

[Shri Indrajit Gupta]

that it is not a continuing matter. The Finance Minister is admitting that there is such a sharp and unprecedented rise in prices. It is a matter of recent occurrence during the last three or four months. It is not a continuing matter.

12.23 Hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE REPORTED STEEP RISE IN PRICES OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES

SHRI S.M. BANERJEE (Kanpur) :

Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Finance to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

"The reported steep rise in the cost of living index and prices of essential commodities including food articles and the steps taken by the Government in that regard."

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the recent pressure on prices has become a matter of concern and I share the anxiety of the Hon. House regarding the rise in the prices of essential consumer goods, particularly food articles, and the consequent hardship caused especially to the lower and middle income groups. The All-India Industrial Workers' Consumer Price Index (base 1949-100) for May, 1972 (the latest available) has increased by 6.3 per cent to 238 from its level of 224 for May, 1971. The Consumer Price Index has remained fairly steady between June, 1970 and May, 1971, but rose thereafter and reached 239 in November 1971 in the following three months there was a downturn and for February, 1972 the index stood at 235. From March, 1972 there was again an upward uptrend and in May, 1972 the Index had slightly crossed the level of December, 1971. As the wholesale prices, particularly, of food articles, since May, 1972 have been increasing, the Consumer Price Index for June and July (when available) is likely to reflect a similar trend.

The Consumer Price Index is constructed directly from the industrial indices of 50 centres in the country and retail price indices are not compiled commodity-wise on the national level. The retail prices, however, closely follow wholesale prices, and a review of the latter shows that the current pressure has developed mainly from the first week of May, 1972. The price rise which earlier took place between June and September, 1971, principally due to seasonal factors, was corrected substantially in the following nine weeks; but then there was renewed pressure because of fears of a shortfall in sugar production. Delay in winter rains also had some impact on market psychology.

The recent price rise owes its origin to seasonal pressures which come into play from the beginning of May. Between May 6 and July 15, 1972, the wholesale price index has risen by 4.8 per cent. The food articles group is higher by 8.3 per cent and within the food group, foodgrains, edible oils, and sugar and allied products show increases of 8.9, 11.3 and 10.2 per cent respectively.

As I have already mentioned, some pressure on food articles is a usual phenomenon during this part of the year. However, this time the seasonal factors have been accentuated because of delay in the onset of the monsoon and the current dry spell. Moreover, contrary to earlier expectations, the output of foodgrains in 1971-72 has failed to rise in particular the production of coarse grains appears to have declined significantly as a result of the damage caused by floods and drought during 1971-72. Thus, the pivotal role in raising the general price level has been played by the agricultural commodities which have been in short supply, such as coarse grains, pulses, and sugar and allied products whose prices have risen rather sharply over the year, *i.e.*, by 15.8 per cent for jowar, 39.4 per cent for bajra, 25.3 per cent for pulses and 28.3 per cent for sugar and allied products.

At the same time, the recent price pressure has left cotton prices unaffected.

These have declined by 2.5 per cent and cotton textiles have also shown a downward trend.

Apart from the above-mentioned factors which have been responsible for the recent price-rise, there has been a substantial increase in money supply in the preceding years because of the refugees from Bangla Desh and the confrontation with Pakistan. The impact of such monetary expansion had to be felt sooner or later. On the other hand, the imports of foodgrains have been declining from year to year and concessional imports have ceased from January 1972.

As the Hon. House is aware, a fairly restrictive monetary policy is being pursued since January 1970, when the credit controls on bank advances against foodgrains, oilseeds and edible oils had been tightened up. Recently, further curbs have been imposed on bank advances against groundnuts in Gujarat. In order to keep monetary demand within reasonable limits, the Government has been affecting economy in non-plan expenditure, and the State Governments have been told not to resort to overdrafts from the Reserve Bank of India and to clear the outstanding ones according to a phased programme. In addition, various other administrative measures have also been taken. In January, 1972 the food corporation of India had been directed to undertake open market sales of wheat to check the rise in its prices which took place about that time the Corporation has also been opening sales centres in important places for sale of foodgrains (including pulses). Similarly, the Government made voluntary arrangements with the sugar mills in January 1972 for distribution of 60 per cent of the sugar production to the consumers through fair price shops at fixed prices this arrangement has been put on a statutory basis from July 1, 1972.

As regards ensuring adequate supply of cereals to the weaker sections of the society, the Government has been operating a public distribution system which operates through a net work of over 1,25,000 fair price shops. The available information

from the States shows that the issue of foodgrains through the public distribution system has increased in recent months. Stocks of foodgrains with the Government at present are over 9 million tonnes and instructions have been issued to the State Governments to extend the coverage of the public distribution system both in the urban and rural areas.

