

14.11 hrs.

**STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE.
NOTIFICATIONS INCREASING EX-
PORT DUTY ON RAW COTTON AND
LEVYING IT ON TURMERIC.**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI
SATISH AGARWAL):** Mr. Deputy-
Speaker, Sir, I beg to move the fol-
lowing Resolution:

"That in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 8, read with sub-section (3) of section 7, of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 (51 of 1975), this House approves the following notifications of the Government of India in the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue), namely:—

(1) No. GSR (21E), dated the 9th January, 1979, increasing the export duty on raw cotton to Rs. 2,500 per tonne; and

(2) No. GSR 34(E) dated the 20th January, 1979, levying an export duty at the rate of Rs. 1,500 per tonne on turmeric in powder form and at the rate of Rs. 2,000 per tonne on turmeric in any other form, under the new Heading No. 25 in the Second Schedule to the said Act,

from the date of issue of the said notifications."

Sir, prior to 9-1-1979 the statutory rate of duty fixed in respect of raw cotton under Heading No. 16 of the Second Schedule to the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 was Rs. 1,000 per tonne. However, the effective rate of duty fixed by notification on raw cotton of the variety known as Bengal Deshi was Rs. 700 per tonne. Owing to the comfortable cotton situation in the country and the anticipated surplus of over a lakh bales of Bengal Deshi cotton, Government proposed to allow exports of about 50,000 bales of raw cotton of the variety known as Bengal Deshi. Export price realisation for

this variety of cotton was expected to be Rs. 5,000 or more per candy, as against the domestic market price of Rs. 2,600 to Rs. 2,800 per candy. In view of the wide margin between the internal and international prices, Government increased the rate of export duty on raw cotton of the variety known as Bengal Deshi from Rs. 700 to Rs. 2,500 per tonne with effect from 9-1-1979 so as to mop up a part of the profit. The rates of export duty on other varieties of raw cotton remain unchanged.

Export of turmeric was banned since January 1978 and, consequently, large stocks of turmeric had accumulated in some parts of the country. The current crop in the country is expected to be about 1.50 lakh tonnes, i.e. 25 per cent more than the last crop. With the arrival of the new crop, the possibility of the indigenous prices falling substantially cannot be ruled out. In order to ease the situation, Government have decided to lift the ban on export and allow exports of turmeric under OGL. There is also a wide margin between the internal and international prices of turmeric. Government have imposed an export duty on turmeric so as to mop up a part of the margin of profit. The rates of duties prescribed are Rs. 1,500 per tonne on turmeric in powder form and Rs. 2,000 per tonne on turmeric in any other form.

When this particular duty was levied, the first one on cotton on 9th January and the second one on turmeric on 20th January 1979, we received proposals from the administrative Ministries that there is a big gap and the middleman is going to make huge profits and so we must mop up a part of the profit. So, on the recommendation of the administrative Ministry, the Finance Ministry in the Department of Revenue accepted their recommendations and we have in-

creased these duties through notification. As required under the law, these notifications have to secure the approval of Parliament. So, I am moving this Resolution.

I do not think I have anything more to add at this stage. All I can say is that, so far as Bengal Deshi cotton is concerned, when we imposed this rate of duty on the 9th January, 1979, we had some calculations before us. The domestic price at that point of time was Rs. 2,600 that is, Rs. 7.12 per kg. while the international market export price was Rs. 5,000. Then we calculated that Rs. 2,500 could be mopped up quite easily without any difficulty. Now, prices are ranging between Rs. 2,700 and Rs. 2,800 internally, and in the international market the prices are said to be ruling at Rs. 6,800 approximately. They have risen from Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 6,800. So, there is more margin, and there may be a case for stepping up this export duty still further so as to mop up more margin of profit from the middlemen who are the exporters. In this particular case the estimated exports are to be released: 50,000 for export, out of which 20,000 have been released in two lots of 10,000 each. The estimated revenue is calculated to be Rs. 1.6 crores so far as cotton is concerned, and Rs. 2 crores so far as turmeric is concerned. Similarly, there is a margin of profit in turmeric also because of the difference between the domestic price and the international price. So, on the recommendation of the administrative ministries, we have mopped up these profits.

Some amendments have also been moved, and the hon. lady Member was also raising some points. The Finance Ministry is not directly concerned with them, as to what should be the monitoring system, the arrangement, releases, purchases, whatever it is, but when it came to our notice that there was this difference between domestic and international prices, that there is a huge margin from Rs. 8 per kg. in

the internal market to Rs. 21 per kg. in the international market, we have mopped up Rs. 2.5 per kg.

So, I seek the approval of this House. If there is any other point to which I can reply so far as my Ministry is concerned, I shall be happy to do that. I commend this resolution for passing.

SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH (Hoshangabad): On a point of order. I am not speaking on the motion of the Minister, but I am speaking on the violation of article 343 of the Constitution. Under that article, two languages, Hindi and English have been recognised as the official languages of the Union.

SHRI K. GOPAL (Karur): I have asked for Tamil also.

SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH: It will take its own time, we will discuss it later on when it comes.

The House expects, not only expects but demands, that Government should strictly observe and conform to the provisions of this article.

Will you kindly have a look at the notifications issued by the Government in this connection on the subject of turmeric and raw cotton? I am confining myself to turmeric. We have been supplied with copies of the notification issued by the Government in the Gazette of India as also the Explanatory Memorandum to the Notification, in English as well as in Hindi. I wonder who has been remiss in this matter, remiss or careless or negligent in this matter, whether the Minister has had a close look at this particular matter, or he has not had the time or the energy to go into this matter.

SHRI K. GOPAL: Cotton growers do not understand Hindi!

SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH: Please have a look at the Gazette Notification. In English, of course, it is turmeric. I have no objection to

[Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath] that, but in the Hindi notification also, भाग दो नारीख 20 जनवरी There also you will find in the first column the word "टर्मेरिक" Now, please have a look at the Explanatory Memorandum in Hindi व्याख्यात्मक ज्ञापन जो हमारे पास था गया है उसकी प्रतिलिपि भी है. There, the word used is "हल्दी". That is the right word. But in the Gazette Notification in Hindi, it is "टर्मेरिक". Is it adulteration of language?

SHRI K. GOPAL: Because turmeric is adulterated!

SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH: It is not only violative of the Constitution but it is also jarring upon the ears, and on the mind and spirit. व्याख्यात्मक ज्ञापन में "हल्दी" शब्द लिखा है, लेकिन नोटिफिकेशन में "टर्मेरिक" लिखा है। I do not know what is the logic, why this has been done and why this inconsistency. This is a violation of article 343 of the Constitution. I know that whenever speeches are made outside or inside, there is a mixture of languages. That is not adulteration: it is mixture only. That can be allowed because we speak extempore. But when the Government, specially the Ministries, issue notifications in the Gazette in Hindi and English separately, there should not be adulteration of language. I am a lover of words. Every word is a living entity to me. Every word should be taken care of and used properly. It is no use having a mixture of languages. I do not know if in Hindi it is called turmeric. I do not know; I have not heard. In Hindi, it is *halad* or *haldi*.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): In eating no language is used.

SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH: The hon. Minister knows that eating is unparliamentary inside the House.

In conclusion, I would request you, Sir, to direct the Government, to be more careful in future with regard to the use of language. Language is a

living thing. It should be used properly and correctly.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: As far as the word "turmeric" is concerned, I suppose, it is an English word. It must be a mistake in translation and it might be a typist's or a translator's or a printer's devil. But as far as the violation of the Constitution is concerned, I do not see any violation of the Constitution because the notification has been issued in Hindi. What you are pointing out is a misuse of the word. I think, it will be corrected.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: I very much appreciate the concern of the hon. Member and I regret this mistake.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Resolution moved:

"That in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 8, read with sub-section (3) of section 7, of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 (51 of 1975), this House approves the following notifications of the Government of India in the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue), namely:—

(1) No. GSR 21(E), dated the 9th January, 1979, increasing the export duty on raw cotton to Rs. 2500 per tonne; and

(2) No. GSR 34(E), dated the 20th January, 1979, levying an export duty at the rate of Rs. 1500 per tonne on turmeric in powder form and at the rate of Rs. 2000 per tonne on turmeric in any other form, under the new Heading No. 25 in the Second Schedule to the said Act,

from the date of issue of the said notifications."

