textile mills. We took one such mills in the hon Members State. The hon Members State Government compelled me to take it over which was closed for 19 months.....

**SHRI CHITTABASU:** You have done a good thing.

**SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE:** At the same time we know how to run a mill and where the shoe pinches. It is not merely the profit motivation.

Even from the N.C.T. angle, we know what has been the effect on the price of cotton and other things. When we talk of the remunerative price, nobody denies that they should get a remunerative price. Apart from any other logic, this is a simple logic that if they do not get that price, they won't produce and they won't produce if raw materials are not being made available to support that industry. Therefore, that point is always taken into account. What I wanted to point out was this. What is the minimum support price for this year or last year is not relevant. It is not relevant in the sense that the market price is already high. In cotton we have been able to fairly stabilise the price because of the institutional arrangements we have made. The mono-

*to matter of**Importance*

poly procurement scheme of Maharashtra is continuing and nobody is saying that this scheme will be discarded right now. It has contributed to the stabilisation of cotton price and to providing assistance to the growers. I do not know how he mentioned the figure of Rs. 380. So far as I understand there is a system of passing not only the remunerative price but also the profit at the end of the year. The payment is made in two instalments. Earlier what they used to do was to make payment in three instalments firstly they would pay 50% at the beginning and then 50% thereafter. After that, at the end of the accounting period they used to get the bonus on the profit. Therefore, I do not know where from the hon. Member got that they got 380 when the guaranteed price was determined at Rs. 500 and odd. It may be that they got one instalment. Not only that. They got bonus as their share to the profit which the Marketing Federation makes. Marketing federation does not misappropriate or appropriate the profits.

Coming to the question of import, I do not know wherefrom the hon. Member got the figure that we had imported five lakh bales. We had imported only 50,000 bales. (Interruptions)

SHRI CHITTA BASU : May be, waiting for the import.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : No. We had not gone or the import of 5 lakh bales. We went in for one lakh bale import that too short staple cotton. There are certain imbalances. I do not know how the hon. Member says that we are importing the entire thing. We were importing 50,000 bales only. He conveniently forgot that we had taken this decision of exporting of 7.86 lakh bales. Therefore it happens sometimes. If I do not consume the entire thing—long staple cotton—we have to export that. Wherever there is a shortage of medium short staple cotton, I have to import it. Last year, what we decided was this. We took the decision of importing one lakh bales. Ultimately, the actual import was of the order of 50,000 bales. Twenty five thousand bales were done by NTC and the other 25,000 bales were done by others. I do not know about the CCI purchases as to why they have suspended the operation. In Punjab apart from the C.C.I. they have cooperative organisations also in the market. CCI has also got the market. I can assure the hon. Member that the pattern by and large is this. More than fifty per cent of the procurement is being made by the cooperatives including Government agencies including the

CCI. That ratio will be maintained. CCI may purchase more.

In regard to continuation of the Scheme, I have already mentioned that it is continuing. We have to review this from time to time. One point is there. Certain other States have also come forward with a demand and I do agree that this is a good scheme. But sometimes aberration takes place. I would not like to mention the aberration here. The hon. Member are fully aware of it. Last time, they had created some aberration which had been reflected. There is a trend. If you simply distort this by one big jump, it creates some problems in certain other areas.

श्री रशीद मसूद (सहारनपुर) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, चित्त बसु जी ने मेरे ब्याल से ज्यादातर चीजें कह दी हैं . . . . .

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He has exhausted all the points.

SHRI RASHID MASOOD : I will not take much time.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : There are no other points.

SHRI RASHID MASOOD : I will not take much more time since he has already covered most of the points.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please be brief.

श्री रशीद मसूद : उन्होंने ज्यादातर चीजें कह दी हैं कि लेकिन एक शेर मुझे जरूर याद आ रहा है, वह मैं पेश करना चाहता हूँ अपने कामर्स मिनिस्टर साहब के सामने, बद-किस्मती हमारी यह है कि वह शायद उर्दू जानते न हों :

“हम ग्राह भी भरते हैं तो हो जाते हैं बदनाम ।  
वो कल्ल भी करते हैं तो चर्चा नहीं होती ॥

पिछले कई सालों से जब से हमारी यह हुकूमत बज्रूद में आई है यह एक रिवाज सा बन गया है कि जब भी किसान अपनी पैदा की हुई चीजों के लिए कीमत मांगने जाता है तो बजाय इस के कि उस की मांगों पर हमदर्दी के साथ गौर किया जाय, उस को गोली का निशाना बानाया जाता है । सरदी के मौसम में ज्यादातर लोग, हम में से जो यहाँ पर बैठे हुए हैं वे और वे लोग जोकि इस गवर्नमेन्ट को फेवर