The economy has been operating on a fine balancing of demand and supply in several key sectors. The ultimate solution lies in increasing production, both in the agricultural and industrial sectors this is being attempted through planned development. In regard to the former, the Government has been initiating long-term measures to increase productivity and yield through the development of new strains and hybrid seeds. It is hoped that these measures will result in reducing fluctuations in output and will lead to stabilisation of prices.

SHRI S.M. BANERJEE: I am really sorry that, instead of giving a satisfactory reply or telling us the measures which Government have taken or are likely to take to stop further hoarding and black-marketing by those antisocial elements who are holding the country to ransom, the Minister of Finance says:

“The ultimate solution lies in increasing production, both in the agricultural and industrial sectors this is being attempted through planned development.”

Unless planning succeeds, prices are never going to come down.

It is a tragedy that, even after 25 years of freedom—we are going to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of our independence, the 25th anniversary of our freedom—prices have not come down. People are starving. Lootings in foodgrains are already taking place in Bihar and some other places, and I have no doubt in my mind that such lootings in foodgrains are bound to take place in spite of police bullets and lathi-charges. It is a sad commentary on

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our planning that, the more we discuss in this House, the more prices rise.

It is really surprising that no effective steps have been taken by the Government so far. We have been pleading in this House to get this trade out of the clutches of the anti-social elements—the hoarders and the black-marketeers—we have been pleading that the wholesale trade in food-grains be taken over by the State apparatus. When we demanded State trading in food-grains, immediately we got a reply that this was not feasible. Now what is the result? What is happening today? The price of sugar in Delhi and other metropolitan cities in the open market is Rs. 3.40 and Rs. 3.60 per kilo, and in some of the places contiguous to metropolitan cities, the price has gone up to Rs.4. Prices of vegetables have gone up. Prices of fish, wheat, egg—in fact, of everything—have gone up. The whole tragedy is that the Ministers who are in the helm of affairs, who are in the Ministries which are to control prices, never go themselves to the market to purchase things. They are the true representatives of the people—people purchase articles for them and supply them. If they go to the market, then they would realise how prices have gone up.

When it was pointed out to the Government that the price of sugar was going up, instead of taking effective steps to reduce the price of sugar in the open market, they reduced the quota of sugar which was being given to the common man through ration shops. It is a shameful act that, instead of reducing the price, they reduce the quota; and that quantity was taken out from the ration shops and was given to the looters, hoarders and black-marketeers for distribution to public at high prices.

About the prices of other commodities like dalda, mustard oil and other oils, they have also gone up. In the statement made by the Minister, it is admitted:

“I share the anxiety of the hon. House regarding the rise in the prices of

essential consumer goods, particularly food articles, and the consequent hardship caused especially to the lower and middle income groups. The All-India Industrial Workers' Consumer Price Index (base 1949-100) for May 1972 (the latest available) has increased by 6.3 per cent to 238 from its level of 224 for May 1971.”

You will thus realise, Sir, that Government has shamelessly admitted their failure in this House, but still they say that the failure is not due to them but because of the drought conditions, because of Bangla Desh refugees. The prices went up after the refugees had gone from this country; prices never increased when they were here; the moment they left for Bangla Desh, immediately the prices rose up. As if they were holding and checking the prices when they were here. Then we welcome the refugees possibly to reduce the prices in the country. The moment they left this country, the prices went up. It is said:

“As the wholesale prices, particularly of food articles, since May 1972 have been increasing, the Consumer Price Index for June and July (when available)...”

It is not available to the Government. We know from other sources the increase in the index. But they want some authentic figure which comes in the month of September.

“...is likely to reflect a similar trend. “The Consumer Price Index is constructed directly from the indices of 50 centres...”

We know, Sir, how this is being done.

So, I would like to know from the Government whether it is a fact that at the request of all the Opposition Parties, especially we, who sincerely believe that it should be taken over by the State machinery, that the wholesale food distribution should be taken over, right from the procurement to distribution should be taken over by the

Government. What has happened to that? What is the reply to that? I would like to know and why this has not been done?

I would also like the Finance Minister that he with the help of his friend, the Home Minister, may kindly assure whether in Delhi alone some people who were found doing black-marketing, the worst black-marketing in foodgrain articles starting from wheat, rice, and sugar, etc., whether they have been arrested and punished. Not a single soul has been punished. They go on merrily and even after a discussion, they know their interests are protected by some people. We would like to know what action has been taken against them.

