

government can keep these 150 million people in perpetual fear. The all-powerful government can also deny my request for a judicial enquiry. But no one can deny me my right to shed tears for them.

That is what I am going to do by starting my fasts on July 20 at 9 A.M. and continue it till this most humble and modest demand for a judicial enquiry is met. I seek support from all the honourable members of this House.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: We entirely support it.

(iv) REPORTED SUSPENSION OF WORKERS BY MESSRS. METAL FORGING (PRIVATE) LTD., MAYAPURI, NEW DELHI

श्री जयदेव (देवरिया) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैसर्स मेटल फॉजिंग (प्रा०) लि० मायापुरी, नई दिल्ली में 16 कर्मचारियों को अकारण मुअ्तल कर दिया गया। जब कर्मचारियों ने अपने साथियों की बहाली की मांग की तो मालिकान ने, यानी मैसर्स मेटल फॉजिंग (प्रा०) लि० ने दिनांक 7-5-78 को बिना कारण फैक्ट्री में तालाबन्दी कर दी और 1500 मजदूरों की रोजी-रोटी छीन ली। दिनांक 16-6-78 को मिल गेट पर मजदूरों को बहाल करने एवं तालाबन्दी को समाप्त करने की मांग करते हुए धरना देने वाले 500 मजदूरों को गिरफ्तार कर लिया गया। 115 को तत्काल जेल भेज दिया गया और बाकी को गहर से दूर ले जाकर पुलिस ने बाहर छोड़ दिया। उस क्षेत्र में अब भी पुलिस राज्य कायम है, वहाँ धारा 144 लगा दिया गया है, मजदूरों के वैध अधिकार छीन लिये गये हैं तथा अतिक्रम का वातावरण बना हुआ है।

14.32 hrs.

TOBACCO BOARD (AMENDMENT) BILL—contd.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House will now resume further consideration of the following Motion moved by Shri Mohan Dharia on the 17th July, 1978, namely:—

“That the Bill to amend the Tobacco Board Act, 1975, be taken into consideration.”

Dr. Ramji Singh was on his legs. He will continue his speech.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond harbour): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I seek guidance from you on one point. I want to know how these notices under Rule 377 are selected. I want to take only half a minute on this.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order please. Kindly resume your seat.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Mr. Bansal, Deputy Secretary of the Defence Ministry is found connected with some espionage activities.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You please allow Dr. Ramji Singh to continue his speech.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: I want your guidance, Sir....

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You seek the guidance of our hon. Speaker; you may see him in this chamber.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Short Notice Questions are not admitted. Calling Attention Notices are not admitted.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Dr. Ramji Singh.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: I seek your guidance, Sir...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Jyotirmoy Bosu, I am not in a position to give you any guidance or inspiration.

SHRI JYOTIHMROY BOSU: Then, can you say, tomorrow, Sir?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: May be, I don't know.--Now, Dr. Ramji Singh.

श्री० राय जी सिंह (भागलपुर):
उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, कल मैं तम्बाकू बोर्ड के बिल के विषय में अपने कुछ विचार रख ही रहा था कि समय समाप्त हो गया ।

यह तो मालूम ही है कि जिस तम्बाकू को विलियम कूपर ने परनीशियस बीड कहा था, उसकी भी बड़ी कीमत है । भारतवर्ष में उस के कारण काफी रुपया हम को विदेशी मुद्रा में प्राप्त होता है । लेकिन यह दुर्भाग्य की बात है कि जहाँ अमेरिका में एक एकड़ में 904 किलोग्राम तम्बाकू पैदा होता है वहाँ । भारत में केवल 340 किलोग्राम ही पैदा होता है । रोडेसिया जैसे छोटे देश में भी एक एकड़ में 540 किलोग्राम तम्बाकू पैदा होता है इसलिए यह आवश्यक है कि जब हम तम्बाकू के इस बिल का संशोधन कर रहे हैं तो तम्बाकू की खेती के विकास के सम्बन्ध में भी हम लोगों को प्रावधान करना चाहिये ।

हमारे वाणिज्य मंत्री ने राज्यों को प्रतिनिधित्व देने के विषय में कुछ पहल की है । जहाँ पहले आंध्र और कर्नाटक, दो राज्य इस बोर्ड में प्रतिनिधित्व पाते थे, अब उन्होंने इस बार गुजरात को भी इसमें प्रतिनिधित्व दिया है, लेकिन मुझे लगता है कि उन्होंने अभी भी इसमें कृपणता की है । ऐंसे और भी राज्य हैं जैसे मध्यप्रदेश, बिहार, असम वगैरह उनको भी इसमें प्रतिनिधित्व देना चाहिए था । उड़ीसा भी इसमें आना चाहिए, यह ठीक है । हमारे वाणिज्य मंत्री को इस बात को ध्यान में रखना चाहिए ।

असल बोर्ड का जो गठन हुआ है, उसके संबंध में भी बेरी उनसे बिनती है कि वह इस पर विचार करें । यह ठीक है कि संसद् के 8 सदस्य इस में हैं, लेकिन इनकी संख्या भी बढ़नी चाहिए । इसमें उन्होंने दिया है कि इसमें मिल-भोगर्स, एकसपोर्टर्स, डीलर्स, मैन्युफैक्चरर्स वगैरह इन सब को प्रतिनिधित्व देंगे लेकिन मजदूरों को प्रतिनिधित्व नहीं दिया है ।

तम्बाकू की खेती में समूचे हिन्दुस्तान में लगभग 40 लाख मजदूर काम करते हैं । जब हम कहते हैं कि मजदूरों का योगदान भी होना चाहिये, तो सचमुच में हमको लगता कि समाजवादी दृष्टि के मंत्री हमारे धारिया साहब मजदूरों को भी इसमें प्रतिनिधित्व देंगे ।

जहाँ तक मुख्यालय का प्रश्न है, मंत्री महोदय ने यह स्पष्ट किया है कि चूंकि आंध्र प्रदेश में देश के 80 प्रतिशत तम्बाकू का उत्पादन होता है, इस लिए सुविधा की दृष्टि से वहाँ गुन्टर में मुख्यालय को रखना उचित समझा गया है । यह एक स्वागत-योग्य बात है कि जिस प्रदेश से करीब 160 करोड़ रुपये का तम्बाकू प्राप्त होता है, उस प्रदेश में ही मुख्यालय रहे ।

इस बिल में केवल विर्जीनिया तम्बाकू की ही बात कही गई है । लेकिन देश में केवल विर्जीनिया तम्बाकू का ही उत्पादन नहीं होता है । यहाँ पर अन्य प्रकार के तम्बाकू का भी उत्पादन होता है । उदाहरण के लिए बिहार में 11 प्रकार के तम्बाकू का उत्पादन होता है । इसी प्रकार दूसरे प्रदेशों में भी कई प्रकार के तम्बाकू का उत्पादन होता है । यदि तम्बाकू की खेती का विकास करना है, तो तम्बाकू बोर्ड के कार्य-क्षेत्र में सभी प्रकार के तम्बाकू को लेना चाहिए ।

कामरेड ज्योतिर्मय बसु ने कहा है कि पिछले साल जूट, तम्बाकू और गन्ना आदि सभी कृषि फ़ार्म के उत्पादकों को बहुत धाटा उठाना पड़ा है। इसीलिए जब तक उन उत्पादकों की रीम्युनेटिव प्राइस नहीं दी जाएगी, तब तक उन्हें कोई इनसेन्सिबल नहीं मिलेगा। इसलिए मैं वाणिज्य मंत्री से यह निवेदन करूंगा कि वह तम्बाकू का उत्पादन करने वाले प्रोड्यूसर को रीम्युनेटिव प्राइस देने की जरूर व्यवस्था करें। जब सरकार अन्य बहुत से लोगों को रीम्युनेटिव प्राइस देती है, तो वह इन लोगों को क्यों नहीं देती है ?

जहां तक तम्बाकू बोर्ड के गठन का प्रश्न है, 1975 में तम्बाकू बोर्ड बिल पर हुई चर्चा में भाग लेते हुए माननीय सदस्या, श्रीमती लक्ष्मीकान्तम्मा, ने नामांकन और श्रवकाय प्राप्ति के सवाल को उठाया था। इस बात को भी ध्यान में रखना चाहिए कि जो लोग इस बोर्ड में रखे जाते हैं, वे रिटायर होने के बाद दूसरी जगह चले जाते हैं।

हमारे देश में 400 मिलियन ग्राम तम्बाकू का उत्पादन होता है। मूल विधेयक की धारा 7(जी) में परचेजिंग विजीनिया टोबैको फ़र्म प्रोड्यूसर की बात कही गई है। यह बात गलत है। मैं समझता हूँ कि सभी प्रकार के तम्बाकू को इसके स्कोप में रखना चाहिए।

उत्पादकों और मजदूरों के बीच में जो बिचोलिये, मिडलमैन हैं, उन के कारण मजदूरों को कोई राहत नहीं मिलती है। जब तक उन बिचोलियों को नहीं हटाया जायेगा, तब तक न तो मजदूरों को लाभ हो सकता है और न तम्बाकू उत्पादन करने वालों को लाभ हो सकता है।

यह ठीक है कि यह बिल बहुत जल्दबाजी में लाया गया है। इस में कमप्लसरी सटिक्रिकेशन फ़ाऊ रजिस्ट्रेशन की व्यवस्था की गई है। जब काश्तकार को रजिस्ट्रेशन के लिए सरकार के पास जाना पड़ेगा, तो अष्टाचार की गंजायश होगी। काश्तकार यह भली-भांति समझता है कि किसी खेत में तम्बाकू की खेती करनी चाहिए या नहीं। सरकार के प्रफ़सरी को यह बात समझ में नहीं आ सकती है, जिससे काश्तकारों को बहुत परेशानी होती है। इसलिए कमप्लसरी सटिक्रिकेशन फ़ाऊ रजिस्ट्रेशन को खत्म करना चाहिए और यह बात काश्तकारों के विवेक पर छोड़नी चाहिए कि वे किस खेत में तम्बाकू का उत्पादन कर सकते हैं।

एक चीज और है। सदन के माननीय सदस्यों का मालूम होगा कि जब काश्तकारों का तम्बाकू खरीदा जाता है इस साल तो उस की कीमत चुकाई जाती है एक साल के बाद। यह बहुत अन्यायपूर्ण है। आप जानते हैं कि तम्बाकू की खेती में खाद की बहुत जरूरत पड़ती है और खाद के लिए किसानों को नकद खपना देना पड़ता है और पैसा उन को मिलता है एक साल के बाद। यह बहुत अन्यायपूर्ण है। इस के ऊपर भी विचार होना चाहिए।