करते हैं, इण्डस्ट्रियल मोनोपोलिस्ट्स जिस वक़्त अपने घर से बाहर नहीं निकल सकते हैं उस वक़्त रात में (चूँकि बिजली ज्यादातर रात में ही मिलती है) लालटेन लेकर, धोती कुर्ता पहने हुए—कमी-कमी स्वेटर होता है वरना वह भी नहीं होता है—किसान अपने खेत में पानी देता है। उसे पता नहीं होता कि कब उसे निमोनिया हो जायेगा लेकिन इसके बावजूद उसे इस काम को करने में कोई अफसोस नहीं होता। इसी तरह से जब लू चलती है और आप लोग एअरकण्डिशनड मकानात में बैठे हुए होते हैं, उस वक़्त किसान अपना गेहूँ काटता है और उसकी धंधिंग करता है। इसी तरह से बरसात में जब बारिश हो रही होती है उस वक़्त किसान छत के नीचे नहीं होता है बल्कि खेत में फसल को लगा रहा होता है ताकि इस मुल्क के लोगों को खाना मिल सके। इतनी सारी दिक्कतें बर्दाश्त करने वाला किसान जब अपनी पैदा की हुई चीज का वाजिब दाम मांगता है तो उसको आप वाजिब दाम न देकर गोली देते हैं। पिछले दो सालों में आपको सरकार ने 135 बार किसानों पर गोलीयाँ चलाई हैं जिनके दौरान में समझता हूँ 88 किसान मारे गए हैं। मैं यह नहीं कहता कि आप उनको प्राफिटेबल प्राइसेज दीजिए जिससे कि वे ऐश की जिन्दगी गुजार सकें। अगर आपको रेम्युनेटिव प्राइस के नाम से चिढ़ है तो आप उसको पैरिटी प्राइस दीजिए। आप उसको ऐसी प्राइस दीजिए, जिसमें कि जो चीज वह पैदा करता है और जो चीजें वह खरीदता है, उन दोनों की कीमतों में कोई रेशियो हो ताकि मुकून के साथ किसान भी अपनी जिन्दगी को गुजार सके। आपकी गलत पालिसीज का आज यह नतीजा है कि खाद और दूसरी जरूरी चीजों की कीमतें जिस रेशियो में बढ़ी हैं उसी रेशियो में किसान के द्वारा पैदा की हुई चीजों की कीमतें नहीं बढ़ीं हैं। सन् 1970-71 से लेकर 1977 तक किसान जिन चीजों को यूज करता था (जिन को आप इनपुट्स कहते हैं) उनके दाम में 53 से लेकर 133 परसेन्ट तक इजाफा हुआ है और किसान जो चीजें पैदा करता है (जिनको आप आउटपुट कहते हैं) उनके दामों में 27 से 100 फीसदी तक इजाफा हुआ है। अगर इसका आप एवरेज निकालेंगे तो मेरे क्वाल में

करीब 52-53 परसेन्ट के करीब बैठेगा। इस तरह से किसान को बहुत बड़ा नुकसान पहुँचा है।

पिछले दिनों जब बुवाई हुई गेहूँ की तो एवरेज के लिहाज़ से ज्यादा एरिया में गेहूँ बोया गया। उस वक़्त आप बहुत खुश हो गए कि इस साल जबरदस्त पैदावार गेहूँ की होगी और आपने सोचा कि 9.5 मिलियन टन गेहूँ आप खरीद लेंगे, प्रोक्योमेंट कर लेंगे लेकिन उसमें आप फेल हो गए इसकी वजह यह थी कि 1976-77 में जहाँ किसान ने 17.9 परसेन्ट खाद इस्तेमाल की थी वहाँ सन् 1981 में आकर उसने खाद के दाम बहुत बढ़ जाने की वजह से 6.1 परसेन्ट ही खाद इस्तेमाल की। मझे पता नहीं आप में से कौन से लोग गाँवों में जाते हैं लेकिन मैं तो एक किसान का लड़का हूँ और एक ऐसी पार्टी से ताल्लुक रखता हूँ जिसने इस बात को सोच रखा है कि किसानों को उनके वाजिब हक दिलाने हैं। मैं यह कह रहा था कि पैदावार में जो कमी हुई है उसको वजह यह है कि किसान को उसकी पैदा की हुई चीजों की कीमत उसी रेशियो में नहीं दी गई जिस रेशियो में दूसरी चीजों के दाम बढ़े हैं। अगर आप इस चीज को लार्जर पर्सपेक्टिव में देखें तो मेरा अन्दज़ है किसान हर साल 33 हजार करोड़ रुपए की चीजें पैदा करता है जिसमें से 20 हजार करोड़ का माल मार्केट में लाता है। 13 हजार करोड़ का माल देहात में रहने वालों के लिए रह जाता है। अब जो मैनुफैक्चर्ड गुड्स हैं उनके और किसान की पैदा की हुई चीज के दरम्यान 1 परसेन्ट का भी फर्क आता है तो 200 करोड़ का लास किसान का हो जाता है। इसी तरह से उनमें आज 25 फीसदी का डिफेंस है। अगर आप उसको लगाइए तो पांच हजार करोड़ रुपया हर साल देहात से खींचकर शहरों में आ रहा है। इसका नतीजा यह है कि हमारा देहात दिन-पर-दिन ऋत से गरीबतर होता जा रहा है और इसका नतीजा यह हो रहा है कि देहातों के लोग शहरों में आ रहे हैं। इस तरह से आप शहरों में क्या कर रहे हैं स्लमस त्रिएट करवा रहे हैं। हम देहातों की ही बात नहीं करते हैं, हम शहरों में रहने वालों के भी हक में हैं। अगर देहात का पैसा खींचकर शहरों में न आए और आप किसानों को पैदा की हुई चीजों का वाजिब कीमत दें, उसका पैरिटी प्राइस दें और देहात

