

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: I am extremely sorry that the hon. Members have not seen the two Bills. Otherwise, they would not have raised any objection. These two Bills are on the same subject. They are interdependent and they supplement each other. Without the other Bill, either of them will be useless. One Bill is to get the authority to impose a case and the other one is to withdraw the money for the purpose for which it is meant. That is all.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Are we to understand that, when the first Bill was mooted, the Government had no idea that without moving the second Bill it would not be in a position to withdraw the money?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: That is why the two Bills are there.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: There is bungling.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, I think, you are satisfied.

SHRI N. K. SHEJWALKAR: There are rules made for the purpose....

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The rule is very clear:

"Provided that the second Bill shall be taken up for consideration and passing in the House only after the first Bill has been passed by the Houses and assented to by the President."

I think, it is alright; it is to the satisfaction of Mr. Vajpayee and Mr. Shejwalkar. Now, I shall put it again. The question is:

"That this House do suspend the proviso to Rule 66 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in its application to the motions for taking into consideration and passing of the Sugar Cess Bill, 1981 and the Sugar Development Fund Bill, 1981."

The motion was adopted.

15.10 hrs.

SUGAR CESS BILL AND SUGAR DEVELOPMENT FUND BILL

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): I beg to move:

"That the Bill to provide for the imposition of a cess on sugar for the development of sugar industry and for matters connected therewith, be taken into consideration."

I also beg to move:

"That the Bill to provide for the financing of activities for development of sugar industry and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Would you like to speak on this?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: Would they like to know more about this?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You may.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: Sir, this is a measure which, I am sure, would be appreciated by the House. The sugar industry has been going sick in many sectors, some of the Mills are very old. We want to modernise them. The main difficulty in their way is availability of finances. This Bill is meant to serve the interests of the sugarcane growers as also the sugar industry.

If the sick mills are looked after and if they are put in good health, then, their capacity to crush sugarcane will also increase. The production of sugar will increase. The farmers will be able to supply more cane and get better prices or remunerative prices for the same. This money is intended to be spent for financing the sick sugar mills, weak units as also for the development of sugarcane

and for purposes of research. This is the purpose and the money is really necessary for this objective to be achieved.

I hope the House will welcome these two measures and pass them without much discussion.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Motions moved:

"That the Bill to provide for the imposition of a case on sugar for the development of sugar industry and for matters connected therewith, be taken into consideration."

"That the Bill to provide for the financing of activities for development of sugar industry and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

Shri Virdhi Chander Jain.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: (Panskura): What about the amendment about eliciting public opinion?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Have you given notice?

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: There are two amendments.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: All right. You can move your amendments.

SHRI BHOGEN DRA JHA (Madhubani): I move my amendment to the Sugar Cess Bill.

I beg to move:

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 18th May, 1982." (4)

SHRI T. R. SHAMANNA (Bangalore South): I move my amendment to Sugar Cess Bill.

I beg to move:

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 31st March, 1982." (5)

I also move my amendment to the Sugar Development Fund Bill.

I beg to move:

"That the Bill be circulated for purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 31st March, 1982." (5)

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL (Kopergaon): Yesterday, I had also given an amendment.

PROF. N. G. RANGA (Gurpur): He wants a special leave of the House. This could be asked for by Government and could be accepted by the House. Why not the same be done in his case also.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: One day's notice is required.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Yesterday I had given my notice of my amendment.

PROF. N. G. RANGA: It was to be circulated soon after lunch.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You must give at least 24 hours' notice.

SHRI ATAL BEHARI VAJPAYEE: When you can waive in the case of Government, why not in the case of a private Member?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The other members' amendments have been circulated. You have not given time.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: I have given. It is the duty of the officials to circulate the amendment. Why have they not circulated it?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You can speak on that amendment because you belong to the ruling party.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: I want to place it on record by way of amendment.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I cannot violate the rules. I will have to follow the rules strictly. For the amendment 24 hours' notice is required. You have not given.

SHRI ATAL BEHARI VAJPAYEE: I formally move that the rules may be waived in the case of some other Membrs.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You may speak on the amendment.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: I seek your protection Sir.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I am sorry. I will have to follow the rules; I will have to be firm; I will follow the rules; Order please.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: It is my duty to know whether the amendments given by me to office have been circulated or not. My amendments should have been circulated.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You have represented. I will look into the matter. I will see when you submitted your Amendments.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: It is not fair, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I told you. I will look into the matter.

SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY (Calcutta South): The co-operation of the Opposition is there.. We support his amendment.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: If you submitted your amendment 24 hours in advance, I will look into it. *(Interruptions)* He has every right to represent. He has represented.

SHRI ATAL BEHARI VAJPAYEE: You have to give him relief just now.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I will look into it. If he have given 24 hours' notice. I will look into it. I must be convinced. I must be sure that he has followed the rules.

SHRI XAVIER ARAKAL (Ernakulam): There can be oral amendments They also can be moved.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: There is nothing like that. Under what rule can there be oral amendments? Now, Shri Sudhir Giri. *(Interruptions)* Your representation will be gone into. At any time you have got discretion. If you have given 24 hours' notice it will definitely be looked into.

SHRI BAPUSAHEB PARULEKAR: (Ratnagiri): Unless the Motion at item No. 16 is passed the item No. 17, Bill for introduction, could not be taken up for consideration. Only after that is passed, this can be taken up for consideration. Therefore, every Member has got a right to move his amendment after the Motion for consideration. Every Member has got a right to move his amendment. There is no question of 24 hours. I can bring my amendment right now. This is my point of order.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The various Motions and Bills are already on the Agenda. If anybody wants to move any amendments, he should have sent notice of such amendments. He should follow the rules.