एक चीज मैं अंत में आप से कहना चाहंगा कि इस की थोक बिक्री आप बिचोलियों के हाथ में न रखें। तम्बाकू के होल्सेल ट्रेड का सरकार अधिग्रहण कर ले करना बिचोलियों को आप कभी भी समाप्त नहीं कर सकेंगे और उत्पादकों को राहत नहीं दे सकेंगे। ऐसी बहुत सारी बातें हैं जिस के लिए आवश्यक है कि एक काम्प्रीहेंसिव बिल लाया जाय। सरकार की यह बहुत खराब भावत है कि टुटपूजिये संशोधन लाती रहती है। यह गलत बात है। पिछली बार भी जब बिल लाया गया था तो बहुत लोगों ने राय दी थी कि काम्प्रीहेंसिव बिल लाना चाहिए था। हम समझते हैं कि सरकार काम्प्रीहेंसिव बिल

[श्री रामजी सिंह]

लाती तो बहुत अच्छा होता। हम मानते हैं कि वाणिज्य मंत्री को सामने एक कठिन समस्या है। वह अगर यह बिल नहीं लाते और उन का आश्वासन नेटफार्म नहीं क्रियेट करते तो उत्पादकों को बहुत नुकसान होता। इसीलिए वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बिल लाए हैं। लेकिन हमें विश्वास है कि उत्पादकों को रेग्युलरेटिव प्राइस दे कर, आश्वासन नेटफार्म क्रियेट कर के और तम्बाकू के होलसेल ट्रेड को अपने हाथ में ले कर के यह काम करेंगे और इन चीजों को वह ध्यान में रखेंगे तथा अगले साल एक काम्प्रोहिंमिज बिल लाएंगे इसी शर्तों के साथ मैं उन के विन का हृदय से समर्थन करता हूँ।

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour): Sir, tobacco happens to be one of the most precious cash crops that the country produces. We have mainly tobacco, cotton, sugarcane and jute as very important cash crops. The trouble about tobacco is once the grower produces it—Mr. Deputy Speaker you come from that area and you know it very well—that the entire business is in the hands of foreign and Indian monopolies, especially in the hands of foreign monopolies, and the growers and consumers are exploited continuously year after year.

Sir, the tobacco scientists and foreign buyers confirm—although the local buyers say something different and give cock and bull stories—that the quality of our tobacco compares very favourably with the quality of tobacco produced in the States, Rhodesia and other good quality tobacco growing countries. Yet, inspite of this fact, in a recent good year when the tobacco prices did not crash according to the American Agriculture Deptt. bulletin when we see the comparative chart we see what. Our best variety tobacco, viz., flue-cured virginia tobacco which is very well comparable with American and Rhodesian variety, the price fetched is average Rs. 8 per kg. The

prices fetched in Yugoslavia, Italy and Germany, tobacco are Rs. 26, Rs. 28 and Rs. 32 respectively. I have given the complete chart to Tobacco Board. How can we continue? Are we still under the colonial rule that we continue to sell our raw-material for a song and buy their finished products at 4 times or 10 times of the cost?

Unfortunately, the whole business is directly or indirectly controlled by India Tobacco Company and they have a powerful lobby in Delhi operating among politicians as well as civil servants. The number of boys who have been given employment by the ITC in their different branches who are connected with politicians and senior civil servants is a matter which Ministry should find out and exactly gauge how much they are penetrating in their operation. This India Tobacco Company is a veteran economic offender. They were caught doing invoice manipulation. In this case, the manipulation is more done in kind than in cash. They send the best quality of flue-cured virginia tobacco to their sister concerns and invoice them for inferior grade, while for these Indian companies they give the inferior quality tobacco and invoice them for the best quality tobacco. Therefore, there is criss-cross cutting in invoice manipulation. Mr. Agrawal understands it. I expect that the Excise and Agriculture Ministries should keep an eye on this. And they are going in for labour saving devices, retrenching hundreds of people. They are so powerful. Recently there was an election of Vice-Chairman of Tobacco Board. I have nothing against the present Vice-Chairman as such. But the man who was contesting—Mr. Sivalyiah—has been from the very beginning the spokesman of the tobacco growers. He fights vociferously and sincerely. That is what interests me. My point is: What this India Tobacco Company did? The man called Appayya, who is the India Tobacco Company's Chief Executive in Guntur, offered money to one of the members of the Tobacco Board. I would not

mention his name because that man will be in great trouble. If the hon. Minister gives me an assurance that an enquiry in camera is conducted, I can prove that money was offered to that particular member to vote against Mr. Sivaiayya and vote in favour of the man who had been sponsored by the I.T.C.

AN HON. MEMBER: Was Mr. Sivaiayya defeated?

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Mr. Sivaiayya was defeated by one vote. This is how the Indian Tobacco Company is functioning. Therefore, it is a matter which should be taken up and an enquiry be conducted in camera at which I expect I would be able to produce some witnesses. The Minister should see how they are functioning.

Now the question is the Tobacco Board as it is constituted today is very heavily tilted towards speculators, cigarette manufacturers and traders. The Tobacco Board should only have Members of Parliament, Members of the Legislative Assembly, Government representatives, growers' representatives and workers' representatives. It should not have a nucleus body which would be taking decisions. You cannot expect that a tobacco trader, tobacco speculator will come and give decision which will affect his interests. It is heavily tilted towards speculators, tycoons and cigarette manufacturers and in fact the India Tobacco Company totally dominates this. The Public Undertakings Committee has recently made very strongly worded recommendation that no Board of Directors of the public undertakings, no member of the statutory Board should be private businessman because they come to grind their own axe. Their job is to protect their own interests.

Now, about presiding over these statutory boards I have been pointing out to the Government repeatedly that this should be presided over by a person who holds the highest posi-

tion in the warrant of precedence. You have a warrant of precedence well established. How can you allow a man subordinate to him in the warrant of precedence to preside over the meetings when the Members of Parliament are sitting there occupying much higher position? This is a contradiction. This is humiliating. It should not be allowed.

Sir, I understand that you are going to bring a comprehensive Bill and I suggest that there should be six Members of Parliament on the Tobacco Board instead of three—four from this House and two from the other House. There should be M.L.As from the tobacco growing areas also. Another thing is that there is a big cheating. The cost of production of flue-cured virginia tobacco as worked out by the Economics and Statistics Directorate headed by one Mr. Ram Saran, has been done purposely to depress the prices and help the cigarette manufacturers, exporters, importers and speculators. The costing exercise is a fraud. The Agricultural Commission's functioning...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are you correct in regard to the name? I think it is Ram Seshan.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: There is a typing mistake there. He is Mr. Ram Saran.

AN. HON. MEMBER: Anyway there is a word 'Ram'.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: There are 'Aya Rams' and 'Gaya Rams'. Still Ram is there. This Agricultural Price Commission, as it has been revealed in the Public Undertaking Committee's report, where cash crop is involved, is heavily tilted to cover the interests of the industrialists. They are trampling the interests of the growers. Their costing exercise is nothing but a fraud. You go through the jute pricing report; you will know how they are defrauding the

[Shri Jyotirmoy Bdsu]

grower in order to benefit the mill-owner. In the case of tobacco the actual costing done by us shows Rs. 6026 per hectare while they have shown Rs. 5383. In fact it would be more than Rs. 6026; we have hardly included the cost of burn; a burn used for curing tobacco will cost Rs. 10 to 14 thousand depending upon the specifications and structure, the life of the burn, because it has to have an abnormal temperature; it develops cracks, vertical cracks; the life of a burn is about ten years, the cost of the burn, the cost of the land, interest on land value which the grower has put in—these are not taken into consideration, as if the grower will pay for these things out of his pocket to enrich the India Tobacco Company and their friends so that they could diversify from hotel to fishing, leather garments and so on. Empire building is going on at the cost of a tobacco grower. India Tobacco Company's entire prosperity arises out of the robbery committed on the tobacco growers.

I am glad that I was a party to the decision to set up auction platforms. The hon. Minister must make sure that the Government, the Reserve Bank and the nationalised banks give full support to this. Otherwise, it will not be a success. We have particularly suggested that auction should be regulated with the help of electronic clock. The dutch system of auction where bidding starts from the ceiling price and the dial climbs down and unless the buyer is alert and unless he comes with the best price that he is willing to pay, unless he presses the button at the proper time, he misses the bus. The present British system of auctioning in this country of tea, coffee any many other things is out-dated and works against the interest of the growers. The Central Government earns Rs. 500 crores by central excise; this year's budget estimate is Rs. 463 crores. Tobacco growers are much exploited.

There was the devastating cyclone. After that, the price that the tobacco grower received has no parallel in recent history. Tobacco was sold last year at Rs. 1200 a quintal, this year it is being sold at 750—800; the variety of tobacco which was sold at Rs. 600 last year is quoted this year at Rs. 250. I have seen myself that in Nandigama, tobacco is being sold at Rs. 80 a quintal, 80 paise a kilo. Flue-cured tobacco means 5 or 6 kgs. of green leaves because 5-6 kgs of green leaves become one kg. after curing. imagine the grower getting hardly 15 paise for a kg. of green leaf tobacco. This will bring them a windfall profit of about Rs. 40-60 crores this year and it is your duty to ensure that the consumer gets the benefit or the benefit goes to the exchequer. This is a windfall profit which cigarette makers would be making out of the misery of the grower and it should not be allowed to go into private pockets. If they are fair to the consumers the price of cigarette should come down by thirty per cent. It has not come down. The auction platforms should be for all varieties of tobacco in all the tobacco growing areas. You have given an assurance in the election manifesto that you want to protect the interest of agriculturists and therefore you are duty bound to see that growers interests are protected and that they get a remunerative price. Government must come forward to rescue them. Auction platforms should be set up in all the places. Otherwise, your promises and performance will be just the same as it used to be in the previous regime.

Now, the STC is purchasing tobacco after the Government has taken the decision to buy ten thousand metric tonnes of tobacco. I would like to ask, why are they not paying the minimum export price which they have themselves fixed? Why is it that the growers are being fleeced? They have been paid much lower price than what they deserve. This year has been the

worst year. On top of that, if the Government in the name of giving help, throw salt on their wound, it will be most unfortunate.

Then I come to cigar industry. We have recently been to Trichy and we are really surprised to see the neglect and the load that has been put on the cigar industry. The cigar industry is going out of existence because Mr. Agarwal's Ministry has put a heavy excise duty on cigar industry. Cigar industry is entirely in the cottage sector, not even in small sector. I have seen cigar manufacturing unit with two persons and I have seen the largest one with about twelve persons. Therefore, the Government should remove the excise duty on cigar and also insist on the public sector undertakings like ITDC and Air-India and such organisations buying cigars compulsorily from the cottage sector in Trichy. We had recently been to Cooh-Behar and there they produce Metihari and Jathi tobacco. That is meant for chewing with pan and for hukka tobacco.

They have got an accumulation of ninety thousand maunds which is worth more than Rs. 1-1/2 crores.

NAFED man was there, the Director of Tobacco Research Rajahmundry was there. They produce the wrapper tobacco, the best in the country, I would say, the best in the world. It is used for wrapping the cigars. If this ninety thousand maunds of tobacco is allowed to remain unpurchased, the planting season is coming, they will get no incentive to plant and the tobacco crop in that area for the time to come will suffer a lot. I would, therefore, request the hon. Minister to make a note of that and ensure that these difficulties are remedied.

SRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH (Nandyal): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, at the outset, I may thank the hon. Commerce Minister for his coming to the rescue of thousands of farmers, tobacco growers in Andhra Pradesh,

when they were in great distress; not only that, virginia but also the sun cured tobacco, which is largely grown in my constituency. Mr. Jyotirmoy Bosu has made out a very strong cogent argument in favour of bringing a comprehensive bill to protect the interests of the tobacco growers in this country especially in Andhra Pradesh. Unfortunately—it may be accidental or otherwise—since the Janata Party came into power, it is the peasantry and the small farmers who have suffered the most, whether they are the tobacco growers or sugar cane growers or growers of foodgrains, everywhere there is a great blut and the farmers are driven to sell at a distress price and at the same time, the consumers are not getting them at reasonable prices. I do not know where the snag lies. The middlemen are benefited. They are getting the maximum advantage of the whole situation. The entire peasantry throughout this country is very much in distress and they are not able to get remunerative prices.

15.00 hrs.

Coming to this particular commodity, when the original Act was enacted in this Parliament, it was done in haste and it was not comprehensively dealt with all the aspects of tobacco. Of course, Mr. Raghuramaiah took some initiative and he was able to persuade the then Government to enact this Act in this Parliament. But that will no answer all the problems of the tobacco growers. This Act is intended for research and development, to help the growers to grow more and to get some incentives. But that will no answer all the other aspect of the matter that they should be able to sell their tobacco at a remunerative price so that they will be able to get some money. This year what happened is most distressing. Cyclones have hit areas where Virginia tobacco is grown. In sun-cured tobacco areas, the farmers were not able to grow other crops because of various considerations like high

[Shri P. Venkatasubbiah]

cost of seeds of groundnuts and other commercial crops. So, they had to resort to tobacco growing. In my district last year's production was only 16 million kg. This year it has gone up to 40 million kg. It was unfortunate that there was only one company which was monopolising the whole purchase. The farmers were left at their mercy. They were purchasing only to a limited extent and other private traders did not enter the field because it was a buyer's market this year. That unhappy position remained and there were distress sales. There were bandhs and demonstrations. Ultimately the Commerce Minister came to Hyderabad and was able to do something. But that was not enough.

Mr. Bosu was telling us that even when the STC entered the market, they were asked to purchase at the market price. The market price can be manipulated according to the whims and fancies of the monopolists. Market price is not the criterion. Remunerative price must be the criterion, whether it is purchased by a private company or government agency. Also, whether it is STC or any other agency it is not fully equipped to purchase the tobacco. They have got their own shortcomings, administrative and infrastructural. I feel even this amending Bill is not adequate. Either this Bill should be sent to a Select Committee or the minister should come forward with a comprehensive Bill. This amending Bill will not be able to solve the entire problem. It is only tinkering with a small percentage of the problem. So, even now the minister will do well to withdraw the Bill and come forward with a comprehensive Bill or refer it to a Select Committee. Many things have to be thrashed out. This is an export-oriented commodity. About Rs. 105 crores of foreign exchange are being earned by exporting this commodity and Rs. 400 crores of central excise duty is being collected. This is not an ordinary

commodity. So, the minister should bring a comprehensive Bill. Mr. Bosu has given an amendment with regard to the setting up of a Tobacco Trading Corporation. But I feel it should be an integral part of the entire Act itself. If that can be done, I think all the other aspects of this commodity will be dealt with.

Another important matter is how the growers are being affected. Mr. Bosu did not mention about foreign countries which are purchasing tobacco from us. Among the principal buyers is the USSR. From the time they started purchasing—not this year alone but even before—they have not been willing to entrust it to the STC. Their middlemen are trying to operate it in a way which is advantageous to their own party. I do not know whether this minister will be able to break this. Out of 22,000 tonnes covered by the protocol, STC was given only 1200 tonnes. The rest have gone to private traders. Can't you persuade these socialist government to see that the purchases they make are routed through STC or other government agencies? I would like to put that question to the hon. Minister.

Another thing is that about the headquarters. Mr. Dharia, the Commerce Minister, has said that he has no intention to shift the headquarters from Guntur to anywhere outside Andhra Pradesh. But unfortunately it is not put in the amending Bill. Of course, I have got great confidence in the assurance given by Mr. Dharia on the floor of the House. But whatever assurance he has given, nothing prevents him from putting it into this Act. What prevents him to say that the headquarters of the Tobacco Board is situated in Andhra Pradesh? Of course, he said that Guntur is not accessible in terms of communication. So, it may be changed to Hyderabad or some other place. But nothing prevents him from stating specifically in the Act that the

headquarters of this Tobacco Board will be situated in Andhra Pradesh. I hope he will make the amendment in such a manner as to give complete confidence—it is not as though we have no confidence in the hon. Minister, we have got complete confidence, but if it is not clearly stated in the Act, it may be interpreted in any manner according to the changing circumstances. So, I request him to do that.

Coming to the last point, I would request the hon. Minister that in regard to such commercial commodities which are export oriented, the growers must have some sort of an insurance, some sort of a security. For this purpose, may I suggest to him that in consultation with the Ministry of Agriculture, why don't they introduce the crop insurance so far as this tobacco commodity is concerned? After all, it is grown in a very selected and limited area, there won't be any operational difficulty in putting this Act into force. Why does he not experiment it and have this crop insurance so far as this tobacco is concerned because it is export oriented and you will be giving security to the farmers also?

About excise duty, there is a great imbalance. Regardless of the quality and the price of the commodity, the excise duty is the same. In one case, if the price is one rupee a K.G., the excise duty is working out to Rs. 4.50p. So there is a disparity. I would only appeal to the hon. Minister that the excise duty should vary with the quality and the price it gets. So, I hope the Finance Ministry whose representatives are here, should look into the matter. If the farmers are not able to sell away their produce, they have to pay heavy excise duty or they will be prosecuted. In this context, I once again request the hon. Minister not to go forward with this Bill. Please refer it to a Joint Committee and if you examine all the aspects of the matter, about repre-

sentation, about the functioning, about the Chairman, his status, and who should head the Tobacco Board, all these factors have been very well brought out by Mr. Jyotirmoy Bosu and I hope that he should bear this in mind.

About the headquarters in Andhra Pradesh, about this particular section he must amend it even now to say that the headquarters of the Tobacco Board will be in Andhra Pradesh and it shall continue to remain for some time in Guntur and it can be anywhere in Andhra Pradesh. Of Course if this is done, he will be able to satisfy the aspirations of the Tobacco growers in Andhra Pradesh and also he will live up to the promise which he made yesterday on the floor of the House.

श्री लक्ष्मी नारायण नायक (खजूराहो):
वाणिज्य मंत्री महोदय ने तम्बाकू बोर्ड संशोधन विधेयक जो प्रस्तुत किया है उस सम्बन्ध में मैं अपने कुछ सुझाव देना चाहता हूँ ।

इस विधेयक में केवल गुजरात को ही लिया गया है कि वहां पर वर्जीनिया तम्बाकू के भलाबा और भी तम्बाकू होती है, इसलिए वहां का प्रतिनिधि इस बोर्ड में लिया जाए । मध्य प्रदेश, उत्तर प्रदेश, बिहार आदि ऐसे कई प्रदेश हैं जहां पर तम्बाकू का उत्पादन होता है । तो मैं मंत्री जी से कहूंगा कि यहां के प्रतिनिधियों को भी उस में शामिल किया जाय । इसका किसानों से बड़ा तालुक है । जो तम्बाकू पैदा होती है वह सभी जमीन में पैदा नहीं होती बल्कि खास जमीन में ही होती है । जहां खारी बारी है वहीं तम्बाकू पैदा होती है । कहीं कहीं तो किसान को भजबूरन ही उस जगह पर तम्बाकू लगानी पड़ती है क्योंकि दूसरी बीज पैदा ही नहीं हो सकती है । जो तम्बाकू अधिकारी हैं उनका किसानों के साथ अच्छा व्यवहार नहीं है

[श्री लक्ष्मी नारायण नामक]

क्योंकि वह समझते हैं कि हम केन्द्रीय सरकार के कर्मचारी हैं। उनके बारे में बार-बार शिकायत की गई लेकिन उन शिकायतों को ध्यान नहीं दिया गया। एक तो जितना उन पर टेक्स नहीं होता उससे ज्यादा किसानों से वसूल होता है। दूसरे यह कि जो किसान अपने उपयोग के लिये ही तम्बाकू लगाते हैं, बेचते नहीं हैं, कितनी जमीन पर वह इस काम के लिए तम्बाकू लगा सकते हैं इसका निर्णय होना चाहिये ताकि उन किसानों से टेक्स वसूल न हो। मैं आशा करता हूँ कि मंत्री जी अपने जवाबी वक्तव्य में इस बात को बतायें कि कितनी जमीन ऐसी रखी गई है जिसमें किसान अपने उपयोग के लिये तम्बाकू लगायें तो उसमें छूट है ? है छूट, लेकिन वह छूट दी नहीं जाती है। इसलिए मैं चाहता हूँ कि सदन में इसकी घोषणा होनी चाहिये कि अपने उपयोग के लिये लगायी गई तम्बाकू पर कोई टैक्स न हो।

इस बिल में नीलामी मंच के लिये कहा गया है ताकि बेचने और खरीदने वालों को कोई दिक्कत न हो। मैं देखता हूँ कि हर चीज जो बनायी जाती है वह विक्रेता और खरीददार को सुविधा के लिए बनायी जाती है। लेकिन आखिर में नतीजा यह निकलता है कि परेशानी बहुत होती है। तो मैं चाहता हूँ कि जो नीलामी मंच बनाये जाय वह ठीक ढंग से बनाये जायें ताकि विक्रेता और खरीददार को कोई दिक्कत न हो और ज्यादा फीस न ली जाय, क्योंकि इतना खर्चा लगा दिया जाता है कि किसान और खरीददार परेशान हो जाते हैं और वह कहते हैं कि कौनसी प्राकृत का प्रह्ला बना दिया गया। इसलिये जो सुविधा की दृष्टि से बनाया जाय वहाँ सुविधा ही मिले और विक्रेता और खरीददार को कोई परेशानी न हो।

दूसरी तम्बाकू भी पैदा होती है। आजकल ज्यादा सब लोग तम्बाकू के बारे में ज्यादा ध्यान नहीं देते, समझते हैं कि यह तो नमीली चीज है। लेकिन फिर भी किसान के लिए वह व्यापार की चीज है। तो इस और भी मंत्री जी ध्यान दें कि इसके व्यापार में जहाँ तरक्की हो खेती में तरक्की हो वहाँ किसानों को ज्यादा सुविधा देनी चाहिये। उनकी दिक्कतें दूर करनी चाहिये ताकि वह अपनी जमीन में तम्बाकू पैदा करके फायदा कमा सकें। फायदा ज्यादा नहीं होता है, मजदूर न ही उस जमीन में तम्बाकू बोनी पड़ती है क्योंकि दूसरी चीज नहीं हो सकती है। इसलिये उनकी मजदूरी का नाजायज फायदा न उठा सकें, बल्कि किसानों को फायदा हो, जैसे गन्ना और गेहूँ आदि फसलों में होता है, इस प्रकार की व्यवस्था होनी चाहिये। जिस तरह से केन्द्रीय सरकार के और भी अधिकारी हैं उसी तरह से तम्बाकू विभाग के अधिकारी किसानों को परेशान न कर सकें इस बात को भी आपको देखना चाहिये, यही मुझे कहना है।

SHRI A. BALA PAJANOR (Pondicherry): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I don't think only Members from the tobacco-growing areas should participate in the discussions on this Bill. I think such considerations, viz., whether a person uses tobacco or whether it is grown in his state, should not be the consideration for calling a Member to speak. Some people are for chewing the tobacco, and others are for smoking it. I think that in this country, if smoking is going to be prohibited, this Board also will go out. Mr. Jyotirmoy Bosu's suggestion was that there must be a comprehensive bill on this subject. I think the hon. Minister will agree that it may be referred to a Select Committee, instead of now having amended it piecemeal, and then, after some time, further amended. I am saying this for the simple reason if you see

the Statement of Objects and Reasons, this Bill was passed sometime in 1975 and came into effect on the 1st January 1976. That means with hardly two years of experience you are finding it very difficult to work it and so many difficulties have come up. I do not agree with the statement that you have come across so many difficulties within such a short period. The Board must have been given a longer time to come to a conclusion. That is why at the outset I suggest that you give it some time, refer it to a Select Committee, or have a comprehensive Bill which we can discuss in a better manner.