Now, there are amendments to be moved.

SHRI DAJIBA DESAI (Kolhapur): I beg to move:—

That in the resolution,—
in part (1)—

for "Rs. 2,500" substitute
"Rs. 701". (1)

That in the resolution,—
in part (2)—

(i) for "Rs. 1,500" substitute
"Rs. 201"; and

(ii) for "Rs. 2,000" substitute
"Rs. 200". (2)

SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU
(Chittoor): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir,
I am quite against this proposal. The
Government is not having any definite
export policy with regard to agricul-
tural commodities.

After the Janata Government came
to power, they made it a duty to see
that the prices of agricultural com-
modities go down. They have totally
banned the export of agricultural com-
modities. If you take any commodi-
ty, the price has gone down. For
example, in regard to jaggary, it is
only one-third. They have banned
the export of even vegetables. They
say that in the interest of consumers,
if there is no surplus, it is not pos-
sible to export. In the name of con-
sumers, instead of helping them, they
are helping the capitalists, the indus-
trialists and the upper salaried peo-
ple. I want to know whether the
Janata Government is committed to
supply of raw materials that is, agri-
cultural goods to the capitalists and
the industrialists and also to the peo-
ple who are getting higher incomes at
lower rates. Is that the policy? Of
course, we are committed to a policy
of supplying goods to low-income gro-
ups at low rates. In the name of
poor people, the Janata Government
has formulated a policy of helping the
capitalists.

Now, the policy of the Janata Party
is dictated by the capitalists. With
regard to agricultural prices, the capi-
talists are ruling the country and they
are dictating terms. With regard to ex-
port and import policies also, they are

doing it. It is high time we had a
separate Committee to formulate a
policy on export and import, so that
the agricultural prices may not come
down.

With regard to export of agricul-
tural commodities, we are not having
any exploration. We are having Em-
bassies, but we are not having any
trade representatives in the Embassies.
If we can have these trade represen-
tatives in Embassies, then they can
explore the possibility of exporting
our commodities.

We are having an Agricultural Pri-
ces Commission, and the reference
given to the Agricultural Prices Com-
mission is that remunerative prices
should be given. There is no diffi-
culty about that. But with regard to
giving incentive prices, the Agricul-
tural Prices Commission should take
into consideration the economic posi-
tion of the poor people and also the
situation in the country. Therefore,
with regard to giving incentive prices,
there may be dispute, but with regard
to giving remunerative prices for agri-
cultural commodities, there should be
no dispute at all.

Now, the policy of the Government
is to fix an arbitrary price. This
price is fixed without any data. The
Agricultural Prices Commission is not
having any machinery to collect the
data. Unless the Agricultural Uni-
versities and the independent econo-
mic institutes are authorised to collect
the cost of cultivation and unless the
fixation of prices for agricultural com-
modities is based on scientific data,
the agriculturists will not get any
justice.

In this respect I want to say that,
when sugar was selling at a higher
rates, when the Government was get-
ting Rs. 500 crores per year, they
transferred the money to the General
Revenues. Now, sugar is selling at a
lower rate and Government is saying

[Shri P. Rajapogal Naidu]
that the cane-growers should get a lower price. If those Rs. 500 crores had been transferred and constituted into an 'Equalisation Fund', then it would have been possible for the Government to subsidise, when the prices came down, and help the agriculturists.

Here, Rs. 2,500 per tonne for raw Cotton, Rs. 1,500 per tonne for turmeric in powder form and Rs. 2,000 per tonne for turmeric in any other form, are sought to be levied as export duty. I want the Government to spend it for the sake of those people who produce cotton and turmeric: if they do not do it, then it is no use. Always the export policy will be like this when the prices are very low, the agriculturists agitate and represent to the Government; and when it is decided to export, then all the raw produce will come into the hands of the merchants, and when export is allowed, the profit will go to the merchants, not to the agriculturists. Therefore, Government should constitute an Agricultural Price Stabilisation Corporation, and it must take the responsibility of purchasing all surpluses and selling them in foreign market and also internally through the National Agricultural Marketing Federation. If this money is not going to be constituted to help the producers, then at least it can be constituted into an 'Equalisation Fund' and it can be utilised when the price comes down.

Therefore, once again I have to say that there must be a revision of export policy in respect of agricultural commodities. For that, there must be a permanent body to look into the prices of agricultural commodities export, internal consumption and other things and suggest ways and means and advise the Government with regard to prices of agricultural commodities and export and import policies.

श्री जीव प्रकाश त्वागी (बहराइच) :
उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं इस प्रस्ताव का समर्थन करने के लिये खड़ा हुआ हूँ और सरकार को

बधाई देता हूँ कि जो मिडिल मैन अधिक लाभ हड़प जाता था उसको आपने रोका और उस पर अधिक ड्यूटी लगा कर उसे लिया है। अंदाज है कि जो कपास है जिसमें देशी कपास भी कहते हैं उसकी पर कौड़ी कीमत देश में 2,900 रु. है जब कि विदेश में उसी कौड़ी कीमत 6,500 रु. है इस प्रकार जो मिडिल मैन इतना मुनाफा खाता था उस पर आप न रोक लगायी। इसी प्रकार हल्दी की कीमत जो देश में और विदेशों में है उसमें भी बड़ा अन्तर रहता है। आपने ड्यूटी लगा कर मिडिलमैन के मुनाफे में से हिस्सा ले लिया तो यह अन्याय नहीं है, बल्कि एक अच्छा कार्य है। परन्तु, एक बात मेरी समझ में नहीं आती है कि जो उत्पादनकर्ता है किसान उसके माल की बाहर विदेश में ज्यादा कीमत है और देश में कम कीमत है, तो अभी तक जो मिडिलमैन लाभ हड़प रहा था उसमें आपने सरकार का हिस्सा बना लिया, अच्छा किया, लेकिन उस बंचारे किसान का क्या हुआ ? उसका क्या बना ? उसका कुछ लाभ मिलेगा कि नहीं ? हमारी जनता सरकार की नीति है कि किसान को लाभ पहुँचाये, देहात को भलाई हो, ग्रामीण क्षेत्र की उन्नति हो। अभी तक उस बंचारे किसान का यह हाल रहा कि माल वह पेंदा करता है और उसके माल के आधार पर दुनिया लाभ उठाती है—सरकार, मिडिलमैन, मॅनफैक्चरर,—सभी लाभ उठाते हैं। कपास का कपड़ा बन कर फिर उसकी छाती पर अधिक कीमत पर थोपते हैं। कपास की कीमत गिर रही है और कपड़े की कीमत ऊँची रहती है। यहां भी मूल्यों में अन्तर आये। आपने बीच में से लाभ हड़पा है, ठीक है। और जो बीच में मिडिलमैन के बिंग हाउसेज बन रहे थे वह न बनें यह भी हमारी नीति है। हमारी नीति यह भी है कि आर्थिक असमानता समाप्त हो। उस दिशा में यह कदम सराहनीय है। परन्तु, प्रश्न यह है कि सरकार के दिमाग में यह बात क्यों नहीं आयी कि अगर किसान की वस्तु पर विदेश में निर्यात करने से अधिक लाभ होता है तो किस तरह से उस लाभ को किसान तक पहुँचाया जा सकता है ? अगर उसका लाभ मिलता है तो यह होगा कि आज देश में जो अनाज और चीनी पड़ी हुई है और कारखानार