Then, another thing is whether it is a fact that a solemn promise was given in this House that because the price increase affects very much the middle income group—he said that the middle income people are the worst affected—whether the Government employees who were entitled to a further increase in the dearness allowance will be granted a further interim relief. They are entitled to an increase at 235 whereas the index now is 239. I would like to know whether their genuine demand for a further grant of interim relief on the basis of the increase in the price index has been denied by the Chairman of the Joint Consultative Machinery, the Cabinet Secretary. He said, 'I would consult my master' and on the 29th of July, this month, we, the members of the National Council of the Joint Consultative Machinery, had to leave the Committee by saying that no useful purpose will be served because the genuine demand of the Government employees is being denied. The Central Government employees are denied another interim relief, whatever it is, due to them and the Government in all its fairness and in honesty should give the interim relief to them.

So, my question is: whether the Government is prepared to take over the entire foodgrains trade and take it from the hands of the hoarders. Then, the second question is: what further punishment will be given

to those hoarders and whether any person has been punished so far.

Thirdly, is the hon. Minister aware that in spite of the fact that forward market has been banned, there is illegal forward marketing going on with the result that there is rise in the prices. All over India it is going on.

I would like to have from the hon. Minister specific answers to these questions and the last but not the least, I would request you—I am sure and it is evident from your face that you have been convinced that this statement is bad—to admit my motion.

MR. SPEAKER: How is it evident from my face?

SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN : The hon. Member did not touch any of the points that I had made a reference to in my statement. The only question that he raised at the end of his long lecture was about the wholesale trade. What is our attitude to the wholesale trade? In principle we have said that we have to take over the wholesale trade.

As far as the price factor is concerned, the major pressure is on the food articles if you see the entire structure. Of course, there are some other factors, but the major thrust, really speaking, is in the case of food items and that too, particularly, cereals and pulses. If you see Jowar, Bajra and pulses, their percentage is rather high. That is how we forget many things and do not see the realities. Though they were having some other difficulties in the country last year, continuously for the last three years in some of the major States which are coarse-grain growing States, they are suffering from drought. We are facing the effects of it now. Merely taking over the wholesale trade, if there is no supply, what is the wholesale trade going to do?

As a matter of fact, in the case of the food articles, the Food Corporation of India functions and takes note of the wholesale trade; if it is not whole-sale, what else is it? We have taken step by step positions to do this and it is not correct to find some

scapegoat or to blame somebody. I wanted to have some constructive suggestions from the hon. Member. I have already stated as to what steps have been taken by the Government. So far as the distribution system is concerned, as I have already said, there are more than 1,25,000 shops functioning. We are also pressing the State Governments to take this distribution system still further to the doors of the people. With reference to likely cases of hoarding to which he referred to, there also we have taken steps. The Reserve Bank of India is exercising its control. Where we found some hardship, particularly in the case of Gujarat in the case of oilseeds, we took further steps to control those things. There are many other areas which we have indicated where action has been taken.

The point, as I said, is this. The entire field of economy has to be viewed and corrective steps and positive steps will have to be taken in the field of production, which we are doing.

SHRI S.M. BANERJEE: My question has not been answered. I wanted to know whether any persons have been punished in Delhi itself. There is black-market going on; sugar has been sold at Rs. 4 per kilo. I think he knows about it; if he does not know, let him now know. What action has been taken by him? Let him go *inognito* as Shri Rafi Ahmed Kidwai used to go and find out how prices have gone up. Unless you pay Rs. 4 per kilogram, you will not get any sugar. For marriage and other things, people have to pay through their nose to get sugar. What is being done now in this regard, although he has said some very good words about the low-income group? Prices have gone up like this and the Central Government employees are entitled to further increase of D.A. What is his answer? Is he going to concede that?

SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN: Whenever the particular point was reached, as was the case last year, we did give that; even in the difficult conditions; we agreed

to the increase. There is a certain basis which is an agreed basis in respect of dearness allowance, which certainly will be operating when the point reaches those figures.

SHRI S.M. BANERJEE: It has reached 238 points.

श्री यशवंतराव चव्हाण : वह 220 से 238 हो गया था तब की बात है। (स्वबोधन)

We have discussed this point already in the House many times and I do not want to divert the attention of the House.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी (ग्यालियर) : मैं केवल इसीलिए आया हूँ। बात यह है कि वित्त मंत्री को सस्ता नहीं छोड़ा जा सकता। जब मंहगाई बढ़ रही है तो उन्हें सस्ता कैसे छोड़ देंगे ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : प्राय किसी को भी नहीं छोड़ने।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : नहीं अध्यक्ष महोदय, प्राय से मेरी कोई नाराजगी नहीं है। बस इतनी प्रार्थना है कि शिमला समझौते का मामला प्राय तो ब्याल रखिएगा। मैं वित्त मंत्री जी के वक्तव्य का प्रारम्भिक भंग पढ़ना चाहता हूँ। जैसे उन्होंने एक वक्तव्य आज दिया है, लेकिन मैं उन के दूसरे वक्तव्य को पढ़ना चाहता हूँ। मैं उद्धृत कर रहा हूँ।

I share the anxiety of this honourable House regarding increase in the prices of essential commodities in the recent months and the hardship caused to the people belonging particularly to the lower income and fixed income groups.

