**12.07 hrs.**

## CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

### REPORTED DECISION OF GOVERNMENT TO DECONTROL SUGAR

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI (Chirayinkil): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

"Reported decision of the Government to decontrol sugar with effect from 1st October, 1978."

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): Sir, the House may kindly recall my making a detailed policy statement at the beginning of the Budget Session, on February 27, 1978, setting out a number of measures decided upon by the Government to maximize the off-take of sugarcane by the various sweetening agents produced from sugarcane, namely, sugar, khandsari and gur and, more particularly, by the organized sector of the sugar industry. That these measures have considerably met our objective is seen from the single fact that sugar production during the current year, at about 65 lakh tonnes would represent an increase of over 34 per cent as compared to the last year's level of 48.4 lakh tonnes, which itself was a record till then. The sugar industry would be absorbing an additional quantum of sugarcane of the order of about 19 million tonnes during the current sugar year.

Taking into account the record sugar production, the high level of sugar stocks in the system, the preponderent need to further maximize domestic consumption of sugar which has already risen by over 22 per cent in the last one year, to bring the benefits of enlarged production to the consumer etc. the Government had taken up a review of the sugar policy. After carefully considering all aspects of the present situation in this sector, the Government have decided to remove the control on prices, movement and distribution of sugar with effect from August 16, 1978. To ensure a smooth transition, the organisations responsible for lifting levy sugar against release orders issued before that date are being asked to take over the stocks expeditiously.

The statutory minimum price payable for sugarcane for the season 1978-79 will be raised to Rs. 19/- linked to 8.5 per cent recovery against the present level of Rs. 8.50 linked to 8.5 per cent recovery.

The present excise duty on levy and free sale sugar would be averaged out and imposed on sugar, simultaneously with the discontinuance of the dual pricing system.

To ensure that the sugar prices prevail at reasonable levels, a close watch would be kept on the production, availability and prices. Government hope that the industry and trade would take this opportunity to stimulate domestic consumption by maintaining prices at reasonable levels. In case prices tend to go beyond such levels, Government will not hesitate to take appropriate action.

There are some consequential steps needed under the changed circumstances including those relating to the relief to be provided to units which have created/expanded their capacity in recent times at high cost, for units which modernize their equipment etc. as also to provide incentives to sugar factories for early and late crushing. These are being worked out and appropriate decisions thereon would be taken in due course.

Government hope that the new policy will stimulate domestic consumption and also bring about a greater balance between the sugarcane availability and its utilization by the various sweetening agents. It is also hoped that the domestic consumption of sugar will increase further substantially, in tune with the increasing production.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, sugar is an essential commodity and any variation in its price affects the entire poor class in the country. Previously, on many occasions on the floor of this House, this question has been debated upon many

times and the hon. Members from both sides always have been keeping a vigil to see that the Government should not fall in the trap of the sugar tycoons.

Sir, the previous Government had introduced the policy of dual pricing for the sugar with the intention that the sugar was made available through the ration shops to the poor people at a reasonable price. In 1976, they went to the extent of introducing Levy Sugar price equalization fund Bill also. Even though the sugar tycoons have been trying to influence everybody, all steps have been taken from time to time to see that sugar is made available to the poor at reasonable price.

The present decision of the Government to decontrol the sugar is only going to harm the interest of the poor people and it would directly hit the poor people and would help and benefit the sugar tycoons in this country and they may, help the Janata Party in return. The lobby of the sugar industry is very strong and their influence on the Government has also been strong all the time, even though they number only 103. If you go through the past history of the sugar industry, it would be clear that they have been looting the Government as also the consumers in different ways as well as the cane-growers. They are getting subsidy to the tune of Rs. eighty crores. They have purposely reduced the price of the sugarcane. As you will see, there has been a steep increase in the price of levy sugar as well as free sale sugar from 1975 to 1978. I can quote the figures to establish this. The production of sugar has also gone up. Where is the question of scarcity today? When the sugar production went upto 48 lakh tonnes, even after exporting 30 lakh tonnes, we could maintain the price level and ensure availability of sugar in those days. There was no blackmarketing at all.

