

[Mr. Speaker]

personal explanation of something that had taken place when he was not a member. On the face of it, it looks a strong objection. I will go into it and give my ruling later on.

श्री हुक्म चन्द कछवाय (उज्जैन) : यह लिस्ट में आया ही क्यों ? क्या पहले अध्ययन नहीं किया गया था ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : फिर आपके लिये कोई काम नहीं रह जायगा अगर ऐसी चीजें नहीं आयेंगी ।

12.39 hrs.

TEA (AMENDMENT) BILL—Contd.

MR. SPEAKER : The House will now take up further consideration of the Tea (Amendment) Bill.

SHRI K.M. KUSHIK (Chanda) : This Bill enables the Tea Board to receive grants or loans from the Central Government for financing schemes for the development of the tea industry for which there is no provision in the existing Act. My only regret is that this has come after such a long time. Be that as it may, as it has now come, I support it subject to certain observations of my own.

I will confine my observations to the Nilgiri tea estates. A perusal of Page 9 of the Report of the Tea Finance Committee will make it clear.

Out of a total of 5,128 holdings, about 4,725 are of less than 12 acres and 299 are slightly more than that, about 20 acres. So, nearly 95 per cent of the tea estates in the Nilgiris form very small holdings which depend for their sale on what is known as the bought-leaf factories which in many cases have no estates of their own. They purchase leaves from the small growers. They purchase since they have no estates of their own, these purchases will support that industry and ultimately tea is manufactured and sold. Therefore these bought-leaf factories are, as a matter of fact, complementary to the small

growers in the whole of the Nilgiri area. Therefore my first submission to the Minister in this particular case is that whatever grants-in-aid, subsidies and assistance are being given to factories in general should also be given to these bought-leaf factories so that the small growers who depend upon these bought-leaf factories are not left to the winds or thrown to the wall's and they also have a proper price for this produce.

Secondly, Nilgiris produces a very poor type of tea compared to the Assam or Bengal area. Therefore the way excise duty is being assessed appears to be absolutely disproportionate. The whole of the Nilgiris tea area has been divided into two zones, Class IV and Class I. The Class I zone is what is known as the Gudalur area. In fact, there is no difference in the quality of tea produced in the rest of the Nilgiris and Gudalur which is classified as a separate zone with lesser excise duty. The 1st of the Nilgiris area barring Gudalur, should be formed into a separate zone with the same excise duty as Gudalur. The grower will not get the proper price and will be suffering if the present excise duty continues. This is another matter which I request the hon. Minister to take note of and to do something to relieve these people of the excessive excise duty.

The auction sale also enjoins me to make a request in this regard that the quality of tea produced in the Nilgiris is not of the same type though the excise duty is almost the same as for first class tea that is produced in Assam, Darjeeling and all those places.

Thirdly, the Government promised a refund of duty on tea consigned to London auctions but in spite of long lapse of years and considerable delay this refund has not been made. It was also promised that a formula will be evolved for the refund of this amount. Since 1965-66 this formula has not come out and is still in cold storage. I request the Minister to look into this matter and see that this formula is made up and refund is actually done according to the formula that they want to make up,

Then, we have lost a lot of market because of two factors which have already been elucidated yesterday. One is that our tea is liable to export duty as well as excise duty. This double duty is greatly responsible for our losing a lot of market in foreign countries. Therefore, as Ceylon has done, one of these duties should be removed so that we could enter into competition with the outside world and are also able to earn more foreign exchange.

Lastly, I hear that there is a joint consortium between Ceylon and India with regard to the tea trade. We welcome it and request the Government of India to take immediate steps to see that it is finalised soon so that our tea industry might get a pick-up in the matter.

SHRI HEM RAJ (Kangra): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I welcome this Bill but, at the same time, I am rather sorry to say that the Tea Board has not done its duty though one of the main purposes of the Tea Board was to develop and promote the tea industry. So far as this small Bill is concerned I will confine myself to the small tea growers in the northern India. The Tea Board has been negligent in sponsoring or helping the small tea growers. I have been sponsoring their cause for the last so many years. But I am sorry to say that the Tea Board has given very little attention so far as the northern region is concerned.

The Northern Region comprises of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh. In this area so far as the tea bushes are concerned, they are very old. The production per hectare here is nearabout 265 kg while the all India average is 900 kg. So far as the price of tea is concerned, there is also a great disparity. The tea in the northern region fetches Rs. 2.25 per kg. as compared to the all India figure of Rs. 5 per kg. The gross earnings per hectare in the northern region are Rs. 600 while the all India level is about Rs. 4500. But the excise duty and tea cess are levied on the same scale which are applied in the case of eastern areas and the southern areas which have very high-yielding varieties of tea, which fetch very high prices. Therefore, my submission has been that this area should be given a

separate zone and the excise duty and the tea cess which are levied here may be reduced.

At the same time, I have been requesting the Tea Board that the quality of tea which is grown in the northern region cannot come up to the standard of the grown other areas. Therefore, my request is that tea samples may be taken and after examination of the tea samples, if it is found that the tea grown in that area is of a low quality and standard, then a separate standard may be fixed. But this matter has been hanging fire with the Tea Board for the last 7 to 8 years and no steps have been taken by the Tea Board to fix any standard.

Formerly there was a letter issued by the Central Government—letter—dated No. 41-31/55/PK dated 6th February 1956 under which they have given exemption from the operation of Prevention of Adulteration of Food Act. But this has been rescinded. Therefore, I plead that the Government should see to it that the same exemption should apply to the tea that is grown—both black and green tea—in that area till the experiment takes place and a standard is fixed.

Then the Tea Board Report for the year 1967-68 it self admits that due to the closure of the landroute by Pakistan, tea—especially green tea—for which Afghanistan and the Middle East countries are the importers has to be routed *via* Bombay with the result that freight charges have become heavy and our tea is selling at a very high price. I request the Central Government that either they should permit the transport of tea to Afghanistan by air, or some subsidy may be given to the tea planters of the northern region for transporting the tea to Afghanistan, so that the prices which are very high, due to the freight charges, may be brought down.

Then, Sir, Tea courses have been started in the Agricultural College in Assam. The standard which has been fixed is an all-India standard; but nothing has been done for the admission of the people of the northern region. They have been requesting the Central Government that

[Shri Hem Raj]

there must be some percentage fixed for the northern region, so that they may be able to get admission and get better knowledge to improve their tea estates in the northern region. But nothing has been done so far.

A request was made by the Kangra Tea Planters' Association that a common facility centre may be put up at Palampur. That request is still pending with the Tea Board. For the present, no decision has been taken by the Tea Board. Until and unless some Government tea factory is set up at Palampur, no improvement in the northern region will take place and the northern area will not be able to compete with the rest of India.

Sir, the Tea Board is meant to help in the matter of better production and manufacture of Tea. In reply to a Question which has been put by me, the Government informed that a feasibility report is being prepared which the State Government and the Tea Board will consider. I want to know this, as to how much time will it take for the Tea Board to come to any definite conclusion in the matter.

At the same time, the Tea Board is very negligent in getting its accounts audited by chartered accountants. The only report available was the Audited Accounts which I found in the Library and that is for the year 1965-66. We are now passing through the year 1968-69. I would request the Tea Board that they should bring out their report much earlier so that we might be in a position to make our comments on the Accounts of the Tea Board.

So far as the expenses of the Tea Board are concerned, the total income for the year 1967-68 is given out as Rs. 1.77 crores; and the total expenditure is Rs. 1.74 crores. So far as development is concerned, the figure is Rs. 2.47 lakhs and so far as grants are concerned the figure is Rs. 21 lakhs. From this it will be seen that so far as the development of the tea industry is concerned, what is spent is very little, compared to the whole expenditure. When Parliament gives loans and grants, it is necessary for us to see that more money is spent on tea development, rather than on the administrative charges.

One point has been stressed earlier by the former speakers. It is this. The tea industry business has been handed over to the Britishers during the last so many years. The position is this. Although we are the best tea exporting country, we have not been able to make up our minds for blending the tea in India. This is one of the main functions of the Tea Board, but what we find is this. This main function has been neglected by the Tea Board. The Tea Board should see to it that the blending of the tea is done here in India itself, so that we may export our tea direct from our country rather than routing it through England.

I hope these suggestions which I have made will be considered by the Government and for the northern region separate excise zone will be fixed. As regards the tea cess, I would submit that where the production is very small and the price fetched is also less, the concerned areas may be created on a separate basis rather than on the ordinary basis. With these words, I support the Bill.

SHRI S. KANDAPPAN (Mettur) : The tea industry is a vital sector in our export economy, and I strongly feel that in spite of having set up the Tea Board, Government have criminally neglected to attend to the needs of promotion of tea in our country.

The Tea Board which has got its head office at Calcutta has so far not even finalised its recruitment rules. I do not know how Government, though their aim about the subsidy which they propose to canalise through the Tea Board is laudable, will succeed in improving the working of the Tea Board itself. Yesterday, we had one of our senior Members, Shri Jaipal Singh going to the extent of saying that the Tea Board should be totally abolished. I would like to quote for the benefit of House what the Committee on Subordinate Legislation have said at page 15 of their First Report (Fourth Lok Sabha) in this connection. It reads as follows :

"While the Committee have now been assured by the representatives of the Ministry that the recruitment rules under the Tea Act, 1953 would be finalised by the end of February, 1968, nevertheless, they are distressed at the lackadaisical manner in which both the Ministry of Commerce and the Tea Board have acted in this

case. It appears incredible that a period of more than fourteen years should have elapsed without the recruitment rules having been framed, and meanwhile, files containing draft recruitment rules tossed to and fro between the Ministry and the Tea Board."

This was the comment made by the Committee on Subordinate Legislation.

I would like to give some graphic examples about the anomalies prevalent in the Tea Board and the horrid state of affairs with regard to the lower cadre of administrative staff as well as other officers which has resulted in great demoralisation and lack of enthusiasm on their part in regard to their work.

Some years back, there were what was known as field staff who were demonstrators and who were working in the field for the promotion of tea plantations. About six or eight years back, that cadre was totally abolished. After the abolition of the field work, the staff had been promised that they would be taken into the administrative cadre. Some of the field staff had an experience of even 25 to 30 years. Some were graduates and even post-graduates. But, leaving them in the lurch and in the wilderness to roam about without any security of job, the Tea Board has recruited fresh people even with matriculate qualification into the administrative cadre, numbering about 70 to 100. One case was recently brought to my notice. There was a typist who was among the field staff, and he had an experience of about 25 years. After that department was wound up, he applied for a typist's job in the regular Tea Board administrative cadre. He made an application on 4th September, 1967 and he said therein that he had served in the Tea Board for nearly 20 years as a demonstrator, and he added :

"I am at present doing the job of a typist since three years to the entire satisfaction of the sectional heads."

He had been doing the job of typist there, but he was temporary there, and he wanted to be absorbed permanently and therefore he

wanted to be taken as a typist on a permanent basis. For that, the reply given to him was this. I shall quote... ..

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. member may resume his speech after the lunch recess.

13 hrs.

The Lok Sabha adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the Clock.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at five minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[SHRI K. N. TIWARY in the Chair]

TEA (AMENDMENT) BILL—*contd.*

SHRI S. KANDAPPAN : I was referring to the application made by one of the former field staff employees for a permanent post as typist. The reply given by one Assistant Secretary, I. B. Ghosh, is as follows :

"With reference to his representation dated..... (he) is hereby informed... that he should inform this office immediately whether he is prepared to forego his services rendered by him in the Tea Board as a demonstrator towards his seniority as a typist in the event of his appointment to the latter post."

This is ridiculous to demand from a former employee who had put in 25-30 years of service in the department and who was already working in the department temporarily as a typist. This is an illustration of the many anomalies that exist there. There are quite a number of people, former field staff employees such as demonstrators and others who had been suffering in the Tea Board and its various wings. This is the result of there not being any regular rules and regulations in the Tea Board and I do not know when the Government is going to finalise these things, and give some kind of security to its own employees in the Tea Board. I hope the hon. Minister will look into the specific instances which I had given.

[Shri S. Kandappan]

There is another pathetic example for the callous indifference of the Tea Board. One Mr. R. Gopulakrishnan was working as sub-inspector, Tea Board in Madura. He is no more—thanks to the Tea Board. He has put in a service of thirty years. He was in poor health and suddenly he was transferred to Calcutta. He requested that in view of his poor health he need not be disturbed from Madura but the head office at Calcutta insisted that he should go to Calcutta and take up an assignment there. The poor fellow was compelled to travel all the way and in Cuttack he passed away. That was on February 16, 1969. In spite of a medical certificate the authorities thought that he was in a fit condition to travel and should take up the new assignment. It is something horrible that has been done. If the Government allows this kind of atmosphere to prevail in the Tea Board, there should be some kind of organisation like the SPCA which takes care of harassed cattle and protects them. Such an organisation would protect the Tea Board employees from the onslaughts of the Tea Board Administration.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Was he asked to proceed to Calcutta in spite of a medical certificate.

SHRI S. KANDAPPAN: His transfer order came somewhere in December 1968 and he requested that he need not be transferred.

MR. CHAIRMAN: In other words, did he inform them that he was in a poor state of health and could not travel?

SHRI S. KANDAPPAN: He informed them, I mean the higher authorities in the Tea Board and he sent a medical certificate and all that.