I have a feeling that this idea that because a particular State is growing a larger quantity of a particular commodity, so the headquarters of the Board should be situated in that State is not a correct principle. Tomorrow the Members of Parliament from UP may claim "we have a majority; so, the Parliament must come to UP". This principle will lead to such conclusions. We view this country as a whole and we look at this problem as between grower and consumer and buyer and seller.

I am grateful to Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu for his participation in the discussion on this Bill. I have never seen Churchill smoking the cigar except in pictures. That cigar is produced in Tiruchi. Though these people supply cigar to the Prime Minister of England, they are in a pitiable condition. This is the position of the producers of cigar in Tiruchi, which is in Tamil Nadu.

Sir, since you also come from our side, you know that in Madras the Sivapuri tobacco is famous. It is grown in Chidambaram, Trichinopoly and Coimbatore. Similarly, you are taking tobacco from Gujarat for making bids or to have cigars. Therefore, if you locate your centre at a place where everything is available, you will be concentrating it at big places, forgetting the small man. So, I am not for it.

Apart from that, may be today one State is growing more tobacco. Tomorrow Tamil Nadu may overtake it. So, a particular place must not be mentioned in the Act for the maintenance of the headquarters of the Board. Today Kerala is the principal producer of cashew and coir. But that should not give them the prerogative to have the headquarters of the Board in that State. In that case, Pondicherry, which is a small State, will have the prerogative for a headquarters in the case of Indian made whisky, though we have not come to that stage yet.

When we enact or amend an Act in this Parliament, we must have a long-range view, say for 15 or 20 years. Now you have come forward with an amendment after two years of experience. If tomorrow Shri Mohan Dharia hand over this portfolio to some other Minister, he will anticipate some other difficulty and come forward with some other amendments. Then the amendments would become actually bigger than the Act. So, it is better to have a comprehensive Bill which provides for all contingencies.

I do not want to repeat the points made by other Members. There is the question of loot by private people, agents and middlemen. That can be controlled only by the State Government.

You have referred to the auction platform and other things. But you are having "not more than two persons"; that is the suggestion given by the Government in this Bill. I understand that Rs. 100 crores worth of tobacco is being exported. I do not know how far my figure is correct. In that case, what is your percentage? You have stated in the Financial Memorandum that you will require Rs. 8 lakhs to set up the building for the Board and the auction platform and the recurring expenditure is Rs. 4 lakhs per year. It comes to

[Shri A. Bala Pajanon]

Rs. 12 lakhs in the beginning. If the export is to the tune of Rs. 100 crores, you will get Rs. 200 lakhs from that. Are you going to make some other additional income? Otherwise, your statement is incorrect. The Minister has to clarify the position as to what is the amount you are going to get. That portion of it I fail to see in the statements attached to the Bill.

Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu made a learned speech on the subject I do appreciate it because it is a question of the industry going to dogs, especially the people who are involved in the cigarette industry. Mr. George Fernandes and other Ministers of the Janata Government, I am sure they are very sincere, want us to go back to the villages. Actually, all of us have come only from the villages though some may behave as if they have come from Washington or London. But if we consider the cigarette, dairy and allied industries to be small or cottage industries, how are we to help them? A Bill like this can help them also, and so I go back to my first suggestion.

Supposing we pass this Bill today, it will become an Act shortly, but you have to contemplate this Board setting up a certain number of cottage and rural-based industries. That is the reason I spoke sarcastically about smoking in the beginning. Under the Cigarette Bill—I had occasion to participate in the discussion on that Bill in the previous Lok Sabha—you have stated that it is necessary to mention "Dangerous to Health". But don't say it is dangerous to grow tobacco. Tomorrow an amendment may come saying that the Board must exhibit a big board in their office stating that it is dangerous to grow tobacco, because it is from tobacco that we get cigarettes and it is dangerous to smoke.

So, what you have got in mind should be clear. What is your policy, what is your programme? I am sure the Commerce Minister has a very definite plan in his mind. I know the plan was framed long ago, but he is

not coming out with it, and I also know why he is not coming out with it. I hope he will come out with a comprehensive plan for the future. If you are going to implement, it will be good. Otherwise, as in the case of hundreds of Acts which we are passing, nothing will be implemented.

SHRI K. SURYANARAYANA (Eluru): I do not want to take much time as other friends have already spoken, but I am a grower of tobacco, particularly Virginia tobacco, and I want that the interest of the country tobacco growers should also be protected by this Bill.

This Act was passed long ago and it came into force on 1st January, 1976. We had great hopes that on account of the Tobacco Board all the growers would be benefited, but things have not been to our satisfaction.

Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu and Shri Ankinudu Prasada Rao represent the Lok Sabha on the Board. They have made certain proposals. I would request the Government to give due consideration to them. They say there is no hurry, the heavens are not going to fall.

In the Statement of Objects and Reasons in this Bill they have given the reasons for changing the head office of the Board from Guntur to Hyderabad, but we are not agreeable to that. After hearing the Minister in the Consultative Committee, several friends came to me in my area and district. The six coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh grow Virginia tobacco. My district and my constituency is the biggest grower. If the Board's head office is changed from Guntur to Hyderabad, the small grower cannot go and represent to the Board. That is the idea of having the head office in Guntur that it meets the convenience of the growers.

It is said in the Statement of Objects and Reasons:

"Sub Section (3) of Section 4 of the Act has specifically designated

Guntur in the State of Andhra Pradesh as the place where the head office of the Board is to be located. Guntur is a very important centre from the point of view of production and marketing of virginia tobacco which is the most important exportable variety grown in the country. However, this place has no direct rail or air link with either New Delhi or the capitals of other tobacco producing States in the country." They can have branches of the Board in other places like Tea Board or Coffee Board. So, the object of this Bill does not meet the needs of the growers. The big traders who are exploiting the growers, have managed to shift this office from Guntur. The Government is very lenient towards the big traders. I do not want to blame the Government but the whole bureaucracy is lenient towards the traders. If Mohan Dhariaji gives full thought to this, he will agree that change of headquarter is not at all necessary. If the headquarter is changed to Hyderabad, how will the tobacco growers sell their tobacco and how will they go there? Even though you have started it through STC, do you mean to say that the growers are going to be benefited? Do you mean to say that the entire production will be routed through STC? If the entire tobacco trade is taken over by the STC, then we will accept your bonafides. Now, we have got our doubts that this Government has got lenient policy towards the traders. I request the Government to bring forward a comprehensive Bill. I support the viewpoints of my friends who have spoken on this Bill and I request the Government not to rush through this Bill and change this section or that. Even without this Act you have got powers to make rules.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: I may submit, let this Bill be passed straightway. Otherwise, the virginia tobacco growers in Karnataka, particularly in Hansur district and auction platforms will be affected, because the next crop is coming very soon.

Later on, he should come with a comprehensive Bill.

SHRI K. SURYANARAYANA: So, before the end of the session, he should bring forward a comprehensive Bill in consultation with the tobacco growing States and in consultation with the Members of Parliament from those states. Otherwise, I will presume the old bureaucracy is being continued in your regime also.

I request you not to change the headquarter from Guntur because 80 per cent of the growers are roundabout Guntur. How much time, you take to go from airport to city in Bombay? How much time do you take from going to city from the airport in Calcutta? It is three hours. For going to Guntur it will not take that much time. As far as rail line is concerned, Vijayawada is the best place as compared to Hyderabad. So, it is not a good argument for shifting the office. Let there be some other argument, for shifting the office.

Take, for example, the cooperative sugar factories. No officer is coming to cooperative sugar factories in rural areas. In the same manner the Tobacco Board officers are keeping their camp office in Hyderabad. So I would request the hon. Minister to clear outdoubts. In the interest of the growers the board office must be in Guntur. I support the cause of small growers. Big traders are interfering in the working of the Board. To avoid all these things, only the growers, the Central Government, the Members of Parliament and, if necessary, the State Governments and also the MLAs may be given representation in the Board, not the traders.

With these words, I support the Bill but I would request that hon. Minister to come forward with a comprehensive Bill before this session is over.

श्री राम लोचक हजारी (संसदा) :
उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, तम्बाकू बोर्ड (संशोधन)
विधेयक जो कि इस सदन के सामने प्रस्तुत

[श्री राम सेवक हजारी]

किया गया है उसका समर्थन करते हुए मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि वे मेरे सुझावों पर विचार करते हुए, पिछले तीस वर्षों में उत्तर भारत की जो उपेक्षा की गई है उसकी धोर अपना व्यक्तिगत ध्यान दें। बर्जीनिया तम्बाकू की बात कही जा रही है धीरे-धीरे कहा गया कि गुप्टर में इसका हेड आफिस हो, उस से हमारा कोई ऐतराज नहीं है लेकिन जरा पीछे की धोर भी दृष्टि डाली जाये। मैं जिस क्षेत्र से आता हूँ वहाँ पर केबल एक विधान सभा क्षेत्र से प्रति वर्ष सरकार को 13 लाख रुपया तम्बाकू पर टैक्स के रूप में मिलता है। वहाँ पर दलसिंह सराय, सहपुर बटोरी, ताजपुर आदि कई ऐसी जगहें हैं जहाँ पर अग्निशोका के समय में तम्बाकू प्रोसेसिंग प्लांट लगे हुए थे। अग्निशोका के जमाने में ही वहाँ पर कुछ लेबर ट्यूबल हुई थी लेकिन उस के बाद से उन प्लांट्स को बिल्कुल समाप्त ही कर दिया गया। वहाँ के प्लांट वहाँ से उठ कर आंध्र प्रदेश में गुप्टर की धोर जा रहे हैं। उस समय वहाँ पर चार हजार मजदूर लगे हुए थे। आप समझ सकते हैं कि इस प्रकार से लगभग 25 हजार लोगों का भरण-पोषण होता था लेकिन वहाँ की मशीनें उठकर आंध्र प्रदेश जा रही हैं। इसके अतिरिक्त किसानों के लाभ के लिए वहाँ पर जो रिसर्च इंस्टीट्यूट खोलना चाहिए था वह भी नहीं खोला गया। सरकार का एक छोटा सा कार्यालय पूसा फार्म में है। वहाँ के किसानों न इस कार्यालय से सम्पर्क स्थापित किया धोर उन्होंने मंत्री जी को भी आवेदन दिया।

