

Shri S. S. Kothari: Sir, I did not speak in the general discussion because I thought I could speak on clause 2 when the Bill is taken up clause by clause.

Mr. Speaker: No, no. I am putting all the amendments together.

*Amendments Nos. 3, 4, 5, 7, and 8 were put and negatived.*

Mr. Speaker: I sha'll now put all the clauses together. The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 5 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clauses 2 to 5 were added to the Bill.*

*Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.*

Shri Morarji Desai: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

*The motion was adopted.*

16.17 hrs.

#### ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES (AM- ENDMENT) BILL

Mr. Speaker: The House will now take up the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill. Let me remind hon. Members that after this there is a half-an-hour discussion also.

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Dinesh Singh): Sir, let me also point out that after it is passed here the Bill has to go to Rajya Sabha.

Sir, I beg to move that:

"That Bill further to amend the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and to continue for a further period the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 1964, be taken into consideration."

The Bill itself is a short one: It seeks to replace Ordinance No. 13 of 1966 promulgated by the President on December 23, 1966.

As I informed the House on Tuesday while speaking in response to a Call Attention Notice, it is with great reluctance that I seek from this hon. House the continuance of special powers for dealing with the kind of situation which faces the cotton textile industry and which has naturally caused so much concern to the hon. Members. I do so because I am unable, at any rate, for the present, to see any other way of safeguarding the interests of the millions of our citizens who are affected in one way or another by the difficulties which face this important industry.

I do not propose to take up the time of the House in going over the ground which was covered on Tuesday last. I had the opportunity then to place before the House the facts and figures in regard to the industry and the difficulty which it currently faces. Briefly put, the demand for cotton cloth and yarn has been increasing slowly but steadily. The industry has expanded its productive capacity, both in the organised and in the de-centralised sector, to meet this demand. The production of raw cotton has also broadly kept pace with the rising requirement of the industry for it. But the partial failure of the cotton crop for two successive seasons, in 1965-66 and in 1966-67, has unfortunately made it extremely difficult for the industry to use fully its industrial capacity to meet the country's requirements for cloth. The problems arising out of the shortfall in output in 1965-66 were surmounted without too much difficulty. But the 1966-67 season opened with a depleted carry-over. If the 1966-67 crop had been normal, it would not have been too difficult to ensure smooth operation during the current year. But the weather conditions in this year too were unfavourable with the result that it is feared

that there may not be enough cotton to sustain full working of all the industrial undertakings engaged in the production of cloth throughout the year.

16.19 hrs.

[SRI G. S. DILLON in the Chair]

We have tried to meet the gap by augmenting imports of cotton from abroad. We expect we would have imported a little over 800,000 bales of cotton for being used by the mills during the current season. The House will recall that in the previous year only 527,000 bales had been imported. I am trying to see whether we cannot import a still larger quantity. The cotton situation in the rest of the world is by no means easy and the House is aware of the difficulties we face in raising foreign exchange.

Apart from imports, the supply situation can be improved if raw cotton moves in an orderly manner from producing to consuming areas at appropriate ceiling prices and if available stocks are equitably distributed to all the industrial undertakings engaged in converting it. The House is aware of the measures which have been initiated to achieve this end. These measures, I would like to assure the House would be pressed with determination and with vigour. We owe it to the consumers of cloth and to the labour employed in the industry that the uninterrupted supply of raw cotton is maintained in the coming months at an optimum level.

It has been suggested in some quarters that this objective will be better achieved if controls over cotton and cloth are withdrawn. It has been argued that decontrol would allow economic forces to force an adjustment of demand and supply. May I Sir, ask of those who put forward this argument: what is the cost of this adjustment? Surely, decontrol would push up prices of cotton; weaker mills which are unable to buy cotton at high prices would close down; cloth

prices will rise, and those who are unable to buy cloth at high prices will not be able to meet their requirement of this essential material. Economic forces will of course bring about an adjustment between demand and supply. But in the process some industrial undertakings will be shut down, labour employed in these undertakings will be deprived of their livelihood; and consumers will either be unable to satisfy their requirements or be obliged to pay prices higher than they need pay.

We have considered this matter carefully and we have come to the conclusion that we would prefer to bring out an adjustment between demand and supply through the kind of measures contemplated in the Bill before the House. The Bill, as you know, would enable us to conserve the supply of cotton and make it possible to spread sacrifices equitably over different sections and help to safeguard the interests of the weaker sections of the industry, the labour and population.

