

(ii) **REPORTED CONFLICTING STATEMENTS  
BY MINISTERS ABOUT USE OF AND  
REPEAL OF MISA**

**SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU** (Diamond Harbour): Sir, As directed by you I raise the following under rule 377:—

It is reported that the Union Commerce Minister, Shri Mohan Dharia, told a meeting of the ruling Janata Party today that the government would have to think whether or not they should take recourse to some of the measures like MISA and DIR against the anti-social elements to check the rise in prices. In this context, Shri Dharia said that some elements are taking advantage of the liberal attitude of the government with regard to the use of the Preventive Detention Act and MISA. He also said that the government will not hesitate to take strong measures in this regard.

On the one hand, the above was said by the minister of the government; on the other hand Shri L. K. Advani, Minister for Information & Broadcasting, said in Rajya Sabha that the government stood by its commitment to repeal the MISA and the special committee of the Home Ministry was seized on the matter. This, Shri Advani stated 26-7-77.

The Janata Party is committed to repeal all preventive detention acts and in its election manifesto in page 9 para 3 it says "As a party wedded to the ideals of freedom and democracy, it believes that fearlessness is of the essence. It will therefore, take immediate steps to free the people from the bondage of fear. It will restore to the citizen his fundamental freedoms and to the judiciary its rightful role."

"To generate fearlessness and to revive democracy the Janata Party will:

- (3) Repeal MISA, release all political detainees, and review all other unjust laws;"

This we expect that, after a lapse of 4 months now, there is no hesitation in the minds of Janata government that it us under obligation to repeal the MISA which is long overdue.

At the same time, we are also mindful of the fact that blackmarketeers, hoarders, speculators, economic offenders and other anti social elements should be dealt with firmly. For this the government should enact suitable laws to deal with such persons who are enemies of the country and the people. We do not want that any detention without trial should be allowed to continue under any circumstances.

The Home Minister is here, Sir, and I have drawn his attention.

**MR. SPEAKER** : He is not getting up.

12.53 hrs.

**STATEMENT RE. AVAILABILITY  
OF CEMENT**

**THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)** : Sir, there have been innumerable complaints of non-availability of cement and also of blackmarketing in cement by the dealers. During the last few days, I have talked to many people in the cement industry and asked them to discipline the dealers. I have publicly asked the dealers not to indulge in black-marketing taking advantage of the shortage in cement supplies. I have told them that cement should be sold at the statutory price and when stocks run out, they should have a sign board to that effect.

The final answer to the present situation is more production of cement. But more production is not a short term solution, though I am trying my best to see that the industry improves its efficiency and performance and some more cement is produced. With the improvement in the power situation, there will be some more production in the normal course. The cement units that have perennial power problem are being allowed to put up small captive diesel power plants immediately.

While some of our export commitments on cement have to be fulfilled for more than one reason, I am looking into the possibility of deferring a few of our programmed exports. In this way, there can be some additional stocks available for domestic consumption.

There is one area where I need and seek your immediate help. There are about 50,000 stockists of cement in the country. While many of them are honest traders, some of them are obviously finding it difficult to unlearn their habit of black-marketing. It is these recalcitrant elements who are not only fleecing the people but also giving a bad name to the vast community of honest traders. I have asked the cement industry to issue immediate directions to the stockists to associate people's representatives with the distribution of cement. In precise terms, I have asked them to have their stockists to (1) display daily stock position; (2) to display the price of cement; and (3) to associate a committee of people's representatives of the locality with the distribution of cement.

I have written to the State Governments to bring these suggestions to the notice of all elected legislators so that they immediately involve themselves with the setting up of these committees. I have also asked them to direct the District Collectors to help in the formation of such committees.

Checking prices and policing those who try to take advantage of shortages to fleece the people is a non-partisan task. I would urge all Members of Parliament to help the government in this effort.

12.55 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377—contd.