सरकार के एक अधिकारी दल का पूसा फार्म जाने का प्रोग्राम था। दलसिंह सराय में सैकड़ों किसान उन से बात करने के लिए खड़े हुए थे लेकिन उस दल को दलसिंह

सराय में न उतार कर बटोरी में उतारा गया धीरे-धीरे पूसा फार्म पर ले जाया गया। उधर सैकड़ों किसान अपनी कठिनाई सुनाने के लिये खड़े रहे परन्तु अधिकारी वहाँ पर नहीं रुके। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि किसानों की जो कठिनाइयाँ हैं धीरे-धीरे बेरोजगारी की समस्या है उसको देखते हुए, वहाँ पर जो प्रोसेसिंग प्लांट चल रहे थे उनको फिर से चालू करवाने के लिए, वे केन्द्रीय अफसरों का एक दल बनाकर वहाँ भेजें। वह दल वहाँ पर जाकर देखें कि तम्बाकू की कौती खोती हो रही है। मुजफ्फरपुर, समस्तीपुर आदि सभी इलाकों में तम्बाकू की खोती होती है। जब से प्रोसेसिंग प्लांट हटा दिए गए हैं, किसानों के सामने बड़ी कठिनाई आ गई है। मंत्री जी को मालूम होगा कि हमारे यहाँ रामपुर (ज्लाक वारिस नगर) की तम्बाकू कलकत्ता की मार्केट में जाकर बिकती है। प्रति वर्ष 13 लाख रुपया सरकार को वहाँ से तम्बाकू पर टैक्स के रूप में मिलता है लेकिन आज तक न तो वहाँ पर कोई सड़क ही बनी है, न कोई स्टेट ट्यूबवैल लगाया गया है धीरे-धीरे न ही किसानों की सुविधा के लिये कोई अन्य कार्य हुए हैं। वहाँ उन को बचाने के लिए कोई व्यवस्था नहीं थी, जिस से बहुत नुकसान हुआ।

यह ठीक है कि आप हैड आफिस हो वहाँ से उठाकर गुप्टर ले जा रहे हैं, लेकिन मैं आप से इतना ही निवेदन करना चाहूँगा कि उत्तर भारत की आवश्यकता को देखते हुए, आप उस तरफ भी अपना कार्यालय खोलिये, ताकि वहाँ के किसानों की कठिनाइयों को भी दूर किया जा सके। आप ने बहुत ज्यादा टैकन बढ़ा दिया है, किसान जो मेहनत करता है, परेशानी उठाता है, इन टैक्सों के बड़ जाने से अब मजदूर ही कर तम्बाकू की खोती को छोड़ता जा रहा है।

इसके एक्सपोर्ट से आप को बहुत आमदनी होती है। मेरे पास बीड़ी की एक्सपोर्ट के आंकड़े हैं—यह 27 दिसम्बर 1976 का “विजनस स्टण्ड” है, इसके अनुसार 1971 में 14.5 लाख का एक्सपोर्ट हुआ, 1972 में 16.1 लाख का, 1973 में 14.8 लाख का, 1974 में 18.4 लाख का और 1975 में 20.7 लाख रुपये का एक्सपोर्ट हुआ। जहाँ सरकार को इतनी आमदनी हुई, वहाँ सरकार को किसानों की सुविधा के लिये, किसानों के विकास के लिये जो खर्च करना चाहिए था, वह नहीं किया गया। मैं सरकार से आग्रह करना चाहता हूँ कि गूट्टर हेड-याफिन ले जाने के साथ उत्तर भारत के लोगों का जो प्रतिनिधित्व होना चाहिए था, किसानों का और लोक सभा के सदस्यों का जो प्रतिनिधित्व होना चाहिए था, वह नहीं हो सका। आस है आफिस गूट्टर उठा कर ले गये हैं उसका विरोध नहीं करता, लेकिन उत्तर भारत में भी अपनी कार्यालय खालिए, जिसमें वहाँ के किसानों का अधिक से अधिक सुविधा प्रदान की जा सके, उनको कठिनाईयों का दूर किया जा सके। वहाँ पर रिसर्च इन्स्टीट्यूट खालिए, ताकि किसानों का, जो बहुत पुगने जमाने से तम्बाकू बॉते चले आ रहे हैं, उनका एक नई दिशा दी जा सके।

वहाँ पर जो प्रोसेसिंग प्लांट लगा हुआ था, उसकी तरफ मैं आप का ध्यान विशेष रूप से दिलाना चाहता हूँ, वह अब समाप्त हो चुका है। मैं चाहता हूँ कि यहाँ से एक केन्द्रीय दल भेज कर आप उस को छान-बीन कराइये। बहुत सी मशीनें वहाँ से चली गई हैं, कुछ चर्बा हुई है—मेरा आग्रह है कि जो चर्बा हुई है, उन को आपूर्ति कर के उस प्लांट को फिर से चलाया जाय, ताकि वहाँ के चार-पांच जिलों में जो बेरोजगारी की समस्या पैदा हो गई है, वह दूर हो सके और लोगों को काम मिल सके। मैं आशा करता हूँ कि मंत्री जी इस पर

विचार करेंगे और इस दिशा में शीघ्र ही कोई आवश्यक कदम उठावेंगे।

SHRI P. K. KODIYAN (Adoor):
Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I feel that the proposals made by the Government through this amending Bill are of a piece-meal nature. The main problem that confronts the tobacco growers is the steep fall in prices of their produce and the lack of proper machinery to purchase tobacco at reasonable prices. Just now, the hon. Member Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu had pointed out how the tobacco companies both Indian and foreign, had squeezed the tobacco growers. There are several methods for doing it. I do not want to go into details. They deliberately delay the purchasing operations. Secondly, they refuse to lift all the stock. Thirdly, they fix lower grade even for higher grade of tobacco and offer very low prices. As a result of this, the tobacco growers, this year, especially the small growers have been forced to sell their produce at throw away prices. This year the tobacco was selling at Rs. 350—400 less than the price at which it was sold in the previous year.

Under these circumstances, especially in the absence of a purchasing machinery, the tobacco growers are forced to resort to distress sale. Not only tobacco growers but the peasants engaged in the production of other commercial crops also like cotton and jute are suffering like this. There was a steep fall in the price of cotton. At the moment when the peasants require remunerative prices and they are forced to sell their produce at throwaway prices, at that critical moment the government machinery fails to intervene. That is the main point I want to bring out here. Now the hon. Minister has asked the STC to enter the market and purchase the tobacco from the growers. He had asked the STC to enter the market some months back. But they did not accept the suggestion in the beginning and after having accepted the suggestion, they deliberately delayed entering into agreement with the co-

[Shri P. K. Kodiyan]

operative societies concerned. The growers and particularly small growers cannot hold back their produce for long. So, by the time the Government machinery intervenes, they would have been forced to sell at throwaway prices. Therefore, the very purpose of intervention by a government agency was scuttled, that purpose was defeated. And what is the guarantee, I would like to ask the hon. Minister, that in future, the STC or other governmental agencies which are entrusted with this job would rush to the aid of the growers at the critical moment. That is what has been lacking all these years, whether it is jute or cotton or tobacco.

I would like to request the Hon. Minister at least now to instruct the State Trading Corporation to purchase all the stocks lying with the peasants—both FCT variety as well as the various kinds of country tobacco. I would also request the Hon. Minister that the country tobacco should be brought within the purview of the operation of the Tobacco Board.

I would also like to request the Minister to explore the desirability or the feasibility of the Tobacco Board itself entering the market, by having a trading wing in the Tobacco Board, if the proposal to have a separate Tobacco Trading Corporation is not found feasible. This will help, I think, in eliminating the middleman from the market.

I would request the Hon. Minister to take necessary steps to provide all necessary and timely help, financial as well as technical, to the Tobacco growers. Representation on the Tobacco Board, as it is constituted today, is heavily tilted in favour of the tobacco industry and traders. Out of the 21 Members of the Tobacco Board, I think only three represent the farmers. The Tobacco Board itself has been constituted primarily with the aim of helping the growers and yet, they are the section which is least represented. I would therefore plead

with the Minister to consider the proposal that tobacco growers and particularly small growers, i.e., those who are cultivating one acre or two acres, should be given more representation. I agree with the suggestion that more MPs and more MLAs should be taken in the Board but along with that more farmers also should be taken and at least 50 per cent of its representation should go to farmers who actually produce tobacco.

Now, coming to the suggestion made in the amending Bill regarding shifting of headquarters, I am sorry to remark that the arguments put forward by the Hon. Minister for shifting the headquarters at a future date from Guntur to some other place, are flimsy. I never thought that the Minister would come forward with such flimsy and silly arguments—as if the main troubles in cultivation were due to the location of the headquarters of the Tobacco Board in a place called Guntur which is away from the main railway-line and away from the airport. The Board, as I have already pointed out, is for the benefit of the growers. So it is immaterial whether or not the headquarters is located at a place having air-links and rail-links. Do the growers, the poor farmers, want to go to the headquarters by plane? This is only in the interest of the bureaucracy; the bureaucracy wants to be in a capital city where all facilities are available—like three-star or five-star hotels—and where there will be no prohibition also. I am sorry that the Hon. Minister was so much carried away by the arguments of the bureaucrats who want to enjoy themselves at the cost of the farmers.

SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU (Chittoor): Sir, instead of doing good to the farmers, the Government have done a great mistake. They have landed the farmers in trouble and they have taken measures which indirectly helped the traders. The Government introduced the voucher system and the check system so that traders may be controlled, but the

Government has not thought of the strength of the vested interests and the traders. They retaliated, and the Government had to come down and compromise with them, at least temporarily. Tomorrow also it may happen: rather it will certainly happen—and again they will retaliate. Therefore, what I would say is that unless there is competition and unless Government purchases tobacco through STC to the extent of at least 25,000 metric tons, it is not possible to compete with these traders who have financial strength.

The other thing is that, while I am glad that the Government has given thought to the suggestion of installing auction platforms, I would like to say that if auction platforms are established, there must be infrastructure also—that is, warehouses and branches of banks etc., so as to help the agriculturists. When they get the tobacco, they have to put the tobacco in warehouses. The banks have to help them by giving loans so that they may have the capacity to hold on and sell tobacco at their will.

There is another thing. Now there is a difference between the farm grading and the export grading. There should not be this dual grading. Farm grading must be accepted and recognised as export grading. For that purpose, the Tobacco Board must be empowered to have grading centres in the villages and the farm grading must be simplified and must be recognised as export grading.

