

VICTORIA MEMORIAL (AMDT.) RULES, 1973 UNDER VICTORIA MEMORIAL ACT, 1903 AND REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL AKADEMIES AND ICCR

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (SHRI D. P. YADAV): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Victoria Memorial (Amendment) Rules 1973 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 45 in Gazette of India dated the 19th January, 1974, issued under section 5 of the January, 1974, issued under Victoria Memorial Act, 1903.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-6296/74].

- (2) (i) A copy of the Report (Hindi versions) of the Committee appointed to review the working of the National Akademies and the Indian Council for Cultural Relations.

- (ii) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the above Report. [Placed in Library. See No. 6297/74].

12.27

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir I have to report the following message received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:—

"In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya

Sabha, at its sitting held on the 28th February, 1974, agreed without any amendment to the National Co-operative Development Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 1974, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 19th February, 1974."

श्री जगन्नाथ राव ज शो (श जा १२):

अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं ने सिराथ में पुलिस फ़ायरिंग के बारे में स्थगन-प्रस्ताव दिया है।

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय (मरना) .

अध्यक्ष महोदय, गुजरात में लगातार लाठी-गोली चल रही है और लोग मर रहे हैं।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मैं अभी श्री मधु लिमये को बुलाऊंगा।

STATEMENT RE: INCREASE IN PRICES OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): To compensate Oil Companies for increases in crude oil prices which occurred effective from 16th October 1973, a general revision of the prices of refined petroleum products was last made from 3rd November, 1973. At that time the products prices were brought in line with the crude oil price of \$3.58 per barrel (f.o.b.). Since then, effective from 1st January, 1974, crude oil prices have increased again as a result of steep upward revision of posted prices by the Government of oil producing countries. Before that date, the market crude oil of the Gulf region, namely, Light Arabian crude was officially priced at \$3.65 per barrel; effective 1st January, 1974, the prices are averaging around \$10 per barrel. The situation has, however, remained somewhat

unsettled on account of the fact that oil producing countries in the Gulf region have not all finalised their Participation Agreements with the Oil Companies. For this reason and also because of Government's anxiety to minimise the impact on the vulnerable sectors of consumers and certain priority industries like fertilizers, only a preliminary adjustment of prices of furnace oil, bitumen and lube base stocks was made effective 23rd January 1974. After very careful examination of the matter, it has now been decided that effective 2nd March 1974, product prices will be revised upward to reflect a notional f.o.b. crude oil price of \$8.48 per barrel. A statement showing the revisions made is laid on the Table of the House.

While the incidence of increase of the crude oil price has been fully passed on across the board to all products kerosene oil, high speed diesel oil and cooking gas price increases have been kept down. If the price increase were to be passed on fully to kerosene oil and high speed diesel oil, it would have been 45 paise per litre for each of the two products; as against that, the price increase has been kept down to about 15 paise per litre. Similarly, the increase for a 15 Kg. cooking gas cylinder would have been Rs. 8.50 but it has been kept down to Rs. 1.02.

The reduction of prices on account of kerosene, high speed diesel oil and cooking gas has been passed on to aviation turbine fuel, furnace oil, lubricating oils and greases and naphtha when used for purposes other than the production of fertilizers. There is no change in the naphtha price when it is used for the production of fertilizers.

As has been stated by me on various occasions in this House increase in prices of petroleum products to match the price of crude oil from time to time has become inevitable. However Government are anxious to make the best endeavour to keep down price increase in products of general consumption like Kerosene and Cooking

gas. High speed diesel oil, which is used for transport and agriculture, is also a product where we would like to soften the impact. This has been achieved in two ways. The price of indigenous crude oil has been fixed at the level of 34.50 per barrel and a notional pooling of prices as between imported crude oil and indigenous crude oil has been assumed for purposes of fixing the national average crude oil price of \$8.48 per barrel which is the basis for product price fixation. The second measure is the transfer of price increase required on account of minimal increases in high speed diesel oil, kerosene oil and cooking gas to other products which could bear such increases. These products are aviation turbine fuel, furnace oil, lubricants and greases and naphtha when use for products other than fertilizers. While the loading on aviation turbine fuel and furnace oil is not very heavy on lubricating oils, the increase is of the order of Rs. 3,000 per tonne exclusive of duty. And on naphtha not used for fertilizers, the increase is of the order of Rs. 1234 per tonne. As the Hon'ble Members are aware, the consumption of lubricating oils in the country is among the highest in the world and we believe that there is considerable wasteful use of lubricating oils. We propose to ask the Oil Companies to take up educational publicity to inform consumers of the correct lubricating practices. We also propose encouraging the setting up of lubricating oil recycling plants in large urban areas so that used lubricating oils can be re-processed and made available to the consumers.