What is the present position? The Government admit that the sugar production is 65 lakh tonnes; 35 per cent more than the last year. It means, the consumption of sugarcane has gone up, the income of the sugar mills has gone up, the turnover has gone up and the availability of sugar is also much. Export of sugar has also been stopped completely. According to the reports, only 12,000 tonnes have been exported. With the carry-over stocks of the last year and this year's production, a huge stock of sugar is available. It is, therefore, but fair that the sugar should be made available to the consumers at a reasonable price. The sale of sugar is being decontrolled now on the plea of giving better price to the sugarcane growers. What is the price of sugarcane today? In 1975, when the production of sugar was 37 lakh tonnes, the sugarcane price was Rs. 14.50 per quintal in U.P. And during the next year, we got only Re. 1/- less i.e. Rs. 12/- and Rs. 13/- i.e., even when the sugar cane price was much higher. To-day, according to your own answer in Parliament, it is only Rs. 8.50, or Rs. 8.60. Even in 1975-76, sugar production was very much less and the levy sugar price was Rs. 151/- per quintal. At that time, i.e. when the levy sugar price was Rs. 151/- per quintal, the sugarcane grower could get a price of Rs. 13.50 for his sugarcane.

SOME HON MEMBERS: It was only in UP, and not in other States.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: All right. Even when the sugar production was less, and the price was less, sugarcane growers were getting a reasonable price. even according to the recommendations of the Kothari Commission. And Government could also see that it was made available to the sugarcane growers. I agree that there was a discrimination. In the South, i.e. in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Andhra Pradesh, the levy sugar price was very much different from that in Bihar and UP. Even in those

[Shri Vayalar Ravi]

days, the levy sugar price was Rs. 414 in Bihar and only Rs. 150 and Rs. 120/- in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. Even to-day that disparity exists. So, in the name of the sugar cane growers, they want to decontrol sugar. But at what time? At a time when there is a heavy availability and heavy production, Price is more. To-day, the levy sugar price is Rs. 250/- in the Muzaffarnagar market, and the open market price is Rs. 360/- and Rs. 430/-. (*Interruptions*) There are two kinds of sugar One kind is of a second quality. There is no sweetness in that sugar The levy sugar price now, even in the ration shop, is Rs. 2.50; and in the open market it is Rs. 3.60 and Rs. 4.30. Production has gone up very high. What is the price of the sugar cane produced? It is Rs. 8-50 and Rs. 11 50 That is the minimum. Do they get a higher price? No. Even the Minister admits that they have been given Rs 8 50. And they have given them Rs. 11/-, i e. the price of sugar cane has not gone up. The consumers have to pay more Sugar cane growers get less. But who gets the profits? It is the sugar magnate who makes the profit. Why?

Your new step is allowing them to make more profits at the expense of the poor—the millions of the poor people in this country. I am from Kerala; and Mr Bosu is from West Bengal. To-day, a statement has appeared—a statement by the West Bengal Government. We are purely dependent on controlled sugar. The people of Kerala and West Bengal, and all the deficit States have to beg before the sugar magnates and tycoons. They will loot us like anything; and Government may share it—I do not know. There is such a favourable situation. There was the Bhargava Commission report, as to how to help the sugar cane growers. The report says that you must pay a minimum statutory price, and that the excess should be shared 50—50 between the mill-owners and sugar cane growers. That report has not been implemented. Even the previous Government admitted it *viz.* that it was not accepted. In the present situation, decontrol will hit the poor, poorer and the poorest people, especially in deficit States like Kerala, in the present favourable atmosphere of sugar availability in the country, May I know from the hon. Minister: will he revise the decision to de-control sugar and make everybody—consumers as well as sugar cane growers—happy? Will he expedite a decision and nationalize the sugar industry completely, to free it from the political influences of the sugar magnates and tycoons? Lastly, to protect the interests of the sugar can growers, will he implement the Bhargava Commission report forthwith?

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: Controls come only when there are scarce conditions. Some commodities are controlled when production is less and the availability is low. When there is a condition of plenty control is not there ..(*Interruptions*). My hon. friends tried to impress that it is being done to provide some relief to the industry. He said many things which I would not repeat. Sugar industry was being provided with a lot of money when the open market price was Rs 5.40 or 5.60, as Chaudhuri Balbir Singh was saying just now, in 1975-76; before the Janata Government assumed charge sugar price in the country in the open market was anything above Rs. 5.50 as my friend here was saying. With the coming of the Janata Government into power the prices in the open market went down and the prices in the open market had been prevailing at less than Rs. 4; even now the prices are Rs. 3.70 or Rs. 3.60 in the open market; we have brought it down from Rs. 5.60 to Rs. 3.60, that means, by Rs. 200 per quintal. There was a net loss to the industry. The industry was flourishing at the time when my friends on the other side were in power; they were trying to make the industry prosper. It is for

the public use of sugar that we are producing that this policy has been pursued and it is being introduced. There is no question of reviewing the policy because we have formulated this policy after a good deal of discussion and deliberation among ourselves after taking into consideration all the aspects.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: At what price to the consumer?

