

taking it into consideration. But making such a remark against the Chairman of that Commission and its Report is definitely unfortunate.

Further, the Government of India has recently decided in the Chief Minister's Conference that land distribution should be expedited and by March, all surplus land would be distributed. But at this juncture the Minister is saying that there is no surplus land and there is no land-lord. It will only help to obstruct the Government's policy that has been formulated. Therefore, through you, Sir, I want to bring to the notice of the Government and the Prime Minister that the Minister's use of such a derogatory language against the Chairman of the Commission—who was appointed by the Government—is very unfortunate. He has said so without the Government's taking the report into consideration and finalising it. This indicates the Government's inability to implement the policy that has been decided upon.

12.06 hrs.

RE. PRICES OF EDIBLE OILS

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad): Sir, all of a sudden sale of edible oils in the open market has come to a standstill. Such a situation has been created in the country, especially in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, that edible oils are not available in the market. Through you, I would like to draw the attention of the House that last week our hon. Finance Minister Shri Manmohan Singh, the hon. Minister of Commerce, Shri P. Chidambaram and the hon. Minister of Civil Supplies, Shri Kamaluddin Ahmed held a meeting at Gandhinagar, in Gujarat. All the Oil mill owners of Gujarat were called there and in the evening they announced in a press conference that groundnut oil will be available at the rate of Rs. 38 per kg. in the open market in next three months. They also made a similar announcement in Bombay. The hon. Finance Minister is present here. I would like to tell

him that after 48 hours of that announcement edible oils are out of market in Gujarat. It is available in black market @ Rs. 50 to 65 per kg. Thousands of people in villages and cities stand in que in the early morning but they are not getting oil. Such a situation has been created even after ministerial announcement.

12.07 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

Through you, I would like to request the Government to formulate a special oil policy and release oil quota to Gujarat and other states. The Government should formulate a policy under which people get oil at the rate of Rs. 38 per kg. according to their need. (Interruptions)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow): Hon. Finance Minister is present in the House. (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY (Jagatsinghpur): Sir, the Finance Minister has to make a statement. (Interruptions)

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA (Cuttack): After the Finance Minister's announcement in Bombay, the result is like this. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, has the attention of hon. Finance Minister been drawn to the scarcity of edible oils in the country after the announcement that prices of oil will fall oil prices after the This issue is being raised in the House and the Finance Minister is busy in gossiping. (Interruptions)

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH): I apologise to the House; I should have been attentive. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Roseera): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to know the reasons of hike in the prices of edible oils. Members did not want him to beg an apology. But the Finance Minister should state the reasons for rise in the prices of edible oils despite import made and assurances given by him. Not only this but essential commodities are also out of stock in the market. (Interruptions)

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, edible oils disappeared from the market when the hon. Finance Minister went there. Edible oil are out of stock in the markets in Bombay and Gujarat. Had he not gone there, the situation would have been better. At least people would have been getting edible oils. (Interruptions)

SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA (Godhra): Hon. Finance Minister held a meeting with the oil mill owners. In spite of it, prices of edibles oil did not come down. Therefore, he is directly responsible for it.

[English]

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY: Sir, a report in the press says that the hon. Finance Minister had a discussion with the mill owners. And it was said in the press that the prices of edible oil will be reduced by Rs. 5 per Kg. After the Minister's meeting with the mill owners and fixing the prices, now in the Gujarat market, oil is not available and it is not available in the whole country. As a result, in many places the prices have gone up to Rs. 55 to Rs. 60 per Kg. It is a great hardship to the common people and the Government which promised to bring down the prices has the responsibility to respond and see that the prices come down. He must give an assurance and also, he should assure that edible oil will be made available in the market. These are the two problems which are of national importance and they should be looked upon in the context of Finance Minister's meeting with the mill owners.

[Translation]

SHRISHANKERISINH VAGHELA: The Government should intervene when there is increase in the prices of edible oils. Stokes of thousands of tonnes of groundnuts are lying unutilised in the godowns. Besides, representatives of N.D.P. did not participate in the meeting which was called by the hon. Finance Minister. You must control the prices of edible oils to some extent.