As regards naphtha used for purposes other than fertilizer production, it is felt that most petrochemical products made from naphtha can bear the incidence of the increased price. These end-products of the petrochemicals industry are not likely to have significant impact on items of consumption by the weaker sections of the society.

Statement showing revisions in ceiling selling prices of petroleum products

| Products | Unit | As on] | As on] | Increase | Increase |
|---|------|---------|---------|----------------|----------------------|
| | | 1-1-74 | 2-3-74 | per KL/MT | per litre/ Kg. |
| | | Rs. | Rs. | Rs. | Paise |
| A. Bulk refined petroleum products (Ex-Storage Point—Bombay) | | | | | |
| 1. Aviation Spirit 100/130 | KL | 2523.45 | 3283.53 | 760.08 | 76 |
| 2. Aviation Spirit 115/145 | KL | 2556.46 | 3372.73 | 816.27 | 82 |
| 3. Aviation Spirit 73. | KL | 2476.68 | 3149.60 | 672.92 | 67 |
| 4. Aviation Turbine Fuel | KL | 733.71 | 1367.13 | 633.42 | 63 |
| 5. Motor Spirit 93 ON | KL | 2526.39 | 2951.56 | 425.17 | 43 |
| 6. Motor Spirit 83 ON | KL | 2457.00 | 2796.58 | 339.58 | 34 |
| 7. High Speed Diesel Oil | KL | 697.34 | 844.89 | 147.55 | 15 |
| 8. Furnace Oil | KL | 279.89 | 604.12 | 324.23 | 32 |
| 9. Kerosene Superior | KL | 716.69 | 864.24 | 147.55 | 15 |
| 10. Light Diesel Oil | KL | 429.31 | 829.64 | 400.33 | 40 |
| 11. Bitumen Straight Grade (in containers) | MT | 590.23 | 834.79 | 244.56 | 24 |
| 12. Bitumen Cutbacks B.S. Gr | HT | 703.27 | 1018.57 | 315.30 | 32 |
| 13. Bitumen Cutbacks R.C. Gr. | HT | 729.28 | 1079.07 | 349.79 | 35 |
| 14. Naphtha (except when used for fertilizers) Gr. | HT | 252.35 | 2320.06 | 2067.71 | 207 |

| Products | Unit | As on | As on | Increase |
|--|------|---------|---------|----------|
| | | 1-1-74 | 23-1-74 | in price |
| | | Rs. | Rs. | Rs. |
| B. Lube Base Stocks (Ex-Refinery) : | | | | |
| 1. BOC—50 | MT | 905·93 | 1310·33 | 404·40 |
| 2. BOC—250 | ” | 937·74 | 1342·14 | ” |
| 3. Pale 800 | ” | 1026·23 | 1430·63 | ” |
| 4. Spindle HVI | ” | 1052·05 | 1456·45 | ” |
| 5. Spindle MVI | ” | 960·23 | 1364·63 | ” |
| 6. Spindle LVI | ” | 950·65 | 1355·05 | ” |
| 7. Light Neutral HVI | ” | 1183·70 | 1588·10 | ” |
| 8. Light Neutral MVI | ” | 1089·96 | 1494·36 | ” |
| 9. Light Neutral LVI | ” | 992·41 | 1396·81 | ” |
| 10. Intermediate Neutral HVI | ” | 1267·00 | 1671·40 | ” |
| 11. Intermediate Neutral MVI | ” | 1172·20 | 1576·60 | ” |
| 12. Intermediate Neutral LVI | ” | 1022·84 | 1427·24 | ” |
| 13. Heavy Neutral HVI | ” | 1273·66 | 1678·06 | ” |
| 14. Heavy Neutral MVI | ” | 1196·22 | 1600·62 | ” |
| 15. Heavy Neutral LVI | ” | 1045·68 | 1450·08 | ” |
| 16. T.O.B.S. (MRI) | ” | 831·01 | 1168·01 | 337·00 |
| 17. 150 Neutral | ” | 1159·94 | 1564·34 | 404·40 |
| 18. 500 Neutral | ” | 1219·80 | 1624·20 | ” |
| 19. 1300 Neutral | ” | 1243·72 | 1648·12 | ” |
| 20. 100 Industrial | ” | 960·35 | 1364·75 | ” |
| 21. 500 Industrial | ” | 989·87 | 1394·27 | ” |
| 22. 1600 Industrial | ” | 1010·91 | 1415·31 | ” |
| 23. T.O.B.S. (LIL) | ” | 795·90 | 1132·90 | 337·00 |