Now, to continue my speech. I said that he died at Cuttack station and his body was thrown out in the platform and his only son who was travelling with him gave a telegram to some of the employees at Calcutta and they rushed to Cuttack and helped him to some extent. Even today his family, I am told, has not been helped out of its difficulties. These are two examples to show that there is no justification for the Tea Board to exist like this. It is high

time they overhauled the whole set-up, if all they want to retain it. I should like to know from the Government what they propose to do. I have already quoted the report of the Committee on subordinate legislation and I want to know why they have not so far made any rules and regulations. I would like to quote another passage from the same report. At page 16, the committee says:

“The Committee need hardly point out that the main purpose of vesting autonomy in the commodity boards is to enable them to transact their business more efficiently, and if red-tapism and chronic delays of this nature were to occur, the very object of setting up these boards would be defeated.”

This report was submitted in 1968, and even after that, I do not know whether they have taken things in hand and whether they have finalised the regulations and rules with regard to this Board.

I would like now to point out some other aspects about tea development. Of course, it is for Government to see whether the Tea Board is quite a fit body to carry it out, but if Government are intent on improving the working of the Tea Board and they want to channelise all their loans and subsidies through the Tea Board, I would like to make an appeal to them to consider whether it would be feasible to do it with one head office at Calcutta whereas our promotional work needs to be done at the far off places like the Nilgiris in the south and as my hon. friend Shri Hem Raj has already pointed out, in the Himalayas in the north, and I am sure, quite possibly after the study report with regard to the promotional aspect in the Andamans, in those islands also.

The zonal offices which are already there should be given more financial powers and powers to take on-the-spot decisions. I would like to impress on the hon. Minister that it would help in a great way to promote the tea activities in the south particularly if the zonal office in Madras is upgraded and given more financial powers and powers to take on-the-spot decisions. This is a matter for the consideration of Government.

My hon. friend Shri K. M. Koushik has already drawn the attention of Government to the bought-leaf factories in the Nilgiris. There are about 112 bought-leaf factories in the Nilgiris. They are very important because all the small tea estate owners are dependent on the bought-leaf factories, since they do not have factories of their own, and I think these bought-leaf factories are eminently suitable to be converted into co-operatives, if only Government have a mind to do that. Instead of trying to abolish the bought-leaf factories or discourage them, I should say that Government should go in a big way to convert them into co-operative factories or encourage them on those lines and try to strengthen their apparatus. As some hon. Members have pointed out already, this is a field where there is a lot of scope for co-operatives, but unfortunately Government have totally neglected them. I hope that Government will encourage more co-operatives in the tea industry. There is dire need for more assistance to the bought-leaf factories as well as to the small tea-estate owners in the south as well as in other parts of the country. This should be directly looked into, because as some hon. Members have alleged, and quite rightly, if the assistance and loans are to be guided by the whims of the Tea Board, I am afraid they will not reach the small or medium tea-estate owners for whom they are really intended.

With regard to re-plantation, Government should associate more agricultural graduates and advisors in this effort. As it is, I find even among the Tea Board employees that there are many who really try to take up the job of fresh plantation and other such work, but who do not have the requisite knowledge about the other aspects of those plantations. So, Government should try to make improvements in this regard also.

With regard to exports, I am not so optimistic about our agreement with Ceylon, as some hon. Members seem to be. It is good thing, and I do welcome that agreement. But then I would like to point out that our economies are competitive and not complementary to each other. Ceylon feels that she will get the maximum benefit out of this agreement.

Of course, Ceylon being a small friendly neighbour of ours, we have to consider some of their difficulties too. But apart from whatever we have been committed to under the agreement, we can very well see that we try to make some headway in the international market. Our market has suffered due to various reasons. I need not dilate on this point, because my hon. friends who spoke on this had elaborated it. But with regard to packaging and other things, Government have not made much headway about them. Even the awareness does not seem to be there. Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri had made a very brilliant analysis of the whole problem of tea export and other things during the budget session, and the hon. Minister Shri B. R. Bhagat said on the floor of the House that he was benefited by some of her remarks, but I doubt very much whether he has benefited at all, because I think that he has forgotten about the whole thing afterwards. It is high time that we look into the promotional aspects because we shall now be facing competition from new competitors like Kenya and other African countries who are coming into the field, and also the old competitors who are already there, such as Ceylon and others. We should try to see that we improve our quality and try to capture the market on our own, apart from our agreements with Ceylon and other areas.

With these words, I support the idea of giving loan and subsidy to the tea-owners to promote their activities, but at the same time I am afraid I cannot subscribe to the view that the present Bill is going to achieve that. If it can achieve that, I would definitely welcome it, but I doubt it very much. So, it is for the Government to implement their intention to the full.

SHRI S. R. DAMANI (Sholapur) : The tea industry is a very big and important industry in the country. It is a major industry and it has a lot of potentialities. It is one of the major export-earning industries. Our internal demand also points to the need for increasing its production. Whatever steps have been taken by Government for the development of this industry are to be welcomed and supported, and

[Shri S. R. Damami]

as such I support this Bill at the very outset.

Having said this, I feel that we should examine also what development has taken place during the last two years. The Tea Board has been constituted to look after the health of the industry. The Tea Board was set up under the Tea Act of 1955, and its functions have been detailed therein in clause 10. I shall mention briefly some of those objects, which are (i) to regulate production (ii) to extend the cultivation of tea, (3) to improve the quality of tea, (iv) to promote co-operative efforts (v) to undertake research and maintain demonstration farms, and also to regulate the sale and export of tea, promotion work and improving marketing in India and outside. These are the major items of work entrusted to the Tea Board and let us see whether the Tea Board has been successful in fulfilling these objects.

I would like to say first of all that the report of the Tea Board is available only up to 1966 and 1967, in the Parliament Library. May I know from the hon. Minister whether they have submitted their annual reports for 1968 and 1969 or not? If not, in that case, what are the reasons? We are spending from the Consolidated Fund of India for the Tea Board. It is not proper that the reports are being submitted so late. In this Bill, I think the Government should include some sections so that they are obliged to submit their annual reports in time, so that Members can see and know the latest position and speak on that basis. So, my first submission is that this should be looked after.

Now, I come to the internal production and the actual production of the industry. I feel that there is no increase in production. The Tea Board was to increase its per hectare production, but I do not see any increase up to 1967. In 1964-65, the total area under tea cultivation was 3,41,634 hectares. It has increased in 1965-66 to 3,45,256 hectares. Whereas the production in 1964 was 372.485 million kgs, it has dropped in 1965-66 to 366.374 million kgs. There is a drop instead of an increase. In 1966-67, it has gone up a little, because of the increase in the acreage, to 374,806 million kgs.

On account of the increase in acreage, production has slightly increased. But if we see the per hectare production, there is no increase. On the contrary, I will say that in the north, the per hectare production has gone down. In 1964-65, it was 1,102 kgs, and it came down to 1,024 kgs in 1965-66 and it stands at 1,034 in 1966 (provisional figure). Further, instead of increase in the north, where the number of tea gardens are greater,—the most important producing centres are in the north—there has been a decline. What are the reasons for the decline? Is it the kind of development that the Tea Board has shown? I would like to know from the hon. Minister the reasons for this fall. In the south, there is a slight increase. If we take the average for north and south together, the average per hectare yield has not gone up. On the contrary, it has gone slightly down.

In this connection, I would like to know how much money is being spent for internal development. According to this report, the amount spent on tea promotion outside India is Rs. 117.19 lakhs; the amount spent on tea promotion inside India—nett—is only Rs. 625,000. For such a big crop in India, for such a big industry in India, the expenditure on tea promotion inside India has been only Rs. 625,000, out of a budget of Rs. 268 lakhs. What a small sum is it. I wonder whether the development of tea industry and tea plantations will be achieved by such a small amount.

Then, on the export side, the expenditure has been Rs. 117 lakhs, out of which a large portion has been spent on travel, salaries and wages. When I place before you the figures for export, you will see there is a decline there also. As such, I can say that so far the achievement of the Tea Board has not been very satisfactory.

In 1965-66 our export was 197.4 million kg valued at Rs. 114 crores. But it went down to 190.4 million kg valued at Rs. 100 crores. There is a decline in quantity and value. According to the annual report of the Ministry, whereas in 1962-63 our export of tea was Rs. 202.9 crores, in 1967-68 it went down to Rs. 180 crores. In 1968-69, it has further declined to Rs. 156 crores. In spite of our efforts

and the expenditure, in spite of our agreement with Ceylon, there is a continuous decline in exports. But in one of our principal items of export, there is a decline. I want to know the reasons for the decline and the action Government has taken to arrest it.

The unit price also has declined from Rs. 8.85 to Rs. 8.03 per kilo. Our percentage of exports to total production is continuously falling from 42.3 per cent in 1964 to 39.6 in 1965 and 36.2 in 1966 while that of Ceylon has risen from 42 per cent in 1964 to 44.8 per cent in 1966.

The Government of India appointed a very important committee under Mr. Borooah in January 1967 and they have submitted report. We do not know what are those recommendations. They made important recommendations according to the annual report of the Ministry. Though 2½ years have passed, the recommendations are still under examination and they have not been implemented. I want a clarification about this also. They also mentioned that the Tea Act requires drastic changes, so that proper action can be taken to develop the industry. But no Bill has been brought forward to incorporate the recommendations. I want to know why the implementation of the recommendations is held up.

The Joint Meeting of the Commodity (Plantation) Boards suggested the setting of an Institute of Plantations Management as far back as January 1967. I want to know what action has been taken on this, because experts are badly required for management, production, export and increasing per-hectare yield of tea. This is an important recommendation and I would like to know what action has been taken on this.

Finally, government should give full support and full financial help to this industry to overcome its difficulties so that it can increase production and, consequently, increased exports. Now government is taking only half-hearted measures, as in the case of cotton. Even though government is spending a small amount of money in cotton, the production of

cotton has not increased because the amount spent is not adequate enough to bring about development in the industry. So, I would repeat that government should survey the requirements of the industry, provide sufficient funds and ensure that the money is properly spent so that our purposes of increased production will be served. Unless we take some positive steps we will not be able to achieve the high targets fixed in the Fourth Plan. With these words, I support the Bill.

SHRI BENI SHANKER SHARMA (Banka): Mr. Chairman, the present Bill seeks to legalise the grants and loans given by the Central Government to the Tea Board, which in the past had been given practically without any legal sanction or authority. This is what the Minister has stated in his Statement of Objects and Reasons:

“There is no provision in the Act for the Tea Board receiving either grants-in-aid or loans of the kind that are being advanced to it by the Central Government. It is, therefore, considered necessary to amend the Tea Act, 1953, to enable the Tea Board to receive grants or loans from the Central Government...”

In other words, he wants to legalise the marriage which was, up till now a marriage of convenience. I would like to say that it is better for him to divorce this lady than legalise the marriage, because the Tea Board is very expensive and spendthrift lady, like the Railway Board, and the sooner he gets rid of it the better for the industry and the country.

So far as the Tea Board is concerned, its main functions when it was created were to improve the quality of tea regulate its production, sale and export and increase its consumption in India and abroad by carrying out suitable propaganda. But if the hon. Minister thinks that by simply giving aids and loans to the Tea Board and carrying out intensive propaganda in the country and abroad he would be helping the tea

[Shri Bani Shanker Sharma]

industry in its growth and development, he is very much mistaken. The tea industry has its own problems which we have to face boldly and squarely.

Sir, the tea industry is one of the major industries of our country. Apart from crores of rupees invested in the various tea gardens, more than a million people are employed by this industry directly and many times more people are engaged in ancillary industries like chest-making, transport and so on. As such, it is a very vital industry from our economic point of view and we have got to meet its requirements so that it can prosper.

Now the tea industry is passing through a very great crisis. Our exports have been declining day by day. In 1951 we were exporting 54 per cent of the total consumption of tea in the world. In 1965 our exports came down to 33 per cent. Why? Because during the same period Ceylon increased its exports from 30 to 36 per cent and East Africa from 3 to 10 per cent.

Of the various items constituting the cost of tea, taxation is a major item. So far as the taxation policy of the Government of India is concerned, I will most humbly submit that it has been rather very, hesitating and ill-conceived. It is on account of this hesitating taxation policy and half-hearted measures that this industry is suffering and is suffering the most. I will just give a little background here.

I 1966 our Government devalued the rupee for the benefit of export trade in general but in order to mop up the extra profit that was to accrue to this industry it levied an export duty of Rs. 2 per kg. This was a suicidal step.

The Government, of course, realised its mistake soon and in November 1966 the rates of export duty were modified a little to give some relief to the common and medium teas. As a result of this meagre relief exports in 1967 looked up a little and we could export 213.6 million kg. in 1967 as against 197.2 million kg. of 1966.

But in November 1967 the UK Government devalued the sterling by 14.3 per cent and on its heels the Ceylon Government also devalued its rupee by 20 per cent. As such with lower sterling prices for Indian teas there was no justification for the Government of India to retain the export duty. This gave Ceylon an edge over us.

Sir, the impact of these devaluations was very serious on our exports and after the devaluation of sterling the exports of Indian teas went on declining and declining in foreign markets.