आज का वक्तव्य अगर प्राय देखें, मैं उसे भी फिर से पढ़ना चाहता हूँ, प्राय दोनों का मिलान कर लें :

The recent pressure on prices has become a matter of concern and I share the anxiety of the honourable House regarding the rise in the prices of essential consumer goods particularly food articles and the consequent hardship caused especially to the lower and middle income groups.

यह वक्तव्य आज का है और यह पहला वक्तव्य 16 नवम्बर, 1971 का है। आज 71 नहीं है 72 है। नवम्बर नहीं है जुलाई है। लेकिन वक्तव्य वही है, चिन्ता वही है। वित्त मंत्री भी वही हैं। केवल दाम बढ़ रहे हैं। (व्यवधान)

MR. SPEAKER: I stand corrected that this is a continuing matter.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : अध्यक्ष महोदय आप मुझे पूरा मुन लेते और फिर फंसला देते तो ज्यादा अच्छा होता। क्या केवल मूल्य वृद्धि पर चिन्ता प्रकट कर के यह सरकार अपने कर्तव्य की इतिश्री ममझना चाहती है? या केवल इस बात को दोहरा कर जैसा कि इस वक्तव्य में दोहराया गया है, आप जरा वह भी गौर करें, मैं उद्धृत कर रहा हूँ :

The ultimate solution lies in increasing production both in the agricultural and industrial sector and this is being attempted through planned development.

जो बात कही गई है उससे कोई इनकार नहीं कर सकता है। उत्पादन बढ़ाना होगा.....

श्री राम सहाय पाण्डे (राजन्दगांव) : कोई रेडीमेड हल बताइए।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : अगर आप मौन धारण करें हम समय तो आप अधिक सेवा करेंगे।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मुश्किल है उन के लिए।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : लेकिन यह बातें लम्बे धरसे के लिए हैं। वित्त मंत्री महोदय से पूछा जा सकता है कि औद्योगिक उत्पादन क्यों नहीं बढ़ा। योजना का लक्ष्य क्या था उपलब्धि क्या है? 7 परसेंट औद्योगिक उत्पादन बढ़ना चाहिए था, 1.5 परसेंट बढ़ा है। क्या केवल औद्योगिक विकास मंत्री को बदलने से औद्योगिक उत्पादन बढ़ जायगा?

अध्यक्ष महोदय, यह वक्तव्य निराशाजनक है, मूल्य वृद्धि से मंत्रालय कर्मचारी और श्रमजीवी वर्ग के मन में संशय और असंतोष पैदा करने वाला है। यह इस बात का प्रमाण है कि मूल्यों के मोर्चे पर सरकार बिकल हो गई है। उसके पास न कोई तात्कालिक और न कोई दूरगामी

उपाय या योजना है जिस के अनुसार मूल्य कम करना तो दूर रहा, मूल्य स्थिर रखे जा सके।

श्री धार० डी० बंधारे (बम्बई मध्य) : यह ऐडजर्नमेंट मोशन नहीं है कालिग प्रटेशन है।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : अध्यक्ष महोदय, यह कभी कभी बेयरमैन बना करते हैं लेकिन अपनी धादत भूले नहीं हैं। जब यह नवम्बर रहते हैं तब भी बेयरमैन करते रहते हैं।

अध्यक्ष महोदय, जब मूल्य बढ़ते हैं तो रुपये की त्रय शक्ति घटती है। बंधी बंधाई तनक्वाह पाने वाला परेशान होता है। रुपये की कीमत उम की गिनती में नहीं है। उस से बाजार में कितना सामान खरीदा जाता है उस से रुपये की कीमत घांकी जाती है। 1950 के हिसाब में देखें तो 1972 में रुपये की कीमत 25 पैसे रह गई है। उसके सौ पैसे मिलते हैं लेकिन उस के बदल में बाजार में उसे 25 पैसे का सामान मिलता है। मंहगाई कितनी बढ़ी है, उसका अन्धाज लगाए जब वित्त मंत्री बोलते हैं तो धोक की बात करते हैं। ग्राम धादमी धोक से नहीं खरीदता। फुटकर से खरीद कर वह अपनी गुजर नहीं कर सकता। कभी वित्त मंत्री बाजार में जायें तो उन्हें घाटे वाल का भाव मालूम पड़ेगा।