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी (ग्वालियर) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरा व्यवस्था का प्रश्न है। इतने मुद्दे उठाए गए, आपने स्वयं कहा कि 1 तारीख को जब हाउस बैठा था, 6 बजे तक बैठा था तो क्यों नहीं एनाउंस किया गया? उस के लिए एक शब्द नहीं कहा और मंत्री महोदय ने कोई माफी तक नहीं मांगी, खेद तक नहीं प्रकट किया है.....

श्री जगन्नाथ राव जीर्ण (शाजापुर) : यह तो आप की भ्रवहेलना हो गई। आप ने जब कहा है उस के बाद भी मंत्री महोदय कुछ कहते नहीं हैं...

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : मैं ने कुछ सवाल किए थे, कैबिनेट ने कब फैसला किया, नोटिफिकेशन कब निकाला गया, दोनों में क्या गैप है ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : यह तो रूटिन स्टेट-मेंट की तरह से है। जो पहले भेजा हुआ था वह आ गया है। मिनिस्टर को मैंने इजाजत दी रूटिन स्टेटमेंट के लिए, वह उन्होंने पढ़ा है। बाकी जो बातें हैं.....

श्री शाहनवाज खां : बाकी बातों के लिए मैं अर्ज कर दू..... (श्रवधान)...

SHRI SAMAR GUHA (Contai): Sir, a point of order. The statement just now read by the hon. Minister does not contain even a single word to justify that the matter was so urgent for which they have to take these steps.

MR. SPEAKER: You can raise it at the time of the discussion. It is not under discussion now.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: I have not concluded, Sir. Secondly it is not as if it is just the second time that the crude prices have been increased. Therefore, what necessitated to issue the notification in a sudden and casual way?

Thirdly, as you had said, there is not a single word uttered by the hon. Minister to show whether he has abided by your directions.

MR. SPEAKER: The statement was in the office before your objection came.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: You have been very kind enough and good enough and spirited enough to uphold the dignity of the House and the dignity of the Chair. An objection has been raised on the propriety of placing this notification. Not a single point that has been made in the House has been met by the hon. Minister.

MR. SPEAKER: Kindly sit down now.

श्री मधु लिमये (बांका) : मेरा व्यवस्था का प्रश्न है। सदन का जो इन्होंने अपमान किया वह तो मामला अपनी जगह पर है ही अलग लेकिन मैंने इन का बयान गौर से सुना। इन्होंने एक भी कारण नहीं बताया कि किस आधार पर इतनी दाम-वृद्धि हुई है। क्या मंत्री महोदय यह नहीं जानते हैं कि अमेरिका में इतना बड़ा प्रकोप इस बात को लेकर हुआ है कि क्रूड आयल का दाम अरब देशों ने बढ़ाया इस बिना पर आयल कम्पनियों ने अनाप शनाप मुनाफा कमाया है। इतना मुनाफा उन्हें कभी भी नहीं हुआ। क्या मंत्री महोदय का यह कर्त्तव्य नहीं है कि वह आधार बताते कि किस आधार पर यह किया गया है। तेल कम्पनियों ने अनापशनाप मुनाफा कमाया है, अमेरिका ने भी प्रकोप है इस बात पर ..

MR. SPEAKER: This is not a point of order. If you want to make any point, you can do it at the time of the budget discussion when the concerned Ministry is taken up.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur): He can lay it on the Table of the House so that we can have a discussion on this.

MR. SPEAKER: The statement is already before the House.