(iii) FAMINE CONDITIONS IN NORTH BIHAR DUE TO FAILURE OF RAINS

MR. SPEAKER : I have overlooked one notice under Rule 377. Mr. (Hukmd) Narain Yadav may please speak.

श्री हुकम देव नारायण यादव (मधुबनी) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं कई दिनों से इस प्रश्न को उठाने का प्रयास कर रहा था। यह बड़ी आश्चर्यजनक बात है कि जब दक्षिण बिहार में बाढ़ आती है तो उत्तर बिहार में सूखा पड़ता है और जब उत्तर बिहार में बाढ़ आती है तो दक्षिण बिहार में सूखा पड़ता है। इस समय दक्षिण बिहार में पानी बरस रहा है, लेकिन उत्तर बिहार में जो हमारे नेपाल का सीमावर्ती क्षेत्र है, दरभंगा, मधुबनी में अकाल पड़ रहा है। मेरे पास लगातार वहां से टेलीग्राम आ रहे हैं, चिट्ठियां आ रही हैं, टेलीफोन पर भी लोगों ने सूचना दी है—पानी न बरसने के कारण धान की खेती आबाद नहीं हो रही है। एक भी स्टेट ट्यूब-वैल चालू नहीं है। एमर्जेन्सी के दौरान जितनी नालियां बननी थीं, उन का सीमेंट ठेकेदार चुराकर ले गये। कमला एक्सीकट योजना के अन्तर्गत जो नहरें बनीं उन में पानी नहीं है, क्योंकि नदी में ही पानी नहीं है। तमाम कृषक, खेतिहर मजदूर बेकार हो जाने के कारण गांव छोड़ कर भाग रहे हैं। सरकारी गोदामों में गल्ला नहीं है। जो मजदूर खरीद कर खायेंगे—उन के पास इतनी क्रय-शक्ति

नहीं है कि वे खरीद कर खा सकें। भयंकर भुखमरी की स्थिति पैदा हो गई है, उन के घर का भ्रम समाप्त हो रहा है। इस लिये मेरा निवेदन है कि केन्द्र सरकार जल्द से जल्द एक टीम वहां भेजे, जो उस इलाके में जा कर जांच करे, क्योंकि बिहार सरकार के पास इतनी कुव्वत नहीं है कि वह इस स्थिति का मुकाबला कर सके।

मैं एक बात साफ तौर से कहना चाहता हूं—हर पांच साल बाद हिन्दुस्तान पर अकाल की छाया पड़ती रही है। आप 1947 से लेकर आज तक देख लीजिए,—1947, 1952, 1957, 1962, 1967, 1972, और अब यह 1977 निश्चित रूप से हिन्दुस्तान में अकाल का वर्ष है जिसका प्रारम्भ मधुबनी और दरभंगा से हो चुका है। इस आने वाले अकाल को रोकने के लिए सरकार को अभी से सक्षम होना चाहिए। आज दरभंगा, मधुबनी अकाल की लपेट में आ गए हैं, वहां पर लोग भूख से मरने जा रहे हैं। यदि जल्दी कार्यवाही नहीं होगी तो हजारों लोगों की जानें वहां जाने वाली है। इस लिए मैं सरकार का ध्यान इस ओर आकृष्ट करना चाहता हूं कि सरकार जल्दी से उन की खिन्दगी की हिफाजत के लिए कार्यवाही करे, जिस से वहां की खेती आबाद हो सके और उन लोगों को राहत मिल सके।

12.58 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

FOURTH REPORT

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Labour (Shri Ravindra Varma) : Sir, I beg to move :

“That this House do agree with the Fourth Report of the Business Advisory Committee Presented to the House on the 27th July, 1977.”

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : (Diamond Harbour) Sir, you will kindly recollect that in the Business Advisory Committee we agreed finally to list two other discussions, about the housing problem in Delhi which was raised by Mr. Kanwarlal Gupte and about Sundarbans.