भी मारा मारा फिर रहा है, अपने गन्ने को लकड़ी के भाव से बच रहा है तो वह उसका छाड़ कर हल्दी और कपास पैदा करेगा जिससे देश को भी लाभ होगा और आपको भी अच्छी ड्यूटी मिलेगी। तो इस प्रकार की आपन नीति क्यों नहीं अपनायी? मिडिलमैन को हम निकालना चाहते हैं यह हमारी नीति है, उत्पादनकर्ता और उपभोक्ता के मध्य में ही लाभ हानि रहे, यह हमारी नीति है, लेकिन मैं देख रहा हूँ कि देहली में ही जो चीजें लघु और गृह उद्योग में बन रही हैं उनको बना कर उत्पादनकर्ता सदा बाजार में लाता है और वहां जो मिडिलमैन बैठे हैं 90 प्रतिशत लाभ वह मिडिलमैन ही खा जाते हैं, या फिर बाजार में बैठे हुए व्यापारी लोग उसका फायदा उठाते हैं। जो चीजें बनती हैं, उस का कोई लाभ नहीं है। अगर मिडिलमैन को ही बीच में से निकालने की बात थी, तो आप के पास एस.टी.सी. है, दूसरे विभाग हैं, जिन के द्वारा आप एक्सपोर्ट करने की नीति को अपना सकते थे, आप स्वयं निर्यात करें, अपनी एजेंसी के द्वारा करायें ताकि उसका पूरा लाभ आप को मिल सके। मैं आप से पूछना चाहता हूँ—क्या ऐसा सम्भव नहीं था कि गवर्नमेंट इन चीजों की खरीदारी खुद करती? जैसे आप दूसरी चीजों के लिये सर्पर्ट प्राइज फिक्स करते हैं, यदि उन की कीमतों नीचे गिर जाती हैं, तो सरकार उन की खरीदारी खुद करती है, जिस तरह से आप गेहूँ और गन्ने के मामले में करते हैं, उसी तरह से आप हल्दी और कपास के लिये भी कर सकते थे, सरकार उस को अधिक दाम पर खरीदे और किसान को अधिक से अधिक लाभ पहुंचाये। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस में सरकार को क्या आपत्ति है? आप ने इस को मिडिलमैन पर क्यों छाड़ दिया—यह बात मेरे दिमाग में अभी भी उलझी हुई है, गवर्नमेंट ने किसानों का फायदा पहुंचाने के लिये इस दृष्टि से क्यों विचार नहीं किया?

तीसरा प्रश्न यह है—कपास और हल्दी की बात तो आप ने एकड़ ली, लेकिन अभी भी इस प्रकार की दूसरी बहुत सी चीजें हैं, जिन को मिडिलमैन बाकायदा एक्सपोर्ट करता है, जिन की यहां की कीमत और विदेशों की कीमत में जमीन-आसमान का अन्तर है। हण्ड-

लूम इण्डस्ट्री की चीजें एक्सपोर्ट होती हैं, हाथ की बनी हुई चीजें बाहर जा रही हैं, हमारे मुरादाबाद में बर्तन बनते हैं—बनाने वालों को क्या मिलता है और विदेशों में जा कर उन की क्या कीमत है—आप जरा इस पर गौर कीजिये। जो चीज 4 रुपये में हमारे यहां बनती हैं, विदेशों में वह 150 और 200 रुपये में बिकती है, लेकिन यहां बनाने वालों को उस का कोई लाभ नहीं मिल रहा है, सारा फायदा मिडिलमैन और विदेशवाले खा रहे हैं, इसीलिये मैं मंत्री महाोदय से प्रार्थना करूंगा—हल्दी और कपास की तरफ आप का ध्यान गया, इसके लिये मैं आप को धन्यवाद देता हूँ, लेकिन दूसरी वस्तुओं की तरफ भी आप ध्यान दीजिये और देखिये कि मिडिलमैन उन वस्तुओं में कितना प्राफिट ले रहे हैं। उन के ऊपर भी निर्यात-कर लगाइयें और साथ-साथ अपने दिमाग में यह बात भी जरूर लाइयें कि उत्पादन करने वालों को अधिक से अधिक लाभ पहुंचे। आप खुद खरीदारी कीजिये, खुद उस का निर्यात कराइयें और उत्पादनकर्ता को अधिक से अधिक दाम दीजिये ताकि उस को भी उस का कुछ पैसा मिल सके।

इन शब्दों के साथ मैं इस प्रस्ताव का समर्थन करता हूँ।

श्री नाथूराम मिर्धा (नागौर) : माननीय उपाध्यक्ष महाोदय, सरकार ने यह जो एक्साइज ड्यूटी रुई और हल्दी पर लगाई है ताकि मिडिलमैन को जो ज्यादा फायदा हो रहा है, उस में से कुछ हिस्सा सरकार को भी मिले—सिद्धान्ततया यह बात बिलकुल ठीक है। लेकिन मैं सरकार को इस मौके पर यह कहना चाहता हूँ—खास तौर से जब से इस नई सरकार का यहां पर आना हुआ है, तब से एग्रीकल्चरल-प्रोड्यूस की कई चीजें, जो आम तौर से एक्सपोर्ट होती थी, उन को कई जगहों पर एकदम रोक दिया गया और बाद में उन के वापस एक्सपोर्ट की इजाजत भी दे दी गई। मैं यह समझता हूँ कि इन के बारे में एक पार्लिसी निर्धारित की जानी चाहिये। जैसे जीरा है, हमारे देश में काफी पैदा होता है, इस का उपयोग दवाइयों और दूसरी चीजों में होता है, अमरीका और दूसरे मुल्कों में काफी भंजा जाता है। लौंग है, कालीमिर्च है, दूसरी

[श्री नाथूराम मिश्रा]

कार्मिश्यल क्रॉप्स हैं, जैसे कोकोनट—इन सब का उत्पादन हमारे देश में काफी बढ़ रहा है और भविष्य में भी बढ़ेगा। इसलिये मेरा निवेदन है कि उन सारी चीजों के लिये जिन का एक्सपोर्ट हो सकता है, मार्केट कहां-कहां हैं—उन सब चीजों के लिये सरकार पूरा सर्वे कराये, ताकि सरकार को और दूसरी प्राइवेट एजेंसीज को इन कामों में प्रोत्साहन मिले कि किन-किन चीजों का, किन-किन मुल्कों में कितने असें तक मार्केट रहेगा? यह तजवीज अगर सरकार नहीं करेगी, तो जां मुसीबतों समय-समय पर किसानों के ऊपर आ रही हैं, वे दूर नहीं होंगी। चीजों के भाव गिर जाने से उन में गरीबी आती है।

इम्पोर्ट की पालीसी के बारे में भी सरकार ने ऐसा ही किया है। वह एड-हाक डिस्सिजन्स लेंती है। थोड़ी सी तेल की कमी नजर आई, 2 लाख टन या तीन लाख टन तेल की जहां जरूरत थी, वहां उसने 12 लाख टन मंगवा लिया और इसका नतीजा यह हुआ कि हमारे देश के अन्दर आयलसीड्स के दाम बहुत ज्यादा गिर गये। इस तरह से रुई के दाम बहुत ज्यादा गिर गये और किसानों का बहुत नुकसान हुआ। हमारे यहां की जां देसी बंगला रुई है, उस की मांग बाहर के देशों में बहुत ज्यादा है। लांग स्टेपल काटन जैसे हाईब्रीड 4, और दक्षिण की बरलक्ष्मी और दूसरी वेराइटीज जां लांग स्टेपल काटन की हैं, उन की डिमान्ड दुनिया में बहुत ज्यादा है। दुनिया के बहुत से कन्ट्रीज यह चाहते हैं कि इन की प्रोडक्शन बढ़ाई जाए और भारत एक रेगुलर एक्सपोर्ट पालीसी बनाए। वे लम्बे स्टेपल का काटन हमारे यहां से खरीदने को तैयार हैं लेकिन लम्बे स्टेपल का जां काटन होता है, उस से कपड़ा आदि बनाने के लिए मशीनों में परिवर्तन करना पड़ता है। होता क्या है कि हमारे यहां की सरकार एक साल उस काटन का एक्सपोर्ट करने के लिए एलाउ करती है लेकिन दूसरे साल कहती है कि हम एक्सपोर्ट नहीं करेंगे। इस से काटन के दाम देश में गिरते हैं और फिर किसानों का जां अगले साल का प्रोडक्शन है, उस में कमी होती है। ऐसी स्थिति होने से किसान अपनी क्रॉप्स का प्लानिंग भी नहीं