श्री मधु लिमये : इन्होंने कहा कि कारण बताएंगे । कौन से कारण इन्होंने बताए ? अमेरिकन कम्पनियों को इतना मुनाफा कैसे हुआ

श्री शाहनवाज खां : मैं अर्ज करूँ, यह फैसला कि तेल की कीमत बढ़ाई जाय पहली तारीख को 7 बजे के बाद लिया गया . . .

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : कैबिनेट का फैसला किस समय का है ?

श्री शाहनवाज खां : 7 बजे का । यह फैसला जो लिया गया यह शाम के 7 बजे के करीब लिया गया और उसी वक्त मेरे सीनियर कुलीग ने आप की खिदमत में वह खत लिख कर भेज दिया । मुझे अफसोस है कि आप को वह खत ठीक समय पर नहीं पहुंचा, दूसरे दिन पहुंचा । . . .
(व्यवधान)

श्री इयामनन्दन मिश्र (बेगुसराय) : यह कौन सा सिलसिला अब शुरू हुआ ? गवर्नमेंट स्पीकर साहब को लिखे उन को इत्तिला दे यह एक सिलसिला मालूम होता है । हमारे और उन के बीच का मामला है . . .

MR. SPEAKER: He wanted to make a statement with the permission of the Speaker.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: He said that on that very day he informed you.

श्री मधु लिमये : अध्यक्ष महोदय, इन्होंने एक जनरल बात कह दी कि कूड आयल के दाम बढ़ गए । वह तो पहले से

बढ़े हुए थे । मैंने दो तीन बातें पूछी थीं । हम संतुष्ट नहीं हैं । कूड आयल का दाम और इस का रिफ्टा क्या है ? आज नोटिफिकेशन क्यों नहीं निकाला गया और माफी क्यों नहीं मांगी ?

श्री शाहनवाज खां : मैं अर्ज कर दूँ . . .

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : हमारे कहने पर आप ने माफी मांगी तो क्या मांगी ?

श्री शाहनवाज खां : मैं आप को यकीन दिलाना चाहता हूँ कि यह कभी भी हमारा इरादा नहीं है कि हाउस का अपमान करें या कोई ऐसी बात करें . . . (व्यवधान) . . .

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आप मिश्रा जी, आते आते ही शुरू हो गए ?

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: Does the Government not owe it to the House to give the reasons why they did not include it in the budget? Why did they come only two days later?

SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN: As the hon. Members are aware, the negotiations on prices of oil are in a fluid stage. The negotiations are going on with the Arab countries, Middle East countries. They raised the price from the 1st of March. The decision was taken after 7 P.M. We immediately informed the hon. Speaker.

अध्यक्ष महोदय : यहां शोर करने से टेक्स हटता है तो आप शोर करिये, मैं बैठ जाता हूँ ।

श्री इयामनन्दन मिश्र : लेकिन हम लोगों को कारण मालूम होने चाहिये—बजट में यह क्यों नहीं रखा गया, दो दिन में ऐसी क्या बातें हुई जिस से बढ़ाना पड़ा ?

श्री शाहनवाज खां : जैसा मैंने अर्ज किया है कि तेल की कीमतों के बारे में प्रायल प्रोड्यूसिंग कन्ट्रीज के साथ ...

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : 18 तारीख और 1 तारीख के बीच में क्या हुआ ?

श्री शाहनवाज खां : मैं वही अर्ज कर रहा हूँ—प्रायल प्रोड्यूसिंग कन्ट्रीज के साथ मसलसल तौर पर बातचीत चल रही थी और जैसे ही मुस्तकिल फैसला हमारे सामने आया

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : कब आया ?

श्री शाहनवाज खां : शाम को सात बजे के बाद

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : मंत्री महोदय ने जो कुछ कहा है इस से प्रिब्लेज का मामला और मजबूत हो गया है—कैबिनेट की मीटिंग कब हुई और कब फैसला हुआ..... (व्यवधान)..... लीजिये, मंत्री जी आ गये हैं, वे इस का जवाब दे—मैं उन से पूछता हूँ—28 ता० और 1 तारीख के बीच में क्या हुआ, पार्लियामेंट की बैठक खत्म होने के बाद आपने दाम क्यों बढ़ाया। अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं दोबारा इसलिये रिपीट कर रहा हूँ कि मंत्री महोदय को पता नहीं था, ये अभी अभी आये हैं.....