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: Much less than what you anticipate. He referred to the price of sugar cane. The price of sugar cane related to 8.5. per cent has been maintained for the last three years. We are now for the first time raising it to Rs. 10 related to 8.5 per cent and along with that the profit sharing formula is to be part of it. So, if a factory makes a profit it has to be shared by the cane grower as well as the factory 50: 50; that is in the statute. Thus there is no question of lowering the price of sugarcane. The cane grower will be getting a good price and the consumer will be getting sugar at cheap rates; sugar will be available in the country at cheap rates.. (*Interruptions*).

एक माननीय सदस्य : रेट बता दीजिए ।

... (व्यवधान)

श्री राम किशन (भरतपुर) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, माननीय मंत्री जी ने जो अपने वक्तव्य में यह बात कही है कि जब चीजों का अभाव होता है, तब कन्ट्रोल किया जाता है, मैं समझता हूं कि यही सब से बड़ी कमी है । चीनी की जो दोहरी नीति है, उस का अभिप्राय केवल इतना ही नही था कि इस की कमी थी । यह बिलकुल गलत है । एक वेलफेयर स्टेट की कल्पना को ले कर हम लोग चलें तो जो कम आय वाले लोग हैं या जो कमजोर वर्गों के लोग हैं, उन को सुविधाएं मिलनी चाहिए और सस्ती चीनी भी मिलनी चाहिए । चीनी का कन्ट्रोल मूल्य हटने के बाद नतीजा यह होगा कि देश के 6 करोड़ परिवारों को जो सस्ती चीनी प्राप्त करते थे, महंगी चीनी खरीदनी पड़ेगी ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय, मंत्री जी का यह ख्याल भी हो सकता है कि इससे चीनी की खपत बढ़ जाएगी इससे चीनी का बाजार भाव ऊपर चढ़ जाएगा । जब कन्ट्रोल में 2.15 रु० किलो चीनी मिलती है, तो बाजार में उस का भाव प्रति किलो 3.65 रुपये है और अगर कीमत 3 रुपये या 3.25 रुपये प्रति किलो रहती है, तो ऊंची कीमत होने से मेरा ऐसा अन्दाजा है कि चीनी की खपत घटेगी और चीनी की खपत बढ नही सकती क्योंकि हमारे देश का जो उपभोक्ता है, उसकी परचेजिंग पावर निरन्तर कम होती चली जा रही है । इसलिए मैं माननीय कृषि मंत्री जी से यह कहना चाहूंगा कि उन का जो यह विचार है, वे इस विचार को, अपने दिमाग से निकाल दें कि चीनी की खपत बढ़ने वाली है और किसानो को लाभ होने वाला है ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय, किसानो के लिए आप कोई भी कीमत रखें, पिछले साल गन्ना उत्पादकों के लिए आपने जो कीमत रखी था, वह भी उन्हें नही मिल पायी थी तो आगे से क्या गारन्टी है कि जो कीमत अब आप रख रहे है वह उन्हें मिल पायेगी ? एक तरफ तो किसान का नुक्सान होने जा रहा है और दूसरी तरफ 6 करोड परिवार जो सस्ती चीनी खरीदते थे, उन्हें अब मंहगी चीनी खरीदनी पड़ेगी ।

एक तीसरी समस्या आपके सामने आने वाली है जिसको कि आप गम्भीरता से सोचें । जो सरकारी कर्मचारी है या सगठित क्षेत्र के मजदूर हैं, वे इसकी कीमत बढने के बाद वेतन भत्ते और संहगाई भत्ते की मांग शरू कर देगे । जो कुछ आपने पिछले साल दिया था वह दूध की कीमत बढ़ाने के बाद उनसे छीन लिया । अब चीनी की कीमत बढाने के बाद जो कुछ उनके पास है, वह भी उनसे छीनने जा रहे है । इससे नया संकट पैदा हो जाएगा ।