I am deeply conscious of the losses to the economy in consequence of compulsory curtailment of machine activity. The country loses production, the industry loses profits; labour suffers loss of half a day's wage; despite the compensation which is being provided, and it becomes difficult to restrain price rise. I am, therefore, prepared to run some risk in an effort to minimise these losses. I hope my friend Shri Umanath will be happy to know that consequently it has been decided that for the time being compulsory closure will be restricted to one additional day in every alternate week, instead of in each week, as is the case at present.

Shri Umanath (Pudukkottai): Still it does not satisfy my demand.

Shri Dinesh Singh: I am glad that it has partially satisfied him.

This modification will reduce by half the savings which it has been

[Shri Denesh Singh]

possible to achieve over the last four months in the consumption of raw cotton. The response of the market to the measures recently initiated to procure cotton compulsorily at appropriate ceiling prices for supply to needy mills encourages me to hope that the additional quantities required to keep all mills going on the modified basis will be forthcoming. Should, for any reason, this hope be belied, Government would feel compelled to re-intensify the curb on machine activity. I propose to keep myself in constant touch with all interests concerned and to use the powers which are being sought from the House to the best possible advantage of the community as a whole.

The House is aware of the increases which have taken place in the cost of production of cotton textiles. The whole cost of the increase consequent on the rise in the price of cotton, the increase in dearness allowances and the losses arising out of compulsory closures from December onwards, has so far been borne largely by the industry. The revision of prices for controlled cloth, I realise, is now overdue. In making this revision, however, Government must bear the interest of consumers in mind. It will not, therefore, be possible to provide in the revised prices for the full increase in cost of production. We are examining the figures and we hope to be able to announce a decision which assures to the best of our judgement a fair deal to industry and also to the consumers of its products.

**Shri Sonavane (Pandharpur):** Not to the producer?

**Shri Dinesh Singh:** The producer has already sold most of his stocks, as the hon. Member knows.

I would appeal to the growers to help in maintaining optimum production in industry by voluntarily offering to sell the stocks they hold and to prepare from now on to increase the yield of cotton per acre. It is only

in this way that cotton farmers, in the years to come, can secure a better return for their labours and at the same time contribute to the health of this important industry. The Union Government and the State Governments are giving finishing touches to their plans and will stand ready to provide all help which the farmer may need to achieve this end.

There are many chronic problems which face the cotton textiles industry. I am studying them with a view to seeking structural remedies. I am thinking of having these problems and their solutions studied by a special committee. But, meanwhile, for the duration of the current difficulties, I would wish to see that further additions to the spindleage in the country are postponed.

I trust the House will be convinced that continuing difficulties make it necessary for Government to continue the special powers conferred by Ordinance No. 13 of 1966 to make orders for securing smooth operation of industrial undertakings engaged in the production of manufacture of an essential commodity in which such smooth operation is threatened by inadequacies of supplies of raw materials. I would like to emphasise that these powers are sought to be continued only for a period of one year in the hope that when the next crop comes into the market, it will no longer be necessary for us to continue these extraordinary measures. I would like to repeat the assurance that even during this period Government would keep the restrictions under review and relax or dispense with them as and when the supply situation improves.

I am aware that all is not well with many units of this old established industry. There are some units which in the course of years have been substantially modernised and have achieved a high level of efficiency. There are a number of others which, though not quite so efficient or profit-

able, are still economically viable. But there still remain some more which, because of the age of their plant and machinery, bad location, little or no reserves, heavy financial liabilities, or poor management, are on the verge of extinction in purely economic terms. In a year when demand is high and cotton is available fairly cheaply, they somehow survive; in other years, because of their low efficiency, they cannot afford to bear higher prices of cotton or other raw materials, pay better wages, and yet market their product in competition with the more efficient units of this industry. They are faced with closure, some actually close down. Wherever practicable, having regard to the economic viability as well as basic security for the investment of public funds, Governments, either at the Centre or in the States, step in and try to get them re-started. But, as the House would realise, this is not the real solution. It has been our experience that in many cases, because of the factors already mentioned, the mills are so totally uneconomic or their liabilities so greatly exceed their assets, that any injection of public funds to resurrect them would be a highly hazardous and totally unjustified venture.