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मुझे यह बतलाइये—अगर कोई और सभा बाहर चलती हो तो क्या आप उस में इस तरह का शोर पसन्द करेंगे...

श्री फूल चन्द वर्मा (उज्जैन) : ये धोखाधड़ी करते रहें और क्या आप सुनने रहेंगे ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय: लेकिन यह क्या तरीका है ?

श्री फूल चन्द वर्मा : लेकिन आप ने भी तो इस को पसन्द नहीं किया है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : जहा तक मेरी पसन्द का ताल्लुक है मैं तो अपनी बारी का इन्तजार करूंगा। मैंने अपनी जिन्दगी में कभी इस तरह स नहीं किया जिम तरह स आप कर रहे है। हर वक्त ऐमा करने रहना ठीक नहीं है, अगर किसी तरीके से बात करे तो चीज सामने आ सकती है।

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI D. K. BOROOAH) Sir, I am extremely sorry that I could not be present here on time because, as a Member of the other House, I had to make the same statement and the same questions were raised there also. My colleague was here.....

MR. SPEAKER: He was trapped there!

SHRI D. K. BOROOAH. I quite see the point of view of the hon Members .

AN HON. MEMBER Including that of the Speaker.

SHRI D. K. BOROOAH: This was not really an announcement. What they did was that they executed the decision of the Cabinet. The Cabinet decision was finalised at 7 O'Clock on 1st March—that was a Friday. Immediately, I wrote a letter to you, Sir, and also the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha that I would like to make a statement as soon as the House met.

What happened was this. As is known to the House, the petroleum prices have always been linked with the increase in crude oil price and that has been based on the recommendations of the Oil Price Committee headed by

Mr. Shantilal Shah. They had said that whenever there was increase in the price of crude oil, the formula that they had suggested would be available for raising prices. But the variations in prices have been so quick that we have had to increase the prices from time to time, because we have to buy crude oil in cash, we have to give the money in foreign exchange. Whoever buys in this country, the foreign exchange has to be provided by the Government and the money has to be paid in cash. Therefore, any delay in increasing the petroleum prices would really mean loss to the Government or private companies or the public sector companies which constitute the major portion of our refineries. On 1st at 7.00 p.m., the decision was taken, as I have just mentioned. I wrote a letter to you that I would like to make a statement. But there was one problem that was before us; it was an administrative problem; if we did not implement the Cabinet decision immediately, there would have been run on the stocks. As it was, people were hoarding petroleum products, including diesel and kerosene, in the expectation that there would be a price increase in the Budget. It was decided at 7.00 p.m. and was implemented immediately, before mid-night. If we had not implemented it immediately, there would have been a run on the stocks. On Saturday and Sunday there would have been acute shortage of kerosene and other petroleum products all over the country. That was one consideration. It was not done with a view to showing, not to speak of contempt, even disrespect to this House. I had been a Member of this House and of other Legislative Assemblies for a number of years, and as you well remember, I was also Speaker of the Assembly for some time. Therefore, it goes against my grain, and certainly against the grain of the members of the Government, to show even the least disrespect to the House. As I said, this was done under a constraint. If we had not implemented the decision immediately, there would have been a run on the stocks ...

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA:
That is different.

SHRI D. K. BOROOAH: That may be different, but this forms a part of the sequence of the decision of the Cabinet. I would like you and House to consider whether or not what was considered to be lapse was done under a constraint over which we had no control and we had done it in good faith. If the hon. members felt that what I did was wrong, then certainly I will abide by your decision.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: I want to seek one clarification, namely, whether, before the decision was taken by the Cabinet, there was increase in the price of crude and, if so, at what time was this increase in price of crude effected by the oil-producing countries? The hon. Minister has said that there has to be a correction between the price of crude and the price of petroleum products. If that is so, the House would like to know when was the increase in the price of crude effected by the oil-producing countries after which the Cabinet took this decision.

MR. SPEAKER: We can have a discussion.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: Let him tell us about it just now. This is a very important issue that outside the House a decision has been taken which legitimately pertains to the jurisdiction of the House. Why do you not ask them to give this simple information to us?

MR. SPEAKER: According to the Rules, when a Minister makes a statement, no questions shall be asked.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: No, this is not a statement of that kind.