कर सकते। अगर एक साल दाम कम हो जाते हैं, तो इस का नतीजा यह होता है कि अगले साल उत्पादन उस चीज का कम हो जाता है। आज चीनी की जां हालत हम देख रहे हैं, उस का असर आप को एक, दो साल बाद दिखाई देगा। आप चाहे कितने ओप्टिमीमिस्टिक गन्ने के बारे में हों, इस का असर आगे चल कर पड़ेगा। अभी कल परसों में मैंने अखबारों में पढ़ा था कि कुछ अखबार वाले हरियाणा और पंजाब गये थे। वहां पर उन को किसानों ने बताया कि हम बासमती चावल नहीं बाएंगें क्योंकि उस में उत्पादन कम होता है और एक्सपोर्ट के बारे में कई तरह के टन्टे हैं। उस को भंजने नहीं देते हैं और दाम भी उस के उन को कम मिलते हैं और उस का प्रोडक्शन एक हक्टेयर में कुल 18 क्वींटल होता है जब कि आई. आर. 8 का 57, 58 क्वींटल होता है और आई. आर. 8 को यहां की एफ.सी.आई. को और सरकार की दूसरी एजेंसियों का खरीदना पड़ेगा क्योंकि उस की एस्पॉर्ड मिनीमम प्राइस गारंटीड है। आज इस देश में किसान के लिए अगर मिनीमम प्राइस गारंटीड है, तो सिर्फ दो चीजों की है और वे हैं गेहूँ और चावल। कुछ एजेंट्स कम होने से कभी-कभी उस में दिक्कत आ जाती है पर कुल मिला कर किसानों के लिए अगर मिनीमम गारंटीड प्राइस है, तो वह गेहूँ और चावल की है। इसलिए अब किसान यह सोचने लगा है कि हम कुछ नहीं बाएंगे सिवाय गेहूँ और चावल के और वर्स्ट क्वालिटी का चावल वे पैदा करने की सोचते हैं क्योंकि परहक्टेयर ईल्ड उस की ज्यादा होती है। इस तरह से आप देखें कि क्वालिटी डिस्ट्रिब्यूटे होती है और इस तरह से आप का जां प्रोडक्शन का प्रोग्राम है, वह भी सीटल नहीं होगा। इसलिए एक्सपोर्ट की पालीसी और इम्पोर्ट की पालीसी एग््रीकल्चर प्रोडक्शन के साथ-साथ आज के दिन इस देश में बढ़ा महत्व रखती है। आप ने एड हाक तौर पर हल्दी के बारे में यह कर दिया लेकिन मैं आप को बताऊं कि किसानों को हल्दी का दाम, कम्पैरेटिवली दूसरी चीजों के मुकाबले में बहुत कम मिला। इस तरह से आप यह देखें कि जीरे का दाम पिछले साल 22 रुपये किलो था और अब उस का दाम 11, 12 रुपये किलो है। इसी तरह से हल्दी में दुगने का

फर्क है। अगर इस वक़्त किसानों को उस की कीमत नहीं मिलती, तो किसान तो मारा जाता है। उस की कास्ट आफ प्रोडक्शन करीब करीब वही की वही है और दाम उस को कम मिलते हैं। तो फिर वरीयेंशनस आते हैं क्राप प्रोडक्शन के प्रोग्राम में। किस चीज की कितनी डिमान्ड है और कितना उस का सरप्लस है, इस के बारे में हर साल आप अगर एस्टीमेट नहीं बनाएंगे और उस के अनुसार किसान अपनी योजना नहीं बनाएंगे, तो इस से किसान भी लुटेगा और किसानों के बीच में जो मिडिलमैन हैं, उस को उतार-चढ़ाओ करने का बहुत मौका मिलेगा। मिडिलमैन को किस तरह से बँलेंस करें, यह आप को सोचना पड़ेगा। अब आप की काटन कार्पोरेशन है, उस का जो उपयोग होना चाहिए, वह नहीं होता है। कभी वह बाजार में लट जाती है और बाजार में जाती है तो अपने साधनों के साथ नहीं जाती है, कुछ चीज खरीदती है और कुछ नहीं खरीदती है। इस तरह से बीच के जो इन्सट्रुमेंट्स हैं, जो मार्केटिंग में जरूरी हैं, उन के लिए नये इन्सट्रुमेंट्स बनाने की आवश्यकता है जिस के बारे में कृषि आयोग की रिपोर्ट में सिफारिश है। मार्केटिंग लेवल पर क्या नई व्यवस्था जमानी है, इन सारी चीजों को आप को देखना चाहिए।

आप ने जो पिप्सी हल्दी पर 1500 रुपये और अन्य रूप में हल्दी पर 2,000 रुपये प्रति टन की दर से निर्यात शुल्क लगाया है, यह ठीक है। पिप्सी हल्दी में जो आप ने 1,500 रुपये लगाया है, थोड़ा कम या ज्यादा जो किया है, क्योंकि उस के पीसने में कुछ लोगों को काम करना पड़ता है, यह ठीक ही है लेकिन इस के बारे में मेरा यह सुभाव है कि इस से जो पैसा आप लें उस के लिए एक डेवलपमेंट फंड किसानों की दृष्टि से आप बनाइए। हल्दी से या रुई से या दूसरी जो इस तरह की चीजें नार्मली एक्सपोर्ट होती हैं, उन से इस तरह का जो पैसा लिया जाए, उस को एक अलग फंड बना कर आप उस में डालिये और उस फंड का उपयोग आगे एग्रीकल्चर प्रोडक्शन को ठीक तरह से रंग्लेंट करने के लिए, उस की साइंटीफिक प्रोग्रेस के लिए, जिस से किसानों को लाभ मिल सके, किया जाना चाहिए। इस तरह की योजना

बननी चाहिए जिससे आम तौर पर किसानों को लाभ मिल सके। जो पैसा किसानों से आता है वह पैसा जनरल फंड में न डाल कर के एग्रीकल्चर पर खर्च करना चाहिए क्योंकि एग्रीकल्चर ही इस देश का रियल बेस है और गांवों में 90 परसेन्ट लोग खेती करते हैं। इस से किसानों को यह लगगा कि उनके द्वारा कमाया हुआ पैसा, उनके विकास पर ही लग रहा है। फिर उनको जो इस बात का दर्द रहता है कि उनके विकास के काम में पैसा नहीं आ रहा है, वह उनका दर्द भी कम होगा। इस पर यह मैनें सुभाव दिया है, आशा है सरकार इस पर गौर करेगी। इन शब्दों के साथ आपने जो यहां प्रस्ताव रखा है, उसका मैं समर्थन करता हूँ।

श्री लक्ष्मी नारायण नाथक (खजुराहो) : माननीय उपाध्यक्ष जी. मंत्री जी ने इस के बारे में जो कारण बताया है कि हल्दी और कपास का ज्यादा निर्यात हो रहा है और उसमें विचोर्तिये ज्यादा मुनाफा उठा रहे हैं, इसलिए उस मुनाफे को कम करने के लिए सीमा शुल्क लगाया है जिससे उस मुनाफे का हिस्सा सरकार में आये। लेकिन इसका क्या असर होगा? इससे किसान की चीजें सस्ती हों जाएंगी और जब उसकी चीजें सस्ती हों जाएंगी तो उसको उसकी उपज का उचित दाम नहीं मिलेगा। एक तरफ तो सरकार कहती है और जो सोचने-समझने वाले लोग हैं व भी कहते हैं हमें किसानों के हितों पर ज्यादा ध्यान देना है, किसान जो उत्पादन करता है उसका उसको वाजिब मूल्य मिलना चाहिए। जब तक आप अच्छी तरह से इस बात के लिए आश्वस्त नहीं हो जाते हैं कि किसान को उसके उत्पादन का पूरा मूल्य मिल रहा है तब तक इस तरह की जो क्रिया आप कर रहे हैं उससे किसानों के हितों पर बुरा असर पड़ेगा। इसलिए यह जो सुभाव दिया गया है, इसका मैं समर्थन नहीं करता हूँ। अगर सरकार यह देखती है कि कोई दूसरा मुनाफा कमा रहा है तो सरकार को खुद खरीद करनी चाहिए। जैसे आपने आलू के बारे में किया है कि आलू को बाहर भेजा जा सकता है क्योंकि आलू ज्यादा पैदा होता है। लेकिन आलू बिगड़ने वाली चीज है। कुछ व्यापारी उसको बाहर ले जायेंगे लेकिन कुछ को बंगन नहीं

[श्री लक्ष्मी नारायण नायक]