के लोग गुर्बत की बजह से भाग कर, रोजी-रोटी कमाने की बजह से, शहरों में आकर सलमस किएट करते हैं, जिनकी बजह से पानी की प्रब्लम है, बिजली की प्रब्लम है और वसों में भी जगह नहीं मिलती है, इसलिए यदि आप उनको वाजिब कीमत दें तो यह स्थिति पैदा न हो। हमारा कहना है कि इन सारी चीजों पर आप गौर करें और उसको ठीक करें।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं दो बातें कह कर अपनी बात समाप्त करूंगा। आपका जो एग्रीकल्चर प्राइस कमिशन है, उसका कम्पोजीशन बिल्कुल गलत है। उसमें आप किन लोगों को बैठते हैं—वे जो शहरों में तालीम हासिल करके आते हैं और यह नहीं जानते हैं कि गन्ना किस को कहते हैं। अभी पिछले दिनों राव बीरेन्द्र सिंह जी से बात हुई, उन्होंने कहा कि हमने गन्ने की बीमारी दूर करने के लिए एक नया तरीका इजाद किया है, यदि गन्ने को आधा घण्टा गरम हवा दी जाए तो उसके अन्दर बीमारी नहीं रहेगी। अब आप लगाइए खेत में हीटर, यह साईटिस्टों की खोज है। लिहाजा इस तरह जो देहातों में पैदा हुई चीजों की कीमत निकालते हैं, यह भी उसका बेस है। इसलिए मेरी दरखास्त है कि इस कम्पोजीशन को बिल्कुल बदलना चाहिए। इसमें 60 फीसदी वे लोग होने चाहिए जो किसान हों और देहातों से आए हुए हों, जो बात को बता सकें कि सही कम्पोजीशन क्या है और क्या हम उसमें कमा रहे हैं तथा क्या हमारे पास है।

दूसरी बात यह है कि काँटन की कीमत और कपड़े की कीमत का जो मुनाफा है, इन दोनों का डिफेंस यदि गरीब मजदूर को जाता है, तब भी गरीब किसान सोचता है कि हमें नहीं मिला तो दूसरे 4 रब भाई को मिल गया, लेकिन वह मजदूर भी परेशान है। किसानों को पूरी कीमत नहीं दी जाती है। लिहाजा कीमत मुर्कार करके से पहले आपको एक पार्लामी बना देनी चाहिए कि कपड़े की कीमत में और काँटन की कीमत में कोई न कोई रेशो ऐसा जरूर होना चाहिए। हम यह नहीं कहते हैं कि मिल को नुकसान हो जाए, हम यह जानते हैं कि मिल-आनर्स बड़े-बड़े लोग हैं और वे सिक मिल डिवनेयर कर देते हैं और फिर सरकार उसका टेक-ओवर कर लेती है और

पैसा भी लगाती है, फिर पैसा लगाने के बाद उसको वापिस भी कर देती है। यदि आप ऐसा नहीं करेंगे तो इलैक्शन कैसे लड़ेंगे। आप उनको भी फायदा पहुंचाइये, लेकिन इसके साथ-साथ किसानों को नुकसान न पहुंचाएं। इन दोनों चीजों पर मेरी दरखास्त है कि आप गौर करें और किसानों को कम से कम अगर आप रिम्युनेटिव प्राइस नहीं देते हैं, तो पैरिटी प्राइस दें।

شری رشید مسعود (سہارنپور):

اپادھیکش مسودے۔ چتا باسو جی نے میرے خیال سے زیادہ تر چیزیں کہہ دی ہیں۔

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He has exhausted all the points.

SHRI RASHEED MASOOD : I will not take much time.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : There are no other points.

SHRI RASHEED MASOOD : I will not take much more time since he has already covered most of the points.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please be brief.

شری رشید مسعود : انہوں نے زیادہ

تر چیزیں کہہ دی ہیں لیکن شعر مجھے ضرور یاد آ رہا ہے وہ میں پیش کرنا چاہتا ہوں اپنے کاسرس منسٹر صاحب کے سامنے بدقسمتی ہماری یہ ہے کہ وہ شاید اردو جانتے نہ ہوں:

ہم آہ بھی بھرتے ہیں تو ہو جاتے ہیں بدنام  
وہ قتل بھی کرتے ہیں تو چرچا نہیں ہوتا۔

پچھلے کئی سالوں سے جب سے ہماری یہ حکومت وجود میں آئی ہے یہ ایک رواج سا بن گیا ہے کہ جب بھی کسان اپنی پیدا کی ہوئی چیزوں کے اٹے قیمت مانگنے جاتا ہے تو بجائے اس کے کہ اس کی مانگوں پر غمزدی ساتھ غور

کیا جائے اسکو گولی کا نشانہ بنایا جاتا ہے۔ سردی کے موسم میں زیادہ تر لوگ ہم میں سے جو یہاں پر بیٹھے ہوئے ہیں وہ اور وہ لوگ جو کہ اس گورنمنٹ کو فیور کرتے ہیں انڈسٹریل مونوپولیسٹرس جس وقت اپنے گھر سے باہر نہیں نکل سکتے ہیں اس وقت رات میں (چونکہ بجلی زیادہ تو رات میں ہی ملتی ہے) لال ٹین لیکر دھوتی کرتے پہنے ہوئے۔ کبھی کبھی سویٹر ہوتا ہے ورنہ وہ بھی نہیں ہوتا ہے۔ کسان اپنے کھیت میں پانی دیتا ہے۔ اسے پتا نہیں ہوتا کہ کب اسے نمونہ ہو جائے گا لیکن اس کے باوجود اسے اس کام کو کرنے میں کوئی افسوس نہیں ہوتا۔ اسی طرح سے جب لو چلتی ہے اور آپ لوگ امرکنڈیشنڈ مکانات میں بیٹھے ہوئے ہوتے ہیں اس وقت کسان اپنا گیہوں کاٹتا ہے اور اس کی تھریشنگ کرتا ہے۔