The Tobacco Development Council, Quality Control Department and Research and Development Institute are established separately. If they are merged with Tobacco Board, and if the Board is empowered to discharge all the duties and functions of these organizations, the work will be properly coordinated and there will be better functioning.

At present, as my hon. friend has already said, there is no proper representation of the farmers on the Board. The percentage of their rep-

resentation must be increased. Not only that, the Chairman must be a farmer, because it is only a farmer who can protect the interest of farmers.

With regard to the price, the STC has been asked to buy tobacco at market price. The market price may be very low, therefore, the STC must be commanded or ordered to buy tobacco at remunerative price fixed by the Government.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please try to conclude now.

SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: I would like to make one more suggestion. Curing process is a complicated one. A new process has now been found out by Prof. Chou of the Agricultural Research Station, Washington DC. As per his experiments, even the small leaf can be cured and it will have very good colour. It is, therefore important that we should get the results of this experiments and make use of the new process in our country also.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are going outside the orbit of the Bill; please confine yourself to the Bill.

SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: With regard to the headquarters I would request the hon. Minister to come with an amendment as per his assurance that it will be located in Andhra Pradesh and nowhere else. That is all I have to say.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: I want to ask a question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is a process to start a speech. Will you please resume your seat?

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: It is just a simple question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can speak in the third reading. I would request the hon. Members not to be frivolous when the Minister is replying on a serious subject which they have raised themselves.

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND (IVIL SUPPLIES AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA): I am grateful to the hon. Members for their contribution and at the outset I would very much like to say that I would have been pleased to bring a comprehensive Bill before the House because the present Tobacco Board Act empowers the Board to look after the virginia tobacco and not the other tobacco like the country tobacco.

Out of a total production of 430,000 tonnes in our country, the virginia tobacco produced is of the order of 95,000 tonnes and in case we want to expand the activities of the Tobacco Board, we shall have to change the very structure of the Tobacco Board as it stands to-day. And for this purpose, this House will be happy to know that I have already constituted a committee to go into the various aspects. The terms of the experts group are as follows:

"(1) To make an assessment of the total domestic as well as the export demand for bidi tobacco and other types of non-virginia tobacco during the Sixth Plan period and to recommend on that basis the production targets for different types of non-virginia tobacco and also the areas to be put under such tobacco in various States yearwise during the Sixth Plan period.

(2) To examine the present system of marketing and processing of bidi tobacco and to recommend measures which would improve the marketing system so as to ensure, *inter alia*, that the growers receive a fair price for their produce and also to receive payments in cash....

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBIAH: Does it include bidi tobacco?

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: Yes, it includes.

In the same context, the Group will also examine the feasibility of introducing a system of standard grades either at the farm level or at the stage of marketing of the processed bidi tobacco.

It will further examine the feasibility of introducing a system for regulating effectively the marketing of bidi tobacco either through auctions or otherwise.

To examine the credit requirements of the bidi industry for purchase of bill tobacco and to recommend an appropriate credit policy for the purpose.

They will also examine the cost structure of the bidi industry with a view to determining the capacity of the industry to pay for the bidi tobacco of the different types, the price of *Tendu* leaves and the incidence of the excise duty.

The Group will also recommend a representative wholesale price for bidis which could form the basis for working the fair price of the bidi tobacco after considering the cost of production of bidi tobacco and the incidence of cost of bidi tobacco in the bidis.

It will be open to the Experts' Group to constitute one or more sub-groups as it may consider appropriate.

The Experts Group shall submit its report within a period of six months."

Regarding the composition of the Experts Group, Mr. Kaul, the Additional Secretary is the Chairman and we have several experts on the group. Here I have suggested to Mr. Jyotirmoy Bosu to discuss with . . . if one or more experts can be added for which I have no objection...

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBIAH: Members of Parliament should also be included.

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: That could be done. I am prepared to discuss.

SHRI P. ANKINEEDU PRASADA RAO (Bapatla): There is another variety of tobacco. Sun-cured tobacco and not fire-cured tobacco. I want to know whether it will also be covered by this export group.

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: It will cover all types of tobacco except virginia tobacco. I know what the hon. Members says and I will include that also.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Why do you exclude virginia tobacco?

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: I am not excluding. The Tobacco Board is taking up that thing.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: I think it is better to have a comprehensive job done because it is very vital thing.

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: I am prepared for that suggestion also.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think instead of interrupting the Minister at every stage, if you all note down your points, you can ask for clarifications at the end. Otherwise, this will not help the process of debate.

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: I am prepared to take the whole of the tobacco into consideration by this Experts Group. It is on the basis of their recommendation that we can have a comprehensive Bill.

16.00 hrs.

Then the House can ask me—why this haste? The reason is obvious. As was stated by my friend Sri Jyotirmoy Bosu who is also a Member of the Tobacco Board, the present Act does not empower the Tobacco Board to have its own auction platforms and to have that authority of auctioneering. Under the circumstances if that authority is not given and if the board is not empowered, it will not

be possible for us to render justice to the producers right from the next season which is to commence within these two or three months. Under the circumstances if we delay, we shall be losing one more year. Therefore, I may appeal to the House, I do accept, I do concede that the comprehensive Bill is very much necessary. But in the meantime to take proper care of the virginia tobacco and empower the Tobacco Board, this Bill will be helpful.

Madam, it has also been stated here why representation has been given to Gujarat. I would like to again clarify the point that out of the total production of tobacco...

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBIAH (Nandyal): We have no quarrel.

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: I would like to narrate the figures of production:

Andhra Pradesh 1,33,500 tonnes of tobacco in 1976-77

Gujarat	1,64,000 "
Karnataka	25,700 "

So far as other States are concerned they produce less than 20,000 tonnes. So, naturally these are the three big States and the representation has been given to Andhra, Karnataka and Gujarat which produce the highest. There is no permanent representation to Gujarat.

So far as other States are concerned, they are also having representation but only by rotation. In case we say that every State should be given representation, then the Board itself will become bulky. It is under these circumstances we felt that it is necessary that this injustice should be cured. So, that is the reason why Gujarat has been incorporated as a permanent representative.

A suggestion has been made regarding the prices to be paid particularly this year by the S.T.C. Two

[Shri Mohan Dharia]

operations were made by S.T.C. 5000 tonnes on commercial basis and the other of 10,000 tonnes of tobacco which we asked them to have it afterwards with a view to meet the present challenge.

So far as these 10,000 tonnes are concerned, here the instructions were specific. The purchases were to be made either directly from the producers/growers or their co-operatives and not from the traders. So naturally there is no problem and I would like to tell the House today that all these transactions are over and actual possession of tobacco will be taken by 15th of August, 1978. So, this 10,000 tonnes will be purchased by the S.T.C. directly from the growers or their co-operative and nobody else. So far as those 5000 tonnes are concerned, these were commercial transactions. It is true that the price that has been paid by the S.T.C. as the hon. members have said, is too low, it should not be commercial price but it should be remunerative price.

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBIAH: For 10,000 tonnes.

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: For 10,000 tonnes I have already assured the consultative Committee which met at Hyderabad that I am asking the S.T.C. to reconsider the present price and I shall be happy if some more price could be given. That is being re-examined on that basis if additional price can be given, it will be good. I do feel when Government intervenes, it should take care....

श्री लक्ष्मी नारायण नायक : दिलाइये, ज्यादा कीमत दिलाइये ।

श्री मोहन धारिया : मैंने वही कहा है ।

एक माननीय सदस्य : आप अंग्रेजी में कह रहे हैं ।

श्री मोहन धारिया : आपके पास ट्रांस्लेशन सुनने के लिये वहाँ रॉल लगा हुआ है, अगर उसे लगावेंगे तो समझ आ जायेगा ।

श्री लक्ष्मी नारायण नायक : आप कह रहे हैं कि मिनटा चाहिये, हम कहते हैं कि दिलाइये, प्रगासन का ज्यादा प्रभाव होना चाहिये ।

श्री कल्याण जैन ('इंदौर) : मैं मंत्री महोदय का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ कि.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let him complete his reply. How do you know that he will not answer the points which you have got in mind?

Therefore, please allow him to complete his reply. Then you will know.

श्री मोहन धारिया : मैंने कहा है कि जब ऐसी शिकायत आई कि एम० टी० सी० ने मोरबाई की रीम्युनेटिव प्राइम नहीं दी, तो मैंने एम० टी० सी० को डाईरेक्ट दिया कि जो कीमत वे दे रहे हैं, यदि वह ठीक नहीं है, तो उन्हें ऐसी व्यवस्था करनी चाहिए कि मोरबाई को अच्छी कीमत दी जाए । मैंने उन को ये इन्स्ट्रक्शन दी है ।

श्री उपोत्तिसंघ बलु : मंत्री महोदय गुजरात के बारे में कुछ कहें ।

MR. CHAIRMAN: I would request the hon. Minister not to allow himself to get derailed!

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: Thank you, Madam. What happens is, it is sometimes the Members themselves who don't allow the railways to move; that is the whole tragedy.

I was making reference to this point, namely, about purchase being made through the STC.

Regarding Research and Development, I do share the concern expressed by hon. Members.

I would very much like the Tobacco Board taking up extensive activities in Research and Development.

In that context, if some funding is necessary, that could also be taken care of.

Then, some hon. Members made some references to the middlemen. Madam, this whole system of auctioning through platform is meant to give better prices to producers....

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: And prompt payment.

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: Because of the active involvement of my friend, Mr. Jyotirmoy Bosu, the Board has taken a decision to introduce the system. Under the voucher system, payment is made through the cheques and naturally the payment goes to the producers, to the growers, and nobody else. That is the best system which has been introduced. I can assure the House that even though this time we had to find out some practical ways of doing it, from next time onwards, this voucher system will not be allowed to be disturbed in any way, and we shall not be bullied in any way, and this system will operate, came what may.

It has been stated by many hon. Members that there has been a monopoly hold. It is very much true. There are a few companies having a monopoly hold. They have their own agents. Naturally, it is the producers who are worst sufferers. From the angle of the Government, we would very much like the Tobacco Board to be alert.

Wherever possible, efforts could be made to effect purchases through STC, through NAFED and other Marketing Cooperatives. This shall be our endeavour also. I would in this connection make an appeal to the Members who are coming from that area. Why

should it not be possible for us to have the cooperatives of the producers and the growers? If such cooperatives come up, whatever reasonable credit requirements they may need, may be taken care of. Finance will not be lagging in this respect. Let them come forward with these various cooperatives and I shall be happy to make my purchase from them. I shall ask STC to make purchases from these cooperatives of the producers and from nobody else.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Or, through the Tobacco Trading Corporation.

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: The State Trading Corporation is there. Even then, it is not enough. These Corporation may not be enough unless and until the producers are having their own cooperatives because these Corporations may also be dependent on some agents. Therefore, I would like the hon. Members to take interest.

A charge had been levelled that at the time of the election of the Vice-Chairman, Mr. Sivayya was defeated by one vote and pressures were exercised. I would very much like to enquire into this matter and those members who are involved, after the enquiry, if the charge is established, shall not (Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN: Will you kindly allow the Minister to continue uninterrupted because there are large number of members wanting to put questions?