फुटकर मूल्यों की स्थिति क्या है? गेहूं जिस के भंडार भरे पड़े हैं, जो गेहूं कुले में पड़ा हुआ प्रकृति का सामना कर रहा है उस गेहूं का दाम 5 रुपये से लेकर 13 रुपये प्रति क्विंटल बढ़ा है। इस का लाभ किसान को नहीं हो रहा है। इस का लाभ बिचोमिये को हो रहा है। उपभोक्ता को अधिक कीमत देनी पड़ रही है। बंगाल चना 94 रुपये से बढ़ कर 118 रुपये हो गया है। चीनी 314 से 340 रुपये प्रति क्विंटल हो गई है। तरकारी 2 रुपये किलो से कोई सस्ती नहीं मिलती है।

ग्रामधर्म्य की बात है कि जो सुपर बाजार मूल्यों को स्थिर रखने के लिए बोले गए हैं वह बाजार में प्राप्त होने वाले मूल्यों से अधिक कीमतों पर सामान बेच रहे हैं। मेरे सामने 'टाइमस ग्राम इंडिया' का एक पत्र है जिस में कोई श्रीमती विजय लक्ष्मी लिखने वाली है। उन्होंने तुलनात्मक प्रांकड़े दिए हैं। उन का कहना है कि तिल कीमत 4 किलोग्राम बाजार में मिलता है 27 रुपये 20 पैसे में और सुपर बाजार में मिलता है 32 रुपये 70 पैसे में।

यही बात जीरा सफेद के लिए है—सुपर बाजार में 7 रु० और खुले बाजार में 6 रुपये में बिक रहा है काली मिर्च खुले बाजार में 7 रु० 60 पैसे और सुपर बाजार में 9 रुपये में बिक रही है। ओबल टोन और बॉन-विटा के लिए भी ऐसा ही लिखा हुआ है। सुपर बाजार मूल्यों को स्थिर रखने के लिए खोले गये थे वे घाटे में चल रहे हैं, यह भ्रमलग बात है, लेकिन कई चीजों के दाम खुले बाजार की तुलना में सुपर बाजार में ज्यादा हैं।

वित्त मंत्री महोदय ने अपने वक्तव्य में फेयर-प्राइस शाप्स की बात की है। मैं जानता हूँ कि यह राज्यों का विषय है लेकिन वित्त मंत्री स्वीकार करेंगे कि ग्राम भादमी को उचित मूल्य पर पर्याप्त मात्रा में आवश्यकता की वस्तुएँ उपलब्ध नहीं हैं। इस लिए सुपर बाजार के दाम ठीक हों—यह आवश्यक है तथा फेयर-प्राइस शाप्स की संख्या बढ़ाई जाय, उनमें ठीक तरह से बिक्री हो, उन्हें माल मिले, उनमें किसी तरह की गलती न हो—इसके लिए कदम उठाना आवश्यक है। मैं वित्त मंत्री महोदय से पूछना चाहता हूँ कि इस दिशा में वे क्या कर रहे हैं। मैं पूरा व्यापार सरकार के हाथ में लेने के हक में नहीं हूँ। अगर वह ऐसा इलाज करेंगे तो वह बीमारी से भी ज्यादा खराब होगा और अगर आप करना चाहते हैं तो कर के देख लीजिये मैं आप के और कम्युनिस्टों के मार्ग में बाधक नहीं बनूंगा। वह आपसे मित्र हैं ग्राहक दे सकते हैं। आप उनकी सलाह स्वीकार कर सकते हैं। मगर राजनीतिक नारों से, अर्थ-व्यवस्था नारों से नहीं चलती है, व्यावहारिकता की कसौटी पर आप को खाय के उत्पादन और वितरण का प्रबंध करना होगा।

मैं वित्त मंत्री जी से एक बात जानना चाहता हूँ—क्या यह सच है कि मूल्य वृद्धि में डैफिसिट फाइनेंसिंग का, जो बढ़ गई है बहुत बड़ा हाथ है। इस साल के लिए डैफिसिट फाइनेंसिंग का जो लक्ष्य था, हम उस का उल्लंघन कर गये हैं, हमने सीमोल्लंघन कर दिया है। चौथी पंचवर्षीय योजना में जिनना डैफिसिट फाइनेंसिंग करना था, उस से दुगने पर आंकड़े पहुंच गये हैं और यदि इसी रवतार से रुपया बाजार में जाता रहेगा और माल की पूर्ति नहीं बढ़ेगी तो मूल्य वृद्धि अवश्य होगी।