اسی طرح سے برسات میں جب بارش ہو رہی ہوتی ہے اس وقت کسان چھت کے نیچے نہیں ہوتا ہے بلکہ کھیت میں فصل کو لگا رہا ہوتا ہے تاکہ اس ملک کے لوگوں کو کھانا مل سکے۔ اتنی ساری دقتیں برداشت کرنے والا کسان جب اپنی پیدا کی ہوئی چیز کا واجب دام مانگتا ہے تو اسکو آپ واجب دام نہ دیکر گولی دیتے ہیں۔ پچھلے دو سالوں میں آپ کی رکارڈ نے ۱۳۵ بار کسانوں پر گولیاں چلائی ہیں جن کے دوران میں سمجھتا ہوں ۸۸ کسان مارے گئے ہیں۔ میں یہ نہیں کہتا کہ آپ ان کو پرافٹیبیل پرائس دینے جس سے کہ وہ عیش کی زندگی گزار سکیں۔ اگر آپکو ریمینٹو پرائس کے نام سے چڑھے تو آپ اسکو پیرٹی پرائس دینے۔ آپ اسکو ایسی پرائس دینے جس میں کہ جو چیز وہ پیدا کرتا ہے اور جو چیز وہ خریدتا ہے ان دونوں کی قیمتوں میں کوئی

ریشو ہو تا کہ سکون کے ساتھ کسان بھی اپنی زندگی کو گزار سکے۔ آپ کی غلط پالیسیز کا آج یہ نتیجہ ہے کہ کھاد اور دوسری ضروری چیزوں کی قیمتیں جن ریشو میں بڑھی ہیں اس ریشو میں کسان کے دوارا پیدا کی ہوئی چیزوں کی قیمتیں نہیں بڑھی ہیں۔ سن ۱۹۷۰-۷۱ ع سے لیکر ۱۹۷۷ ع تک کسان جن چیزوں کو یوز کرتا تھا (جن کو آپ ان پٹس کہتے ہیں) انکے دام میں ۵۳ سے لیکر ۱۳۳ پرسینٹ تک اضافہ ہوا ہے اور کسان جو چیزیں پیدا کرتا ہے۔ (جن کو آپ آؤٹ پٹ کہتے ہیں) انکے داموں میں ۲۷ سے ۱۰۰ فیصدی تک اضافہ ہوا ہے۔ اگر اسکا آپ ایوریج نکالیں گے تو میرے خیال میں قریب ۵۳-۵۲ پرسینٹ کے قریب بیٹھے گا۔ اس طرح سے کسان کو بہت بڑا نقصان پہونچا ہے۔

پچھلے دنوں جب بوائی ہوئی گیہوں کی تو ایوریج کے لحاظ سے زیادہ ایریا میں گیہوں بویا گیا اس وقت آپ بہت خوش ہو گئے کہ اس سال زبردست پیداوار گیہوں کی ہوگی اور آپ نے سوچا کہ ۵۶ ملین ٹن گیہوں آپ خرید لیں گے۔ پریکٹورمینٹ کر لیں گے۔ لیکن اس میں آپ فیل ہو گئے اس کی وجہ یہ تھی کہ ۱۷۷۶-۷۷ ع میں جہاں کسان نے ۱۷۶۹ پرسینٹ کھاد استعمال کی تھی وہاں سن ۱۹۸۱ ع میں آکر اس نے کھاد کے دام بہت بڑھ جانے کی وجہ سے ۶۱ پرسینٹ ہی کھاد استعمال کی۔ مجھے یہ پتا نہیں کہ آپ میں سے کون سے لوگ گاؤں میں جاتے ہیں لیکن میں تو ایک کسان کا لڑکا ہوں اور ایک ایسی پارٹی سے تعلق رکھتا ہوں جس نے اس بات کو سوچ رکھا ہے کہ کسانوں کو ان کے واجب حق دلانے میں یہ

