

or any new policy cannot be implemented would not be a correct understanding of the situation because between 1956 and 1976, I think, there have been a number of statements on industrial policy. The 1956 Resolution, I think, is all things to all men; it is there in the books. But the Government's policies have been revised constantly by statements made on the floor of the House. To that extent, I have made a statement which brings about a clear departure from the policies outlined in the 1956 Resolution.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I have heard all the hon. Members. The proceedings will be transmitted to the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, and we shall see how best we can discuss it and as quickly as possible. Mr. Barnala.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Sir, on a point of order, under Direction 2(vi), I had given notice of two privilege motions. I had also requested for suspension of rule so that the two privilege motions could be taken up. One was, in reply to a question about Britannia Biscuit's production figures, Government had misled, and now on the last day, today, during question Hour, a reply has been given and that confirms my suspicion that the Britannia Biscuit is producing much more....

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I am not aware of this.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: I have given another privilege motion on bringing in censor during Emergency. I would like to have your rulings on these....

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Whatever notices you might have given are under consideration.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: For how long?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Do not raise it on the floor of the House. You can discuss with Speaker.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: The Britannia Biscuit motion has been pending for the last two weeks. Is the House being chartered by multi-nationals? How big are the multi-nationals, I know. The privilege motion lies for more than ten days....

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Do not impute motives to anybody. Do not make any statements about people who

are deciding on this motion. They are considering this motion. Mr. Barnala.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: I am asking one question.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: No more question. I have called Mr. Barnala. Mr. Stephen and Mr. Jyotirmoy Bosu, whatever you say will not go on record.

I have called Mr. Barnala.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU:

13:50 hrs.

STATEMENT RE. SUGARCANE, GUR AND KHANDASARI

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): Sir, sugarcane is an important agricultural crop in India. Due to the various measures taken by Government, the area under sugarcane has been increasing. The precise figures of the area under sugarcane in 1977-78 are not yet available, but from the information so far available, it would appear that the area under sugarcane, which was about 29 lakh hectares in 1976-77, would have gone up to 31 to 32 lakh hectares in 1977-78. Correspondingly, the production of sugarcane is also expected to be about 165 million tonnes, as compared to about 154 million tonnes in 1976-77.

Some Members had referred to the fact that Government has kept the minimum price for sugarcane at the same level as last year, namely Rs. 8.50 linked to 84 recovery. The minimum price is only a notional price, intended to serve the purpose of the floor price. Government of India have announced that the States will be requested to ensure that the sugarcane growers will be paid by the factories about the same level of cane prices as last year. Action in this regard has been taken and the Chief Ministers concerned have been addressed. But, in actual fact, the cane prices in the States of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh are slightly higher than the prices paid last year by the factories. In other States also there will be no reduction in the price which has been paid to the cane growers last year.

[Shri Surjit Singh Barnala]

Concern has also been expressed with regard to the arrears of cane dues payable by the factories. The total cane price payable for the season 1976-77 amounted to Rs. 590.83 crores. Against this, the arrears upto 30-9-77 were Rs. 14.48 crores. The arrears on account of previous season as on 30-9-77 were Rs. 7.12 crores. Compared to the previous year, the position with regard to the arrears is much better during 1976-77 season. Government have been taking keen interest in reducing the arrears and have been in constant touch with the State Governments to see that the arrears are reduced to as low a figure as possible. This effort will be continued.

Some complaints were received at the commencement of the season regarding late commencement of crushing by the sugar factories. It would not be correct to compare the position this year with that of last year, as during last year in view of certain excise duty rebates that were given to encourage early crushing, many factories had started the crushing early. The position has to be compared with what obtained in 1975-76 when the special ex-cise duty rebate scheme was not in operation. As on 30th November, against 146 factories that were in operation in 1975-76, 184 factories were in operation in 1977-78. As on 22nd December, 1977, the position is very much better when compared to last year. As against 231 factories in operation in 1975-76, and 235 during 1976-77, 257 factories are in operation during 1977-78.

Usually, only about 35% of the cane that is produced is utilised by the sugar factories for production of sugar. The bulk of the sugarcane thus goes for manufacture of gur and khandasari. With the larger availability of sugarcane this year, it is to be expected that much larger quantities would be available for conversion into gur and khandasari even after taking into account the larger production expected from the sugar factories. As a result of the larger availability of gur and khandasari and also as a result of the larger distribution of sugar as decided by Government, the prices of gur are reported to be falling to unduly low levels. The position seems to be particularly difficult in U.P. Government are aware that unless reasonable prices are assured for gur, a large number of cane growers would be affected. The Government will protect the interests of the cane growers and will take suitable remedial measures as found necessary.

There has also been a demand that the rate of excise duty on khandasari

should be reduced. The rate is 17% *ad valorem* but the vast majority of khandasari units pay compounded levy and the average incidence per quintal as has been given in the representation of the khandasari industry works out to about Rs. 20 per quintal. The prices of sulphitation khandasari are generally relateable to the prices of levy free sugar in the open market. According to the information available the prices of sulphitation khandasari as on 22-12-77 are ruling between Rs. 300 to Rs. 350 in the various markets.

DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT (Rajgarh): That has been changed.

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: It has been estimated that with reference to the cost of production of sulphitation khandasari including a reasonable return and average incidence of excise duty of Rs. 20 per quintal a market price of Rs. 300 to Rs. 325 per quintal would ensure them sufficient incentive keeping an adequate differential between the prices of sulphitation khandasari and that of levy free sugar. At the present level at which levy free sugar is selling, the prices of sulphitation khandasari should be around the level mentioned above. Government will, however, keep a watch on the situation and if the prices of levy free sugar fall further thereby depressing the prices of khandasari to below the economic level, Government will consider the matter and take such steps as necessary.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA (Tumkur): It may be circulated.

डा० लक्ष्मी नारायण पांडेय (मंदसौर) : माननीय मंत्री जी ने जो बातें कही वह तथ्यों से परे और गलत हैं। आज भी किसानों को न्यूनतम मूल्य जो राज्य सरकारों द्वारा निर्धारित किया गया है नहीं दिया जा रहा है।

SHRI K. SURYANARAYANA (Eluru): I request that the statement of the Agriculture Minister may be circulated because later in the day we are going to have a discussion on it.