मिलेंगे, कुछ को जहाज समय पर नहीं मिलेंगे। इस तरह से आलू जल्दी बाहर नहीं जा सकेगा। सरकार के पास ऐसे साधन हैं कि वह उसे खरीद कर विदेश भेज सकती हैं। इसलिए मैं इसके बारे में भी चाहता हूँ कि सरकार इसको भी एक्सपोर्ट कर के बाहर भेज। चूँकि कुछ लोगों को ज्यादा मुनाफा हो रहा है इसलिए उस पर सीमा शुल्क लगा दे यह तरीका ठीक नहीं है। इससे किसानों पर बुरा असर पड़ेगा। सरकार का ऐसे कदम उठाने चाहिए जिससे किसानों को उनकी चीजों की वाजिब कीमत मिले। यह ठीक है कि उपभोक्ता भी यह चाहते हैं कि अगर बाजार में ज्यादा फ्रीज रहेंगी तो उनको सस्ती चीजें मिलेंगी। इस चीज का निरीक्षण करना सरकार का काम है, ऐसी नीति निर्धारित करना सरकार का काम है। सरकार की नीति ऐसी बनानी चाहिए जिससे उत्पादन करने वालों को भी नुकसान न हो और जिसके दूरगामी परिणाम अच्छे हों। इस तरह से सीमा शुल्क लगाने का तरीका ठीक नहीं है। मैं इस बात का समर्थन नहीं कर सकता। इससे किसानों पर बुरा असर पड़ेगा। मैं चाहता हूँ कि इसकी बजाय आप को आय करूँ लगाना चाहिए। इसके लिए तो आपको कर्मचारी तैनात करने पड़ते हैं। वे कर्मचारी फिर गड़बड़ करते हैं। इसलिए मैं चाहता हूँ कि मन्त्री जी इस पर पुनर्विचार करें। इस तरह से सीमा शुल्क लगाने से तो किसान की आमदनी पर बुरा असर पड़ेगा। उसको ऊपर उठने का अवसर नहीं मिलेगा। आप को ऐसा तरीका निकालिये जिससे मिडिलमैन भी ज्यादा मुनाफा न कमा सकें और किसान पर भी बुरा असर न पड़े। इन शब्दों के साथ मैं चाहता हूँ कि मन्त्री जी इस पर पुनः विचार करें।

SHRI DAJIBA DESAI (Kolhapur):
Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the Government has come forward to seek the approval of this House to the notification already issued with regard to increasing the export duty on raw

cotton and levying export duty on turmeric in powder form.

Sir, only a few days back, the Finance Minister, during his budget speech had told the House that the export of agricultural products had to be encouraged and in this connection, had mentioned some of the items also. But at the same time, the Government has come here seeking the approval of this House to this enhancement or levying of the export duty. There are only two items on which the levy is sought to be imposed or increased. On the other hand, actually, the Government should have come with a policy statement on the basis of the announcement already made in the House by the Finance Minister.

The Hon. Minister of State while moving his resolution in the House said that he would reply to certain questions concerning his Ministry. Is the Finance Ministry concerned with the revenue and expenditure only and it is not concerned with the economic policies of the Government? And if the Finance Ministry is concerned with the economic policy, is it not the concern of the Finance Ministry to know what export policy the Government or the various Ministries are adopting? Shri Mirdha and other hon. Members have rightly emphasised that there is need for an export policy for the agricultural products. They are just exporting or importing without any clear-cut policy.

There is one more important point that I would like to place before the House. There is discrimination in so far as the agriculture and industry are concerned. For the industry, the Government comes forward from time to time with the policy of export concessions. There are a number of Export Promotion Councils which deal with the encouragement of export of industrial products as also their input availability. When a factory wants to export certain items, they can get import licences for raw materials, for inputs etc. Then, again

there is compensatory support for the industries. There are certain industries where hundred per cent production is encouraged for exports. On the other hand, what is the policy of the Government regarding export of agricultural products? Thus, there is a clear discrimination between the two.

When the agriculturists produce more, the produce goes to the trading community and whenever it suits them, the trading community can export this after getting necessary licences etc. And supposing they get something more, then the Government comes in with this sort of notification for mopping up the profits. Many hon. Members of the House have asked as to what about the producers. Actually, when there is no export policy as such for agricultural products the agriculturists or the cultivators cannot draw up their programme for production. If the Government says that these are the items to be exported, cultivators can specially plan their programme of, for example, cotton or whatever it is. Now, this year many States have asked for export of cotton. The Government of Maharashtra have procured lakhs of bales of cotton and have asked the Government for permission to export cotton. What would happen if the Government says that they are levying an export duty to mop up the profits? In Maharashtra, the State Government or the Marketing Cooperatives Federation is purchasing cotton, and they guarantee an adequate or reasonable price. In all the other States, Government must come out with a policy that whenever they want to export, they can export but that it must be through the State trading agency or a cooperative agency.

There is the State Trading Corporation. It deals with exports and imports. So, why should it not deal with the export of raw cotton? They can purchase from the open market here and export, and give the benefit to the State Trading Corporation, and to the country. Mopping of profit

need not be done only by taxes. It can be done through market operations. Government of India has a number of institutions which can deal with exports. Even some of the cooperatives are doing it. The cooperatives and the STC can do it. In spite of all these institutions, Government has come out with a proposal to support the private trade.

I want to ask the Minister whether this is the policy which is going to be adopted in future, with regard to agricultural exports—the policy which has been announced by the Finance Minister. The private trade is purchasing it at a cheaper price during the production season and it is allowed to export agricultural produce—from rice to cotton; and then Government's function is only to levy the export—is it the policy of the Government? I hope the Finance Minister will enlighten the House and assure us that henceforth the export duty will be used not only to mop up profits, but to give benefits to the agricultural producer. Here they actually have the Bengal Desi cotton, but 'haldi' is still in season. The season has started. Government can purchase it with the help of the State cooperative societies. They can purchase and then export. Bengal Desi might have been purchased by the private traders, but it is not the case with 'haldi'. If the Government has really any intention to support cultivators, so that they can get better and remunerative prices and the cost of production by harvesting—if it is a proclamation of the Janata Government—let them say that, and also that henceforth agricultural production will be exported by the cooperative institutions or the STC. That is the declaration we want.

SHRI AMRIT NAHATA (Pali): I really sympathize with Shri Satish Agarwal, because as he himself has said, he is only an executive person, to execute what the administrative Ministry tells him to do. I wish somebody from the Ministries of Industry and Commerce were here to listen to this debate. Obviously it seems as if

[Shri Amrit Nahata]

it is a very reasonable step, that some profits of the middle-men are being mopped up; but behind this facade is concealed a long story of lethargy, inefficiency and even collusion. I will tell you how. I know the whole story. It is the story of total incompetence of the Cotton Corporation of India. Last year, The Cotton Corporation of India was allowed to export 25,000 bales of Bengal Desi cotton. It could not do so. With great efforts, it could export only 10,000 bales. 15,000 bales of Bengal Desi cotton were lying in the godowns of CCI, deteriorating in quality and getting pink in colour. This year the whole world knew that we were surplus in Bengal Desi and that prices were crashing, but Government did not announce that exports would be allowed. It wanted the CCI to clear its older stocks first; and then the Government would announce permission to export. Meanwhile, the poor farmers could not wait. He had to sell his cotton at distress price. Today a very small quantity of Bengal Desi cotton is trickling down in the market; most of it has already been mopped up by the traders before exports were announced. When all this cotton had been cornered and garnered by the big traders government came forward and said: now we allow exports, knowing very well that the benefits will not go to the farmers but it will go to the traders. Whether it was the result of deliberate, conscious collusion or it was incompetent effort to protect the operating failures of the CCI, I do not know but the result has been that the total benefits of these exports have gone to the traders and not to the farmers.

15.00 hrs.

Even this time, out of 50,000 bales of cotton, 10,000 bales have been reserved for CCI. Till this day CCI has not been able to fetch order for a single bale while private traders have been able to fetch orders for many more bales than what they have been allowed. The hon. Minister spoke of

international prices. There is no no such thing. There is only one country which buys our Bengal Desi; that is Japan. We do not use it; Japan is a highly industrialised country; it uses it. If Japan does not buy anything from the CCI that is the tragedy. The Cotton Corporation of India has not been able to establish its credentials with Japanese importers they do not rely on its time schedule or quality or its dealings. It is a great tragedy. CCI must improve its performance and must go to the fields and buy cotton of good quality at fair price to the farmer, in fact offer higher prices to the farmer and buy cotton for export; then there would not be profiteering by private trade. The CCI as a public sector undertaking must go in a big way to buy cotton and export it and establish links with the Japanese importers.