کہہ رہا تھا کہ پیداوار میں جو کمی ہوئی ہے اس کی وجہ یہ ہے کہ کسان کو اس کی پیدا کی ہوئی چیزوں کی قیمت اس ریشو میں نہیں دی گئی جس ریشو میں دوسری چیزوں کے دام بڑھے ہیں اگر آپ اس چیز کو لارجوپروسیکٹو میں دیکھیں تو میرا اندازہ ہے کسان ہر سال ۳۵ ہزار کروڑ روپے کی چیزیں پیدا کرتا ہے۔ جس میں سے ۲۰ ہزار کروڑ کا مال مارکیٹ میں لاتا ہے ۱۳ ہزار کروڑ کا مال دیہات میں رہنے والوں کے لئے رہ جاتا ہے۔ اب جو مینوفیکچرڈ گڈس ہیں۔ ان میں کسان کی پیدا کی ہوئی چیز کے درمیان ایک پرسینٹ کا بھی فرق آتا ہے تو ۲۰۰ کروڑ کالاس کسان کا ہو جاتا ہے۔ اس طرح سے اس میں ۲۵ فیصدی کا ڈفرینس ہے اگر آپ اسکو لگائیں تو ۵ ہزار کروڑ روپے ہر سال دیہات سے کھینچ کر شہروں میں آ رہا ہے اسکا نتیجہ یہ ہے کہ ہمارا دیہات دن پر دن غریب سے غریب تر ہوتا جا رہا ہے۔ اور اسکا نتیجہ یہ ہو رہا ہے کہ دیہاتوں کے لوگ شہروں میں آ رہے ہیں۔ اس طرح سے آپ شہروں میں کیا دیکھ رہے ہیں سلسلہ کیری ایٹ کروا رہے ہیں۔ ہم دیہاتوں کی ہر بات نہیں کرتے ہیں۔ ہم شہروں میں رہنے والوں کے بھی حق میں ہیں اگر دیہات کا پیسہ کھینچ کر شہروں میں نہ آئے اور آپ کسانوں کی پیدا کی ہوئی چیزوں کی واجب قیمتیں دیں تو اسکو پیڑی پرائس دیں۔ اور دیہات کے لوگ غربت کی وجہ سے بھاگ کر روزی روٹی کمانے کی وجہ سے شہروں میں آکر سلسلہ کیری ایٹ کرتے ہیں جس کی وجہ سے پانی کی پرالہم ہے۔ بجلی کی پرالہم ہے اور بسوں میں بھی جگہ نہیں ملتی اس لئے یدی آپ انکو واجب قیمت دیں تو یہ استہتی پیدا نہ

ہو ہمارا کہنا ہے کہ ان ساری چیزوں پر آپ غور کریں اور اس کو ٹھیک کریں۔

اپادھیکش مہودے۔ میں دو باتیں کہہ کر اپنی بات سمپت کروں گا آپکا جو ایگریکلچر پرائس کمیشن ہے اسکا کمپوزیشن بالکل غلط ہے اس میں آپ کن لوگوں کو بٹھاتے ہیں وہ جو شہروں میں تعلیم حاصل کر کے آئے ہیں اور یہ نہیں جانتے ہیں کہ گنا کس کو کہتے ہیں۔ ابھی پچھلے دنوں راؤوریندر سنگھ جی سے بات ہوئی انہوں نے کہا کہ ہم نے گنے کی بیماری دور کرنے کے لئے ایک نیا طریقہ ایجاد کیا ہے یدی گنے کو آدھا گھنٹہ گرم ہوا دی جائے تو اس کے اندر بیماری نہیں رہے گی اب آپ لگائیں کھیت میں ہیٹر۔ یہ سائنسٹوں کی کہوج ہے لہذا اس طرح جو دیہاتوں میں پیدا ہوئی چیزوں کی قیمت نکالتے ہیں۔ یہ بھی اسی کا بیس ہے اس لئے میری درخواست ہے کہ اس کمپوزیشن کو بالکل بدلنا چاہئے۔ اس میں ۶ فیصدی وہ لوگ ہونے چاہئیں جو کسان ہوں اور دیہاتوں سے آئے ہوئے ہوں جو بات کو بتا سکیں کہ صحیح کمپوزیشن کیا ہے اور کیا ہم اس میں کما رہے ہیں تنہا کیا ہم رے پاس ہے۔

دوسری بات یہ ہے کہ کائن کی قیمت اور کپڑے کی قیمت کا جو منافع ہے ان دونوں کا ڈفرینس یدی غریب مزدور کو جاتا ہے تب بھی غریب کسان سوچتا ہے کہ ہمیں نہیں ملا تو دوسرے غریب پھائی کومل گیا لیکن وہ مزدور بھی پریشان ہے کسانوں کو پوری قیمت نہیں دی جاتی ہے۔ لہذا قیمت مقرر کرنے سے پہلے آپ کو ایک پالیسی بنادینی چاہئے۔ کہ کپڑے کی قیمت میں اور کائن کی

قیمت میں کوئی نہ کوئی ریشو ایسا ضرور ہونا چاہئے۔ ہم یہ نہیں کہتے ہیں کہ مل کو نقصان ہو جائے۔ ہم یہ جانتے ہیں کہ مل اور نس بڑے بڑے لوگ ہیں اور وہ سک مل ڈکلیئر کر دیتے ہیں۔ اور پھر سرکار اس کو ٹیک اور کر لیتی ہے اور پیسہ بھی لگاتی ہے۔ پھر پیسہ لگانے کے بعد اس کو واپس بھی کر دیتی ہے۔ یدی آپ ایسا نہیں کریں گے تو الیکشن کیسے لڑینگے۔ آپ ان کو بھی فائدہ پہنچائے لیکن اسکے ساتھ ساتھ کسانوں کو نقصان نہ پہنچائیں۔ ان دونوں چیزوں پر میری درخواست ہے کہ آپ غور کریں اور کسانوں کو کم سے کم اگر آپ میمورینٹو پرائس نہیں دیتے ہیں تو پریٹی پرائس دیں۔

**SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE :** Sir, from the long observations of the hon. Member, I could only make out one point. He wants more representations of the farmers in Agricultural Prices Commission and remunerative price for the farmers for their produce. Nobody is disputing that. There are no two opinions on that. But he wanted to induct some new type of concept which is really a peculiar one. It is as if there are two sets of people—one set is grower and another is consumer. In this country, every grower is also a consumer and particularly in the area of textile, there is not a single one who is not a consumer. I do not know what type of consumers he is referring to. When he says that in the case of textiles they are just sitting in an air-conditioned room. Of the 60 million people of the country everybody uses a piece of cloth or a loin cloth. Even in the area of textile, he wants to point out that the consumers are sitting in the air-conditioning room and do not know the problem of the growers. It is very difficult to accept that position.