इसलिए मै माननीय कृषि मंत्री जी से कहूंगा कि इस का इलाज केवल इतना ही नही है कि आप इस का डीकंट्रोल कर दे । असल मे हमे चीनी नीति पर, देश के सारे सामाजिक ढांचे पर दूसरे ढग से विचार करना चाहिए । हमारे सामने किसान भी है, उपभोक्ता भी है और व्यापारी भी हैं । इन तीनो का उचित प्रकार से सम्मिश्रण करे, इन तीनो के हितो की समुचित रूप से रक्षा करे । जब तक आप समुचित चीनी नीति निर्धारित नही करेगे तब तक पीसमील मे काम करने से इसका कोई भी लाभ होने वाला नही है ।

इसलिए, म निवेदन करना चाहता हू कि जनता पार्टी को इस सम्बन्ध मे मजबूती से सोचना चाहिए कि चीनी उद्योग का राष्ट्रीयकरण ही इसका इलाज है और दूसरा कोई इलाज नही है । अगर राष्ट्रीयकरण मे कोई दोष है तो दोष की वजह से राष्ट्रीयकरण बुरा नहीं हो सकता है । मनुष्य अगर बीमार है तो इसलिए मनुष्य को समाप्त नहीं किया जाता है । राष्ट्रीयकरण म कोई दोष नहीं था मगर करप्ट कांग्रेस

[श्री राम किशन]

के लोगों ने इस सिस्टम को गड़बड़ कर दिया। अगर आप ईमानदारी से राष्ट्रीयकरण करें और लागत मूल्य को ठीक रखें तो इससे किसान, उपभोक्ता और व्यापारी तीनों का हित होगा। अन्यथा जाने-अनजान में आप पर आरोप लगने वाला है कि आप पूंजीपतियों की मदद कर रहे है। आपने चीनी को डीकंट्रोल किया, सस्ते कपड़े को समाप्त कर दिया। यह कौन-सी दिशा है! यह दिशा निश्चित रूप से पूंजीवादी दिशा है और पूंजीवादी दिशा को जनता पार्टी का गांवों से आने वाला सामान्य सदस्य स्वीकार नहीं कर सकता है, यह मैं स्पष्ट तौर पर कहना चाहता हूं।

श्री सुरजीत सिंह बरनाला : उन्होंने कोई नया सवाल तो उठाया नहीं है, तकरीर की है। आपने फरमाया है कि इस से खपत नहीं बढ़ेगी। हमारा अन्दाजा ऐसा है कि इससे खपत बढ़ेगी, यह ज्यादा होगी। जैसे चीनी बढ़ी है वैसे खपत भी बढ़ेगी। एक्सपोर्ट करने के लिए जितना कोटा है, उससे ज्यादा हम एक्सपोर्ट नहीं कर सकते हैं। जितना हम कर सकते हैं उतना हम कर रहे हैं। हमें देश में ही इसका इस्तेमाल करना है। इसलिए हमने यह डीकंट्रोल किया है।

दूसरे आपने नेशनेलाइजेशन का सुझाव दिया। यह सुझाव तो पहले भी कई दफा आ चुका है। (व्यवधान) एक तरफ तो कुछ लोगों को डीकंट्रोल की चीनी मिल रही थी लेकिन वह सब लोगों को नहीं मिल रही थी। बहुत से गांवों के ऐसे हिस्से हैं जहां कि कंट्रोल की चीनी जाती ही नहीं है। अब कोशिश यह होगी कि चीनी सस्ते भाव पर सब जगह पर मिल सके। चीनी के दो भाव रखने से खुले बाजार की जो चीनी थी उसके भाव बहुत ऊंचे रहते थे। अब उसके दाम कम होंग और साधारण आदमी तक वह पहुंच सकेगी, इससे उसकी कंजम्पशन बढ़ेगी।

SHRI JYOTIMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour): This is a glaring instance of an attack on an already severely reduced public distribution system. Whilest the people are suffering from continuous erosion in their purchasing capacity the government is adding fuel to the fire by dismantling the existing distribution system. There is a further reduction in the government commitment to supply essential requirements to the weaker sections of the society. Sugar happens to be one of the main items; therefore there is an increasing gap between promise and performance of the present Janata government. On the one hand government is talking about bringing in new items under the public distribution system; on the other hand what we see is they are taking decisions to decontrol sugar and also give full freedom to the textile mills not to produce cheap cloth and allow them additional export subsidy to the extent of Rs. 40 crores. This is a clear example of the Janata Government walking into the crap of the big tycoons, and following the same path as the erstwhile government has done.

Remember what happened in 1971. Those in Government lifted control over sugar for which they collected a very big amount. The argument for lifting control was the presence of heavy stock, but Government had to re-impose control within seven months just after the election was over because the money part for the time being became redundant.