[English]

Sir, Gujarat is very highly sensitive about this edible oils (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There are so many people who want to ventilate their grievances pertaining to the subject.

(Interruptions)

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY: Sir, the hon. Finance Minister is here. The Minister must respond.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH (Mirzapur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, a few days back I had raised the question that the cost of projects being set up with foreign collaboration were ten times ... (Interruptions)

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, first of all the Finance Minister should reply to our points. Despite his announcement edible oils are not available in the market. Why did not the oil mill owners honour his directive. (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: Sir, I am just repeating the same thing. The edible oil prices have gone up in the market and the prices have doubled. We saw in the newspaper that the Finance Minister had gone to Bombay and a long interaction had taken

place with the mill owners. They assured that they are going to reduce the prices of edible oil by Rs. 5 per Kg. But just after that meeting, oil is not available in the market. We saw in the newspapers another aspect also that edible oil is being imported to the country and that would also bring down the prices. But instead of that, the edible oil has gone out of the market. The price has gone upto Rs. 60 to Rs. 75 per kg. Gujarat is controlling the oil market of the whole country. When oil is not there is Gujarat, we can imagine the situation in other parts of the country. The Finance Minister must tell us as to what was his interaction with the mill-owners, what was the assurance they gave to him and why the situation has become like this. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI (Gandhi Nagar): This topic does not come to an end with the hon. Members expressing their views in the House and the Government not responding. I am sure that even if the matter was not discussed here the hon. Finance Minister must have come to know the situation that has arisen after his statement. He assured that the prices will be brought down but on the contrary the situation is that oil is not available in the market. The House would like to know from the Government reasons for in and what is the remedy. Therefore, I want that the hon. Finance Minister should clarify the position of edible oil to the House.

SHRI RABI RAY (Kendrapada): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this matter has become serious because yesterday, the hon. Finance Minister was in Bombay and he discussed it with the oil mill owners. But in spite of their discussion and assurance oil is not available and there is a sudden hike in the prices of oil. Through you, I would like to say that it is an essential commodity and crores of people use it. I observe that the whole House and the country is anxious about it. Through you, I would like to ask Mr. Manmohan Singh how the people will get oil and at what rate. Let him inform the House the rate he has assured. I would like that he

should make a statement in the House in this respect to assure the people and the House...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before the hon. Minister replies, there are other people who want to ventilate their grievances pertaining to this subject. I am calling them one by one.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH (Bikramganj): Yes, they should be heard.

Sir, I come from a rural area of Bihar. Recently, I visited my constituency and toured the area for 6-7 days. During this period, I had read the statement of the hon. Finance Minister. I thought that it would provide relief, but since then there has been scarcity of edible oils in the villages of Bihar so much so that the poor people who spend two or four rupees on oil do not get it. The people of Bihar are experiencing oil crisis. Sir, the economic policy of the hon. Finance Minister is very good but its results are counter productive...(*Interruptions*)...Since apprehensions have been expressed that the hon. Finance Minister might have entered into a secret deal with the capitalists he should make a statement in the House and ensure abundant supply of edible oils in the market...(*Interruptions*)...

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA (Mandsaur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to two points. The first thing he said is that the State Governments would import edible oils, But I have my own doubts if they have any large reserves of foreign currency make to imports. For this also, they will depend on the Central Government. Therefore, how can they import oil. It is their main difficulty. The second, is that generally S.T.C. imports edible oils, but now-a-days, they are also not making imports. Therefore, how can you fill up the gap between demand and supply of edible oils. Due to this very

reason oil is not available and there is a regular hike in the prices of oils. The hon. Finance Minister should make this point clear. Edible oils are rarely available in Madhya Pradesh, which is called the soyabean state.