**SHRI RASHEED MASOOD :** The profit is being taken away by the mill owners.

**SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE :** While replying to Mr. Chitt Basu, I said that it was true and nobody is saying that mill owners are not making profit.

But it is equally true that the Government of India is running 103 textile mills, which were sick, and which you, the Members of Parliament, asked the Government of India to take over to nurse them. Therefore, it is not that all of them are making profits; some of them are incurring losses, particularly the spinning mills. The problem is there, which I wanted to point out, that you will have to take it at a particular level and if you do not take it at a particular level, in the desire of giving something more to the grower, you will create problems for other types of consumers, who are equally poor, for instance, users of yarn. There are 10 million people who are handloom weavers. If you fix the price of cotton at Rs. 966 per quintal, you will have to calculate what would be the price of yarn at which the weavers will be able to use it, therefore, a balance has to be struck and we are fully aware of it. Since 1980, this Government has increased prices of every agricultural commodity. It has gone even beyond the recommendations of the A.P.C. in every year and in every agricultural commodity. Your party may be a part of the farmers, but history says that Indian National Congress is born out of farmers and it is the organisation of farmers, because the whole country is of the farmers. Whatever we are today is the contribution of farmers. It is out of their labour, their blood—whatever we have been able to achieve, in fact, it has been achieved by the farmers. Your party may be very much interested in the farmers, but historically it is not correct to say that you are the only party interested in the well-being or development of the farmers; we are equally interested in it.

For the information of the hon. Members I can tell that there is a farm representation in the Agricultural Prices Commission. Though it is not within the purview of my Ministry, yet I understand that the Agriculture Ministry is contemplating to make it broad-based and having more representatives from different sections of the farming community. I do not think that the hon. Member has made out any other point.

**SHRI UTTAM RATHOD (Hingoli) :** Sir, this particular calling attention is concerned with focussing the attention on the agitation that is going on in Maharashtra with regard to remunerative prices for cotton. As you are aware, in Maharashtra cotton is produced by the dry-farmers. As Shri Jyotirmoy Bose has said in his report, two or three inches of rain in this country can affect the whole crop, the whole agricultural sector this way or that way.

Maharashtra produces nearly twenty to twenty two lakh bales. Out of this, we have seen, the Marketing Federation has been able to purchase nearly 16 to 17 lakh bales every year. Most of the cotton on the outskirts of our States goes to the adjacent States because there the prices offered to the cotton growers are much higher. We know that the monopoly purchase which the Maharashtra Government has introduced is doing a great service to the people, but at the same time I may bring it to the notice of the Minister that no cotton grower is going to wait till you pay him the bonus. The hon. Minister says that the price that was paid to the cotton grower in two or three instalments has been done away with it is being paid in one instalment. The guaranteed price is paid to grower in one instalment, but he has to wait for the bonus if the Cotton Corporation makes any profit.

Now, what is the guaranteed price fixed for the farmers? Shri Mukherjee will agree that the Committee that he has formed just to keep a restriction on us has fixed the price at the level of Rs. 480; that was last year's price. Is it not a fact that the cost of fertilizers on 11-6-1981 has gone up by 17.5%?

Is it a fact that the cost of fertiliser on 11-6-81 has gone up by 17.5%? This has been replied to on the floor of the House, and I don't think he will deny it. Isn't it a fact Mr. Mukherjee that price of insecticides has gone up by 10%? Isn't it a fact that labour charges have also gone up? Isn't it a fact that electricity charges have gone up? Isn't it a fact that price of crude and diesel have gone up? Are you going to give us any increase in this or not? You have said that the Committee fixed Rs. 480.

13 hrs.

I agree. But what about the cost arrangement recommended by the Maharashtra Government? Maharashtra Government has also a machinery to assess the cost on each variety or say on each crop, you spend and they have derived the cost that comes to nearly Rs. 638. That is the cost they recommended.

Sir, the CCI in the adjacent area of Maharashtra, in Berhampur, is purchasing L-147 at the rate of Rs. 551 to Rs. 572; YL at the rate of Rs. 511 to Rs. 587. In Adilabad, which is very close to me in Andhra Pradesh the price is Rs. 590 to Rs. 603. And the same is the case as far as Karnataka and Gujarat are concerned. Do you want our cultivators to take out all our cotton and sell it to the private operators and CCI which is purchasing cotton at the

same rate? And why do you deprive us of our own cost? Why do you stop the Cotton Marketing Federation to pay a better price to the cotton growers? On 25th November last year the total purchase by Cotton Marketing Federation was 6 lakhs and sixtyeight quintal and this year, I am giving the exact statistics, on 25th November, 1981 our total purchase by Cotton Marketing Federation is two lakh fortyeight thousand quintal. You can see. This particular cotton monopoly purchase scheme as provided seasonal employment to so many factory workers, to so many people who live in villages. Are you going to deprive them. When you speak of yarn, naturally think of powerlooms and handlooms. I agree. They are almost ten million people. But what about the cultivators who are much more in number? Have you ever thought about them? If you have thought about them, please give us some rise. Just give 17 or 18 per cent which we are demanding, not more than that. I am just quoting the fertiliser price which has been enhanced by seventeen and a half per cent. Give us that much, we will be more than happy.