The profitability of the industry was also very seriously affected so much so that in 1966 about 50 per cent of the gardens ran into losses. This could be avoided if we had just abolished the export duty.

So far as the excise duty is concerned, in the case of other industries, for example, jute, sugar or textiles, when the same are exported it is refunded but it is peculiar that so far as the tea industry is concerned, the excise duty is retained. Over and above, export duty is also charged. This was a very bad practice—I should say, a suicidal step and it hampered our exports. It was high time that the Government thought over this problem and had given relief in the shape of total refund of excise duty or tea which was being exported and abolished the export duty. But the Government did not do it and the result was that our exports went on declining and declining.

I may just refresh your memory, Sir, that while we were discussing the last budget proposals in March 1969, we from this side had submitted that the relief which was being given to this industry was not sufficient and that it would not attain the desired results. But the Government did not heed to our protestations and as a result we see that our exports to U. K. declined from 116.7 million kg. in 1960 to 113.4 million kg. in 1968. There was a decrease of 5 per cent. The exports of Africa rose from 26.5 million kg. to 49.2 million kg. (an increase of 81 per cent) and those of Ceylon from 68.1 million kg. to 76.3 million kg. (an increase of 12 per cent) during the same period. Similarly, while our export to USA declined by 31 per cent, that of Africa

and Ceylon rose by 175 per cent and 9 per cent respectively.

Sir, this is a very dismal picture and if we continue our policy like this and do not change our ways and methods of taxation, I do not know where we shall stand so far as our export trade is concerned.

I know that the Government had not been blind to this fact but they have not been able to take up courage in both hands and act boldly. Whenever they have acted, they have acted hesitatingly and half-heartedly and they have given piecemeal relief which did not in any way benefit the industry. I would, therefore, submit, and I am sure, if they analysed, the result of the period after we had passed the budget, they would agree with me that the relief that they had allowed to the industry was not sufficient and now they should come forward to abolish the export duty and refund the excise duty.

Sir, so far as the tea market is concerned, it is not a sellers' market. It is a buyers' market where you cannot dictate your terms and conditions as regards the price. You have got to sell the commodity at a competitive price at which your competitors are selling. For that purpose you have got to bring down your cost of production.

As I submitted, so far as the cost of production is concerned, the labour cost is there. But we cannot make a reduction there. So far as payments to labour are concerned, they are most inadequate. The labour have a right to exist and exist honourably and decently. Recently there was a strike in the tea industry and of course, the tea industry was ultimately persuaded to accede to their demands. But that is not sufficient. Something more has to be done for the amenities to labour, which is the back-bone of this industry.

But the main burden on this industry is the taxes. There is the entry tax, there is the excise duty, there is the export duty and there are so many various local levies as well. So far as the local taxes are concerned, perhaps we cannot disturb them. Therefore, it is in the interests of the country and the

trade that we should totally abolish the export duty and refund the excise duty.

There is another aspect of the industry. While we cannot reduce our cost of production so far as labour is concerned, we can certainly improve the quality and the yield per acre. I understand that there is a tea research institute but that is working under so many handicaps and it is not being run on the basis on which a research institute of such an important industry should be run. I am told that it is not allowed to import the most sophisticated equipment it requires as the licence are not granted. We find in this House, it is always said that licences are given to most undesirable persons for most undesirable things, but it is something very very strange that licences are not given for the import of some better equipment which will help us in researches for the growth and development of this industry.

Sir, one thing more and I finish. So far as deductions under the Income-tax Act are concerned, it has been accepted in principle that the developments rebate should be allowed to this industry. But depreciation on tea bushes is concerned, it is not being given. I will submit that it is an anomalous situation. Tea bushes are as good or bad an asset of this industry as any assets of any other industry. Therefore, depreciation should be allowed on the tea bushes and the amount of depreciation that will be accumulating in the hands of the planters, should be reinvested in replantation and re-rearing of the bushes.

Regarding our agreement with Ceylon to which my esteemed friend, Shri Kandappan, has just now referred, I would not take much of your time—I will only warn the Government in this respect. We should be generous and we should not mind it. But, at the same time, we have got to see the interests of the industry as well. In our overzealousness to help small nations, we should not make our small and medium tea growers suffer.

Finally, I will submit that so far as this Bill is concerned as I have said. I have no quarrel with the Minister. The only point I want to emphasize is that giving

[Shri Beni Shanker Sharma]

a lady plenty of cosmetics but starving her would not enable her to maintain her beauty. It is necessary that she should be fed properly and not starved. I would, therefore, again say that along with the legalisation of payments to the Tea Board, the Government should see to the export side of the industry and reduce the tax burden, so that we do not lag behind in competition with others.

SHRIMATI ILA PALCHOUDHURI (Krishnagar) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I was listening to the Hon. Member opposite who spoke just now when he said that the Tea Board was like a spendthrift woman. Well, Sir, I would like to make this remark that the Government has behaved like the proverbial husband. Because, in 1968-69 a provision of Rs. 130 lakhs for grant of loans and a provision of Rs. 5.75 lakhs for subsidy under the Subsidy Scheme had been accepted. But, in 1969-70 the provision accepted for granting loans and subsidy are respectively Rs. 116 lakhs (which is less than Rs. 130 lakhs) and Rs. 43.60 lakhs (which is a little more than what it was before). Like a husband who wants the wife to think that she is receiving a lot, the Government has behaved in the same way. The Government has made up on the swing what it lost on the roundabout. I do not understand why the subsidies or whatever grants are to be given to the Tea Board should be lessened in any way. The Tea Board does a certain amount of good work. That I am willing to admit. But at the same time there are a few points which I would like to highlight in this connection.

What has been the condition of the Tea industry? If we look at it, the taxation on the tea industry has increased by 12.3 per cent in 10 years. In 1960 the excise duty was 16 paise per k.g. and it rose to 47 paise in 1969. It is almost 3 times. The export duty came down from 53 paise in 1960 to 43 paise in 1969. It is only five paise less. This is all the tom-tomming and publicity which has been given out as relief to the tea industry, and this is only 5 paise.

The tea cess was 4.40 paise in 1960—it is 4 paise now; that is, 0.40 paise only less. The West Bengal Entry Tax remains

at 13.78 paise per k.g. Assam road tax was 15 paise in 1960 and it has now come down by 2 paise. The total burden on the tea industry in 1960 was 102.68 paise. Now it is 114.78 paise per k.g. in 1969. The Taxes also have increased and the manufacturer cannot help but demand a further reduction in tax. In fact, the excise duty should be abolished totally and the export duty should not be levied at all. If this is not done the industry cannot revive. When the industry has revived you can put on your taxes again.

Secondly I would like to state that the Plantation Labour Act provides for labour housing which is a very essential thing. The proprietors and managements who have anything to do with tea should always see to it that labour gets the best that is possible. Rs. 10 crores have been given for this purpose in the present plan. That is, 2 crores per year. Now, how is this to be given? Probably Government will give 32.5 per cent subsidy and 12.5 per cent will have to be found by the planters and 50% as loan from the Government of India. This is a very happy thing but then why some of the tea gardens have not built as many houses as they should have built is a thing which should be looked into. The labour should have the best type of houses possible under the circumstances, because they are the main factors in producing tea and nobody wants them to suffer in any way. Secondly what should be done to revive the industry?

You should go to the markets. Market research should be taken up. That should be the work of the Tea Board. If our marketing is tackled properly there will be no dearth of foreign exchange; you will get enough foreign exchange than what you are getting now. If you sell your tea for Rs. 20 now what you get is Rs. 2.75 back to India. If you have the marketing scheme and marketing research you will be able to get back a good part of that money. You should know what kind of tea the world wants and your market scheme should keep a pace with the wants of the consumers in the other countries of the world. If that happens there will be dearth of the labour welfare

works and of foreign exchange. Everybody is interested in letting labour have the best possible deal; they are the kingpins, the people who produce the tea. Why should they not have the best that is available?

In West Bengal, in 15 days there was a loss of Rs. 6 crores to the industry. There were 12 million kgs. lost. That is why there was less tea in the market and that is why there is a little rise in price in the U.K. Tea has gone to the Cochin and Calcutta markets. Because of this there is less in the U.K. Hence the prices have gone up. It is not because of what the Tea Board has done.

The main work of the Tea Board should be to propagate tea, to do market research, to have such packages that will be acceptable and glamorous so as to attract the consumer. It is ultimately the consumer whom you have to woo; and you must woo the consumer effectively.

There is another point. An hon. member opposite suggested that there might be operative tea factories. I think this is a very impractical thing. Tea is a specialised product. Each garden has its own aroma, its own kind of tea. However you are going to manufacture, if you are going to mass-produce India tea, it will lose its glamour and whatever it has to give to the world market. Each factory must be subsidised, if necessary, and each tea garden will have to manufacture its own tea. When the whole tea is blended, then only can you have a real blended Indian tea. No particular small producer can do this. So the blending trade has to go on.

Another point I would like the Minister to consider is that there are areas in Assam which have represented to us that they have been put into a certain group for assessment of excise duty, taxation and so forth. These tea gardens produce very little; their production is much below average. On the other side of the river are tea gardens which produce very much more and are able to pay the taxes imposed. These small tea gardens have represented to us on this score. MPs have visited those areas. They want to be put into a separate block where the taxation is less. Their point is that they should not be bracketted with the big tea gardens who can pay any amount of taxes. I would like the Minister

to consider this representation. It has been brought to his notice. I myself have written. Also MPs have visited the area and they are of the same opinion. I hope he will consider their case and do the needful.

Lastly, I would say that tea is something that is our pride. It is one of our traditional exports. It is by Indian tea that many people in the world know India. Only it is a pity that they do not know it is *Indian* tea. The Tea Board has never been able to propagate *Indian* tea to the extent it should have. Any housewife in the world knows Ceylon tea. If you are now going to go into the tea trade jointly with Ceylon, I do not know what will happen. We have to go into this question. At the same time, every effort should be made to see that Indian tea is recognised as tea from India. Let us have such good slogans as 'Golden Indian tea from the cold heights of the Himalayas'. Let us have good slogans to attract the people. Also let us have good, small, attractive packets of tea given through Air India to the foreign tourists. Let the Tourist Bureau work in full co-operation so that India tea, as it is, beautiful, aromatic and fragrant may go the world and people may recognise it not as joint Indian and Ceylon tea but as Indian tea from the heights of the hills, a produce which is a thing of delicacy and beauty.

Let us take every step to enthuse this industry to produce more to earn more foreign exchange. To this end, let us give as much help and subsidy as possible, as this Bill proposes to. I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister that the sewing of really good Darjeeling tea should be taken in hand at once of the Bagdogra Air Port. The tea served there now, will never propagate good Darjeeling Tea, for the tea served at the Air Port is really undrinkable! I am very happy that this Bill has come and I support it because it is the cup of tea that cheers, and that causes friendliness. It's aroma, when you take a cup of tea, makes your dream come true or at least make it seem that your dreams are coming true. So, I would say that the cup of tea is not a small thing; when you drink fragrant tea it warms your heart and spirit and brings good name to India and earn foreign exchange to your plans.

SHRI DHIRESWAR KALITA (Gauhati) : I rise to oppose this Bill. I oppose it because this amending Bill wants to give grants and loans to the tea gardens.

Upto 1947, whether it was in the south or the east, the Britishers were the main tea planters in India. It is within everybody's knowledge that now they are shifting and going away slowly from India to African countries, and are having tea gardens there. Some tea gardens they are selling to the Indian capitalists.

Whether it is in South India or Assam or West Bengal, there has been no replanting of tea bushes by the British tea planters. The maximum life of a tea bush is 40 years. Many of them are now past that age. The Britishers are over-manuring the tea bushes by which they are getting the maximum output. By getting the maximum output, they want to destroy the tea bushes, and they are also destroying the soil because when it is over-manured, the soil will be spoiled. With what view are they doing this? Because they are going away from India, they want to get the maximum output and get the maximum profit from India. Do you want to give loans and grants to the British people who are conspiring like this, to this type of people? I think it should certainly not be done. That is why I am sorry I cannot support this Bill.

15 hrs.

I come from Assam. Most of the tea gardens were previously owned by the Britishers and now some Indian owners have come in. I know personally that if a tea garden's actual plantation area was 100 acres, another 200 acres were left fallow for future plantations. That is the general rule and that is the term under which the State Governments gave them the lease. In all these 100 years not even one per cent of these fallow lands had been utilised for replantation of tea bushes. From my personal experience in Assam I can say that the tea garden owners are leasing out these fallow lands to ex tea-labourers or they are using it as forest, private personal forest. By thus leasing them out the area earning huge profits from agriculturists and forests. There is a great movement going on in Assam on this matter. If they had not used

one per cent for 100 years are they going to use at least 5 per cent in the next 200 years? There is a movement in Assam that keeping in view the area that will be needed for the maximum replantation of tea for a reasonable period, the other fallow lands which were not used for actual replantation should be given immediately to the landless labour, be it in the south or north or east. The Central Government should give a directive to the State Government that keeping a reasonable margin, the whole land should be given for cultivation for the poor peasantry. There is another point on which I should like to speak—sale of tea and my hon. friend Mrs. Palchoudhuri and Mr. Jyotirmoy Basu also referred to it and I also referred to it in the last session. Indian tea is never sold in foreign countries as Indian tea. It is purchased in auctions in India either at Calcutta or Madras in bulk and taken to Europe and packed there. Whether it is England or Persia or Italy it is not sold as Indian tea and I do not know what our Tea Board does. Packaging is not done in India. The whole monopoly is in British hands and they are getting the profit in England and Europe. They sell at the highest price and the Indian tea market cannot grow unless tea is sold at less price in Europe. Due to the manipulations of foreign traders monopolists and the British planters, our tea is not sold in Europe. Our tea is not getting good market in Europe. Therefore, a crisis has also come in the tea market. So, I say that the tea export business must be taken over by the Government of India.