SHRI BAPUSAHEB PARULEKAR: When the Motion is moved then you can give your amendment.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You may be a powerful lawyer but you have not been able to convince me. Shri Sudhir Giri.

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI (Contai): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Sweet sugar is

now under discussion. But the affairs connected with production and distribution of sugar is not sweet at all but rather bitter and too bitter digest. The Minister has moved two Bills. The first is the Sugar Cess Bill and the second is the Sugar Development Fund Bill. In the Sugar Cess Bill the Government seeks the power to impose a levy of Rs. 10 at the maximum on production of sugar. I find that there is a proposal which is mentioned here in the Bill that the amount of this cess would be spent on the development of the sugar industry as a whole and this amount would be spent for the purpose of development of the sugar-cane areas in which the sugar mills are situated. The third is relating to rehabilitation and modernisation of sugar factories and sugar mills. The fourth is the research programme. The research programme would be aimed at the development of the sugar industry as a whole. Sir, the second Bill empowers the Government to establish a fund to be known as the Sugar Development Fund. From this Fund the Government will make loans for rehabilitating the units of the sugar industry. All these things and the two Bills if analysed properly, we are convinced clearly bring out the Government's sugar policy. What is the sugar policy of the Government at present? The Government intends to help the sugar barrons of the country. The sugar producer, the factory owners and the sugar mill owners have given the idea to the government that their machinery is worn out, out-dated and they cannot produce sugar sufficiently. Therefore they wanted the Government to bring forward these two sugar Bills. They have already amassed wealth, by selling sugar in the blackmarket. They have not been investing those moneys in the sugarcane areas or the sugar industry at all. They are investing money taken as profit from this industry in other fields. So, the government is coming forward to help the sugar barrons. And why they are doing so I will discuss later on.

Now, Sir, what is the policy of the Government towards the workers? The workers are the most sufferers. Some workers are not getting employment throughout the year. They can get employment only for 2 or 3 months in a year. There are some workers who can get employment for 4 or 5 months in a year. They are not properly and adequately paid. They are the worst paid, they are the lowest paid workers in the country. The Government has not done anything for them. The Bill does not mention anything concrete for the betterment of the workers and their working condition.

Sir, what is the Government's policy towards the cane growers? The Government announced a rate of Rs. 13 per quintal of sugarcane. The Government has directed all the sugar units to pay at least Rs. 13 per quintal for the sugarcane. But the Agricultural Prices Commission has recommended Rs. 15.50 per quintal of sugarcane. Sir, these sugarcane growers are not paid adequately. Only the sugar barrons are able to make high profits and in order to help increase their profits, Government is coming forward to give them loan from the Development Fund. What is the Government's policy towards the consumers? On account of the imposition of the levy at the maximum of Rs. 10 per quintal on sugar, the price of the sugar would definitely increase. In these hard days, we have already been facing the difficulties in price spiral of all essential commodities and still the Government is trying to increase the price of sugar. If the Government is really thinking of the development of sugar industry, there should be an integrated policy and this policy should include the factory owners, workers, cane growers as well as the consumers and for that, I have some suggestions to make.

Sir, in regard to sugarcane development, the Government seeks to give

[Shri Sudhir Giri]

loans from the Fund to develop the sugarcane areas where the sugar cane factories are also situated. Development in the production of sugarcane can take place if the sugar-cane growers are given their proper price.

Sugar-cane fields are in the possession of the big landlords. They are exploiting the workers, the wage earners. Those lands should be taken away from the big landlords and given to the poor peasants who are cultivating the sugar cane. If this policy is adopted, sugarcane field can be developed and the sugar-cane workers, the peasants, the wage-earners would be benefited. Their purchasing power would be increased and in this way the increased production of sugar cane be consumed in the home market. It is not necessary to export sugar abroad at a cheaper price.

As regards the workers, Government has to take some positive steps. The Government should improve their working conditions. They should be given house sites. Those poor workers do not get their proper emoluments and they are too poor to work efficiently. Therefore, the Government should come forward with a plan to improve the health conditions and other conditions of the workers.

The Government intends to modernise the sugar factories, but there is a difficulty. If the modernisation takes place, half of the workers will be retrenched. What would be the condition of the workers who will be retrenched on account of the modernisation? All these different aspects should also be considered by the Government.

Then there are many sugar mills and factories in the country which are not making their full capacity utilisation. The Government should set to it that those factory owners use their capacity to the fullest extent.

Every sugar factory or mill-owner should not be given loan. The Gov-

ernment should take into consideration only viable units.

Sir, I want to point out one thing to the Hon. Minister about the export and import policy of the Government on sugar. In 1980, 71500 tonnes of sugar was exported and the Government gave reason that to fulfil the international agreement that quantity of sugar had been exported. In March 1981, the Hon. Agriculture Minister told in this House that sugar would not be imported because the sugar supply position had improved and the prices had stabilised. Therefore, there was no need to import. But on 6th Jun. 1981, it was pointed out in this House that two lakh tonnes of sugar would be imported. Again in December, it was pointed out by some spokesman of the Government that the Government was going to export seven to eight lakh tonnes of sugar abroad. This is an anomalous position. I cannot understand how imports are being made, how exports are being made again to fulfil international commitments or agreements. Again, when there is a heavy rise in the price of sugar, we are exporting it. This position is anomalous. In the case of price rise of sugar, the role of speculators cannot be ignored at all. The speculators play a very big role in increasing the price of sugar. I would draw the attention of the hon. Minister to this, so that an adverse psychological atmosphere is not created in the country.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Giri, you can continue tomorrow.

Now, with regard to the amendments of Shri Vikhe Patil, they have been received only today. They are only amendments for clauses. As a special case, at the time of the clauses. As a special case at the time of the clauses being taken up, he can move them. Now we go over to the Private Members' Business—Bills for introduction. Shri George Fernandes.