मैं चाहूंगा कि वित्त मंत्री महोदय कर्मचारियों को, मजदूरों को आश्वासन दें कि सरकार की विफल

नीतियों के कारण जो मंहगाई बढ़ी है उस को पूर्ति जब भी पे-कमोशन की रिपोर्ट आयेगी उस को रि-ट्रास्पेक्टिव इफेक्ट से लागू कर के उनका सारा घाटा पूरा कर दिया जायगा।

क्या वित्त मंत्री यह भी आश्वासन देने के लिए तैयार हैं कि जिनकी ग्रामदनी 300 रुपये महीने से कम है, उन्हें मन्सीडाइज्ड रेट पर बुनियादी आवश्यकता की चीजें मुहिया की जायेंगी और उस के लिए यह सरकार ठोस और प्रभावी कार्यवाही करेगी? अगर वित्त मंत्री मन्तोपजनक उतर नहीं देंगे तो हम फिर से एडजानमेंट मोशन लाने की मांग करेंगे।

श्री के०डी० मालवीय (डुमारायागंज) : अध्यक्ष महोदय काल-एटेंशन के सम्बन्ध में जो इतनी लम्बी बहस होती है .. (व्यवधान) .. सारे देश पर इस का प्रभाव पड़ता है। जिन लोगों ने ये प्रश्न पूछे हैं उन्हीं की बात सारे देश में समाचार पत्रों के द्वारा जाती है। यह इतना विषम प्रश्न है जिस पर आज बहस हो रही है हम लोगों की भी बहुत तबियत चाहती है कि हम भी इसमें सम्मिलित हों, लेकिन काल-एटेंशन के समय बहस इतनी लम्बी हो जाती है कि हम को मौका नहीं मिल पाता है। यह हमारे साथ बहुत बड़ा अन्याय है

अध्यक्ष महोदय : यह प्रोसीजर की बात है।

श्री के०डी० मालवीय : इस लिए प्रार्थना करना हूँ कि या तो इस पर पूरी बहस हो या इस को यहाँ बन्द कर के कोई दूसरा वक्त मुकर्रर किया जाय और हम को भी इजाजत दें ताकि हम भी अपनी राय जाहिर कर सकें।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : वक्त कैसे दें।

SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN:
I must thank the hon. Member for at least agreeing on two fundamental points with me, because he said that in the long range, ultimately, the solution of the whole problem depends upon increase in production in the agricultural and industrial fields. I am glad he has agreed with me on this fundamental point.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:
Why is production not increasing?

SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN: Another point. He said that by mere slogan-shouting, things are not going to be solved and we have to certainly make some concrete efforts. There he agrees with us.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: I agree with him that *garibi hatao* slogan will not do.

SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN: If it is merely a question of trying to show that that they are the only persons concerned about the rising prices, I think it is very wrong on their part to do so, because we are also equally concerned. Every member on this side also is very much concerned about it.

AN. HON. MEMBER: We are more concerned.

SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN: As for the point about deficit financing, yes, certainly it is necessary. We have to find out why we have to resort to it. For example, last year we had provided about Rs. 50 crores for natural calamities. But State after State has come under the pressure of floods or famine. It is not a theoretical proposition. We cannot say, 'We are not going to have deficit financing. Therefore, we won't give you help'. Poor people are starving. They are under the pressure of floods, famine etc.

So, deficit financing also has to be done under certain circumstances.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Not for unproductive purposes.

SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN: It is not unproductive. When a man is starving because of famine, are you going to tell him that we are not also helping him because we are not producing anything? What are you talking about? Are you talking about the concern of the people? Or are you merely talking against the Government? If that is your only problem I have nothing to say about it.

About deficit financing naturally, nobody does it for fun's sake. There are certainly some compulsions, some political compulsions and certain economic compulsions.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Political compulsions?

SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN: Certainly. When there were the refugees from East Bengal, when there was confrontation with Pakistan, it was a political compulsion. What else was it? So, these are some of the things which we have to take into account and face the problem. We are trying to face the problem.

The only constructive suggestion he made was about the distribution system. I entirely agree with him in this. Government is taking steps and the Government will continue to take steps because, ultimately, whatever we do unless we try to distribute them in a fair way the solution is not going to be found out. At the same time, against those people who are taking undue advantage by hoarding, etc., Government will certainly take very strong action. I would like to warn the anti-social elements that they will be proceeded against in this matter and firm action will be taken against them.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: May I suggest that this warning should be conveyed to the people?