Secondly, the tea industry has been exploited and looted by the British planters in the country for the last 200 years. The tea gardens owned by the Britishers must be nationalised. Whenever you want to give a grant or a loan, you should make it a point that no loan or grant will be given to any British foreign tea planter. If you want to give a loan, you should give it to the small tea garden owners. I will concede that. But the Government must make it a point that no loan, no grant, in anyway shall be given to the British tea planter in India, and all the big tea gardens up till now owned by the Britishers must be

nationalised immediately without any delay. If we want to march towards socialism, at least this foreign capital must be ended in India.

With these words, I conclude.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Kotaki - not present. Then, Shri Biswanarayan Shastri.

SHRI BISWANARAYAN SHASTRI (Lakhimpur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, tea is one of the major industries in India wherein millions of people are employed. In a sense, tea is a labour intensive industry, but strangely enough, labour has no participation either in the management or in other spheres of running the tea industry. Therefore, the first thing that the Government should do is to see that there should be labour participation in the management of the tea gardens and in other spheres of tea industry.

So far as the export of Indian tea is concerned, Indian tea has been facing a competition in the world markets, from the tea of Ceylon and East Africa. Indian tea has been gradually losing the market; it is known to all. One reason is that there is no quality control. Therefore, producers often produce bad quality tea to make a big profit. So, I urge upon the Government that either through the Tea Board or through some other machinery, the Government should impose quality control on tea.

The second thing that I would like to mention is that there is a multipoint taxation on tea; for instance, there is the excise duty and there is also the export duty. I do not say that there should not be any duty, but that it should be gradual. Now, the excise duty on tea is uniform. There is no gradation. Whether it is good quality tea or bad quality tea, the excise duty is uniform. Why should there not be a gradation in excise duty as in the case of the textile industry? The excise duty is more on fine cloth, but the levy is less on coarse cloth. Similarly, for tea also, there should be a gradation in excise duty.

So far as my State of Assam is concerned, tea is one of the oldest indus-

tries and the major industry in that State, wherein 20 lakhs of people are engaged, but this industry is not looked after properly. In those days, when India was under British domination, the Britishers looked after this industry; therefore, they constructed railway lines for the transshipment of tea leaves from the tea gardens. But after Independence, the tea producers have been facing great difficulty in transporting their tea leaves to Calcutta because Assam has no port and Assam tea has to be sent to Calcutta. There are, of course, river routes from Assam to Calcutta, but after the Pak. aggression in 1965, this has been completely closed; and the railway route is lengthy and not dependable. According to my information, only 10 to 15 per cent of the tea produced in Assam is handled by the Indian Railways; the rest is transported to Calcutta by the roadways. The cost of transport by roadways is the highest. That is also one of the factors for the heavy cost incurred by the tea producers in Assam. I would, therefore, like to suggest that for the benefit of this industry, there should be a notional mileage from Assam to Calcutta, say, 300 to 400 miles, and freight should be charged according to that notional mileage. Otherwise, Assam tea will continue to face difficulty and not reach the Calcutta market in proper time. Those who are connected with the tea industry know that tea should be transported within a certain period after the leaves are plucked. If the leaves do not reach Calcutta within that period, then everything will be lost. The brokerage houses in Calcutta want to get the leaves from Assam at a cheaper rate. They manoeuvre it. As members are aware, there are six brokerage houses at Calcutta, and four of them are managed by foreign concerns. About 94 to 95 per cent of the tea leaves is handled by these four foreign concerns, and only about 5 to 6 per cent is handled by the Indian concerns. This is also a great problem.

Further, tea is blended and packed in foreign countries. My hon. friends who spoke earlier have already pointed out how that hurts our tea industry. Therefore, I need not go into that aspect again.

In regard to the price of tea, tea is sold

here at about Rs. 3 per lb or somewhat less than that, but as I find from the newspaper reports, it is sold at more than Rs. 15 per lb. or even more in foreign countries, the margin going to the middlemen. I should say that it is the foreign concerns which are controlling the Indian tea market. Government should look into this aspect of it in the interests of the proper growth of the tea industry in India.

In my State of Assam, the majority of the tea gardens, about 50 per cent or more out of the 1000 tea gardens or so which are there are in the hands of the foreign concerns. Those foreign concerns are now gradually selling out their tea gardens and to those persons who are not interested in making the industry prosperous. They have managed to sell the land under tea bush for other things and for other purposes. For instance, one tea garden near Dibrugarh in upper Assam was purchased by a merchant from Rajasthan. He partitioned the land of that tea garden plot by plot and sold it and made a profit of a crore of rupees. That is a deathblow to the tea industry.

I would, therefore, urge the Central Government as well as the State Government to make some legislation to prevent the transfer of tea gardens to unscrupulous persons who do not look after the interest of the tea industry. There should be some condition that tea garden lands should be utilised only for growing tea bushes and not for any other purposes. Land is a State subject, and, therefore, the State Government could do something, and the tea industry being under the Central Government, the Central Government can also go into this aspect, and do some thing in this behalf.

Now, I would like to make one point regarding the provisions of the Bill. While introducing the Bill, the hon. Deputy Minister had observed "that Government had decided to assist this industry with subsidy for re-plantation of the old-age tea bushes with a view to ensuring a desirable level of re-plantation." But I am afraid that the tea garden owners will not be benefited very much under the present Bill. Tea gardens have more than two-thirds of fallow land. If they are allowed to plant bushes in the fallow land with the

help of subsidy, then alone the tea garden owners will be benefited. If it is restricted only to replantation by uprooting the over-aged tea bushes, this process will take time and the tea garden owners will not be benefited.

Finally, there are three categories of companies—sterling companies and rupee companies, these are foreign companies and Indian tea garden owners. As far as loan and subsidy are concerned, it should go as a matter of right, to the Indian tea garden owners alone, because the Britishers and foreign companies have ample money with them, but they have never ploughed back the profit for the benefit of the industry or for the development of our country. Therefore, while preparing the rules under this Act, either the Tea Board should make such rules or the Government should direct the Tea Board to make such rules by which loan and subsidy should go to the small tea garden owners, particularly the Indian owners. With these words, I hope that what the Government have proposed for the prosperity of the industry will be achieved, and support the Bill.

श्री शिव चन्द्र झा (मधुवनी) : सभापति जी, यह संशोधन विधेयक जो हमारे सामने है, मैं इसका पुरजोर विरोध करता हूँ। बड़ी हैरानी की बात है कि इधर हाल ही में 14 बड़े बैंकों का राष्ट्रीयकरण हुआ और एक वातावरण बनाया जाता है कि हमें और ज्यादा राष्ट्रीयकरण का रास्ता अस्तित्वार करना पड़ेगा समाजवाद लाने के लिए तथा अन्य बड़े आदर्शों के लिये। लेकिन इस विधेयक के जरिये बिलकुल साफ हो जाता है कि यह सरकार चाय उद्योग में जो इजारेदारी है, इजारेदारों का जो आधिपत्य है, उसको मदद देने के लिए तैयार है, एक तरफ इस सरकार का आदर्श कुछ दूसरा है, लेकिन हकीकत यह है कि मानोपोलिस्ट लोगों की, चाय उद्योग के इजारेदारों की मदद के लिये सरकार कटिबद्ध है। हम जानते हैं कि चाय हिन्दुस्तान के लिये विदेशी मुद्रा प्राप्त करने का एक बहुत महत्वपूर्ण उद्योग है, चाय एक ट्रेडिशनल फारन-एक्सचेन्ज अर्निंग

कमोडिटी है। दुनिया में जहाँ तक प्रोडक्शन का सवाल है—हिन्दुस्तान दुनिया की प्रोडक्शन का 32.5 प्रतिशत पैदा करता है, जब कि सीलोन 20 प्रतिशत चाइना 14.2 प्रतिशत, पाकिस्तान 2.4 प्रतिशत जापान 6.9 प्रतिशत, यू० एस० एस० आर 4.1 प्रतिशत, इण्डोनेशिया 3.8 प्रतिशत, चाइना (ताइवान) 1.8 प्रतिशत पैदा करते हैं। मतलब यह कि हिन्दुस्तान चाय में दुनिया का सबसे बड़ा प्रोड्यूसिंग कंट्री है और ऐसा बहुत वर्षों से, सदियों से हो रहा है, लेकिन इसका जो रूप शुरू से रहा है वह यह रहा है कि यहाँ पर विदेशी पूंजी का अड्डा रहा है, जिससे हमेशा इस का मुनाफा हिन्दुस्तान में बाहर भेजा जाता रहा है। जहाँ तक केन्द्रीयकरण का सवाल है यह सरकारी रिपोर्ट है जो हमें बताती है कि किस तरह से केन्द्रीयकरण का सिलसिला पूरे जोर से चाय उद्योग में चल रहा है। मौजूदा आंकड़े तो मेरे पास नहीं हैं, लेकिन टी प्लान्टेशन एन्क्वायरी कमीशन की रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक 1952-55 के आधार पर जो आंकड़े उपलब्ध हैं, उन्हें मैं आपके सामने रखना चाहता हूँ। चाय उद्योग में टी प्लान्टेशन एन्क्वायरी कमीशन की रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक सबसे छोटी होल्डिंग 100 एकड़ की मानी जाती है। सबसे पहले होल्डिंग के केन्द्रीयकरण को देखें—मैं यह जो किताब है—स्टडी इनका डेवेलपमेंट आफ कैप्टिलिज्म इन इंडिया—उससे पढ़ रहा हूँ :

“So the first concentration in the tea industry is that small estates of less than 100 acres constitute only 4.17 per cent of the total tea area and 1.34 per cent of the total tea production in India. In other words, then roughly 96% of the total acreage and 99% of total production of tea in India are in the hands of estates of over 100 acres.”

यानी सौ एकड़ से ऊपर की होल्डिंग में 99 परसेंट टी का प्रोडक्शन होता है और जिनके पास टोटल एकरेज का 96 परसेंट है।

“These large holdings of over 100 acres are again numerically less than the holdings of less than 100 acres. In 1953 of all the registered 6,569 tea estates, as many as 5,283 or 80.4% were estates of less than 100 acres.”

अब आगे देख लीजिए कि सौ एकड़ से कम वाली 80 परसेंट होल्डिंग हैं।

“So in the tea industry in India these estates which are small in number (20%) control 96% of total acreage and 99% of total production of tea.”

यानि जो बड़े-बड़े चाय बागान हैं जोकि केवल 20 परसेंट हैं वही टोटल एकरेज का 96 परसेंट कंट्रोल करते हैं और चाय के टोटल प्रोडक्शन का 99 परसेंट प्रोड्यूस करते हैं।

इसके अतिरिक्त जैसा कहा गया कि कुछ स्टर्लिंग कम्पनीज, विदेशी कम्पनीज हैं और फिर नान इंडियन रुपी कम्पनीज हैं यानी वे इंडियन रुपी में हैं परन्तु विदेशी हैं। आप देखें, उसी टी प्लान्टेशन रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है :

“Sterling companies control 62.9 per cent, the Non-Indian rupee companies 16.9 per cent, the Indian rupee companies another 16.2 per cent and the remaining proprietary concerns 4 per cent, of which about one-third is held by Non-Indians, of the area under tea. The concentration process is then obvious here.”

अब यहाँ भी फर्क है। प्रोप्रायटरी कन्सर्न्स से वह कम्पनीज ज्यादा कंट्रोल करती हैं।

“Companies control more than proprietary concerns and among the companies, Sterling and Non-Indian rupee companies control more than Indian rupee companies. In other words, the acreage of the area under tea is very much concentrated in the hands of Non-Indian rupee and Sterling companies.”

इस तरह से यह तो होल्डिंग की बात है।

अब यह देखिये कि प्रोडक्शन किस तरह से कन्सेन्ट्रेटेड है :

"In the same way, the production of tea is also concentrated in the hands of big companies. Thirteen leading agencies in Calcutta control over 75 per cent of the tea production in North India; out of these 7 companies control more than 50% and 5 companies as much as 36% of the production."

अब इन्वेस्टमेन्ट को देखा जाये :

"...there is concentration in capital investment too. The total capital investment of the companies, covering 6.45 lakh acres (95.9%) of the total area under joint stock tea companies, amounted to Rs. 95.03 crores, of which Rs. 71 crores (74.7%) are Non-Indian investment and Rs. 24.03 crores (25.3%) Indian."

मतलब यह कि 74.7 परसेन्ट नान इंडियन विदेशी इन्वेस्टमेन्ट है और 24.03 करोड़ यानी करीब 25 परसेन्ट इंडियन है। प्रोपायटरी कन्सर्न्स में उसी तरह से इंडियन कन्सेन्ट्रेशन है।

अब आखीर में टैक्सेशन इक्वायरी कमीशन के जो कन्क्लूजन हैं उनको भी सुन लिया जाये :

"In an industry in which capital is so largely in the hands of foreign houses and 75% of whose production is controlled directly by a limited number of agents of these foreign firms and whose produce is sold largely to the same foreign country and in many cases through the same agents, it is inevitable that there should be a high degree of concentration."

