

it to the State Governments at a lower price of Rs. 125. Why it is not possible to get rice in the international market is because the price of rice in the international market is three to four times higher and a much larger amount of foreign exchange will be required. In fact some of our neighbouring countries export substantial quantities of rice and import wheat in order to meet the interests of their national economy. I think the hon. Member has at his heart the interests of the national economy. This country is not in a position to-day to spend a higher foreign exchange element if we are required to import rice also. In fact in the interests of the country's economy, if possible, we should export rice and import wheat to the extent possible. This will serve the purpose of our national economy. Prior to last year the element of subsidy in indigenous wheat was higher because the difference between the procurement price and the issue price was limited—Rs. 76 procurement price and Rs. 78 was the issue price. Because of that, it involved an element of subsidy. Therefore, there was no question of the subsidy going to the producer of wheat. It went to the consumers of wheat. As is known, a large quantity of wheat which is procured by public agencies is not distributed in the surplus States of Punjab, Haryana and Western U. P. It is distributed in deficit States—Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and West Bengal. Therefore, these quantities which are procured to go the deficit States and not to the surplus States where we procure wheat.

These are the main points of the hon. Member and I hope he will get convinced about it.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : Are you yourself convinced ?

13.09 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS

SIXTIETH REPORT

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA (Dausa) : I beg to present the Sixtieth Report of the Committee on Public Undertakings on Action taken by Govern-

ment on the recommendations contained in their Thirty-Seventh Report on National Mineral Development Corporation Ltd

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE HUNDRED AND FIFTY-FIFTH REPORT

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour) : I beg to present the Hundred and fifty-fifth Report of the Public Accounts Committee on paragraph 19 (Sugar Rebate Scheme) of the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 1972-73, Union Government (Civil), Revenue Receipts, Volume I, Indirect Taxes.

श्री जयु लिनय (बांका) : अध्यक्ष महोदय मेरा प्वाइन्ट आफ आर्डर है। पब्लिक एकाउन्ट्स कमेटी जो सरकार के एकाउन्ट्स होते हैं उन की जांच करने के लिए है। आम तौर पर आडिटर जनरल की जो रिपोर्ट आती है उस के ऊपर जांच करते हैं। लेकिन ऐसे भी उदाहरण मिलते हैं कि रिपोर्ट के बाहर भी अगर कोई इरेग्युलैटी या अनियमितता है तो वे उस पर भी विचार करते हैं। मेरे पास सी० ए० जी० की रिपोर्ट है—रेवेन्यू रिपोर्ट्स, वॉल्यूम 1, इस में पैराग्राफ 60-बूलन रेंज के बारे में है। इस में आडिटर जनरल ने कहा था :

"The extension of the exemption from duty given to unstripped woollens by executive instruction is not legally correct. Further, in the cases reported, the nature and extent of mutilation carried out at the docks are not known."

आगे कहा गया है, मैं सब नहीं पढ़ाया -

"The duty involved in respect of 3,345 bales of such garments released is Rs. 18 93 lakhs."

तकरीबन 19 लाख —

"However, the extent of duty on all consignments imported is yet to be ascertained."

[श्री मधु लिमये]

अध्यक्ष महोदय, यह लाबों करों का मामला है, यह रिपोर्ट वास्तव में 1973-74 की है और 1973-74 की जो पब्लिक एकाउन्ट्स कमिटी थी, उस की तरफ इस के बारे में रिपोर्ट जारी चाहिए थी। एक साल हो गया है और इस कमिटी की क्षमता 30 अप्रैल को खत्म होने जा रही है। अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैंने "गेलो फार्म" का जो सिलसिला शुरू करवाया था, वह इसी लिए था कि हम पब्लिक एकाउन्ट्स कमिटी के चेयरमन, एस्टीमेट्स कमिटी के चेयरमन, पब्लिक अण्डरटॉकिंग कमिटी के चेयरमन से हम प्रश्न पूछ सकें और इस तरह से इन कमिटियों के काम-काज पर भी यह सदन नियन्त्रण रख सके।

मैं जानना चाहता हूँ—पब्लिक एकाउन्ट्स कमिटी के चेयरमैन चले गये—व्लन रैज के बारे में इस कमिटी ने जो जांच की है, उस की रिपोर्ट इस सदन के सामने क्यों नहीं आ रही है? क्या श्री ज्योतिभय बसु साहब का इरादा है कि उनकी मियाद खत्म होने के पहले यह रिपोर्ट नहीं देनी है। इस में सन्देह नहीं है कि कमिटी ने बहुत कुछ अच्छा काम किया है, लेकिन इसमें जो डिले हुई है, इस के बारे में हम लोग चिन्तित हैं। तरह तरह की अफवाहें चल रही हैं, कि प्रधान मंत्री जी ने कोई आदेश जारी किया था जिस की वजह से ये लोग फाइल देने के लिए तैयार नहीं हैं। इस का झुलासा होना चाहिए—सरकार के द्वारा भी और पी० ए० सी० कमिटी के चेयरमैन के द्वारा भी।

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur) : Sir, I now rise on a point of order. Previously, when the P.A.C. report was laid on the Table of the House on the 5th of March, I rose on a point of order. And ultimately I was allowed to make some submissions. My submission on this is this. Previously, when Mr. Masani was Chairman, some of us took advantage of the Rules of Procedure and gave certain notices but they were treated in at yellow form. The Chairman of the P.A.C. answered here in this House. Now,

what is happening is this. The P.A.C. Report is laid on the Table of the House. Even the recommendations warrant a minimum action of the Government. For instance, I pointed out that there was a blanket scandal in which a Lieutenant General, Shri Sandhu was involved.