40,000 bales were allowed for private traders. What are the conditions on traders who want to export this cotton? He must deposit Rs. 500 per bale with the Textile Commissioner. No small trader or exporter or farmer who organises into a cooperative and decides to export their cotton directly, they cannot do it. It is a big amount—Rs. 500 per bale. There is another condition that this export must be completed before March end. This policy was declared in mid February; within one and a half months it has to be done. It means only big traders can do it with the result that Saksarias and such big traders alone would benefit from it. Now it is a poor sop to us and we are told that we have mopped up their profits.

Japan is the only buyer of Bengal Desi. Incidentally, it is not grown in Bengal but is mainly grown in Punjab, Rajasthan and a small quantity in Haryana also. I find that in Japan there is demand not only for Bengal Desi but also, a small demand, for hand ginned desi cotton. In good old days, cotton used to be ginned by hand by our womenfolk in the villages. There is a charki and with this, our women during noon time

used to gin cotton and remove the seeds. When mill-ginning came, hand-ginning was almost exterminated but still there is some demand for this cotton in Japan. I went to my people and asked, "Can you revive it?" They said, "Yes, we can revive it". I told the Commerce Minister, "Why don't you reserve some quantity for hand-ginned cotton? It will give employment to four or five thousand people in my constituency and in other parts of Rajasthan." He agreed. 2000 bales have been reserved for the export of hand-ginned cotton. Today in my constituency in six villages in Bikaner, 3000 people are employed in hand-ginning only because there is a demand in Japan. The Textile Commissioner says, this also must be exported by March end. Hand-ginning is not mechanised, so you cannot gin 2000 bales in 1-1/2 months. This time must be extended. **Then they say, you must deposit Rs. 500 per bale.** This is not possible because they are small people. It is true that hand-ginned cotton fetches a slightly higher price and it will give us more foreign exchange. But it is not very high. The difference is hardly 10 to 12 cents. per kg. But hand-ginning costs are higher and it will give employment to 5000 to 10,000 women in remote villages of Rajasthan. I would appeal to the Minister to consider exempting hand-ginned cotton from this export duty because there is not much profit in it. Even now when cotton has gone out of the hands of the farmers, at least a part of it is going back to the poor villagers in the form of employment.

Lastly, I would strongly support the demand of Mr. Nathuram Mirdha. I am not talking of the general import-export policy which is a larger issue. But this Rs. 160 lakhs that the Government is mopping up is a wind-fall and secondly it amounts to defrauding the poor farmer. This margin at least must have gone back to the farmer. This money must be earmarked and given to the Punjab, Rajasthan and Haryana Governments to spend for the further development

and growth of deshi cotton in these States.

SHRI VASANT SATHE (Akola): Sir, most of the points have been covered. While supporting the points raised by my hon. friends, I would suggest that it is high time this attitude of dealing with problems in a piecemeal and *ad hoc* manner, which the Government has shown by this notification, was given up. For years Members of Parliament in this House and farmers outside have been requesting for a national cotton and textile policy. There is no parity between cotton prices and textile prices. There is no general loot. Whenever production goes up in the case of an agricultural commodity, whether it is sugarcane, cotton, or turmeric or any item, you find that the prices crash. All that the Government says is that the Agricultural Prices Commission has fixed a certain support price and we will come to the rescue of the farmer only if it goes below the support price. That means, you do not want the agriculturists to get remunerative prices. This year, for example, the cotton prices fell. But did the prices of cloth fall? No. What are you doing with the middle men and the textile industry? When the Government themselves have a large number of textile mills under their control, they have no policy. They just quibble about supporting the farmers. Even the present budget will go to help only the very big farmers, and the ordinary poor farmer, like the ordinary consumer, would suffer because of the rise. Here you are waking up and bolting the door of the stable after the horse has escaped. How are you going to benefit the agriculturist by this mopping up?

I remember that we examined this problem in the PAC. Bengal Deshi is exported only to Japan, and 80 to 90 per cent is exported by only one party based at Bombay. I do not want to name that party. For years he has been doing forward contracts. My friend, Shri Nahata, was saying that Japan is not willing to purchase from

[Shri Vasant Sathe]

the STC. It is a conspiracy between this company here and the only importer, that is, Japan, which also believes in free trade. They would not buy from you. I say this is an eye wash.

I welcome the little bit that you are trying to mop up. Fair enough; but who is benefitting? The benefit goes to those people who have already minted money by the forward contracts. They have made their loot.

After all, this is not a party matter. When you are thinking in terms of progressive reforms as a national policy, are you going to allow this policy of letting the traders make the loot of the farmers and the consumers, although your administrative Ministry recommended to you and you agreed to share the loot? So, both the Government and the traders want to loot the consumers and the small people. This attitude of taking a share in the loot must be given up. It is high time that you must give up such a policy and evolve a constructive policy and announce it.

It is not to be taken lightly and you just bring an *ad hoc* Resolution saying that on a particular commodity the trade is making a profit and so you increase the duty. Tomorrow you will come with a Resolution for duty on some other item. So far as critical items which affect the farmers are concerned, why not the State itself be trader? When I talk of State trading, I do not have in my mind the bureaucracy managing State trading. That is another fallacy which we have. When we talk of nationalisation or taking over, immediately the bureaucrats come in, though they do not know the difference between different varieties of cotton or some other crop. The result is that they fail in the international market. So, why do you not utilize the expertise of the private trade? There is nothing wrong in it. But tell them that they do it on behalf of the nation, see

that the entire margin of profit goes to the country and for the benefit of the farmers.

Here, I would request only one thing. In keeping with your declared policy of helping the farmers, let a gesture be made by seeing that all the moneys that come from this tariff increase is put in a development fund for the benefit of the farmers producing turmeric as well as Bengal Desi cotton. You have not mentioned here Bengal Desi. Tomorrow it may apply to other cottons also. I do not see "Bengal Desi" in the resolution. You have said "duty on raw cotton".

SHRI SATISH AGRAWAL: You have not seen the notification.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: I go by your resolution. Anyway, if it is clear in the notification, it is all right.

There was a committee of experts which had worked out a formula on parity. It was submitted to the previous Government just before the general elections. You will be having it with you. Study it, work out a formula, a national policy for the production of raw materials as well as finished products including exports.

SHRI PABITRA MOHAN PRADHAN (Deogarh): I rise to support the resolution tabled by the hon. Minister.

There has been a criticism that the Government have no policy on exports. I say that the Government have followed a general policy of export and import. What is this general policy? The nation exports commodities for the purpose of acquiring and conserving foreign exchange, and also to give benefit to the producer, the consumer and the trader, whether it is the private trader or a Government corporation. Also, the export and import policy depends upon more production and international prices. If these matters are considered, I think in exporting Bengal cotton and turmeric, Government have followed the real policy, the general policy of export and import. So, I claim that

the Government is not at fault in export of Bengal cotton and turmeric.

As the hon. Minister has stated, Government is getting thousands of rupees profit in its turn. If there is much profit, as has been suggested by some hon. Members, let a portion of the money be reserved to give subsidy to the producers when it is needed by them.

So far as turmeric is concerned, it is grown to a great extent in Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and elsewhere. In Orissa, mostly the Adivasis of the Pulbhani and Koraput districts, which are hilly districts, grow it. In Andhra Pradesh, in the hilly areas, it is grown widely and mostly by the Adivasis and the Harijans. They do not get a proper price.

It was complained that the middle-man was taking the lion's share of the profits. The Tribal Welfare Department set up cooperative committees to purchase it. As a result, the Adivasis and the Harijan producers were thrown out of the frying pan to the fire. They did not do justice to the producers. In the last 50 years, even before Independence, there has been a hue and cry that the middle-man is taking away the profit and the producers do not get the benefit.

The various corporations have been set up. I am going to give an example of one Corporation, that is, the Food Corporation of India. They purchase rice. But they are the greatest suckers and the exploiters in the society. In our side, the rice is harvested from the month of November till January. During this period, the FCI agents do not go to the villages and do not purchase rice at all. But the farmer, the cultivator, the producer, is in need of money and, therefore, he is compelled to sell rice or any sort of produce, whether it is rice or wheat or maize or bajra or anything at lower rate. These FCI agents do not purchase it. At the nick of the moment, when the cultivator, the producer, requires some money, they sell it at a very much lower price and stealthily, secretly and in a concocted

way, through some other people, the FCI agents purchase it at a very much less price and they get a profit. They do it for their personal ends.