MR. SPEAKER: Please read that statement.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: It is indeed very strange that the Chair does not allow us to get a very important information from him.

MR. SPEAKER: I am allowing a discussion on it. During the discussion you can put all your questions to him.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: Please ask him to give this very simple information. The Chair is not acting according to Rules.

MR. SPEAKER: I give you the Rules book, you please read it.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: That rule does not come in the way. This is not a statement made according to that rule. You are taking so much of our valuable time. Why don't you ask him to give this very important information?

MR. SPEAKER: All that you are entitled to is that you can have a discussion.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: Since you find that the Government is caught on the wrong foot, you want to shield it?

MR. SPEAKER: No, he has made the statement already.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: Cannot this simple information be given to this House—when was the price of crude increased?

MR. SPEAKER: If I allow one hon. Member, then I will have to allow others also.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: I have also one question to ask.

MR. SPEAKER: All that I can advise you is that you can have a discussion on it.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: This information should be available to us.

MR. SPEAKER: He has not made it on the spur of the moment. He has given due notice and it was allowed to-day. It is a statement by the

Minister according to the Rules and when a Minister makes a statement, no question will be allowed. All that can be allowed is that you can have a discussion later on. If I allow it in the case of one Member, then I will have to allow others also.

We have already lost much time on this now ...

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: This was done only two days after the Budget was presented.

The Speaker should have been more zealous of the rights of the House..

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur): You can have a discussion.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: Here, we have got a definite impression on our mind that since the Government has been caught on the wrong foot, the Chair is now protecting it.

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not put it like that.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: In financial matters, we cannot put up with this.

SHRI A. K. M. ISHAQUE (Basirhat): It is a reflection on the Chair.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: It is, it is meant to be, because here the rights of the House are involved. In financial matters, we cannot put up with this.

MR. SPEAKER: You are not caring for the Rules. You are threatening the Chair. This has become a part of your habit—to do like this. I cannot tolerate it.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: You please ask this question. Otherwise you will not stand very high in the esteem of the people.

MR. SPEAKER: I am allowing a discussion on it, if you want it.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: People are going to suffer on account of this rise in prices.

SHRI A. K. M. ISHAQUE: When the Speaker wants to conduct the business of the House according to the Rules a Member casts a reflection on the Chair. There must be some limit.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : यह मामला उठाया गया प्रिविलेज मोशन के रूप में, एडजर्नमेन्ट मोशन के रूप में । आपने कहा कि सरकार ने जो कुछ किया (व्यवधान)

श्री श्यामनन्दन मिश्र : आप सोचेंगे तो अपने को बहुत ऊंचा नहीं पायेंगे इस बारे में ।

MR. SPEAKER: He came much later. I regret it very much. The hon. Member will have to withdraw it.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: No, I will not do it.

MR. SPEAKER: Then, I am very sorry. Will you please withdraw it?

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: No. Here you are making the vast masses of the people suffer.

MR. SPEAKER: You are a very senior Member. In the heat of the moment you have cast a reflection on the Chair. I am so sorry. If you do not withdraw it I am so sorry. As a Member I respect you. But I have to respect the Rules also.

I am extremely sorry for the language you use sometimes. If you think I have gone out of the Rules, you can point out. I leave it to you. Tell me under what Rule I can allow a question after the statement. Let me know where I am.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: You can, if the statement is not covered by that Rule.

3431 LS—10

मंत्री महोदय के वक्तव्य से इस सत्रान पर रोशनी नहीं पड़ी है कि 28 तारीख को दाम क्यों नहीं बढ़ाये गए पहली तारीख को क्यों बढ़ाये गए ।

MR. SPEAKER: You will have some separate time to discuss it. But, this is not the way, of attacking the Chair like this. I am very sorry; his behaviour is very much regrettable. I have already said that you can have a separate time for it and discuss it and ask any number of questions.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: For a number of days we would suffer.

SHRI VASANT SATHE (Akola): What about the language used by Mr. Mishra? What about the bad language used by him against the Speaker? You have asked him to withdraw that.

MR. SPEAKER: I have asked him to withdraw that language

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: No, I did not; I did not. I do not do that.

MR. SPEAKER: You are a very honourable Member of this House. You are an old Member. Kindly sit down.