DR. RANEN SEN (BARASAT): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am really amazed to hear the logic of Mr. Chavan. In his statement, he said that only the wholesale prices have increased and the retail prices are more or less following the wholesale prices.

MR. SPEAKER: We shall conclude the formal business before we adjourn for lunch. I hope the House will agree.

DR. RANEN SEN: My question will be, what is the machinery that has been set up in this country to find out the retail prices in the country. Our information is—because some of us have to go to the

market—that there is no relation between the wholesale price and the retail price. The retail prices are much higher.

Secondly, the Minister has tried to ridicule Mr. S.M. Banerjee, and there, he is one with Mr. Atal Bihari Vajpayee in saying that in respect of the wholesale price of foodgrains or other commodities, the question does not arise at all. When the sugar prices are going up according to Government statistics in Bombay and Calcutta alone where D-30 sugar was sold at Rs. 290 or Rs. 288—this is the wholesale price—may I know whether it is not a fact that in both these places, in one year, it has jumped to Rs. 335, and Rs. 338 in July this year.

When there was the question of nationalisation of the sugar industry raised in this House the Government rejected it. Now to blame simply the small retailers and let go those big monopolists, the sugar merchants and the sugar millowners without touching them, would be simply trying to deceive the public.

The Minister referred to one point and said that wholesale trading in foodgrains or essential commodities is not possible. But somebody hoards the stock. It is well known to Mr. Chavan also that there are sections of cotton millowners who produce less in order to see that cloth prices go up. It is known from Bombay. There are a number of industrialists who produce less in order to see that the prices go up in the market. An artificial scarcity is created in this country; it is known to every student of economics. Has a single word about that artificial scarcity created by the big business men said in this statement? No.

Not a single word has been said. Then there is the question of hoarding inside the country. Is there a word about hoarding? Whatever is produced, is it made available to the public at a fair price? In West Bengal the price of mustard oil has gone up to Rs. 6; there has been an increase of 20 per cent within a year and

this is the only cooking media for the Bengalis.

13 hrs.

It has been admitted by the Government statisticians that between 1962 and 1972, according to the figures of the wholesale prices given by him, there has been a 100 per cent increase in prices. That means the rupee value today is fifty paise, compared to what it was in 1962. Has he mentioned that? This is simply shielding the big business people and industrialists who produce less in order to create artificial crisis inside the country. It is not simply a question of drought. I know that these factors are there. In spite of that, if the Government could control the big business fellows and hoarders and the wholesalers the situation would not have been as bad as it is today.

Mr. Chavan's statement does not contain a word about those people who are today trying to dominate and are in fact dominating the economy of the country. Therefore I say that certain industries which are producing essential commodities like sugar must be taken over by the Government and proper distribution machinery has to be established. Proper distribution machinery can be established only by curbing monopoly and hoarding and by strengthening the state trading mechanism in essential commodities. There is no other way. Platitudinous statements blaming industry and trade will not help the country. Government must take serious steps and without any sense of fear or favour must lay hands on those who are responsible for high prices and gear up the machinery for trading in essential commodities. It is my request to the Government. Otherwise, the country is facing a dangerous future and no amount of statements will help the country.

SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN : He has not asked any questions; he has expressed his views, some of which I can certainly say I share.

SHRI S.M. BANERJEE : He has asked for nationalisation of sugar mills,

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Shashi Bhusan.

DR. RANEN SEN : The Finance Minister has not answered my point. Let him ridicule my statement but that will show the real spirit.