I do not appreciate this hue and cry that the Government should make purchases and carry on the business. The experience that we have got in the last 30 years is that they are not doing any justice to the producers. Whether it is the Government corporation or it is the private purchaser, whoever purchases it, they must give the benefit to the producers. The Government should see that the producer gets a proper price, whoever the purchaser may be. In view of the profit which the Government now gets on the Bengal type of cotton and turmeric, the area under cultivation of these crops should be extended and the producers must be given all help and aid by the Government for growing more turmeric and Bengal type of cotton.

With these words, I support the resolution.

श्री अनन्त दबे (कच्छ) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मन्त्री महोदय ने जो एक्सपोर्ट ड्यूटी लगाने के बारे में यहां कहा है, उसका मैं बिल्कुल समर्थन नहीं कर रहा हूं। यहां बहुत से लोगों ने और नहाटा जी ने भी कहा कि इससे मिडिल-मेन के पास जो मुनाफा जा रहा है उसको हम नहीं जाने देना चाहते हैं इसलिए हमने एक्सपोर्ट पर ड्यूटी बढ़ायी है। मैंने टरमेरिक पर एक क्वेश्चन किया था कि उस पर जो बोन है, उसको उठा लीजिए जिससे किसान को उसका मुनाफा मिले। उसके उत्तर में यह कहा गया था कि टरमेरिक का उत्पादन बढ़ता जा रहा है इसलिए हम बोन नहीं उठाना चाहते हैं। जैसे बंगला देशी का उत्पादन बढ़ रहा है वैसे ही शंकर चार का उत्पादन भी बढ़ रहा है। मेरे डिस्ट्रिक्ट में शंकर चार का बड़ा उत्पादन हुआ। प्राइवेट फार्मर्स से वह कमास निकल गई है। बड़े बड़े बाजारियों ने उनको बहुत कम दामों में उससे ले लिया है। शंकर चार पर जो दवाइयां डिडको जाती हैं, फॉटो ग्राइजर का

[श्री मनन्त दबे]

इस्तेमाल किया जाता है चूंकि ये सब चीजें बहुत महंगी होती हैं इस वास्ते उनका खर्चा बहुत बढ़ जाता है। लेकिन उनको पूरी कीमत नहीं मिली है। व्यापारी लोगों ने इसको उनके पास से बहुत कम कीमत में खरीद लिया है। अब आज जाकर आप जो एक्सपोर्ट ड्यूटी बढ़ा रहे हैं यह ठीक नहीं है। जो चीज बंगला देशी पर लागू होती है वही शंकर चार पर भी होती है। जो उसके लिए आप करते हैं वही आपको शंकर चार के लिए भी करना चाहिये। मैं यह चाहता हूँ कि जो छोटी छोटी जिन्निंग प्रसिद्ध हैं जहाँ पर रूई का जिन्निंग हो रहा है उन पर ड्यूटी कम लगनी चाहिये। जहाँ पर कामगार मिल कर काम कर रहे हैं या फार्मर्स को कोआप्रेटिव सोसाइटीज जहाँ जिन्निंग कर रही हैं उन पर कोई ड्यूटी नहीं लगनी चाहिये।

सी० सी० आई० के लोग भी रूई की खरीद करते हैं। मैं आपको एक बड़ी ही इंटरैस्टिंग मिसाल देता हूँ। जो लोग वहाँ खरीद करने जाते हैं सी० सी० आई० के लोग उनको कोई ज्ञान रूई के बारे में नहीं होता है, जो सी० सी० आई० का क्लर्क आदि खरीदने के लिए बाजार में जाता है वह जानता नहीं है कि यह किस जात की रूई है और वैसे ही वह खरीद लेता है। उसका नतीजा यह है कि आज सी० सी० आई० के पास बहुत बड़ी मात्रा में वह रूई पड़ी हुई है और इससे देश को नुकसान हो रहा है। टरमेरिक और रूई पर जो ड्यूटी लगी है उसका मैं विरोध करता हूँ। जो मुनाफा है वह मिडल मैन ले जाएगा और फार्मर्स के लिए आपने कोई इन्तजाम नहीं किया है। जो रकम आपके पास आएगी आपने यह नहीं कहा है कि उसको आप सबसिडी के तौर पर किसान को देंगे या और किसी तरह से आप उसकी मदद करेंगे। इस वास्ते इस ड्यूटी को आपको कम करना चाहिये और जो पैसा आए वह आपको फार्मर्स पर खर्च करना चाहिये, यह पैसा फार्मर्स के पास जाना चाहिये।

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am very grateful to the hon. Members who have participated in the debate on this Resolution. By and large, this Resolution has got wide support from all sections of the House...

SHRI K. GOPAL (Karur): No. Please go through the record leisurely.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: The hon. Members have availed themselves of this opportunity to highlight some of the grievances that they had in their mind with regard to the problems pertaining to the growers, and they have highlighted them. I have benefited very much by their views.

Mr. Dajiba Desai at the very outset questioned the propriety of what I stated in this House and asked as to why I should not reply to all the points, whether they concerned my Ministry or not. I can only say in this behalf that I am not accustomed to encroaching upon the fields of others, and as laid down in the Government of India Rules of Business, I keep myself confined to my own subject, and during the last 20 months, the hon. Members would not have come across any such discussion anywhere where I have crossed those limits. But the reply was very well given by my friend, Mr. Amrit Nahata. So far as this Resolution is concerned, there were proposals from the administrative Ministries for levying this duty. Suppose this House rejects this Resolution. Then what is the result? Do the cotton growers get any benefit out of it? Do the growers of turmeric get any benefit out of it? It is the men who had already made certain purchases or who are in a position to make purchases hereafter will get the benefit of the huge wind-fall gains, that is, the difference between the domestic price and the international price. So far as this Resolution is concerned, the only idea behind this levy had been only

this. The Revenue Department in the Finance Ministry do not do on their own all these things. I quite agree and I share the concern of many of the hon. Members of this House, whether it is Mr. Dajiba Desai or Mr. Rajagopal Naidu or Mr. Nathuram Mirdha or Mr. Vasant Sathe or Mr. Amrit Nahata or Mr. Pabitra Mohan Pradhan or Mr. Naik. I share the concern of all the hon. Members, and I say that there is a need to have a fresh thinking on those lines. For example there should be a separate Export Corporation to boost up the exports of agricultural products. Presently, there is a separate wing in the concerned Ministry—the Ministry of Commerce or the Industries Ministry, to see what particular item and what particular agricultural product can be exported. But I quite agree with Shri Nathuram Mirdha that there is a need for having some market surveys and there is a need for boosting our exports of agricultural products and there should be an assessment in advance as to what particular agricultural products can be exported, in what quantities, when and through what agencies. There is a need for it and that is why the House will be glad to know that whatever allotments have been made to other individual traders, now there is a proposal under consideration because when this matter was raised in the other House also, I assured them that we shall take up the matter with the administrative Ministry.

I am now told at this juncture that from the new crop 20,000 bales of high-priced cotton, 20,000 bales on first-come-first served basis and 20,000 bales to CCI have already been allotted. But the high priced cotton and the first-come-first served allotment have been released for export.

Now, in addition to the above, proposals for allotting 5,000 bales to each of the three Bengal Desi cotton-growing States of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan are under con-

sideration. This proposal envisages allotting the quantity to the co-operative federations of these States. There is also a proposal to allot 5,000 bales to CCI to undertake export of Bengal Desi cotton as agents of cotton growers/primary societies.

I think to some extent this will help the growers and the export corporations of these various States or whatever agencies they have in their mind. I think they would be able to take advantage of this additional proposal. It is under consideration of the administrative Ministry—I have been told just now. So, in that case, these three States—Haryana, Punjab and Rajasthan...

AN HON. MEMBER: What about Gujarat?

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: At the moment, I have been informed about these three States only. I will verify and let you know. So if they make certain purchases directly from the cotton growers and they pass on this benefit to them and enter into the market, then I think the growers will benefit. But under the existing circumstances or the mechanism that exists to-day, there is no other go for the Revenue Department but to agree to the proposal of the administrative Ministries. 'Yes, this much cotton is being released to-day. They are going to be exported. They are going to make certain profits and so this much levy of Rs. 2.5 per Kg. be levied.' The domestic price is said to be Rs. 8 and the international market price and the price in Japan is Rs. 21. So there is a difference of Rs. 13. We said, 'All right, there is a case for a levy of Rs. 2.5 per kg. by way of export duty.' And that we have levied.