MR. SPEAKER : Don't mention everytime the name of Shri Sandhu. In the Defence debate you had done it earlier... You go on mentioning the name everyday. There should be a limit to it.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : It has been mentioned. Anyway, what I am suggesting is that after the report of the P.A.C. regarding the high official, there is a contempt which he has committed by granting....

MR. SPEAKER : It has not come up as yet.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Let us lay down a procedure.

MR. SPEAKER : Please do not try to push in all types of matters at the inappropriate time. You have said about it not once but a number of times.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी (ग्वालियर) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, एक छोटासा मुद्दा इस में है कि जब यह रिपोर्ट थी तो पब्लिक एकाउन्ट्स कमिटी ने उस के बारे में अवश्य जांच पड़ताल की होगी और हम आशा करते हैं कि वह रिपोर्ट सदन के सामने आयेगी।

MR. SPEAKER : It is not under discussion.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : चर्चा हम नहीं कर रहे हैं।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : चर्चा ही हो रही है।

This is just being laid on the Table. This is not under discussion.

SHRI MADHU LIMAYE : We have waited long enough.

SHRI SEZHIYAN (Kumbakonam) : These reports have been submitted in April 1973. Now, we are discussing the various demands.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Sezhiyan, you will agree with me. You have yourself been the Chairman of the P.A.C. Mr. Vajpayee, you have also been the Chairman.

SHRI MADHU LIMAYE : I have been the watchdog.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Madhu Limaye's point was, the case about rags was pending from year to year. But, so far as Mr. Banerjee's point is concerned...

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : We are not referring to that.

MR. SPEAKER : He does not spare any moment, to bring in this. I remember, this is the third occasion, in these ten days, when he has raised this issue. This is not under consideration. It is just being laid. Mr. Madhu Limaye's point is that this subject of rags has been pending.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Sir, let not an impression be created...

MR. SPEAKER : You have mentioned this particular item on various occasions five or six times. After all, there is a limit to this.

SHRI SEZHIAN : Sir, in this case, my submission is this. We are going to discuss the Demands for Grants in respect of the Commerce Ministry. If we do not have the report, what use is there in discussing this? We should have the report.

MR. SPEAKER : We cannot send back this report. It is already printed and laid. It is the stage of laying it. As far as other matters are concerned, you can mention them at the time when the Demands for Grants in respect of the Commerce Ministry are taken up.

13. 17 hrs.

STATEMENT RE. TALKS HELD IN DACCA ON GANGA WATERS

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM) : As the Hon'ble Members are aware, Farakka is a long standing issue which, in the past, concerned India and erstwhile Pakistan and which now concerns India and Bangladesh. With the emergence of Bangladesh, a new relationship of mutual understanding and friendship has been established. In May, 1974, the Prime Ministers of India

and Bangladesh agreed that this issue should be approached with understanding so that the interests of both the countries are reconciled and difficulties removed in a spirit of friendship and co-operation. Both the sides expressed that they would arrive at a mutually acceptable allocation of water available during the periods of minimum flow in the Ganga.

This House has been informed from time to time regarding the progress made on the construction of the Farakka Barrage Project. This is the biggest project of its kind in our country and posed unique problems of foundation and river diversion during construction. The work on the project started in a big way in the year 1963. The barrage structure was completed in 1971. Owing to several reasons, the work on the feeder canal, however, was somewhat delayed but I am happy to inform the House that all the handicaps and difficulties have been overcome and the feeder canal work has now been completed.

After the meeting of the two Prime Ministers in May 1974, the two sides continued their efforts for arriving at a mutually acceptable allocation of the minimum flow in the Ganga. A delegation from Bangladesh led by His Excellency Mr. Abdur Rab Serneabat, Minister for Flood Control, Water Resources and Power visited New Delhi on 24th and 25th February, 1975, for discussions with the Indian delegation led by the Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation. Although agreement could not be reached at this meeting the discussions marked an important step in understanding the respective viewpoints and enlarging areas of agreement. Last week, an Indian delegation led by me visited Dacca from 16th to 18th April, 1975, when the discussions were continued further. The House will be glad to know that an understanding has been reached during this meeting which enables the Farakka Barrage to be operated and the Feeder Canal to be run during the current lean period. A copy of the agreement is laid on the table of the House. [*Placed in library. See No. L T-9531/75*]. Since the feeder canal would be running for the first time, discharges have to be increased gradually so that remedial measures can be taken to rectify if any deficiencies are noticed. It has been agreed by both the countries that the Feeder