इस तरह से जो ये मौजूदा आंकड़े हैं वह टैक्सेशन इक्वायरी कमीशन के कन्क्लूजन को कावॉरट करते हैं। मतलब यह कि कन्सेन्ट्रे-

शन बहुत है। चाय उद्योग पर विदेशी मानोपोलिस्ट्स का कब्जा है। इस विषयक के जरिए, जैसा कि और सदस्यों ने पढ़कर सुनाया, आप टी बोर्ड की सव्सीडी और लान देंगे और टी बोर्ड प्लान्टेशन ओनर्स की मदद करेगा। यानी सरकार टी बोर्ड के जरिये टी मानोपोलिस्ट्स को पैसा देगी। यह बिल्कुल वेइसाफी है और जनता के पैसे का दुरुपयोग है।

इसका हल यही है जैसा कि श्री कालिता जी ने कहा, कि सरकार को ही प्लान्टेशन इन्डस्ट्री को नेशनलाइज कर लेना चाहिये। फिर इन्होंने जैसा कहा कि छोटे प्लान्टर्स को आप मदद कर सकते हैं। लेकिन यह बात तो बाद में आती है, बुनियादी बात यह है कि विदेशी कम्पनियों की मार्फत चाय उद्योग पर जो कब्जा है उसका राष्ट्रीयकरण करना लाजिमी हो जाता है। यदि सरकार में थोड़ी सी भी इमानदारी है तो जन कल्याण और समाजवाद के लिये यह बुनियादी कदम है कि उनको टेक-ओवर कर लिया जाये।

सभापति महोदय, पिछले साल भी इस उद्योग को बहुत सी छूटें दी गई हैं जैसे :

"The rebate of export duty was increased from 24 paise per Kg. to 35 paise per Kg. with effect from 1st October, 1968. Secondly, the special excise duty of 20 per cent of the basic excise duty was withdrawn with effect from 1st October, 1958. Thirdly, a replanting subsidy scheme at the rate of Rs. 3,500 per hectare for plain gardens and Rs. 4,500 per hectare for all hill gardens was announced for helping the industry."

तो सन् 68 में ये सब छूटें दी गई हैं। इसके बावजूद जो बाहर टी की बिक्री हुई उसमें डेक्लाइनिंग एक्सपोर्ट ट्रेन्ड आया, पिछले चार पांच सालों में। 67 में 189 करोड़ था जोकि 68 में घट कर 174 करोड़

रह गया। बावजूद इसके इस उद्योग के मुनाफाखोरों ने मुनाफा कमाया परन्तु टी उद्योग की ओर कोई ध्यान नहीं दिया।... (व्यवधान)...

श्री एस० आर० दामानी : टी इंडस्ट्री में प्राफिट क्या है, यह आपको मालूम है ?

श्री शिव चन्द्र भा : इसलिये मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि यदि वास्तव में आप इस उद्योग को उन्नत करना चाहते हैं तो सबसे पहले इस उद्योग को आप अपने हाथ में ले लीजिये और फिर उसकी तफसील में जाइये कि कहां पर कंट्रोल करें और कहां पर छोड़ें। यह विवेक ज़ाकि चाय मॉनोपॉलिस्ट्स की मदद के लिये है, मैं पूरी ताकत से इसका विरोध करता हूँ। यदि सरकार इसके लिए कटिबद्ध है तो मैं चाहूंगा कि इसको सर्कुलेशन के लिये भेज दिया जाये और आगामी सत्र में इस सदन में रखा जाये और तब इस पर बहस हो। इस समय मैं इसका पूरा विरोध करता हूँ और चाहता हूँ कि इसको सर्कुलेशन के लिए भेज दिया जाये।

SHRI SAMAR GUHA (Contai) : Sir, this House was expecting a comprehensive Bill for nationalisation of the production and export of tea but this Bill seems to be a denial of that. It is a denial of something else also.

Recently our official party has been propagating from the housetops about the socialist programmes. In their socialist programme, the ten-point programme, nationalisation of major export industries has been included as one point. In this Bill we do not find any reflection of that profession of the official party.

If the Government is hesitant in taking over all the tea gardens and the tea export trade as a whole, they can at least take over the gardens owned by Europeans.

SHRI LOBO PRABHU (UDIPI) : Who will find the foreign exchange for paying the tea garden owners ?

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : At least that would have given a competitive spurt between the tea garden and tea export industry run by the public sector and the private sector. It is known to all that our tea exports have gone down by nearly 9 million kilogrammes and the country is incurring a loss of nearly Rs. 15 crores in foreign exchange. It is also known that we are even losing our market in Russia, our much boasted friend, and recently Pakistan has bought 10 million pounds of tea from China.

The tea garden owners have almost warned the Government that if the present situation is allowed to continue, 50% of the tea gardens will incur a loss and they have also said that the revenues on account of income tax and agricultural income tax will also be less for the Government. They have suggested radical measures for tax relief. The reason they have said, as I have already said, is that they are incurring heavy losses. Their point is that the tea garden owners get the money from the foreign market where our tea is auctioned. It is found that in different countries of the world where our tea is sold, the price at which it is sold in the retail market is, in some cases, found to be 3 or 4 or 5 times the wholesale price. It is a point why the Government instead of sending our tea to the foreign countries through certain agencies which are, as many of my friends used the word, monopoly interests, is not taking radical measures to see that instead of channelising our tea to the foreign markets through certain foreign agencies, India should take steps to send our tea direct to the foreign market. Unless certain radical measures in that direction are taken, every time under the pressure of some monopoly of the foreign agencies, every time whenever there is loss in our foreign exchange, the tea garden owners and the industrialists will exert pressure on the Government for certain tax relief, for abolition of excise duty and for relief in the export duty, etc. Therefore, it is time that our Government take some radical measure with regard to tea which is our second largest foreign exchange earner, instead of giving certain remedial benefits to the tea gardens in the form of grants and loans as suggested in this Bill. I would, therefore, demand that Government should set up a committee to go into the whole matter so that the real problem facing the

[Shri Samar Guha]

tea gardens and the tea industry and our prospects of selling Indian tea in foreign markets can be studied in detail. That is absolutely necessary. Otherwise, as I have said—I repeat it—almost every year the tea garden owners and the industrialists will combine together and will exert pressure on the Government and demand tax relief in one form or other. I do want to take more time. If you accept the position as it is, if you accept the position of the ownership of the tea gardens, their ownership of the export industries and the mechanics of export to foreign countries, then I would say that the demand made by the industrialists and the tea garden owners for tax relief will be irresistible. I have already said that Government should go into the question whether nationalisation of at least tea gardens held by the Europeans and the export trade in tea can be taken up very seriously. That matter has got to be gone into deeply. In this connection, certain measures have been suggested for being taken up and we should go straight into the world market and we should go for propagation of Indian tea in the world market. Certain measures have been suggested in this regard. They are :

- (1) Participation, along with other producing countries and the local tea trade in Tea Councils which have been organised to promote consumption of tea as a beverage in certain countries ;
- (2) Undertaking promotional measures for Indian tea through the offices of the Tea Board in the U. K., West Europe, U. A. R., the U.S.A. and Australia ;
- (3) Taking part in trade fairs and exhibitions abroad ;
- (4) Organising sampling of Indian tea in prominent hotels and restaurants, holiday resorts, etc. on special occasions ;
- (5) Advertisements through appropriate media of publicity in countries abroad ; and
- (6) Promotion of special packs containing pure Indian tea, with

the cooperation of the local blenders and packers in selected markets.

With one point I will finish.

Recently, an understanding was reached with Ceylon in regard to promotion, research and other matters regarding tea. The form of joint consortium is to blend, pack and distribute tea in the world market. We have been told that the meeting of that consortium will be held in the month of January next. I hope that Government will take up that matter with the Government of Ceylon. Then again, before closing, I would say, instead of palliative measures the Government should go deep into the problem and see whether the policy of nationalisation can be taken up with regard to the tea industry and the tea export trade.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय (उज्जैन) : सभा-पति महोदय, सदन में कोरम नहीं है।

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Bell is being rung...

Now, there is quorum. Shri Abdul Ghani Dar.

श्री अब्दुल गनी डार (गुड़गांव) : अंधी को बहरा खींच रहा है। अंधी को तो दिखाई नहीं देता है और बहरे को सुनाई नहीं देता है। ऐसी हालत में काम कैसे चलेगा।

सोशलिज्म के रास्ते की जितनी रुकावटें थीं, सिंडीकेट कहिए, कुछ भी कहिए, वे सब निकल गई हैं। वे लोग इधर आ बैठे हैं। जो सोशलिज्म के पुजारी हैं, जो सोशलिज्म को दिल से चाहते हैं, उन के रास्ते में अब कोई रुकावट नहीं है। जिन लोगों के बारे में यह कहा जाता है कि वे सोशलिज्म को पूरे तौर पर पन-पने नहीं देते हैं, आगे बढ़ने नहीं देते हैं वे निकल कर बाहर आ गए हैं। अब चाहे उधर दिनेश जी हों या कर्ण सिंह जी हों, सब को सोशलिस्ट माना जाना चाहिये। श्री भ्ना ने जो बहुत ज्यादा तरकीबी यापता हैं, कहा है कि अशोक

मेहता जी, गुरुपदास्वामी जी, राम सुभग सिंह जी, या दूसरे लोग सोशलिज्म नहीं चाहते हैं, सब रिएक्शनरी थे। मोरारजी देसाई साहब भी रिएक्शनरी थे। अब तो वे सब नहीं रहे। अब आप टी के मामले में कोई सोशलिस्टिक कदम क्यों नहीं उठाते हैं ?

आप कहते हैं कि टी से हमें फ़ारेन एक्स-चेंज ज्यादा मिलता है इस वास्ते हमें देखना है कि इस इन्डस्ट्री की ज्यादा से ज्यादा तरक्की किस तरह हो सकती है। इस में मैं आपके साथ हूँ बावजूद इस बात के कि मैं समझता हूँ कि शायद इससे उन लोगों की ज्यादा मदद होगी, जिन्होंने करोड़ों रुपया टी इन्डस्ट्री से कमाया है, प्रोड्यूसर्स ने कमाया है। देना चाहो तो खूब दो, इतनी सबसिडी दो ताकि भा साहब जैसे दोस्तों की आंखें खुल जायें और उनको पता चल जाए कि वे सच्चे सोशलिस्ट हैं।

वहां कौन लोग हैं जो इस इन्डस्ट्री में लगे हुए हैं। एक तो अंग्रेज हैं और दूसरे मारवाड़ी हैं, जिन को यहां के यहूदी कहा जा सकता है। उनकी आप मदद करना चाहते हैं। मैं गुरु की नगरी में पैदा हुआ था। जब मुल्क का बटवारा नहीं हुआ था उससे पहले अमृतसर चाय की सब से बड़ी मंडी थी। सेंट्रल एशिया में जो चाय जाती थी वह सारी अमृतसर से जाती थी। अब पाकिस्तान बीच में आ गया। अच्छा होता अगर पाकिस्तान और हमारे ताल्लुक कनाडा और यू० एस० ए० की तरह होते। तब हम चाय से बहुत ज्यादा लाभ उठा सकते थे। अच्छा होता भारतीय चाय पर बाहर का लेबल न लगता, वह भारतीय चाय कहलाती और उसी तरह से बिकती। यह बदनसीबी की बात है कि दोनों मुल्क आपस में कोई समझौता नहीं कर पाए हैं।

जहां तक सबसिडी देने का सवाल है, आप को सबसिडी देना अच्छा लगता है तो जरूर दें।

जिन लोगों ने खूब रुपया कमाया है वे बागों को खुद तरक्की नहीं दे सके हैं। पंजाब में तो सिर्फ पालमपुर में चाय होती है और वहां कोई अंग्रेज नहीं है। असम की तरफ अंग्रेज ने, मारवाड़ी ने कमाया है। असमिया लोग बिल्कुल सीधे हैं। उनको दुनिया लूटती है। वे खाना नहीं, खिलाना जानते हैं। सबसिडी आप इस वास्ते देना चाहते हैं कि चाय की पैदावार बढ़े। उपज अगर ज्यादा होती है, तो सबसिडी की कास्ट पर मैं समझता हूँ कि देश का कल्याण होगा। आपको फ़ारेन एक्सचेंज ज्यादा मिलेगी। बावजूद इस बात के कि श्री मोरारजी देसाई से भी ज्यादा रिएक्शनरी कदम आप उठा रहे हैं, मैं इसकी ताईद करता हूँ। आप कहा करते थे कि फाइनेंस मिनिस्टर रास्ते में रुकावट बना करते थे। अब तो श्री टी० टी० कृष्णामाचारी सामने आ गए हैं। वह क्या कहते हैं, इसको भी आप देखें। वह कहते हैं सोशलिज्म का खाली नारा मत लगाओ। प्रोडक्शन के बाद ही तकसीम का सवाल आता है। आप सोशलिज्म का नाम लेते हैं। मैं कहूंगा दुरंगी छोड़ यकरंग हो जा। मैं तो कहता हूँ कि एक ही रास्ता आप अख्तियार कर लें और वह सोशलिज्म का रास्ता है। नेशनलाइजेशन का रास्ता है। उसी का भूत आप पर सवार है। श्री लोबो प्रभु ने कहा कि उनको रुपया दे दो और कहो कि चलते बनो। हम खुद सजायेंगे। आज हालत यह हो गई है कि जो चाय हम पीते हैं, वह एक साल पहले की चाय से बहुत इनफ़ीरियर है। मैं चाहता हूँ आप फिर सोचें और इसको सर्व्यूलेट करें। दुनिया को आप दिखाते हैं कि हम सोशलिज्म के पुजारी हैं और हम जो लोग हैं, हम सोशलिज्म नहीं चाहते हैं। मैं चाहता हूँ आप सोशलिज्म लायें। और अगर आप अब इसके मुताबिक काम नहीं करते हैं तो दुनिया कहेगी कि आपकी हालत यह है कि