[English]

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman and Nicobar Islands): I join other Members in saying that there is a steep rise of oil price and also it is not available all over the country. I come from the island territory of Andaman and Nicobar. Just today I returned from my constituency. I have found that there is shortage of edible oil and it is not available in the market. In such conditions where the Finance Minister is trying to sort out the problem and also he is trying to ease the situation, I would like to know from him whether he will get the report from different State Governments and Union Territories Administration, so that we may know that is the position. On war footing some action should be taken to see that this problem is sorted out.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED (Lakshadweep): I was reported in the Press that the Finance Minister and the traders had held negotiations in Bombay and the outcome was to reduce the price of edible oil by Rs. 5/- a kg. But, unfortunately from the reactions of most of the hon. Members, one could see that the oil is disappearing from the market. I do not know to what extent it is true. Whatever it may be, he had persuaded them to reduce it by Rs. 5/- a kg. It is a welcome step. At the same time, we urge upon him to let us know as to what is exactly the situation in the country. Mr. Bhakta has also mentioned that oil is not available in Andaman. But that is not the case in my area. Whatever it may be, the prevailing situation should be made known to the country by making a statement to the House, by the hon. Finance Minister.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Kottayam): Sir, I am joining the other hon. Members, The shortage of edible oil is creating a lot of problems for the commonman. In Kerala, we are distributing Palm Oil and other

edible oils through the ration retail outlets. Due to the shortage of edible oil now, it becomes very difficult for the commonman. The price of coconut oil is also rising very sharply. This is also posing a lot of problems for the common people. The State Government is also not in a position to import this edible oil from other countries.

So, I request the hon. Finance Minister to take adequate steps so that the edible oil is made available and the prices are also brought down.

SHRI A. CHARLES (Trivandrum): I am just supporting the feelings of the hon. Members. The position in Kerala is very acute. It is a consumer State and every item is being brought from other States. Edible oil is also not available and is urgently required. So, I request the hon. Minister to take steps to ensure that at least one kg. of edible oil is given to every card holder through the Public Distribution System. I request him to at least ensure that.

SHRI PETER G. MARBANIANG (Shillong): There is a scarcity of edible oil in the market. In the whole of North-Eastern Region, there is no edible oil and the prices of other oils have also gone up to Rs. 60 or Rs. 70 per kg. There is a need to take stock of the situation. So, I urge upon the Government to immediately send supply of edible oil to the North-Eastern Region.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): I am happy that the Finance Minister has gone to the persons concerned to discuss the matter; and a decision was arrived at to bring down the prices. But it is unfortunate that it has not come into action. I wish and I also suggest that the Finance Minister as well as the Government make an earnest attempt to see that the reduced price is brought into effect immediately. I also join my other friends from Kerala, regarding the shortage of Palm Oil which is going to create a great problem in Kerala where a very effective Public Distribution System is in force now. So, I request the Government to make

available sufficient quantity of Palm Oil for distribution in Kerala State.

[*Translation*]

SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA (Nagaur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I did not send my name earlier because I did not know that this subject would come up on the House. The hon. Speaker has announced constitution of a committee at the instance of the Agriculture Minister..... (*Interruptions*) Please allow me to express my opinion, because I have been called to speak. (*Interruptions*) I have no objection if somebody refers to the edible oils...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (South Delhi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, first let the hon. Minister reply and then you may take up another issue. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There are various people who have come from different corners of the country. In Meghalaya, what is the position? In Andaman, what is the position? In Lakshadweep, what is the position regarding supply of oil? So, they want to ventilate their grievances. Let everyone have the chance. (*Interruptions*) Let us hear them with patience. (*Interruptions*) Mr. Mirdha, are you speaking on the same subject? (*Interruptions*) Now the short supply of oil is being discussed here. Are you contributing to the same subject or your want to speak on some other subject?

SHRI NATHURAM MIRDHA: Sir, I want to speak on a different subject.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You will have a chance afterwards.

SHRI K.V. REDDAIAH YADAV (Machilipatnam): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I can understand if the businessmen increase the rate. But I cannot understand, all of a sudden, the whole stocks disappearing from the market. Something is wrong with the administration.