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: I am basically a very kindhearted man.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, unfortunately, that is not displayed here.

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: Madam, Chairman, I was saying that such members who are involved—if it is established through the enquiry—shall not continue on the Board. If I am to scrap this Board I am prepared for that. But, such members cannot have any place in that Board.

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH: I am on a point of order. This is about Shri Basu's allegation and the Minister's reply to it. He mentioned certain names.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister has not mentioned the names.

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH: Mr. Bosu had mentioned certain names and he mentioned the name of one Mr. Appiah; he played a part in all these things.

I would like to bring to the notice of this House that when allegations are brought forward, there must be due opportunity given to the Members who are not Members of Parliament and they must be able to defend themselves.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Venkatasubbaiah, the point is that a reference was already made. The Minister has not referred to any name. I do not know whether you raised any objection at that time. The Minister said, as I could understand it, that whatever allegations have been made, he will look into them. He has not mentioned any name. He has mentioned the general allegations that at the time of the elections, pressures were brought; he will investigate into the matter.

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH: What Mr. Bosu said is this.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: I am on a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly resume your seat. The matter is over. The Minister will continue.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: I have to make a submission. I have given prior notice yesterday under the appropriate rules that I shall be naming those persons and these are the allegations. *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Bosu, you were not interrupted. What you had

said in your speech has gone on record. You are not to go on repeating yourself. The Minister may continue.

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: Madam, Chairman, a suggestion has been made by Mr. Bosu that instead of the present system, British/English system of auctioneering, we should have the Dutch system—if I have understood him, he referred to the electronic Dutch system—and I shall certainly refer this matter to the Experts Committee again. I would ask them to examine whether the Dutch system is more convenient and it is more in the interest of the country and in the interest of the producers. I shall get it examined.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: He has taken a decision that we shall have the Dutch system. We have electronics but each one will cost Rs. 30,000 if it is a Dutch system of auctioneering.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is your point of order, Mr. Bosu? Which point of order are you raising. You are talking of the decisions, discussions in the Tobacco Board etc. Under what rule are you raising your point of order? Please take the Book.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Under Rule 376.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Will you please read that out? There is no point of order. Mr. Bosu, will you please take your seat?

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: I shall do so.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is no point of order. The Minister will continue.

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: A reference has also been made to the cigar industry. The whole world is aware that Cuba has played miracles. If it could be done by Cuba why not by our country. In this respect it has been suggested that some concessions in the present tax structure be given. I have already taken up the matter with

the Finance Minister with a view to develop cigar industry. It is a cottage industry employing two, three or five persons. To encourage this industry whatever concessions are possible to that extent the Government shall make its endeavour in giving those concessions for the development of cigar industry.

Mr. Chairman, without naming the country a reference was made that out of 20,000 tonnes of tobacco purchased from our country hardly 1,200 or 1,300 tonnes were purchased from STC and the rest was purchase from private companies. This is very much true and I have taken up the matter with the representative of the concerned country and they have assured me that they will very much like to re-consider about it. Here the whole question is that the whole world is competitive. Brazil is coming up with its own tobacco at a massive scale and under the circumstances we would like to expand and diversify our markets and wherever we can sell our tobacco that should be our main concern.

Giving remunerative prices to the producers and then to have more and more markets in the world is the main criteria and it is within these parameters I would like to work. But I can assure the House that wherever it is possible to get better prices to our producers and if we are to utilise our diplomatic channels for that they shall be utilised.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYA (Serampore): Including China.

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: Of course. A suggestion was made if we could export our tobacco to China on the condition that some articles shall have to be purchased from that country, no sooner the suggestion was received by me immediately I have asked the concerned officers and divisions to go into it and this is now being discussed again in-between the representatives of China and India.

My young friend was very much worried whether it is likely that there would be prohibition in so far as the use of tobacco is concerned. I can assure him that there is no such proposal of having such a prohibition. Some of my friends, including Mr. Hazari, were under the impression and rightly expressed that the whole of North is being neglected. I must say, today that Tobacco Board shall have to expand its activities and it is very much true that unfortunately except for few years the other areas have remained neglected. I have already instructed that they must take care of the whole of the country. Tobacco Board is meant for the whole of the country and not for particular areas and under the circumstances if a zonal office could serve these needs in a better way I would very much like to have some sort of two or three centres all over the country so that we can take a balanced care of the whole of the country. A suggestion has been made regarding the processing unit to be started by the Central Government under Tobacco Board. The hon. Members will please appreciate that it is not possible for the Board to have its own processing Centre. Here again comes the question of mobilising the producers. The producers are mobilised and if the producers would like to have their own processing unit and industrial co-operation again I would like to tell my friends and I would like to assure them that funds will not be lacking. This year for the N.C.D.C. the plan outlay has been taken from Rs. 31.0 crores to nearly Rs. 50 crores. I have added this. I would very much like if this amount is utilised for better progress and that too in the interests of the growers. And therefore I would say that wherever such growers co-operatives are taken up either for processing or for other purposes, all possible help will come from the Central Government. It is for the hon. Members to take a lead and it is for me to reciprocate all their lead and it will be done. The other day when I moved this bill, I said regarding headquarters, I quite very well appre-

[Shri Mohan Dharja]

ciate the feelings of my friends from Andhra State and I have said there is no proposal today to shift the headquarters from Guntur. I have also assured them that the headquarters shall not be taken out of Andhra State. We shall be coming forward with a comprehensive bill. The point is that it will look very improper to say that the headquarters will be somewhere in the Andhra State. The point is I have already discussed the matter with the Members of Parliament from Andhra and I have told them that I would like to discuss with them and on the basis of the discussion we can take certain decision and accordingly the headquarters will be located. But for the time being there is no proposal to shift the headquarters from Guntur. There should be no political agitation or any agitation whatsoever. But I would like to bring to your notice the feelings expressed by other Members here also that out of the production of 4,30,000 or 4,40,000 tonnes in the country, as the hon. Members are well aware, the production of tobacco from Andhra State is of the order of 1,30,000 or 1,40,000 tonnes. Here if we want this tobacco exported outside then we shall have to give more and more emphasis in producing virginia tobacco in the country and naturally if this momentum is to be carried forward and besides if we want the present tobacco Board to take care of the whole of the country and all the varieties of tobacco including the virginia and non virginia, country tobacco and suncured tobacco as was mentioned by my hon. Members, then in that case the whole of the country will have to be covered. And my hon. friends will appreciate that a place which is perhaps more easily accessible shall have to be chosen as the headquarters. Otherwise many areas would stand neglected. Under the circumstances, I can assure them that I would not like to function with any bias. Andhra has certainly done a great service to the country by producing not only virginia tobacco but

through several research and development activities they have produced the best variety of tobacco. Ours is one of the best tobacco in the world it has been established. When Andhra had given that leadership this House cannot afford to be ungrateful to the state that has done this great service. I would not like to do that. In the Bill that is to be introduced after the report of the committee we shall take care and it is on the suggestion and advice of the Members from Andhra and the Government of Andhra we should like to have the centre located. I am not exercising my discretion here

SHRI P. ANKINEEDU PRASADA RAO: That clause on headquarters might be dropped; we can think of this provision when the comprehensive Bill comes up.

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: We have provided here: The head office of the Board shall be at Guntur in the State of Andhar Pradesh or at such other place as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, specify. So, we are not moving away; for the time being we are keeping it at Guntur; there is no proposal to move. I would like to tell my hon. friends from Andhra that I am very much with them on this point. The only thing is that taking the whole tobacco product of the entire country, when the whole House is agreeable to have the office in Andhra, that too on your own advice, you should not insist that this should be changed. With these words I move that the Bill be passed.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: One clarification. When we visited Cooh-Behar about ten days ago there was an accumulation of 90,000 maunds of tobacco, hooka smoking and chewing tobacco. Would you kindly consider lifting that tobacco in order to give relief to the grower?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is this to be turned into question answer hour? This is not a clarification of the Bill. The time is short.

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: The marketing federations of the respective state governments will be provided adequate credit facilities and they should come forward to purchase; the state governments should come forward.

श्री कल्याण जैन (इन्दौर) : सभापति महोदय, मुझे एक मिनट का समय दीजिए। मैं मंत्री जी का ध्यान इस बात की ओर आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ—क्योंकि मैं व्यवसाय और व्यापार की बात जानता हूँ—कि हिन्दुस्तान के अन्दर तम्बाकू का निर्यात करने के लिए अगर ज्यादा से ज्यादा कम्पनियों को आपने प्रोत्साहन दिया, तो किसानों को ज्यादा पैसा मिलेगा। इसके साथ ही एक सीमा से ज्यादा निर्यात करने की आप इजाजत न दीजिए।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is this to be turned into question answer hour? This is not a clarification of the Bill. The time is short.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please resume your seat. He has covered this point already. You are reopening the discussion. If Members under the guise of clarification want to restart the discussion, it cannot be done. Two hours were allotted for this Bill we have gone beyond that. If I find that any thing said is not requesting a clarification, I will not call on the Minister to reply. The discussion has gone on well beyond the ambit of the Bill and the Chair is being quite liberal. Please do not try to stretch it any more because you are holding up a very important proposal: repeal of MISA. I do not know whether you are not interested in that.

श्री कल्याण जैन : मुझे बाधा मिनट और दीजिए। . . (व्यवधान) . . इस में करेक्टों कारों की बात है। आप मुझे बाधा मिनट और दीजिए।

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have already asked you to resume your seat. Please resume your seat.

Will you please resume your seat? I am not giving you permission. I have called Mr. Dabhi.

SHRI AJITSINH DABHI (Anand): Yesterday, in my speech I have referred to the amendment of T.P.-3 Form. Ultimately the aim is to minimise the exploitation of tobacco growers. I have suggested that a new column should be added in that form wherein the price at which the tobacco is purchased should be mentioned.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You should only ask for a clarification.

SHRI AJITSINH DABHI: I would like to know whether the Government will take this into consideration.

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: It is being considered.

SHRI P. ANKINEEDU PRASADA RAO: The Minister has said that the STC is going to pay some more remunerative price. I would like to know whether it is for the growers or the middlemen or the STC Agents. Now the Tobacco is not with the farmers, it is with the STC Agents. I would like to know whether it will be passed on to the farmers or the STC Agents will retain it.