Incidentally, the sugarcane output per hectare in India has been kept deliberately low, while 23 new varieties of sugarcane developed by the Coimbatore Sugarcane Breeding Institute have been put to use in other countries.

Only the other day, the sugar magnates were able to squeeze out a concession in reduction of excise duty and guaranteed average return of Rs. 185 and Rs. 190 per quintal.

The ration card holders, as it is, are already paying 30 paise more for every kilogram of rationed sugar.

So powerful is the sugar lobby in Delhi that besides taking money from the front door, they took recourse to all sorts of malpractices.

Here I am quoting the Public Accounts Committee Report in which it was stated:

"Yet another distressing feature of the rebate scheme for 1972-73 is the liberal grant of rebate even to

factories which had not produced any sugar during the base period. This would, in effect, mean that such factories would be entitled to a rebate in excise duty even for their normal production.'

That shows how powerful the sugar lobby is in Delhi.

Again, it says:

"If there is a substantial gap between the tariff value and the actual realisations of the factories, the gap between the tariff value and the ruling market prices is still wider. The Committee were amazed to learn during evidence that while the ruling market price of free sale sugar was Rs. 585 per quintal in September, 1974 in the Hapur market and Rs. 570 per quintal in the Calcutta market, the tariff value for the month of October, 1974 had been fixed as ridiculously low a figure as Rs. 320 per quintal."

This should confirm that those who are running the sugar factories in this country are making more profit for levy sugar although they are saying that they are not making profit.

The maximum and minimum prices of sugar outside the levy sugar were: 1974-75: Rs. 560 and 403; 1975-76; Rs. 550 and Rs. 398; 1977 up to June; Rs. 510 and Rs. 319.

Regarding the production of sugar, he has already given the figures.

I am surprised to see this decision because till the other day they were saying that they were not contemplating the decontrol of sugar. This is from *The Hindu* dated 25th February. It clearly says:

"The broad concensus in the Cabinet was instead of decontrol, other measures should be adopted to help the sugar factories realise their cost of production and continue to pay the cane growers the present prices."

That was the Cabinet decision in February, 1978. Then again, *The Economic Times* of 26th February says:

"The Union Cabinet today grappled with the problems faced by the sugar industry for more than two hours. Though no official announcement is forthcoming, it is understood that there was strong opposition for total decontrol."

What has happened in between? I must take my hat off to the sugar lobby. They have succeeded so well, they have been able to put them in their pocket, to put the Janata Government people in their pocket.

In reply to Starred Question No. 277 dated 5th December, 1977, this was the reply given. Part (b) of the question was:

"Whether Government propose to ensure equitable distribution of rationed sugar to all the citizens of the country on uniform basis and if so, by what time."

The reply was:

"Yes, Sir. In accordance with the decisions taken by the Government on 27-10-1977, it has been decided to increase the State-wise monthly levy sugar quota to 425 grams per capita as against 300 grams earlier for the estimated population as on 1-7-1975 ."

In between what has happened

MR. SPEAKER: Please come to the question.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: I will finish in no time. I assure you I will not take much time.

MR. SPEAKER: I am only getting assurance.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: In reply to Unstarred Question No. 1021 dated 21st November, 1977, the Minister of State, Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh, said:

[Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu]

"No proposal has been received from the Madhya Pradesh Government to decontrol sugar."

SHRI BHANU KUMAR SHASTRI (Udaipur): Sir, when my hon friend, Shri Ram Kishen, was speaking, you asked him to stop and he stopped immediately. But, in this case you are allowing Shri Bosu to continue.

MR SPEAKER No, no Your memory may be very short. He did not stop for over a minute I would request Shri Bosu to put the question.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU "After due consideration of the proposals and keeping in view all the aspects and likely repercussions on various sections of the people, Government have recently decided to continue the policy of partial control on sugar, with equal emphasis on distribution of levy sugar in the rural areas"

What has happened after that? All these are very recent utterances.