सूफियां की जलवा वर मेहरवा मिम्बरी कुनन्द
चू मखलूत मी रौंद आं कारेदीगरी कुनन्द।

شہری عبد الغنی ڈار۔ (گولڈگڈی) اندھی کو پہرا
کھینچ رہا ہے اندھی کو دکھائی نہیں دیتا ہے اور بہرے کو
سنائی نہیں دیتا ہے ایسی حالت میں کام کیسے چلے گا۔

سوشلزم کے راستے کی جتنی رکاوٹیں تھیں۔ سوشلیٹ
کے بارے میں کچھ بھی کہیں۔ وہ سب ٹھیک ہیں۔ وہ لوگ ادھر آ

بیٹھے ہیں جو سوشلزم کے بجائے ری ہیں جو سوشلزم کو دل سے
چاہتے ہیں ان کے راستے میں اب کوئی رکاوٹ نہیں ہے۔ جس

لوگوں کے بارے میں یہ کہا جاتا ہے کہ وہ سوشلزم کو پورے
طور پر مانتے نہیں دیتے ہیں۔ آگے بڑھے نہیں دیتے ہیں۔ وہ

نکل کر باہر آئے ہیں اب ادھر جا رہے ہیں سیکھ جی ہوں۔
سب کو سوشلزم کا مانا جانا چاہیے۔ شہری جھاجو بہت زیادہ

ترقی یافتہ ہیں نے کہا ہے کہ اسٹوک مہنت جی۔ گو رہ پید سوامی
جی رام سجاگ سیکھ جی یا دوسرے لوگ سوشلزم نہیں

چاہتے ہیں۔ سب ری ایکشنری ہیں۔ مارر جی ڈیسا کی صاحب
بھی ری ایکشنری تھے اب تو وہ سب نہیں رہے اب آپ

نی کے محلے میں کوئی سوشلزم قائم کیوں نہیں اٹھاتے
ہیں۔ آپ کہتے ہیں کہ اسے ہمیں فارن ایکسیج زیادہ ملتی

ہے اس واسطے ہمیں دیکھنا ہے کہ اس انڈسٹری کی زیادہ
سے زیادہ ترقی کس طرح ہو سکتی ہے اس میں آپ کے

ساتھ ہوں۔ باوجود اس بات کے کہ میں سمجھتا ہوں کہ شاید
اس سے ان لوگوں کی زیادہ مدد ہوگی جنھوں نے کروڑوں

روپیہ انڈسٹری سے کمایا ہے۔ دینا چاہو تو خوب دولت
انہی سبھی کے ہاتھ آجائے اور ان کو پتہ چل جائے کہ سوشلزم کون

ہے اور ان کو پتہ چل جائے کہ سوشلزم کون
ہے اور ان کو پتہ چل جائے کہ سوشلزم کون

ہے اور ان کو پتہ چل جائے کہ سوشلزم کون
ہے اور ان کو پتہ چل جائے کہ سوشلزم کون

ہے اور ان کو پتہ چل جائے کہ سوشلزم کون
ہے اور ان کو پتہ چل جائے کہ سوشلزم کون

ہے اور ان کو پتہ چل جائے کہ سوشلزم کون
ہے اور ان کو پتہ چل جائے کہ سوشلزم کون

ہے اور ان کو پتہ چل جائے کہ سوشلزم کون
ہے اور ان کو پتہ چل جائے کہ سوشلزم کون

ہے اور ان کو پتہ چل جائے کہ سوشلزم کون
ہے اور ان کو پتہ چل جائے کہ سوشلزم کون

دخت اور نرسر چلنے کی سب سے بڑی مدد ہی تھی سوشلزم انہیں
میں جو چلے جاتی تھی وہ ساری ان نرسر سے جاتی تھی۔ اب

پاکستان تین میں لگے ہیں ایسا ہوتا ہے کہ پاکستان اور ہمارے تعلقاً
کنا اور یو۔ ایس۔ اے کی طرح ہوتے۔ تب ہم چلے گئے

بہت زیادہ لا بھرا اٹھا سکتے تھے۔ اچھا ہوتا تھا تیر چلے
پر باہر کا ایسٹ نہ لگتا وہ ہمارے تیر چلنے کا ہلکا ہوا اور اس طرح

سے بکھی۔ یہ بد نصیبی کی بات ہے کہ دونوں ملک آپس میں
کوئی سمجھوتہ نہیں کر پائے ہیں۔

جہاں تک سبھی دینے کا سوال ہے آپ کو سبھی دینا
اچھا لگتا ہے تو ضرور دو۔ جن لوگوں نے خوب رو پیہ کمایا ہے

وہ باغی کو خوب ترقی نہیں دے سکے ہیں۔ بیجا میں تو ضرور
بالم۔ میں چاہے ہوتی ہے اور وہاں کوئی انگریز نہیں ہے۔

اسام کی طرف انگریز تھے۔ مارڈو آئی لے کمایا ہے۔ سامی
لوگ بالکل سبھے ہیں۔ ان کو دنیا لوٹتی ہے۔ وہ کھانا نہیں

کھانا چاہتے ہیں۔ سبھی آپ اس واسطے دینا چاہتے ہیں
کہ چلے کی پیداوار بڑھے۔ بیج گز زیادہ ہوتی ہے تو

سبھی کی کام بڑھیں۔ میں سمجھتا ہوں کہ دلش کا
کلیان ہو گا۔ آپ کو فارین ایکسیج زیادہ ملے گی۔ باوجود

اس بات کے کہ شہری مارر جی ڈیسا نے بھی زیادہ
ری ایکشنری قدم آپ اٹھا رہے ہیں۔ میں اس کی تائید

کرتا ہوں آپ کہا کرتے تھے کہ فائنس منسٹر راستے میں رکاوٹ
بنا کرتے تھے۔ اب تو شہری نے ہی۔ ہی۔ کہ سنجاری سلے آگے

ہمہ۔ وہ کیا کہتے ہیں اس کو بھی آپ کہیں وہ کہتے ہیں کہ سوشلزم
کا خالی لغو مت لگاؤ۔ پر وہ لوگوں کے بعد ہی تقسیم کا سوال آتا

ہے۔ آپ سوشلزم کا نام لیتے ہیں۔ میں کہوں گا دو رنگی چھوڑ
یک رنگ ہو جا۔ میں تو کہتا ہوں کہ ایک ہی راستہ آپ

اختیار کر لیں اور وہ سوشلزم کا راستہ ہے۔ نیشنلائزیشن
کا راستہ ہے اس کا بھوت آپ پر سوار ہے۔ شہری لو پو پو

ہے اور ان کو پتہ چل جائے کہ سوشلزم کون
ہے اور ان کو پتہ چل جائے کہ سوشلزم کون

ہے اور ان کو پتہ چل جائے کہ سوشلزم کون
ہے اور ان کو پتہ چل جائے کہ سوشلزم کون

ہے اور ان کو پتہ چل جائے کہ سوشلزم کون
ہے اور ان کو پتہ چل جائے کہ سوشلزم کون

ہے اور ان کو پتہ چل جائے کہ سوشلزم کون
ہے اور ان کو پتہ چل جائے کہ سوشلزم کون

ہے اور ان کو پتہ چل جائے کہ سوشلزم کون
ہے اور ان کو پتہ چل جائے کہ سوشلزم کون

نے کہا ہے کہ ان کو روپیہ دیا۔ و اور کچھ کہ چلتے۔ بزم خود
 سجا میں گے۔ آج حالت یہ ہو گئی ہے کہ جو چاہے ہم بیٹے ہیں وہ
 ایک سال پہلے کی چلے گئے بہت انفریز ہے۔ میں چاہتا
 ہوں کہ آپ پھر سوچیں اور اس کو سر کو لیت کر میں -
 دنیا کو آپ دکھاتے ہیں کہ ہم سوشلزم کے بجائے می ہیں
 اور ہم جو لوگ ہیں ہم سوشلزم نہیں چاہتے ہیں - ہم
 چاہتا ہوں کہ آپ سوشلزم لائیں اور اگر آپ اب اس
 کے مطابق کام نہیں کرتے ہیں تو دنیا کہے گی کہ آپ کی حالت
 یہ ہے -

مورنیاں کے جلوہ بر محبوب و مہر می کنند
 جوں غفلت می روند آں کار و نیک می کنند

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
 MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI
 RAM SEWAK) : I have been encouraged
 by the keen interest taken by many hon.
 Members of this House in this Bill.

This is a non-controversial Bill, comprising only four Clauses. Under this Bill Government is providing for the development of the tea industry in the country. In other parts of the world like Kenya and other African countries, this industry is developing very fast. Their production per hectare is much larger compared to India. Therefore, it is difficult to compete with these countries. So, we want to give assistance to the tea producers of India and have brought this Bill for their benefit.

Under this Bill we are going to provide Rs. 3,500 per hectare for the tea producers in the plains and Rs. 4,500 per hectare to the tea producers in the hilly regions. This will be paid in four or five instalments.

In India, the tea plants are more than 50 years of age. So, we want to help tea gardens with these over-aged plants by giving them subsidy. If a new tea plant is planted today, it will give return only after six or seven years. Therefore, it is necessary to give subsidy to the tea growers of India.

Hon. Members have raised many points about this Bill. I would like to deal with them one by one. Messrs. Barua and Hemraj laid emphasis quite rightly on the importance of the tea industry from the

export angle. Others hon. Members also referred to the problems of marketing and profitability of the industry in this context. Two specific suggestions emerged : planting tea in India for export and marketing tea in packets. These have been very much in the mind of the Government and the Tea Board. More and more packed tea is being exported and there are proposal for joint marketing particularly in new areas with Ceylon. The problem with the traditional market, especially in London, is that there is an established structure. It is not easy for any one country to adopt a policy in isolation. One has to take into account the competition from East African and other new tea producing countries. We have benefited in these matters from the advice of the Barua committee and we are looking forward to the report of the sub committee of the consultative committee of Parliament. (Interruptions.)

वहूरा कमेटी की रिपोर्ट विचाराधीन है। उसकी बहुत सी बातों पर अमल किया जा चुका है। Mr. Koushik has made some point about helping small producers in Nilgiris and Mr. Hem Raj pointed out the difficulties in Himachal Pradesh. Government is very much aware of the problems of small growers who are mostly in South India, Kangra and Mandi. The Government of India have taken steps in consultation with the State Governments to alleviate the conditions of the small growers. For instance there are six Cooperative Tea Factories set up in Nilgiris with the help of loans advanced through the Tea Board. There is one cooperative factory each in Kerala and in Kangra. Already, there has been an improvement in the condition of the small growers attached to these cooperatives. The teas are being sold in the Cochin and Coonoor auctions at reasonable prices. The Tea Board has also set up a Clonal Multiplication plot in one of these factories to propagate clones for supply to small growers to improve their stock. The Government is taking up with the State Governments concerned the question of setting up expert field Advisory Service and supply at reasonable prices fertilizers, plant protection material and implements.

Messrs Hazarika, Borooah, Kaushik and Hemraj made valuable contributions to the debate high-lighting problems of the tea industry and its financial conditions.

Substantial relief had been given in export and excise duties in October 1968 and again in March 1969. The classification of zones for excise duties has recently been reviewed. We have before us recommendations of the Borooah Committee and it is the hope that as soon as the picture with regard to international regulations of exports is reasonably clear, we can take decisions on the recommendations of the Committee. In doing so, we shall bear in mind the various valuable comments made by hon. members during the debate. There is at present a meeting taking place in Rome. It started yesterday; it is a meeting between the consumer countries and the producing countries where they are trying to tackle this problem. As regards the decline in India's exports, I should like to say a few words. The problem in international tea market is one of excessive supply and contracting demands. The unit price of tea has been falling. The endeavour has been to secure better prices by regulating supplies to keep in line with demand and by promotion of tea sales. In 1968-69, the prices in the London auction fell sharply due to excessive stocks and general excess of supply with the result that some teas were sold at unattractive prices. In the current season, that is, 1969-70, many producers who thought that they will not get good prices in the London market have diverted their tea to the Calcutta auction. Secondly, there has been a shortfall in production due to strike in the North Bengal tea gardens resulting in reduction in the availability of tea exports.