श्री श्यामनन्दन मिश्र : अगर हमको लेजिटिमेट इन्फार्मेशन नहीं दिलायेंगे तो हम कैसे छोड़ेंगे ? आपको जो करना है कीजिए (व्यवधान)

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आप इनसे कहिए जो इनकी लैंग्वेज सेक्टर के बारे में है वह दुस्त है ?

श्री श्यामनन्दन मिश्र : हाउस के रूल्स को आप इग्नोर करें फार्मैशियल मैटर्स में, यह नहीं हो सकता है । (व्यवधान)

MR. SPEAKER: You are casting an aspersion. I have asked you about this. All that you can do is to invite my attention.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Why has he made the allegation, Speaker has violated, you defy the rule, etc.? It was strictly within the rule, Rule 372. You cannot make wild allegations against the Chair please.

श्री एस० एम० बनर्जी : अध्यक्ष महोदय, आपने सरकार का जिन शब्दों में नुकताचीनी की थी उस वक्त शायद यह थे नहीं। आपने जो कुछ कहा उसको इन्होंने सुना नहीं। मैं आपसे दण्डवास्त कहूंगा कि अभी तीन चार दिनों से मिश्रा जी बहुत नाराज हैं।
(व्यवधान)

MR. SPEAKER: I am so sorry—the way he behaved, and all that. I show him full respect. I show him full regard. It has become a part of his habit. I am not doing it because he behaves like that. No, I am really very sorry. This should not happen. You should withdraw it please. Otherwise I cannot proceed with the business of the House. I will not proceed with the business of the House unless he withdraws it

SHRI RAJA KULKARNI (Bombay—North-East): He should withdraw it.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Rule 372 is clear....

MR. SPEAKER: I am so sorry—the way he behaved.

The question is this, whatever may be his remarks or objection or clarification, whatever that may be, I am concerned with the language he used.

13.00 hrs.

Supposing the Speaker does not allow certain matters, genuinely under the consideration that it is not permissible under the rules, does it mean that the hon. Member should come direct on the Chair? I am not able

to follow this. He was so rough and harsh in his manner.

SHRI A. K. M. ISHAQUE: Mr. Mishra is a senior Member and we expect some decorum from him. We would request him to withdraw it, so that other junior Members can follow his example.

MR. SPEAKER: If he does not withdraw it, then I shall withdraw from the House and I shall not come to this House.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: No, no.

SHRI A. K. M. ISHAQUE: It is our right to have you in this House.

MR. SPEAKER: All that I can do is that I can withdraw from the House. I shall call some Member from the Panel of Chairmen to come here to the Chair. I am not going to go to the extreme of asking the hon. Member to leave the House. The only thing is that in my own way I can lodge a protest. Mr. Sathe may come over here. I am going to withdraw from the House....

SHRI A. K. M. ISHAQUE: That is not proper....

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Joshi may please come here. I am going to withdraw from the House. I would request him to come here. At least I do not want that I should show any disrespect to an hon. Member. All that I can do is to lodge a protest and go. Mr. Joshi may please come here.

May I request Mr. Joshi to please come here?

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : अध्यक्ष जी, एक बज गया, लंच का समय हो गया. आप हाउस को ऐडर्जन कर दीजिए।

MR. SPEAKER: No. He will declare the lunch hour. I am going to withdraw from the House. I request any Chairman to come and occupy the Chair now.

Mr. Joshi is a Chairman from the Opposition. Let him please come along.

श्री मटल बिहारी बाजपेयी : आप विद्वान् न कीजिए ।

श्री जगन्नाथराव जोशी : आप के बारे में अनादर अर्थात् नहीं लगता ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मैं तो चल गया जितना चलना था ।

श्री मटल बिहारी बाजपेयी : : नहीं' अध्यक्ष जी, ऐसा मत काजिये ।

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: I shall walk out against this attitude of the Chair, but I shall not withdraw it.

MR. SPEAKER: It is not purely a question of walking out, but one of withdrawing it.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: I may tell Shri Mishraji that nobody will be able to function as Chairman hereafter. He may also be a Chairman some time.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Goswami may please come here ...

PROF. MADHU DANDEVATE (Rajapur) : Shri Shyamnandan Mishraji was only asking for a certain information. He was agitated, but I do not think that he meant any disrespect to the Chair. He did not mean any disrespect to the Chair. He has made it very clear that he wanted only some information but the hon. Minister has not given it.