Last year, the price of cotton seed was Rs. 115 to Rs. 120 and this year's cotton seed price is Rs. 235 to Rs. 240. The price of controlled cloth has gone up. Mr. Mukherjee will agree with me that its price has gone up. Don't you think that these cultivators who cultivate under adverse circumstances have also to put on some clothes? Don't they have to pay for it? If they have to pay for it, have you decided to give something for that or not? We do not want Rs. 965 which has been demanded by Cotton Utpadak Sangh. I would not go to that extent. But give us something more. Give us the price that Maharashtra Government has recommended to you. After all, it is a responsible government having four Agricultural Universities to go into the cost of production of all the agricultural products. So, please have some respect and regard for the Government and also for the growers and increase the price.

I would go now in the parity and remunerative prices. On this, I would say that the whole Maharashtra State, specially Vidharba, which is the cotton growing area, is agitated over it and it would be in the fitness of things in the Hon. Minister increases this price by seventeen and a half per cent, by which the prices of fertilizers have gone up.

I just forgot about insecticides.

An Hon. Member : That covers only one item.

**SHRI UTTAM RATHOD :** But it is a major item and I hope you will consider and give something to the cotton growers of Maharashtra who have decided to sell their cotton to you. They are selling their cotton to you and that is working under four of your Officers. So, please consider that we are not going to private people, we are selling to the Government. So have some regard for us. Have some pity. He was speaking about P.T.I; so, I will say: "please have some pity for me."

**PROF. N. G. RANGA:** We are not asking for pity.

**SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE:** I do appreciate the hon. Member's feelings. I can assure him that I will definitely take into account the increased cost of fertilizer and other factors which are relevant. They have to be taken into account. The suggestion of the Maharashtra Government will definitely have to be taken into account.

This is the mechanism that we have. It is not that we say: we are the Government of India; and so, we will have the veto power and we will not agree with the suggestions of the Maharashtra Government. The idea is that the representatives of various organizations, including Government of India sit together and discuss; and then arrive at decisions.

**PROF. N. G. RANGA:** They have not been doing it properly.

**SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE:** They are; but, unfortunately, last time the meeting was not called. That is the problem. So, we have to be a little strict this year, because last year they were never told and twice the prices were increased, without consulting them.

We have Maharashtra where a lot of cotton is produced. The rest of the country is also there where production is 50% to 60%. So we cannot take a decision only for Maharashtra. We will have to take into account the repercussion in the rest of the country. This committee is to meet, and I do feel they will take into account the various factors which have to be placed since the price was determined last year.

**SHRI S. B. SIDNAL (Begaun) :** Much has already been said by my friends about the remunerative prices; and generally speaking, everything has been refused by the hon. Minister. Still, I would like to

request him to take some measures to give remunerative prices, considering these inputs—pesticides and others.

I will request Government to tell us what are the measures they have taken to save agriculturists from fluctuating prices. There is always fluctuating price in respect of production. And there is always increased price for cotton, i.e. Kapda. But there is a lot of disparity between finished goods and raw materials. Raw materials should get added value when they go to the market. In this country, the producer is always at a loss, and the middle-man always at a gain. It is mostly urban-oriented. As Mr. Mukherjee said, market the price is better than the APC-fixed price. Then, why should APC not imagine the market price on the basis of speculation, demand and supply etc. in this country? It is not enough just to say that the market price is high, and that the price that is given is the guarantee price. That is low. There must be something wrong with the committee.

Only four people cannot decide the whole thing—with all due regard to them and to their expertness.

This is the difficulty: on the one hand, we want to encourage the labourers who are actually supposed to be partners in production; and on the other hand, the consumer is hit. So it, is more an urbanized thing, than a rural one. Secondly, to give any remunerative price, Government has to think of exports. There is a great demand in the world for Bangla desh cotton. When we are in excess, Government can put up a buffer stock and dispose it of and make way for exports. Government has always taken care of the industries—their investment, interest, exemption from taxes, exemption for export, duty exemption etc.—so many incentives are given to industries. But never has any incentive been accorded to agriculture, either in terms of giving any concession for pesticides or for the inputs, or in terms of giving a remunerative price.

I do not know what is going to happen due to this mistake? 80 per cent of the agriculturists are the backbone of this country. India is one of the 16 countries that produces cotton and one of the 81 countries with large production of cotton which has a demand outside. While considering the prices or while disciplining the prices, these things should be borne in mind. Any price of any material including cotton will not take a jump in price in a day or two; it has the background of demand and supply relevant to the production also. Therefore, I submit that the

committee has not taken these things into consideration while fixing the prices, as the Minister has already agreed that the market price is already better than the guarantee price.

Is there any proposal before the Government to export cotton to boost the prices? Is there any proposal before the Government to keep the buffer stock for the better prices or any other proposal to give subsidy as some of the industries get in the form of income tax-free and excise duty-free. There are many industries which are getting when they were started the backward districts or something like that. Since this is an all India problem including my state of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, this is more concerned with dry cotton than irrigated cotton which is only 20 per cent.