Then, certain demands were made by hon. Members regarding the facilities to be given to the labourers. Reference was made by my friend Shri Jyotirmoy Basu to a character of demands presented by the Tea Board employees and he made allegations as if the employees were not being given their due share. He particularly mentioned the demand for overtime and payment of provident fund. The position with regard to this is that in all matters concerning pay, dearness allowance, and allowances like house-rent, etc., the Tea Board employees are given the same benefits as the Central Government employees, and in matters concerning provident fund and pension also, the Central Government rules are followed. The charter of demands, which has become

a regular feature of the employee's association, contains about 20 demands of which the more important ones are, revision of pay-scales and introduction of need-based minimum wages, dearness allowances in full naturalisation of the price index, house-rent allowance at an enhanced rate of 25 per cent of the basic pay instead of 10 per cent admissible to Government servants, and at present to the Tea Board employees; the construction of staff quarters for the employees and so on. In these matters, the scales admissible to the Central Government employees are followed, and it is not possible to give special consideration to the employees of one commodity Board.

There are other minor matters in the character of demands like the grant of island allowance to the staff workers in the Cochin office; promotion of Class IV employees to Class III, through departmental tests; this is already being done. Then certain daily rated workers in the Tea Bar and buffet in Delhi have raised the question of their eligibility to provident fund; this is being looked into by the tea Board.

One reference was made by hon. Member Shri Jyotirmoy Basu about the Moolji Sicka & Co., and also to complaints of the lack of inspection of the estates, verification of installation of machinery and the like in regard to schemes of replantation, and hire purchase of machines. He mentioned the case where Rs. 1.8 lakhs were outstanding from an estate. In this case, the loan was advanced in 1962 after making the usual enquiries and checking the party's credit-worthiness from their bankers. The owners subsequently abandoned the property. Following legal proceedings, the court decreed the amount in favour of the Tea Board. The property was put up for auction but no bidder has come forward so far. One must view this in the context of the number of cases and the amounts given under the scheme. There have been 188 cases in which tea plantation financing loans amounting to Rs. 8.14 crores have been accepted and over Rs. 3.76 crores have been disbursed. There are regular procedures for inspection of estates after plantation is taken up. There is also a regular inspection in cases where machinery for loans have been given. In the case of the replantation

[Shri Ram Sewak]

subsidy scheme, it is obligatory that the first instalment is given only after an inspection has been carried out.

Then I come to preferential treatment.

16 hrs.

There was something said about preferential treatment to certain companies. The criteria for the Tea Plantation Finance Scheme or the Tea Machinery Hire Purchase Scheme make no distinction between estates. The Scheme applies to all tea estates provided it is established that they are not in a position to undertake from out of their own resources replanting replacement or extension in respect of which a loan has been applied for under the Tea Plantation Finance Scheme. The estate should be capable in the opinion of the Board of repaying the loan in prescribed instalments having regard to its economic condition and the expected improvements as a result of the replanting or replacement. Originally, the security furnished by the loanee was primarily a *pari passu* charge on the fixed assets of the garden with the banks; but in order to help the weaker and the smaller gardens, the loans are now advanced even on the basis of a second charge on the fixed assets, the first being in favour of the financing bank.

Government have under consideration a proposal to increase the limits of the loan—the aggregate of the Board's loan and the Bank's loan—to 75% of the total value of fixed assets and the average value of the crop of the last three seasons. This should go to assist further the weaker sections of the industry.

An allegation was made by Shri Jyotirmoy Basu yesterday that the Tea Board is not carrying out proper checking under the Tea Waste Control Order and also that no control on quality of tea produced is exercised.

Tea Board has worked out along with the Indian Standards Institution specifications concerning Tea that should be sold for human consumption. These specifications have been built into Prevention of Food Adulteration Act which are enforced

by the staff under the Health Department of the State Governments and the Local Bodies.

A point was raised about sterling companies. The early history of tea in India is bound up with the history of British enterprise in Assam. The industry was initiated and developed primarily to cater to the British market with the original capital almost wholly subscribed in the United Kingdom. The number of tea estates under Sterling companies has been progressively going down and there are only 356 gardens representing 41% of the area under tea in India, now with the Sterling companies. It is not the policy of Government to come in the way of repatriation of profits and dividends. The Sterling companies have been repatriating between Rs. 5 crores and Rs. 6 crores a year in profits. On the other hand the foreign exchange earnings from exports by the Sterling companies have been nearly ten times as much. While sterling companies have been progressively selling estates to Indian entrepreneurs, they have been ploughing back very much more than their sale proceeds in the other estates. Out of the total funds available with the sterling companies, they have an average re-invested 59% in the estates.

About the points raised by Mr. Damani, in 1955 the production of tea in Indian was 307 million kg. and it rose to 400 million kg. in 1968.

Coming to unit value, it is true that though we have increased our production the unit value has gone down. That is correct. The Rome Conference is considering this question.

हेमराज जी ने भी कुछ प्वाइन्ट्स रेज किये थे कि जो यूनिवर्सिटी आसाम में खुली है टी के सिलसिले में लोगों को पढ़ाने के लिए उस में जो एडमीशन बह लेते हैं उस के अन्दर हिमाचल प्रदेश या नार्थ बङ्गिया के लोगों को नहीं लेते हैं। यह प्वाइंट नोट कर लिया गया है और वह जो यूनिवर्सिटी एथारिटीज हैं उन को इसके बारे में जानकारी करा दी जायेगी कि यहां के लोगों को भी उस में एडमीशन दिया जाय ताकि यहाँ

की इंडस्ट्री में उन के द्वारा सहायता ली जा सके। इन सब बातों के अलावा श्री कौशिक जी ने एक बात टी कमेटी रिपोर्ट के बारे में कही थी। उसके बारे में मैं कहना चाहूंगा :

The Committee had recommended, amongst other things, that bought Leaf factories in the Nilgiri area should be grouped into a separate zone and charged excise duty applicable to Zone I. A bought leaf factory should be defined as one which purchased more than two-third of its green leaf from outside sellers during the year 1963-64 and in the year in which the duty is livied.

After considering this recommendation, the Government exempted bought leaf factories from payment of surcharge of 20 per cent excise duty which was imposed from 1st March 1963. This surcharge itself has, of course, been abolished from 1.10.1968.

जो एक प्वाइंट श्री भा साहब ने उठाया था कि इस बिल को अगले सत्र तक के लिए सर्कुलेट किया जाये उस बात के साथ मैं ऐसी नहीं करता हूँ और मैं आप से दरखास्त करूँगा कि इस को इसी सत्र में पास कर दिया जाय।

श्री कमि० मधुकर (केसरिया) : राष्ट्रीय-करण करने जा रहे हैं या नहीं, इस के बारे में बोलिए।

श्री चौधरी राम सेवक : नहीं अभी इसके बारे में सरकार का कोई विचार नहीं है।

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 31st January, 1970." (1)

The Lok Sabha divided :

Division No. 3] AYES [16 13 hrs.

Bhagaban Das, Shri
Bharati, Shri Maharaj Singh
Brij Bhushan Lal, Shri
Dass, Shri C.

Esthose, Shri P.P.
Jha, Shri Shiva Chandra
Kameshwar Singh, Shri
Limaye, Shri Madhu
Madhukar, Shri K.M.
Misra, Shri Srinibas
Molahu Prasad, Shri
Nambiar, Shri
Nayar, Dr. Sushila
Nihal Singh, Shri
Patel, Shri N.N.
Ram Subhag Singh, Dr.
Ray, Shri Rabi
Satya Narain Singh, Shri
Suraj Bhan, Shri
Vidyarathi, Shri Ram Swarup
Yadav, Shri Jageshwar
Yadav, Shri Ram Sewak

NOES

Ahirwar, Shri Nathu Ram
Aga, Shri Ahmad
Arumugam, Shri R. S.
Azad, Shri Bhagwat Jha
Barua, Shri Bedabrata
Barupal, Shri P. L.
Basumatari, Shri
Bhagat, Shri B.R.
Bhagavati, Shri
Bhandare, Shri R. D.
Bhanu Prakash Singh, Shri
Bohra, Shri Onkarlal
Bramhanandji, Shri Swami
Burman, Shri Kirit Bikram Deb
Buta Singh, Shri
Chanda, Shrimati Jyotsna
Chandrika Prasad, Shri
Chavan, Shri D. R.
Choudhary, Shri Valmikil
Dalbir Singh, Shri
Damanl, Shri S. R.
Deshmukh, Shri B. D.
Dixit, Shri G. C.
Dwivedi, Shri Nageshwar
Gandhi, Shrimati Indira
Ganga Devi, Shrimati
Gautam, Shri C. D.
Gavit, Shri Tukaram
Ghosh, Shri P. K.
Ghosh, Shri Parimal
Hem Raj, Shri
Iqbal Singh, Shri
Jadhav, Shri V. N.
Jamnn Lal, Shri
Khadilkar, Shri
Khan, Shri M. A.
Khan, Shri Zulfiquar Ali

Kinder Lal, Shri
 Kotoki, Shri Lladhar
 Kuchelar, Shri G.
 Kushok Bakula, Shri
 Lakshmikanthamma, Shrimati
 Lalit Sen, Shri
 Laskar, Shri N. R.
 Lobo Prabhu, Shri
 Mahadeva Prasad, Dr.
 Maharaj Singh, Shri
 Mahishi, Dr. Sarojini
 Mandal, Shri Yamuna Prasad
 Masuriya Din, Shri
 Mishra, Shri G. S.
 Mody, Shri Piloo
 Mulla, A. N.
 Muthusami, Shri C.
 Oraon, Shri Kartik
 Panigrahi, Shri Chintamani
 Patil, Shri C. A.
 Patil, Shri Deorao
 Patil, Shri S. D.
 Raghu Ramaiah, Shri
 Ram Dhan, Shri
 Ram Sewak, Shri Chowdhary
 Ram Swarup, Shri
 Rana, Shri M. B.
 Randhir Singh, Shri
 Rao, Shri K. Narayana
 Rao, Shri J. Ramapathi
 Rao, Dr. V. K. R. V.
 Raut, Shri Bhola
 Reddi, Shri G. S.
 Roy, Shri Bishwanath
 Roy, Shrimati Uma
 Saleem, Shri M. Y.
 Sankata Prasad, Dr.
 Sayeed, Shri P. M.
 Sen, Shri Dwaipayan
 Sethi, Shri P. C.
 Sethuraman, Shri N.
 Sezhiyan, Shri
 Shah, Shri Virendrakumar
 Shambhu Nath, Shri
 Shankaranand, Shri B.
 Shastri, Shri Biswanarayan
 Sheo Narain, Shri
 Sher Singh, Shri
 Shiv Charan Lal, Shri
 Shukla, Shri S. N.
 Siddayya, Shri
 Siddheshwar Prasad, Shri
 Singh, Shri D. V.

Snatak, Shri Nar Deo
 Surendra Pal Singh, Shri
 Swaran Singh, Shri
 Swell, Shri
 Tiwary, Shri D. N.
 Tula Ram, Shri
 Verma, Shri Balgovind
 Virbhadra Singh, Shri
 Viswanathan, Shri G.
 Vyas, Shri Ramesh Chandra
 Yadav, Shri Chandra Jeet

MR. CHAIRMAN : The result* of the division is :

Ayes : 22 ; Noes : 101.

The motion was negatived

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill further to amend the Tea Act, 1953, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House shall now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Clause 2—(Insertion of new section 26A.)

श्री क० मि० मधुकर : सभापति महोदय, मैं सूच करता हूँ कि—धारा 2 में पुराने कानून के 26 धारा में जहाँ नया संशोधन है उसके अन्त में यह लिखा जाय—

"चाय उद्योग के विकास, उस के लिये अपेक्षित अनुसंधान तथा वैज्ञानिक आधार पर आधुनिकीकरण एवं चाय उद्योग में लगे श्रमिकों को नियमित एवं आवश्यक सुविधाओं की उपलब्धि की प्राप्ति के लक्ष्य से" (4)

*The following Members also recorded their votes :

AYES : Shri Ranjeet Singh ;

NOES : Sarvashri Sadhu Ram, Naval Kishore Sharma, G. Venkataswamy, Narendra Singh Mahida and Dr. M. Santosham.

