

I submit that this is a very serious issue around which the country's whole future economy is revolving and I request that a fresh thought must be given to. We should take positive steps in the matter. I do not say that the control must come in with all the paraphernalia of appealing, writing petitions and all that. I am not for all that. But there should not be a clear line or a green signal in the name of decontrol given to the producer to do as he likes. That is very harmful. There is still scope for rethinking and I request that my Resolution may be put to a voice vote and I hope that the House will accept my Resolution.

Shri P. C. Sethi: I would just take a minute to explain what I said before. What I have said was that after 1.3.64, there was no increase except the increase allowed on account of increased freight charges or on account of excise duty. The figures are Rs. 373, Rs. 375 and Rs. 383.

As regards the Iron and Steel workers are concerned, I would like to give an assurance to Mr. Nambiar that we are taking care of them and wherever possible, we are trying to give them alternative employment. I hope he will think over it again and withdraw the Resolution.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"This House disapproves the action taken by the Government in decontrolling steel and thereby causing steep rise in the price of steel."

The motion was negatived.

17.50 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

17.50 hrs.

RESOLUTION RE: SCHEME FOR PROCUREMENT OF FOODGRAINS

Shri Bhagaban Das (Ausgram): I beg to move:

"This House is of opinion that as a measure to alleviate scarcity conditions in some parts of the country, the Government should immediately prepare a scheme for introduction of compulsory procurement of the entire surplus of foodgrains from the big producers and its uniform distribution throughout the country."

This subject has come up for discussion several times before this House.

In the Chief Ministers' Conference held in New Delhi from 8th to 11th April, 1967, the Union Minister for Food and Agriculture promised to prepare a National Food Budget, but despite repeated demands on the floor of both the Houses of Parliament, such a Food Budget has not yet seen the light of the day.

In our country we find the strange spectacle of deficit States lying adjacent to surplus States and scarcity areas surrounded by surplus regions in the same surplus State. The surplus State of Madras and Andhra Pradesh are the neighbours of Kerala with 50 per cent deficit in its foodgrain production. Orissa, a surplus State, is adjacent to both Bihar and West Bengal and there are scarcity areas inside Orissa too. Madhya Pradesh is a surplus State with scarcity areas like Sarguja. The result is wide disparity in prices of the same commodity in adjoining areas belonging to two different States. The same wheat which sells for Rs. 30 per quintal in Punjab and Haryana is available in the western U.P. markets for such prices as Rs. 140 to 150 per quintal. . . .

Shri Amrit Nahata (Barmer): On a point of order. Two hours were allotted for another Resolution after this one. 1½ hours were taken by Mr.

[Shri Amrit Nahata]

Chagla's statement for no fault of the Mover of that Resolution. If it is not moved today, he will be deprived of moving this Resolution at all I would, therefore, request you to allow him to move his Resolution.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That cannot be done.

Now we have to attend another function. I would request the hon

Member to resume his speech on the next occasion.

The House stands adjourned to meet again on Monday.

17 54 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, June 19, 1957 | Jyaishta 29, 1889 (Saka).