I urge upon the Finance Minister to take deterrent action against the culprits who have made the stocks disappear and also to find out whether any business people are hand in glove with the politicians, ministers, Civil Supplies Ministers of various States. I request you to activate the intelligence services and locate the stocks wherever they are.

[*Translation*]

SHRI D.J. TANDEL (Daman and diu): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Palmolein oil is not available in my constituency, Daman and Diu for the last 6 months. Edible oil has not yet been sent to the Fair Price shops. The situation is that the day after tomorrow the Administrator is on a visit of that area and the people have decided to observe a bundh. I shall have to return to Deman just today. There is no oil available for the last 6 months whereas it is available in other states. An amount of Rs. 10 lakhs has been given to Maharashtra Government for the same, but oil is not available so far. I would request the Government through you that edible oils should be made available there within 2 days.

SHRI KRISHAN DUTT SULTANPURI (Shimla): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I agree to the views expressed by all the hon. Members in this regard, and I urge upon the Government to remove the scarcity of edible oils in Himachal Pradesh as early as possible. Very soon the far flung areas of Himachal Pradesh will be snowbound. Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister to make efforts to provide oil to Himachal Pradesh also along with other States and the steps may also be taken to reduce the prices of oil as per the announcement made by the hon. Minister.

[*English*]

SHRI P. G. NARAYANAN (Gobichettiyalayam): I join the sentiments expressed by other Members about the shortage of edible oil. The price of edible oil has gone up. It is beyond the reach of poor people and

middle-class people. This sort of situation has to be fought on a war-footing. So, I request the Finance Minister to take strong steps to bring down the price of edible oil.

[*Translation*]

PROF. PREMDHUMAL (Hamirpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is acute shortage of edible oils in Himachal Pradesh, moreover the prices have also gone up. The present Government came to power mainly on the assurance that the prices would be brought under control within 100 days especially the prices of edible oils. It was mentioned in the list of assurances that was given. Since there are far flung and backward areas in Himachal Pradesh, I would urge upon the Government to make available the edible oils there at cheaper rates.

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV (Saharsa): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government has assured that the price rise would be brought under control within three months. There is so scarcity of edible oil in Bihar that the mustard oil is being sold at the rate of Rs. 70-80 per kilo. Therefore, I would request the Government through you to make available the edible oils to Bihar.

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA (Silchar): Sir, even in normalcy, the hole of the North-East region is under communication gap and because of this communication gap, even the essential commodities are not regularly supplied there. Moreover, when the whole country is suffering from lack of edible oil, you can very easily imagine the condition in North-East region, particularly in Assam. So, this problem should be solved immediately considering the gravity of the matter (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH (Buxar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is scarcity of

edible oils in Bihar, moreover the prices are too high. Therefore, I would urge upon the hon. Minister that edible oils may be supplied through Public Distribution System as wheat and sugar are made available through rationing. If the hon. Minister is not able to control the price rise and the edible oil is not given through public distribution system, the Government should seek help from Shri Advani as is being done in case of other problems, so that the problem of scarcity of oil in Bihar is removed.

SHRIRAM SARAN YADAV (Khagaria): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Khagaria parliamentary constituency is facing the problem of scarcity of fertilisers and due to this scarcity the crops are being badly affected. I would urge upon the Government through you to provide calcium fertilisers as soon as possible so that the problem of the agriculturists is solved and the crops are saved from being damaged. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think every province has represented about shortage of oil supply and rise in prices.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: When other states are feeling so much about shortage of oil, naturally, Rajasthan also will deeply feel about it. So, may I now request the hon. Minister to reply?

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY (Allahabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the women are particularly concerned with this problem. Scarcity of edible oils is causing great concern among the womenfolk. As the season of marriages is on, the hosts are facing great inconvenience because of non-availability of edible oils. The hon. Minister should give a statement publicly and ensure his control over the prices. The womenfolk in the rural

areas have stopped using the edible oils. The kitchens of middle-class people have also ceased to emit tempting flavours. Therefore, the hon. Minister should make arrangements to make available the edible oils at controlled prices to the citizens. Oils should be distributed through Public Distribution System till its scarcity is over. (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Everybody has ventilated his grievance regarding shortage of oil and we have taken more than half-an-hour in this regard. May I now request the hon. Finance Minister to reply?