When the cotton crop in dry areas fails, the agriculturist will have to face crisis since they have to dance with the tune of the monsoon. Therefore, a support price is a must. The Committee should consider prices taking into consideration the fluctuating prices by compensating the loss year when it is badly hit by rain and prices. Unless the Government keeps a buffer stock by purchase, the agriculturists cannot have a future. When he does not produce, the whole thing has to be stopped.

The hon. Minister says that there are many industries which are at a loss and there are many other industries which make profit. It may be due to leakage or mismanagement. I do not know what is wrong with the mills. But as a layman I know that the price of the finished goods has increased hundred times right from 1965 till today, but the price of the raw-material is kept at pace. Between the finished goods and the raw material the producer has no life. The producer cannot manage with this increase in inputs with inadequate prices.

I do not know what is the basis of forming this Committee. I do not know whether it controls the prices or the production. But my friend Mr. Uttam Rathod says that it is put on our head to control the prices and the production. I may be excused for this. It should be more liberal than the market price when the Minister has been convinced that the market price is higher.

The farmer needs education and technical know-how. If there is any proposal for export, has the Government got technical know-how to give to the farmers? We

have many medical and engineering colleges; We have every sort of occasion in this country. How many agricultural technical know-how schools have been established so as to bring about more production scientifically? If that is done, I think the agriculturists will boost their production and the economy of this country. Or is there any plan to specialise production of some cotton as an attraction outside this country?

**SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE :** In fact, personally I would like to clear the misunderstanding about the role of the Committee. As it is mentioned to you, it is not over-crossing or vetoings, it is just to help the Maharashtra Government also. So far as production is concerned, it does not deal with it; it concerns only with the procurement and the guarantee price which has to be fixed.

The Hon. Member wanted to know about export. Yes, export is an instrument to stabilise the price and if we do not export the surplus that is available, naturally, it will have its effect in the market and the price will go down. That is why we export and again last year our exports were of 7.86 lakh bales. And with regard to improvement, actual improvement has taken place and some of the cotton particularly Varalakshmi and Suvin types of cotton have improved. As a result of the new technology and new methodology that our agriculturists have accepted these types and some other types of cotton have appeared in the international market. That is why we can export it.

In regard to buffer stock the normal practice so far as cotton is concerned, the industry demanded that there should be a buffer stock of three months even if we do not have to export. But I did not agree. I suggested that we should agree to a buffer stock of two months.

We must have, in the beginning of the season at least two months stock so that when the new crop of cotton comes up, for using in the country in the intervening period we have the stock of two months. Therefore that policy is pursued. If we want to turn it as buffer stock how can we get it after two months? Therefore, the consumer also is given the benefit. Last year we had 70 to 71 lakh bales and this year about 78 lakh bales as buffer and the industry has 2.5 to 3 lakh bales. By and large, the demand and supply more or less balance.

In regard to the price, I had already given answers to the supplementaries by hon. Members.

13-17 HRS.

JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE WORKING OF DOWRY PROHIBITION ACT

Extension of time for presentation of Report

SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI (Begusarai) : I beg to move—

“That this House do further extend up to the last day of the penultimate week of the Budget Session, 1982, the time for presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee of the Houses to examine the question of the working of the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961, and the amendments which may be made in the law for dealing effectively with the evil of dowry system.”

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is—

“That this House do further extend up to the last day of the penultimate week of the Budget Session, 1982, the time for presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee of the Houses to examine the question of the working of the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961, and the amendments which may be made in the law for dealing effectively with the evil of dowry system”.

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned till 2.20 p.m.

13.18 hrs.

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

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Twenty-five minutes past Fourteen of the Clock*

श्रीमती कृष्णा साही (बेगूसराय) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय इंडियन क्रिकेट के खिलाड़ी लोग जीत रहे हैं, उन्हें हन लोगों को बधाई देनी चाहिए।

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Jadavpur) : We should congratulate the Indian Cricket Team on winning the match.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : My congratulations to them.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRIES OF RAILWAYS, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : The nation is extremely proud of the performance of the Indian Cricket Team. This august House like to convey its best wishes to the participants of the Team and also hope that in future they will maintain the same spirit.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : We join them in congratulating our Team.

MR. DEPUTYSPEAKER : I join the entire House in congratulating our Team.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY (Bombay North East) : The Government can take credit for this victory.

MR. DEPUTYSPEAKER : The Government can take credit because they have allowed the British to come and play here.  
14.27 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) Need for direct express train service from Delhi to Kanyakumari.

SHRI N. DENNIS (Nagercoil) : Providing direct express train service to Kanyakumari, the southernmost part of the country, with the Capital, New Delhi, Madras, the capital of Tamil Nadu, and other important places in the south and north is absolutely essential to promote national integration and to remove the pressing prevailing difficulties faced by a large number of national and international tourists, pilgrims and passengers visiting this southern most part of the country daily, with the anxiety to see the place where the three seas meet, the famous Vivakananda rock, the Gandhi memorial building, to see sunrise and sun set and other places of tourist interest and also to offer prayers before the famous temple there. Though this great necessity caught the attention of the Government, which is clear from the ministerial and official pronouncements and announcements in this regard, it is regrettable that still this important matter is not translated into action. This matter has been kept aside and pending for long though there is a suitable and fit railway line to Kanyakumari for the smooth operation of express trains. Since the operation of train service there, people looked on with anxious expectation and hope that this long felt necessity would be fulfilled soon. Now, this long delay naturally made them feel with suspicion and