SHRI A. K. M. ISHAQUE: Let him say so.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Let him express regret.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD (Bhagalpur): I am sure Shyam Babu did not know what the Speaker had already observed against the Government immediately before he came I would request him to get up and say that did not mean any disrespect to the Chair.

SHRI A. K. M. ISHAQUE: Mishraji, we know very much that you did not mean any disrespect to the Chair. You only please tell the Chair that you did not mean any disrespect (*Interruption*). You are seeing that every member, irrespective of party affiliation, is making that request to you.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: I sought a simple information. I stick to my right to seek an information which affects the vast millions of people who are going to suffer on account of the increase in the price of petroleum. The simple information asked was: when was the increase in the price of crude effected by the oil producing countries? Since this information was not vouchsafed to the House, I felt very unhappy about it, and naturally, because I represent the people here (*Interruptions*). If the Chair does not protect my right to seek this information and get this information, I feel unhappy about it. Otherwise, there was no question of meaning any disrespect to the Chair. I would always stand for this right to seek information and get information on a vital matter.

PROF. MADHU DANDEVATE: He has expressed regret.

SHRI H. N. MUKHERJEE (Calcutta—North East): What you have said purports to mean that you had no idea of disrespect to the Chair.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: No; I have said that.

SHRI H. N. MUKHERJEE Perhaps in the heat of the moment, you might have made a certain observation which was unfortunate and which, I take it, is withdrawn, because we cannot function in a manner where the honour of the Chair is impugned. If it happens to have been impugned, let us make it clear that that was not the intention. I take it that that is the sense of the House because no reflection was cast on the Chair.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: What about the honour and rights of a member?

MR. SPEAKER: May I say this? Before Shri Mishra came, a number of observations were made. I added my own and made it clear that I was personally unhappy over it and then went on to make some further observations.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: What about this information which I have sought? Why should they withhold it?

MR. SPEAKER: So far as the other thing is concerned, after all, you have kept me as your Speaker. If I feel the interpretation of a rule is like this, I say it is like this. But the member can say 'no'. Then we can pursue it. But to straightway come on the Chair is a different matter. If I am not acting according to the rules or if I am not acting as the Speaker should do, the only thing for me is to leave.

SHRI A. K. M. ISHAQUE: No, no; that question does not come.

MR. SPEAKER: If you think that my interpretation is wrong you can put your own. But if you say 'You have always been doing this', in that case, I have no business to sit in the Chair.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: He has categorically said that he does not mean any disrespect, and the matter should be ended.

MR. SPEAKER: I want to say that Shri Misra is not known to me just because he came to Parliament. I know him since much earlier. I know that he may be temperamental, but he is not a bad fellow. But, in this case, when he is sitting as an hon. Member and I am sitting as Speaker, then we should have the relationship as the Speaker and the Member. If he thinks I am really so bad, well, I do not deserve to be here.

13.11 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (i) REPORTED OBSERVATION BY THE CHAIRMAN OF U.S. HOUSE AGRICULTURAL COMMITTEE ABOUT DOUBLING OF SUGAR EXPORT QUOTA BY INDIA TO U.S.A.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Narsingh Narain Pandey.

SHRI NARSINGH NARAIN PANDEY (Gorakhpur): Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the Minister of Agriculture, under rule 377, to the following matter of public importance.

The Chairman, Mr. W. R. Poage of the US House Agricultural Committee said on 2-3-1974, when the representative of the Indian Sugar Industry, Attorney David Paul Meter, had appeared before the US House Agricultural Committee for the purposes of seeking to double its present quota of sugar to two lakh tonnes,—Mr. Poage told him—"I have not observed any support, any co-operation from the Indian Government during the last ten years." Mr. Poage also chided India "for not buying more American agricultural products except when they can't pay. When they can pay they buy elsewhere." Mr. Poage further said that US involvement in Vietnam was not supported by India and other recipients of US aid programme.

Sir, it is a very serious matter, and almost in all the newspapers of India and of the world this has appeared, and it tantamounts to affect our relationship with the USA. Now, what Mr. Poage, the Chairman, has said is very defamatory and I want that the Minister of Agriculture should make a statement to the House so that our countrymen should understand what is the feeling of the Government of India on this issue.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI F. A. AHMED): It is a fact that such a report has appeared