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: It will go only to the producer and nobody else.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill to amend the Tobacco Board Act, 1975, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now we will come to clause by clause consideration. We will take up Clause 2. There is an amendment given by Mr. Jyotirmoy Bosa.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: I beg to move:

Pages 1 and 2,—

for lines 15 and 16 and 1 to 11 respectively, substitute—

(b) in sub-section (4),—

(A) in clause (a),—

after the words "Central Government" the following words shall be inserted, namely:—

"from amongst the members. The person so appointed shall be one who holds highest position in the warrant of precedence";

(B) in clause (b),—

(i) for the word "three" in word "six" shall be substituted;

(ii) for the word "two" the word "four" shall be substituted;

(iii) for the word "one" the word "two" shall be substituted;

(C) in clause (c),—

(i) for the word "seven" the word "eight" shall be substituted;

(ii) in sub-clause (vi), the word "and" occurring at the end shall be omitted;

(iii) after sub-clause (vi), the following sub-clause shall be inserted, namely:—

"(via) the Government of Gujarat; and";

(D) in clause (d), for the words "other than the States of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka", the words "other than the States of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and Karnataka" shall be substituted;

(E) for clause (e) the following clause shall be substituted, namely:—

"(e) not more than eight members to be appointed by

the Central Government from amongst growers of tobacco and workers in tobacco fields and tobacco processing and tobacco based industries." (1)

I wanted to say that the Chairman of the Tobacco Board should be the person who holds the highest position in the warrant of precedence from amongst the Members and I have also said that instead of three Members of Parliament, it should be six—four from Lok Sabha and two from Rajya Sabha. Then I have also asked them not to take people who have trading/speculative interest in tobacco in the Tobacco Board. I do not want to have a confrontation with the Government in this regard. I would like the Minister to make a note of what I have asked for in the amendment and act on the same.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, are you accepting the amendment?

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: I am not accepting the amendment. I have taken note of this and we shall examine this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you pressing the amendment?

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: No.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Has the hon. Member the permission of the House to withdraw the amendment?

HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

Amendment No. 1 was, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That Clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clause 3 (Amendment of section 3)

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are two amendments given by Mr. Jyotirmoy Bosu to clause 3.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: I move:

Page 2,—after line 13, insert—

“(cc) determination of minimum remunerative price of tobacco for each region and grade on the basis of data collected publicly every year about the cost of production which shall include the interest on the value of land and interest on investment maintenance in barns, the minimum remunerative price shall maintain parity with the price of tobacco nearly similar to that produced in Japan, Germany, U.S.A., Italy and Yugoslavia.”(2)

I would like the hon. Minister to accept this amendment.

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: Madam, I shall consider all these suggestions. But I may request the hon. Member not to press the amendment.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Bosu, Are you pressing the amendment?

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: No.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Has the hon. Member the permission of the House to withdraw the amendment?

HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

Amendment No. 2 was, by leave, withdrawn.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: I have one more amendment.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I said “there are two amendments” and I thought you are moving both.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: I have done one and I am doing the second one now.

I beg to move:

Page 2, lines 15 and 16, for “virginia tobacco” substitute— “virginia and all other varieties of tobacco”

(3)

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: The whole frame of the Act is for Virginia tobacco. If other tobaccos are to be included, the whole frame shall have to be changed. Under the circumstances, I am not able to accept the amendment.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do you withdraw the amendment?

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: No.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I shall put amendment No. 3 to the vote of the House.

Amendment No. 3 was put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

“That clause 3 stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 3 was added to the Bill.

Clause 4 was added to the Bill.

Clause 5 (Insertion of new section 14A)

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: I beg to move:

Page 2,—after line 30, insert—

“(1A) Where tobacco is sold at any auction platform established by the Board under the Act, the auction shall be through Dutch System using electronic device.”(4)

Page 2, after line 34, insert—

“(3) The Board may, with previous approval of the Central Government, set up a body to be called Tobacco Trading Corporation” which may—

(a) carry on trade and business in tobacco and tobacco products;

(b) engage in processing and marketing and manufacturing of tobacco products.” (5)

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: So far as the first amendment is concerned, it is the discretion of the Tobacco Board whether they should have auction through the Dutch system or British system. There is no need for any amendment for that purpose. So far as the setting up of the Tobacco Trading Corporation is concerned, it involves so many other issues.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: If you give an assurance, I shall withdraw it.

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: We shall consider it when we come forward with the extensive Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do you press both the amendments?

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: No.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Has he the leave of the House to withdraw the amendments?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

AN HON. MEMBER: No.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The amendments are withdrawn by leave of the House.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Even if there is a single dissenting voice, the amendment cannot be withdrawn.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Then, I shall put the amendments Nos. 4 and 5 to the vote of the House.

Amendments Nos. 4 and 5 were put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That clause 5 stand part of the Bill"

The motion was adopted.

Clause 5 was added to the Bill...

Clauses 6 and 7, Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed".

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That the Bill be passed."

Mr. Ram Gopal Reddy.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYA: From sugar he has come to tobacco!

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY (Nizamabad): Madam, Chairman, if sugar has not sweetened the CPI(M) Members, I hope at least tobacco will sweeten them.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please be very brief.

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY: Madam, I will be very brief. Our export earnings were mainly of tobacco previously and now this pre-eminent position of India must be maintained. Our Prime Minister's moral feeling should not come in the way. Already we are losing our role in the international market and Rs. 100 crores of foreign exchange is not a small amount and that must be maintained because now in sugar and other thing our returns from export earnings are dwindling. So, I request the Minister to see that these exports are maintained and also he should see that the area under tobacco cultivation should not go down and the cultivators must be encouraged to grow more tobacco and also intensify the production, I mean, more production in a small area, and this must be done.

Madam, you know that Guntur is a politically conscious area. Previously, when Andhra State was formed in 1953, to satisfy the ambitions of the people of that area the High Court was established and now, when once the Tobacco Board is established there, it must not be shifted from there; otherwise, there will be political repercussions. This Guntur area a highly sensitive area. The literacy in that area is over 90 per cent. That is why I want the Minister to see that there should be no disturbance or dislocation of this Board from Guntur area.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think you should resume your seat. Mr. Ram Gopal Reddy, please don't continue. These are the points that you have already mentioned. Please resume your seat.

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY: The Guntur area is the best suited for Vergina tobacco production. (Interruptions) That is the best area not only in India, but in the whole world. That is why I request the Minister to encourage tobacco growers of that area and there should be no shifting of the Board.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Jyotirmoy Bosu. I have called the next speaker. Will you please resume your seat? Mr. Ram Gopal, Reddy, I am on my legs. Will you resume your seat when I am on my legs? Mr. Jyotirmoy Bosu.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Madam Chairman, the hon. Minister in the course of his reply has indicated about diversification of tobacco products. I would like to know if he would please answer—I do not know whether he will do so—whether he has any plans to produce pesticides and insecticides, using low grade tobacco and also dyestuff because this year the tobacco prices went so low that the growers stopped plucking. Tobacco was sold even at a low price of Rs. 20 a quintal. But this is something of a very precious raw material. If the Government has power....

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Jyotirmoy Bosu wants to display his knowledge. There are two minutes more. You may continue.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: I sit down. I don't like this sort of remarks.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Kalyan Jain.

श्री कल्याण जैन (इंदौर) : सभापति महोदया, मैं एक सुझाव देना चाहता हूँ कि हिन्दुस्तान से तम्बाकू का निर्यात कुछ कंपनियों द्वारा किया जाता है। मेरा मंत्री जो से निवेदन है कि वे उसके निर्यात की सीमा बांध दें कि 100 टन या 1,000 टन से ज्यादा निर्यात नहीं करने दिया जायगा।

आज हिन्दुस्तान में नवभारत ट्रेडिंग कंपनी और उसकी सहयोगी कंपनियों को निर्यात का एक-चौथाई हिस्सा दिया जाता है। दूसरे जो लोग निर्यात करना चाहते हैं, उन को निर्यात करने के लिये आप परमीशन नहीं देते हैं। और सब को निर्यात करने की खुली छूट निश्चित सीमा तक दी जायगी तो उससे फ्री कंपटीशन होगा और उससे किसानों को ज्यादा लाभ मिलेगा।

एक व्यापारी जो इसमें घाघा करता है, उसने मुझे बताया कि इस व्ययमाय मैं अगर फ्री-कंपटीशन कर दिया जाये तो उससे उत्पादकों को करोड़ों रुपया मिलेगा। मैं उम्मीद करता हूँ कि मंत्री महोदय इस और ध्यान देंगे और किसानों को अरबों पये का फायदा पहुंचायेंगे....

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly resume your seat. It would not be recorded. The Minister will now reply.

(Interruptions)*

श्री मोहन धारिया : सभापति महोदया, यह बात सही नहीं है कि कुछ बन्द कंपनियों को ही निर्यात करने की इजाजत है जिनको जितना एक्सपोर्ट करना है, उसके लिए खुली इजाजत है। अगर कोई एक्सपोर्ट करना चाहता है तो कहिये, मैं तो खुशी से और भी जो सहयोग देना है तो वह देने के लिये तैयार हूँ। यह बात नहीं है कि कुछ बन्द कंपनियों के लिये ही मौका दिया जाता है।

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have raised the question. He is replying to the question. Please listen to he reply.

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: You are wrong. Your information is absolutely baseless. We would like very much to sustain our experts, as suggested by Mr. Reddy; and as far as the crop and cultivation of tobacco is concerned, we have to study what is the domestic need and what are the exports; and to that extent we can have tobacco growing. Otherwise what is the use? Of course, as suggested by Mr. Bosu, it shall have to be considered whether such tobacco should be used for the manufacture of insecticides and pesticides. Whatever it is, if he gives the proposals, I shall have them examined.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is: "That the Bill be passed".

The motion was adopted.

16.47 hrs.

MAINTENANCE OF INTERNAL SECURITY (REPEAL) BILL

MR. CHAIRMAN: We now go on to next item, viz. the Maintenance of Internal Security (Repeal) Bill.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI DHANIK LAL MANDAL): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to repeal the Maintenance of Internal Security Act, 1971, be taken into consideration."

Honourable Members are aware that the election manifesto of the Janata Party provides, *inter alia*, that MISA would be repealed. The policy of the Government in this regard was stated in the address of the Acting President to the two Houses of Parliament on 28th March, 1977, in the following words:

"Having regard to the gross abuse to which Maintenance of Internal Security Act has been put during the last two years, a thorough review of the Law will be undertaken with a view to repealing it and ex-

amining whether the existing laws need further strengthening to deal with economic offences and security of the country, without denying the right to approach the courts."

Accordingly, the matter was examined and it was felt that if there were no Central laws to provide for preventive detention, difficulties may be experienced in dealing with certain serious situations. However, it was felt that reliable and adequate safeguards should be provided in the law to prevent any misuse. The Code of Criminal Procedure Amendment Bill was introduced in this House on 23rd December, 1977 with these objects in view; but considering the misgivings expressed even in regard to the provisions of said Amendment Bill and the persistent apprehension that powers of preventive detention could be misused, notwithstanding such safeguards, the Government re-considered the matter.

An announcement in this regard was made by the then Home Minister in this House on 23rd March 1978. With the leave of this House, the Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 1977 was withdrawn on 30th March, 1978; and a Bill to repeal the Maintenance of Internal Security Act was introduced in this House on 19th April, 1978. I earnestly hope that the honourable Members would support the repeal of MISA.

With these words, Sir, I move that the Bill be taken into consideration.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion Moved:

"That the Bill to repeal the Maintenance of Internal Security Act, 1971, be taken into consideration."

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO (Mor-mugao): Madam Chairman, I am afraid that the people of this country will not be able to share the enthusiasm of the hon. Minister at this moment. The people of this country will receive the repeal of MISA with mixed feelings, like the hon. Members