Then the other point raised by the hon. Members will also be met in case this proposal is approved by the Ministry of Commerce or the concerned administrative Ministry.

[Shri Satish Agarwal]

Then there are certain other points that have been raised—that there should be a market survey, etc. That should be there. Sometimes it happens in our agricultural economy that things are very uncertain and nobody knows and I am told that this could not be assessed, that this will be the cotton surplus. This was one good reason why last year we were importing viscose under OGL and all that and there was a 10 per cent compulsory obligation on the mills to use viscose but this year cotton production has been so comfortable that we have done away with all that and we use more cotton. So we cannot say what will be the surplus. But there is a need for a survey. I realise the need for some agency or some corporation or some mechanism to assess, to have a market survey and to boost up our agricultural exports and to eliminate the middleman from this export business so as to get the maximum price for the grower for the product, we export.

Then I come to the question of creation of a separate fund. Some of the hon. Members made a very strong plea that this Rs. 1.6 or 2 crores—whatever revenue we get out of this levy—should be created out of the Consolidated Fund of India and earmarked. If this Rs. 2 crores is sufficient, I will not mind it...

SHRI K. GOPAL: But you make a beginning.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: That is why there is a case for the administrative Ministry to frame a scheme and set up a corporation and see if any budgetary support is required for that. I can assure the hon. Members that if such a proposal comes to the Finance Ministry, it will receive our best attention and sympathetic consideration. But, in the absence of that, only funding this much with a separate fund will not help the grow-

ers or anybody else. Of course, there may be a need, but, it is for the Commerce Ministry or the Industries Ministry or the Agriculture Ministry to frame a scheme in that behalf and put up the proposals to the Ministry of Finance for some budgetary support and that in order to boost up the export of agricultural products, this much budgetary support is required, then, of course, those proposals will receive our best of attention.

In this particular connection, some hon. Members were saying—why should not the Government export and why the poor farmers are going to suffer on this account? As I stated earlier, of course, some of the exports are done through the S.T.C. and other exporting agencies. But, so far as this particular case is concerned, this is being done through the C.C.I. It has been given some quota. But, they are not in a position to export even that. If they do it and if and when the decision is taken that these special quotas or allotments are made to various respective State Governments and the C.C.I., then, I suppose, the position will ease out to a large extent and the growers will also benefit. But under the existing circumstances whatever mechanism exists for these exports I think there is no other option for the Revenue Department of the Ministry of Finance but to have a little share of profit. It is not a loot as Mr. Sathe illustrated it. Suppose we leave it. Who benefits? The grower does not benefit here.

As for the problems of the growers, it is either for the Agriculture Ministry, the Commerce or Industry Ministry. We do not come into the picture that way.

So, you have to sympathise with me, at least, with the Finance Ministry. So far as the general condition of the poor farmers is concerned, after all, we are going to do as best as we can. We have done much more

in the rural sector. It is rural biased budget and not urban biased budget. What is done for the rural sector, I need not reiterate. Now we are getting a lot of abuses on account of the present budget. It is very much in favour of the rural economy.

Those points have of course no validity that way. So far as the point made by Shri Nahata is concerned, he made one valid point that handginned cotton should be completely exempted. I do not agree with this suggestion at the particular moment. As he himself agreed, the handginned cotton's cost or its price in the domestic market is a little bit more. But, then the handginned cotton fetched more price in Japan. That is also a fact. So far as the margin is concerned, if the hon. Members are very much interested in figures, I can get that calculated. On the basis of the figures, I can only say that the machine ginned Bengal Deshi's cotton price is Rs. 3,000; spot to Bombay is Rs. 125/-. Loading and Unloading charge is Rs. 10.00. The cost of transit insurance is Rs. 25; export duty at new rate is Rs. 890.00; purchase tax at 4 per cent comes to Rs. 120.00; the cost of loss in weight at 1 per cent. comes to Rs. 30.00; freight and insurance to Japan comes to Rs. 400.00; survey fee comes to Rs. 5.00 and the shipping expenses at port comes to Rs. 75.00. They total to Rs. 4680/-. Realisation is at 105.50 cents which gives a figure of Rs. 6,700/-. It comes to near about Rs. 2,000. This is with regard to the ginned Bengal Deshi. And then this duty we are charging on exports.

So far as handginned Bengal Deshi is concerned, that would require definitely a further expenditure of Rs. 600/- to Rs. 700 on additional labour cost for employing labour for the purpose of ginning. This additional expenditure of Rs. 600/- per candy can be earned by the exporter of handginned cotton by way of a

premium because of handginning. Therefore, the exporter of handginned Bengal deshi is not at a particular disadvantage and is on par so far as profitability of export is concerned.

Despite this, it is not possible for the Customs Department to distinguish between the machineginned cotton and the handginned cotton. So, it may be misused. But, then, I am prepared to give this assurance that if the administrative ministry can certify or if we can come to a conclusion that the margin of profit or this type of handginned cotton will be much less in comparison to that, we can have a much more detailed study and examined it. It is not going to be exported by March end.

I can only assure you that as regards the small scale or rural or cottage industries for the poor people, that has to be examined in details. On this point if the cost is more the price in Japan is also more. But the margin of Profit for both types of Bengal Deshi cotton is practically more. There is no case for the outright exemption on this account.

So, I do not agree with you on that. At the moment one valid point was raised. That is the period is going to expire on 31.3. It is not possible to take advantage of this. It will not be possible for the people to export handginned cotton by March end. On that score I can only assure you the hon. Members, through you, the whole House that this particular sector needs sympathetic consideration. and I will do my level best that this limit of 31st March if it is not possible to export hand-ginned cotton by that time then an extension for a further period necessary will be considered and I will take up the issue with the concerned administrative ministries.

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Export Duty on raw cotton and turmeric (St. Res.)*

[Shri Satish Agarwal]

AN HON'BLE MEMBER: Time should be given for all the varieties.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: How can I give an assurance on behalf of other Ministries. It is for the administrative ministry concerned to take a decision.

So, Sir, the criticism of Mr. Anant Dave was based on mis-understanding about the present levy. This present levy has been levied particularly in the background that I have submitted. There is no question of funding it separately. There is no need for it. It will not serve any purpose. If there is a separate export council and as to what budgetary support should be given that can be considered separately.

Lastly, Sir, I once again thank all the hon'ble Members who have participated in the debate and made valuable contributions. I have been benefited very much by their views. All the relevant points will be taken up by me with the concerned ministers. So, I request all the members to pass this Resolution unanimously.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: There are two amendments—amendments Nos. 1 and 2—by Mr. Dajiba Desai. He is absent. I shall now put them to the vote of the House.

Amendments Nos. 1 and 2 were put and negatived.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 8, read with sub-section (3) of section 7, of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 (51 of 1975) this House approves the following notifications of the Government of India in the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue), namely:—

(1) No. G.S.R. 21(E) dated the 9th January, 1979, increasing the export duty on raw cotton to Rs. 2500 per tonne; and

(2) No. G.S.R. 34(E) dated the 20th January, 1979 levying an export duty at the rate of Rs. 1500 per tonne on turmeric in powder form and at the rate of Rs. 2000 per tonne on turmeric in any other form, under the new Heading No. 25 in the Second Schedule to the said Act, from the date of issue of the said notifications."

The motion was adopted.

15.44 hrs.

RAILWAY BUDGET, 1979-80—GENERAL DISCUSSION

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, the House will take up general discussion on the Budget (Railways) for 1979-80.

SHRI NIHAR LASKAR (Karimganj): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I think our Railway Minister must have been deriving some satisfaction that he has been able to present this year also a surplus budget. We do not grudge his satisfaction. What is surprising to note is that in his speech on the railway budget he said that the increase in freights and fares will not affect the railway users. But does he realise that by a single stroke he has imposed a burden of Rs. 178 crores on the railway users? In effect it represents 7 to 8 per cent. of the total traffic receipts of the railways. There is therefore no doubt that prices of all commodities will go up. In fact, it has been calculated—roughly of course—that price increase of food-grains will be like these:

Rice and wheat is likely to rise by 14 paise more per quintal.