MR. SPEAKER This is not a debate He should put a question.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: In the Report of the Sugar Industry Enquiry Commission, Volume II it is stated at page 1091,—

"(b) **Recommendations from Chapter VII:**

(i) The entire private sector of the sugar industry other than the cooperative sugar factories, should be nationalised;

(ii) The marketing of sugar upto the level of wholesale trade should be completely nationalised;

(iii) Provision should be made for adequate representation of labour and cane-growers in the nationalised sector and in the cooperative sugar factories at all levels;

(iv) For formulating and executing policies in regard to the entire sugar industry (public sector and cooperative sector) and for the administration of the public sector of the sugar industry, "

MR SPEAKER. You are making a speech.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU· I say that the Government cannot have double or treble standards. They set up a Committee or Commission and then they take a decision, as per dictates of the sugar barons If they proceed with the de-control of sugar, the country will know that the Janata Government has been purchased by the sugar lobby I want the Minister to give an assurance that he will not proceed with decontrol of sugar and thus deprive the poor people of the sugar which they are getting at controlled price

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA My hon friend was giving credit to both sides To the other side he was saying, when they imposed control they were in the hands of the sugar lobby, to us he is saying that now we are thinking of decontrolling sugar, we are in the hands of the sugar lobby. I do not know where he stands. Then he pointed out that Government was following different policies and he quoted some replies to questions He said that on the 5th December 1977 the quota was increased to 425 grams per person That was done because the availability was more So, we thought that it should go to every village in the country. Therefore, we increased the quota. But, ultimately, what happened? There were more supplies. 70,000 tonnes more was delivered for public distribution Then it started coming back to the market by the backdoor, selling at a lesser price.. (*Interruptions*) Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh stated in December 1977 about partial control. Six months earlier he could not anticipate that we are going to de-control sugar . . .

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Sir, on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: No point of order.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: He is misquoting me.

MR. SPEAKER: Nobody is misquoting him. He has said so much.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh said on that day:

"After due consideration of the proposals. . . ."

MR. SPEAKER: No, please. The Minister is not yielding.

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: Now the situation has changed. There is more supply of sugar in the market. We have to take into account all these factors and take a decision, which we have done.

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE (Ahmednagar): On a point of order. His statement does not make it clear, because the House deserves.... (*Interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Jyotirmoy Bosu. Item No. 8.

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## COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS

### THIRTEENTH REPORT

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour): I beg to present the Thirteenth Report of the Committee on Public Undertakings on Jute Corporation of India Limited—Procurement and Marketing of Jute by J.C.I.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Matters under Rule 377. Dr. Laxminarayan Pandeya.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: *Rose.*

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: You gave a guidance that this 'Indian Express' news item...

MR. SPEAKER: I have called Dr. Pandeya.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: I want to have one minute.

MR. SPEAKER: No. Dr. Pandeya.

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12.42 hrs.

## MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

### (1) REPORTED SUPPLY OF CONTAMINATED ATTA TO SAFDARJUNG HOSPITAL, NEW DELHI.

डा० लक्ष्मीनारायण पांडेय (मदसौर) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आपकी अनुमति से सफदरजंग अस्पताल की कुछ अनियमितताओं तथा वहां जिस प्रकार से बीमारों के साथ व्यवहार किया जा रहा है, उनके सम्बन्ध में ध्यान आकर्षित करते हुए निवेदन करना चाहता हूं ।

जैसा कि नवभारत टाइम्स तथा अन्य समाचार-पत्रों में प्रकाशित हुआ है, पिछले दिनों जो वहां बीमारों के लिये आटा दिया गया, वह इतनी खराब हालत का था कि बीमारों ने उसकी बनी हुई चपातियां लेने से इन्कार कर दिया । जब इसके बारे में वहां के अधिकारियों से जानकारी प्राप्त की और जांच की तो उसके परिणाम भी संतोषजनक नहीं है । यद्यपि वह आटा मैं यहां पर साथ में नहीं लाया हूं, लेकिन यदि आप उसको देखते तो वह सारा जमा हुआ था, इस प्रकार की खराब और गन्दी हालत में था जो मनुष्य तो क्या पशु भी उसे खाना पसन्द नहीं करते । बीमारों के लिये इस प्रकार आटा दिया जाना कदापि व्यावहारिक नहीं है बल्कि और उनको भयानक रूप से बीमार कर देना है ।

मैं यह भी निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि पिछले दिनों से जिस प्रकार की वहां स्थिति चल रही है, उसी के कारण कई टेटनस के बीमार हुए और उनकी मृत्यु भी हुई । इस हस्पताल में जो दुर्व्यवस्था चल रही है, उसके कारण अन्यान्य बीमारों को भी काफी परेशानी उठानी पड़ती है ।

मैं इस ओर स्वास्थ्य मंत्री जी जो इस समय यहां उपस्थित नहीं हैं, का ध्यान