“अनुदान” शब्द हटाया जाय (धारा 3 में) (5)

SHRI DHIRESWAR KALITA : Sir, I move :

Page 1, line 8,—

omit “grants or” (6)

SHRI BISWANARAYAN SHASTRI : Sir, I move :

Page 1,—

after line 9, *insert*—

“Provided that in no case the grant shall exceed twenty-five per cent. of the total amount of loan”. (7)

SHRI LOBO PRABHU : Sir, I move :

Page 1, line 7, -

omit “by law in this behalf” (9)

Page 1, lines 8 and 9,—

for “such sums of money as the Central Government may consider necessary”

substitute—

“Including rescheduling of plantation loans.” (10)

श्री क० मि० मधुकर (केसरिया) : सभा-पति महोदय, मैं इस बिल को इस लिये कबूल नहीं करना हूँ क्योंकि सरकार इस बिल के जरिये जो विदेशी इजारेदार हैं, उन्हें सहायता देने का प्रयत्न कर रही है। इस सम्बन्ध में जितने लोग यहां पर बोले हैं उन सभी ने यही कहा है कि ऐसे लोगों को जो विदेशी इजारेदार हैं, उन को प्रश्रय नहीं मिलना चाहिये। यह सरकार बार-बार समाजवाद का एलान करती है, लेकिन यह बड़े दुख की बात है तथा हमारे राष्ट्रीय स्वाभिमान के विरुद्ध भी है, कि जो विदेशी कम्पनियां इस उद्योग में काम कर रही हैं, उन को इस सरकार की तरफ से हर तरह

की छूट मिलती जा रही है। ये कम्पनियां हिन्दुस्तान का करोड़ों रुपया देश से बाहर भेज रही हैं, जिस से हिन्दुस्तान का बहुत नुकसान हो रहा है, लेकिन फिर भी यह सरकार उन को हर तरह की सुविधा देना चाहती है। आप की इस नीति से देश में इजारेदारी बढ़ी है तथा इस बिल के यहां लाने से आपका समाजवाद का जो उद्देश्य है वह किसी भी तरह से पूरा नहीं होता है। इससे बड़े बड़े लोगों को ही फायदा पहुंचेगा। इसीलिये मैंने यह संशोधन यहां पर प्रस्तुत किया है कि जो ऐसे बड़े बड़े उद्योगपति हैं, जो इस चाय उद्योग में लगे हुए हैं, चाहे देसी हो या विदेशी, उन को ग्रान्ट देने की बात नहीं होनी चाहिये क्योंकि इससे चाय उद्योग के विकास में कोई लाभ नहीं पहुंचेगा। हमारी मांग तो यही है कि आप इस चाय उद्योग का राष्ट्रीय-करण कीजिये और इस के विकास में पैसा लगाइये। लेकिन आप तो इन पूंजीपतियों की, और ज्यादा सहायता करने जा रहे हैं, राष्ट्रीयकरण करने नहीं जा रहे हैं। अगर इस बिल में छोटे उद्योगपतियों को जो चाय उद्योग में लगे हुए हैं, सहायता देने की बात होती तो वह सम्भन्ने की बात हो सकती थी, लेकिन इस में ऐसा कोई प्रावधान नहीं है।

16.16 hrs.

[SHRI PRAKASH VIR SHASTRI *in the Chair*]

आज जानते हैं कि पिछले दिनों इस चाय उद्योग में लगे हुए मजदूर लोगों ने हड़ताल की थी और उस समय उन्होंने जो मांगें रखी थी, उन पर सरकार ने कोई ध्यान नहीं दिया। मंत्री महोदय ने कहा है कि चाय उद्योग के कर्मचारियों को, सैन्ट्रल गवर्नमेंट के कर्मचारियों को जो तनख्वाह मिलनी है, वह दिलवा रहे हैं, लेकिन वास्तविकता यह है कि ऐसा नहीं हो रहा है, इस तरफ सरकार का ध्यान जाना चाहिये।

इसलिये जो बिल आज इस समय लाये हैं,

श्री शिव चन्द्र भा जी ने ठीक कहा है, उस की बजाय आप यहां पर एक कम्प्रीहेन्सिव बिल लाते, जिसमें चाय उद्योग के सिलसिले में अनुसन्धान, मार्केट डेवलपमेन्ट, हिन्दुस्तानी चाय के प्रचार आदि के सम्बन्ध में प्रावधान होता, तब हम इस बिल का समर्थन करते, लेकिन जो बिल आप लाये हैं उस में तो केवल बड़े लोगों की सहायता की ही बात है, चाहे वे देश के हों या विदेश के हों। देश के स्वाभिमान को दृष्टि में रखते हुए तथा देश की आजादी को मजबूत करने के लिये विदेशी कम्पनियों का राष्ट्रीयकरण जरूरी है, लेकिन इसके साथ ही छोटे लोगों को सहायता देना भी जरूरी है। इसलिये मैंने इसमें कहा है कि ग्रान्ट देना हो तो छोटे लोगों को दीजिये, बड़े लोगों को ग्रान्ट मत दीजिये। इसमें मजदूरों की भलाई की बात हो, समाजवाद की बात हो, राष्ट्रीयकरण की बात हो, उससे बड़े उद्योगपतियों को चोट पड़ेगी। इन शब्दों के साथ मैं अपने संशोधन को मूव करता हूँ।

SHRI DHIRESWAR KALITA (Gauhati) : I wish to emphasize that regarding giving grant, it should be selective. Here in this Bill no qualifications have been made for giving grants. The Government can give grant either to foreigners or to Indian tea garden owners, weak or small. I have no grudge to giving loans to tea garden owners where they are really in difficulties or for replantation or for extension of tea bushes. But why do you give grants? What for are grants given? Can you convince us?

I do not want to make a lengthy speech on this matter. On what conditions is the Government going to give grants from the exchequer either to monopoly interests or weak or small tea garden owners without any qualification? Here I object. I have given my amendment and I hope the Government will accept it.

SHRI BISHWANARAYAN SHASTRI (Lakhimpur) : I have already moved my

amendment No. 7 which reads :

Page 1,

after line 9; insert

“Provided that in no case the grant shall exceed twenty-five per cent of the total amount of loan.”

It has been provided that Central Government may pay grant and loan to the Tea Board for replantation to the tea garden owners. There is no limit how much grant or how much loan will be paid. It will depend upon the negotiation between the Tea Board officials and the officials of the Ministry of Finance, Government of India. It may so happen that the grant may exceed the amount of loan. That will be a sad affair. Therefore there must be some regulation, some qualifying clause so that in no case grant will exceed the amount of loan. It has been stated in the Bill that in the previous 2 years certain amounts have been paid as grant and loan, as for instance during “1968-69 a provision of Rs. 130 lakhs was made for granting loans and a provision of Rs. 5.75 lakhs for granting subsidy under the replantation subsidy scheme, which have been accepted. In 1969-70 the provision accepted for granting loans and subsidies are respectively Rs. 116 lakhs and Rs. 43.60 lakhs”. From these statements it appears that the amount of grant has been increased from the previous year. Who knows that this grant will not multiply in the year 1970-71? Therefore, my amendment is that whatever amount the central Government may pay to the Central Tea Board, that amount in the shape of grant will not exceed the total amount of loan to the extent of 25 per cent. I hope the Minister will accept this proposal. This is a healthy proposal and I hope he will accept it. With these words I move my amendment.

SHRI LOBO PRABHU (Udipi) : The purpose of my amendment is to encourage the development of good tea which is necessary for the promotion of our exports. The position has been this, that our export has been shrinking. We have been caught up by Ceylon—a very small country—which is now exporting more than what we do. Our export has also become uneconomic; the Minister mentioned it. From last year's

Rs. 7.65 per kilogram it fell to Rs. 6.58—a fall of something like 15 per cent. More than all that we are facing the position that there is over-production of tea in the world. Tea in Kenya for instance is so abundant that it can easily catch up and fill up any gap that arises from our failure to improve the quality. We depend upon quality for our world market. We have got many headaches. Our tea is very highly taxed. On sale price of Rs. 5, the tax is calculated to be nearly Rs. 2. Compared with the figure of 0.06% in Kenya, our tea is subject to very heavy labour charges. Since 1960 our charges have gone up by 38%. Today, I find, our tea is very much mixed up with quality people take tea with milk and sugar; but our friends here want us to take tea with as much of socialism and as much of communism as they can inject. We are concerned with whether the tea can be grown by small people or big people. We are concerned with producing good tea in as large a quantity as possible. To produce good tea does not also require Indianisation. The Minister has already met the argument about Indianisation which is rather a facile and foolish argument, because Indianisation simply means repatriation of foreign exchange which we will have to pay these people. Where have we got the foreign exchange? We have got no foreign exchange today and we are compelled to go in for SDRs. So this amount of about Rs. 100 crores in foreign exchange which we get through the connections these foreign firms have cannot be sacrificed for an ideology that we must have tea which is black and not white. I think this is a very foolish notion, not a notion which is doing any good to the country.

There is also the other proposal that tea must go in packets and not in bulk. It is a very good idea. But can we do it? Can we force it on people outside; as Shri Jyotirmoy Basu and Shri S.C. Jha would say, and say 'This is our tea and should be called Indian tea'? This is a thing we cannot impose.

SHRI DHIRESWAR KALITA : Why not?

SHRI LOBO PRABHU : What about the consumer's preference? One can try it. That is a different thing. But it is the

consumer who is sovereign. We have to take that into account.

We have to give loans and grants. There is no doubt the limits of amounts have been specified. We have to give loans and grants to the Tea Board in order that they may be able to help the tea estates to replant and produce better quality tea. Our tea bushes are 50 years old and therefore do not have half the quality of tea they should possess. I do agree with the last speaker that the amount of grant should be restricted. I should say there should be no limit to loans and grants which are demanded because only then can we put it in its proper place.

Coming precisely to my amendments, they are technical in nature. Here they have added the words 'by law in this behalf' after 'due appropriation made by Parliament'. This is not the mistake of the Ministry. This is a formula which has been used even in other Bills. So far they have been making grants and loans even without appropriation, now we are going to have a law in this behalf. The Minister has to consider or ask the Law Ministry to consider whether every time they make a grant, they want a law in this behalf. This is a wrong formula. It is time the Ministry insisted on talking simply and saying that 'we will make an appropriation without having a law in this behalf'.

The second amendment relates to rescheduling of loans. It is not clear that in grants and loans previous debts are included. It is not known to the House, but it is known to the planters for whom the shoe pinches that there is a vast amount of debt already hanging on the tea estates which has been issued to them in the past. I would like the Minister either to add this 'including rescheduling of debts' or give an assurance that loans and grants which are being given will be used in respect of rescheduling also. Unless you reschedule these debts under the present hard circumstances of the tea industry and tea growing, you will have a very bad situation; you will lose your place, whatever that place is, and the tea industry, instead of catching up, as it should, instead of reaching a place of eminence in regard to the quality thereof, will go down.

So I hope the Minister will have understood the spirit and meaning of my amendment which is that wherever there is a debt already pending; treat it either specifically as rescheduling by accepting my amendment, or issue a clarification or give an assurance that a grant or loan can cover old debts also.

श्री राम सेवक : सर्वश्री मधुकर, कालिता तथा विश्व नारायण शास्त्री जी ने दोबारा टी इन्डस्ट्री के राष्ट्रीयकरण की बात कही है। इस के लिए अक्टूबर, 1968 में ही राष्ट्रीयकरण के सिलसिले में, गवर्नमेंट का जो रवैया रहा है या गवर्नमेंट की जो भावना रही है वह समय समय पर सदन को और सदन के बाहर भी बताई गई है। इस सिलसिले में मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि उनका जो अमेंडमेंट है उससे मैं एग्री नहीं करता हूँ। जहाँ तक मिस्टर कालिता जी का प्रश्न है उसके बारे में सिर्फ इतना ही कहूँगा कि यह जो ग्रान्ट दी जा रही है वह टी इन्डस्ट्री के लिए दी जा रही है। जो प्लांटेशन आज करेंगे उससे छह या सात साल तक कोई रिटर्न मिलने की नहीं। इसलिए जो भी प्लांट है वह यह नहीं चाहेगा कि सात साल तक उसको नुकसान हो। लिहाजा यह प्राविजन किया गया है कि यह ग्रान्ट 35 सौ या 45 सौ की मैदानी और पहाड़ी इलाके में दी जाए। इसलिए उनको जो अमेंडमेंट है, उससे मैं एग्री नहीं करता।

जहाँ तक श्री लोबो प्रभु जी के अमेंडमेंट का प्रश्न है—

He has proposed that the words "by law in this behalf" may be omitted in clause 2 of the Bill. He has also proposed that in clause 2 of the Bill for the words "such sums of money as the Central Government may consider necessary", the following words "Including rescheduling of plantation loans" may be substituted. The proposed new Section 26A of the Tea Act reads as under :

The Central Government may, after due appropriation made by Parliament by law in this behalf, pay to the

Board by way of grants or loans such sums of money as the Central Government may consider necessary."

Any grants or loans can be paid by the Central Government after due appropriation made by Parliament, and this can only be done by an Act of Parliament. It is, therefore, necessary that the words "by law in this behalf" should be included in this Clause. The amendment cannot, therefore, be accepted.

As regards the second amendment of Shri Lobo Prabhu, the provisions after the proposed new section 26A of the Act give powers to Government to pay to the Tea Board grants or loans and are wide enough to include rescheduling of plantation loans. It is, therefore, considered not necessary to accept the amendment. Regarding Shri Biswanarayan Shastri's amendment also, it is not acceptable to the Government.

सभापति महोदय : अब मैं क्लॉज 2 पर रखे गये सभी संशोधन संख्या 4, 5, 6, 7, 9 और 10 को सदन के मत के लिए रखता हूँ।

Amendments Nos. 4 to 7, 9 and 10 were put and negatived.

सभापति महोदय : प्रश्न यह है कि क्लॉज 2 इस विधेयक का अंग बने।

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

सभापति महोदय : प्रश्न यह है कि क्लॉज 3, 4, 1 एनेक्टिंग फारमूला और लांग टाइटल इस विधेयक के अंग बने।

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 3, 4, 1, the Enacting Formula and the title were added to the Bill.

SHRI RAM SEWAK : I beg to move :

"That the Bill be passed."

सभापति महोदय : प्रश्न यह है कि विधेयक को पारित किया जाये।

The motion was adopted.