श्री शशि भूषण (दक्षिण दिल्ली) : मंत्री महोदय ने अपने बयान में बताया है कि कपड़े की कीमत कुछ कम हुई है लेकिन जितनी रुपयों की कीमत कम हुई है उसके मुताबिक कपड़े की कीमत कम नहीं हुई है। बंगला देश पर काफी खर्चा धारा और उमका धरमर मूल्यों पर पड़ा है—इसके प्रति सारे देश को सरकार के साथ सहानुभूति है, इसमें कोई सन्देह नहीं है। लेकिन पिछले 22 वर्षों में 138 परसेंट मंहगाई बढ़ी है और इसे हम बिस्कुन सीजनन नहीं कह सकते हैं। जब गेहूँ की कीमत मंहगी होती है तो उसके साथ-साथ दूसरी रोजमर्रा के इस्तेमाल की चीजें भी मंहगी हो जाती हैं जैसे कि टूथपेस्ट, साबून, मिगरेट, माचिस, वनस्पति तेल, दवाइयाँ, बच्चों का भोजन, स्लीपिंग पिल्स बगैरहा इस देश में रोजमर्रा के जरूरत की ये आवश्यक चीजें विदेशी मानोपोलिस्ट्स बना रहे हैं, जोकि अपनी मर्जी से जितनी चाहे कीमतें बढ़ा सकते हैं। उन चीजों की कीमतों पर सरकार कंट्रोल कर नहीं सकती है। अगर सरकार करना भी चाहे तो सुप्रीम कोर्ट गदंन पर बैठी हुई है जैसे कि कारों की कीमतों के मामले में हुआ। जिस तरह से सरकार प्रोडक्शन को अपने हाथ में ले रही है उसी तरह से डिस्ट्रीब्यूशन को भी अपने हाथ में लेना चाहिए तभी कोई कंट्रोल हो सकता है वरना यह संभव नहीं है। जो विदेशी मानोपोलिस्ट हैं वही रोजमर्रा की जरूरत की चीजों को बनाते हैं। यहां पर प्लानिंग मिनिस्टर बैठे हुए हैं, मैं चाहूंगा कि जैसे मोटा कपड़ा है या दूसरी आवश्यक रोजमर्रा के इस्तेमाल की चीजें हैं उनको पब्लिक सेक्टर में बनाया जाये, तथा देशी और विदेशी मानोपोलिस्ट्स से पीछा छुड़ाया जाये तभी मंहगाई पर कंट्रोल किया जा सकता है। साथ ही साथ देश में जो मंहगाई बढ़ाने वाले तत्व हैं, उन्हें पहचाने। अभी संसद के बाहर एक प्रदर्शन धारा हुआ है जिसमें 90 परसेंट बे लोग हैं जोकि मंहगाई बढ़ाते हैं.. (अपवाहान)..

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : इनकी तरफ 90 प्रतिशत ऐसे लोग हैं जोकि मंहगाई बढ़ाते हैं। धारोप का जबाब धारोप से ही दिया जा सकता है। बरा बेबकर धारोप कि कितना बढ़ा जुस है।.. (अपवाहान)..

श्री शशि भूषण : जो देश में अमाति चाहते हैं, जो साम्राज्यिकता फैलाते हैं, जो मजदूरों में परस्पर

धाम लगाते हैं, उनको चारों तरफ जलता ही धंगारा नजर आता है, यहां से लेकर गदरा रोड तक .. (अपवाहान).. देश की महान शक्ति नजर नहीं आती।

श्री हुकम चन्व कच्छवाय (मुरा) : ये दलाल है जोकि हर जगह दंगे करवाते हैं।.. (अपवाहान)..

श्री शशि भूषण : जो मंहगाई बढ़ाने वाले तत्व हैं उन पर सरकार नियंत्रण करे। दिल्ली गहर में चाहे सेना को गंदी दाल सप्लाई करने वाले या अन्य जितने भी ब्लैकमार्केटीयर्स हैं वे गिरफ्तार क्यों नहीं हुए।.. (अपवाहान).. मैं सरकार की सराहना करता हूं जो कि एक लाख 25 हजार मस्ते गल्ले की दुकानें खोली हैं उनको तादाद बढ़ायी जाये। प्रच्छा होता यदि उन दुकानों को जल्दी खोला जाना हो मंहगाई कुछ कम होती।.. (अपवाहान).. उन दुकानों की तादाद बढ़ाई जाये।.. (अपवाहान)..

एक तो मैं सरकार से जानना चाहता हूं कि प्रावश्यक वस्तुओं के बितरण को अपने नियंत्रण में करने के लिए सरकार क्या कदम उठा रही है तथा दूसरे मस्ती नित्य उपयोगी चीजें पब्लिक सेक्टर में बनाई जाये, उनको विदेशी मानोपोलिस्ट्स के हाथ में न छोड़ा जाये उसके लिए सरकार क्या कदम उठा रही है। इसके अलावा सरकार ने जो कपड़े की मिक् मित्स भी हैं उनमें मस्ना कपड़ा गरीब धारमियों के लिए बने उसके लिए सरकार क्या कदम उठा रही है।

SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN : He has raised very constructive points, and I have to reply to them. As far as the number of fair price shops is concerned, the Agriculture Ministry has already taken it up with the State Governments to see that it is increased, because it is only this distribution system that is ultimately going to help us.

As far as the question of coarse cloth production is concerned, I think there is some minimum condition on the textile mills to produce those things, and coarse cloth can also be distributed through the fair price shops. This will certainly have to be attended to. He also referred to the question of production of certain other items. It is not a new thought. It is always before the Government. He can meet the Planning Minister and I am sure he will consider it.