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this discussion on the scarcity of edible oils is indicative of an atmosphere of conce(n in the House and the Finance Minister will get a chance to express his views. He will say that the solution of the problem is the import of edible oils, which we are going to do. That is not the solution of the problem. Edible oils were imported once during Rajiv Gandhi's regime also, and the country is still facing its consequences. With the import of edible oils, the Government can get cheap popularity by making available the edible oils. But the country has to bear the consequences. Whatever foreign exchange is earned, is spent on it. That should not be done. This affects the oil-seed production agriculturists badly. We should avert a situation which is akin to giving a *Rasgulla* to a diabetic patient. Stringent action should be taken to prevent hoardings. Import of edible oil will not solve the crisis. Their opinion is published in the news-papers today. The crisis of foreign exchange is over now, and we have Rs. 8000 crores in the reserve. If we will import the edible oil, it will have terrible and far-reaching results. All the same the situation of financial crisis will begin anew. The crisis of balance of payment has dawned and the major contributory factor in it was that the import of oil originally stipulated for

1988-89 was done in 1987 in the shape of populist measures during Rajiv Gandhi's time. What I mean to say is that such populist measures may not be taken, instead effort should be made to find out a solution to such problems of the country. (Interruptions)

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I share the concern on all sides of the House about the prices of vegetable oils. There is, in our country, a significant gap between demand and supply of vegetable oils. For the last one year, we did not have any foreign exchange to import vegetable oils. This is one of the factors. But it must also be recognised that there is a limit to which we can solve these problems of shortages through imports. Today, we are a little better off in terms of foreign exchange that we were five months ago. But we are still not out of crisis and therefore, it would be a wrong way to deal with the problems of shortage of vegetable oil, by merely saying that you should bring more imports.

At the margin, we will bring some imports. But we are going to do so in a manner which will protect the farmers' incentive to produce more oilseeds in our country. It is only through increased production that we can solve the problem of shortages.

At the same time, in this hour of shortage, the normal attitude is to have lots of raids. The Essential Commodities Act is there. Our Government is in touch with all the State Governments to deal with those people who are hoarding and those who are indulging in profiteering. Strict action will be taken against them.

But several trading organisations came and saw me. They said, "Why don't you come and sit with us? We are willing to help the Government to tide over this crisis through a measure of voluntary restraint." Let me say that our Government welcomes the opportunity to work with all sections of the community to find common solutions to this great

economic problem. It was in pursuance of that, that I and my colleague, the hon. Minister of Civil Supplies, went to Ahmedabad. We had an exchange of views with the trading community and they voluntarily offered to observe a measure of price restraint.

Some hon. Members have said that oil has disappeared from the markets in Gujarat. I had checked up the position with the Gujarat Government. They said that there was some difficulty for one or two days, but subsequently, those problems have been resolved. (Interruptions)

With regard to Maharashtra, in the presence of the Chief Minister of Maharashtra, the trading community have assured him that they would ensure adequate availability of the prices which they said they would voluntarily ensure. This was decided only day before yesterday. Let us give this scheme a fair deal. If the trading community wants to help the country in solving this problem, I think all segments of this House should welcome and create this environment where can deal with this problem on the basis of an agreement.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad): At a Press Conference in my constituency Ahmedabad, the Minister of Finance had assured that the businessmen would provide the oil at the rate of Rs. 31 per kilo in open market. It could not continue even for 3 days not to speak for three months.

[English]

Sir, even after paying sixty rupees per kilo, the consumers are not getting sufficient quantity of oil in the market.

[Translation]

Before asking the question, had apprised myself of the situation telephone at 11.00. I am telling you the situation prevailing there.

SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA (Shajapur): Hon. Minister has not said anything about Madhya Pradesh. Edible oil is not available there.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: *You know the limitation. Whenever a matter is raised on the floor of the House immediately after the question Hour is over, the Government taken notice of it. It is not fair and not reasonable also to get a reply immediately.*

(Interruptions)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Muzaffarpur): Was the Government not aware of this up till now?

[Translation]

SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA: The situation in Maharashtra and Gujarat has been discussed, but the Government has always shown a step-motherly treatment towards Madhya Pradesh. One-third of the population there is either Adivasi or Harijans. There is no electricity. Therefore, I would urge upon the hon. Minister through you to shed some light on the problems of Madhya Pradesh.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The basic thing is that whenever the Chair is on his legs, it is expected that the hon. Members will not keep their seats vacant. During Zero Hour you have brought to the notice of the House a very vital matter and the Government also has taken notice of it. The Government is doing its best to solve the problem. Now, if you want to discuss the matter on the floor of the House, you can bring it in some other form and discuss it threadbare.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What Shri Fernandes has said is not true. The Government is fully aware of the shortcomings and is doing its best.

Yes, Shri Mirdha.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Sir, I have given a notice.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Next will be your name.

(Interruptions)

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Sir, I would like to have a discussion on this.

(Interruptions)

I will call you one by one. There is some limitation.

[Translation]

SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my submission was that the 11 Member Committee just formed has got a very limited scope. There are so many other questions regarding the fertilizers which the Committee can not visualise. Presently it is the sowing season and the agriculturists need D.A.P. fertiliser, and the dealer of fertilizers compels the agriculturists to buy urea alongwith D.A.P. At present D.A.P. is required and to purchase urea alongwith that under compulsion is not a good practice. The question will not come under the purview of the committee. I urge upon the Government that it is a very important problem. Even otherwise, the price of fertilizers has gone up and the compulsion by the fertilizers may be prevented. As regards the opinion expressed by (Shri) Nitish Kumar about the edible oils, I full agree with him. That time 18 lakhs tonnes of edible oil was imported from foreign countries, and it is because of this reason that the prices of agriculture products were reduced remarkably, subsequently the agriculturists stopped sowing of oil seeds. The result was that the import of edible oil badly affected the production of oilseeds. I agree with Shri Nitish Kumar. Whatever remedial measures have been suggested by the hon. Finance Minister cannot be implemented at this stage. So, whatever can be provided this time may be given.

RE. CHINESE PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO INDIA

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Muzaffarpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I had given

a notice in the morning about the incident which I am raising with a great agony. Tibetans in Delhi are being arrested by the Government or the police since the day before yesterday. The reception of Chinese Primer in India does not mean that the Tibetans living here for generations together would be gaoled or detained in Police stations or within the four walls of their houses. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is not only sheer inpuce but quite a shameful act. Today our gest, the Prime Minister of China is arriving here after a period of 30 years and our Prime Minister would be settling the dispute with him.

I have written a letter also, in which I have mentioned the border problem independence of Tibetans, the manner in which arms are being supplied to Burma. Nobel Prize is being awarded to Suku in Oslo but during the last one year China has sold arms worth Rs. 2.5 thousand crores Burma, and these arms are being utilised to suppress the democratic revolution there. Besides such a situation, the Chinese Premier would be having a dialogue with our Prime Minister but the arrest of these Tibetans is not acceptable to us under any circumstances. In this House we demand their release, all the same I would urge upon the Government that if it is interested in arresting the Tibetans it would be good to arrest some of us also. Since they are the people who are living in dignified manner in this country and if the Government is adopting such an attitude towards them it is tantamount to insulting out country. I would urge upon the Government to save this country from being insulted.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI (Gandhi Nagar): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, the Primer of China is arriving here. He is our esteemed guest and he should be properly received and the talks with him should be held in accordance with the expectations of national interest and requirements. Everybody will welcome it. But if Tibetans are arrested on his arrival here, it is really not a good thing at all. I agree with Shri George Fernandes' views that it is not in consonance with the dignity of a democratic country like ours, it does not behove us. There are so many other demo-