Thus, the position is highly unsatisfactory. I am aware of it and I am seriously concerned about it. I have, therefore, already initiated action for a comprehensive review of our entire policy in regard to such mills. We cannot follow a policy of indiscriminate, temporary take-over. This might only encourage other owners/managements to deliberately withdraw the maximum amount of their own funds from such enterprises on one pretext or the other in the hope that Government will come to their rescue. This will obviously be a wrong policy to follow. To my mind, a better alternative might be first to acquire a controlling interest in these relatively uneconomic units and only then invest public funds for their betterment. If this were to be done the benefit of such investment would accrue, not to the original shareholders, their credi-

tors or managements installed by them, but to the State which comes to their rescue. This idea of mine will, however, need very careful examination. It is likely to involve changes in the legal structure. Therefore, what I can say at this stage is that it shall be my endeavour to pursue this proposal as speedily as possible so that this very serious problem can be resolved in a more satisfactory manner and on a long-term basis.

One more word, Sir. While presenting this Bill opportunity has also been taken to provide for the continuance of the powers conferred by Act 47 of 1964. The power of summary trial for certain offences such as hoarding and profiteering, bribery and corruption, had been given only up to 31st December, 1968. We are seeking to have this power extended up to 31st December, 1967.

I do not think I need dwell on this particular clause at any length. All sections of the House would readily agree that the process of bringing hoarders and profiteers to book should be speedy and the situation in the country is such that powers which were given by Act Act 47 of 1964 need to be continued for a further period of one year.

With these words, Sir. I move that the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 1967, be taken into consideration.

Mr. Chairman: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, and to continue for a further period the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 1964, be taken into consideration."

There are a number of amendments.

Shri Tenneti Viswanatham (Visakhapatnam): I want a clarification on two points before we go to amendments.

**Mr. Chairman:** He may resume his seat. I would like to take the sense of the House as to how much of time they would like to allot for this Bill.

**Shri Umanath:** Four hours.

**श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय (उज्जैन) :** यह इतने महत्व का विषय है देश के अन्दर बहुत से कारखाने बंद हो रहे हैं इसलिए सब को मौका मिलना चाहिए । 4 घंटे इस पर डिस्कशन होना चाहिए ।

**The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Communications (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh):** 30, 35 मिनट में पास हो जाना चाहिये क्योंकि This Bill has also to be sent to Rajya Sabha. Therefore, I would very respectfully request the House that this Bill be passed by 5 or 5.15.

**Shri Umanath:** No, no.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur):** No. no.

**Shri M. R. Masani (Rajkot):** This is a very important Bill. Two hours may be given.

**Shri Umanath:** Already three hours have been allotted for this Bill.

**Mr. Chairman:** We have an half-an-hour discussion today at 6.30 P.M. There are only two hours. Today is the last day of this session. I think, the Bill should be passed. It has also to go to the Rajya Sabha. Two hours are more than enough.

**श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय :** सभापति महोदय, यह बड़े महत्व का सवाल है और 4 घंटे से कम नहीं होना चाहिए । इसे 4 घंटे चलाइये यह बड़े महत्व का विषय है । हम लोग 8 बजे तक बैठने को तैयार हैं और इसे वहां पर पाम कर के ब्राज ही भेज भी देंगे ।

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** This session was coming to an end on the 7th itself. We extended it till today only on a request that this Bill may not be hustled through.

**Shri Umanath:** Yes, yes.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** We really wanted the whole day for it, i.e., five hours. This is a very important Bill. More than five lakhs of textile workers are involved. We could sit late one more hour today. I am all for it. Let us have at least three hours. Please do not curtail the three hours' time.

**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** He can sit, but it has to be sent to the other House by 6.00 at the latest.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** We were expecting to have at least three hours.

**श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय :** राज्य सभा सोमवार को भी है हम ब्राज यहाँ पास कर देंगे सोमवार को यह वहाँ चला जायगा ।

**डॉ० राम सुभग सिंह :** सोमवार को कैसे जायगा ? इसे ब्राज ही भेजना है ।

**Mr. Chairman:** There is no unanimity over this. The Treasury Benches have not agreed to this. I think, the time limit upto 6.00 is alright.

**Shri M. R. Masani:** Upto 6:30.

**Mr. Chairman:** All right.

**M.: Somani.**

**Shri N. K. Somani (Nagpur):** I am very glad that you have found it possible to give two hours to this important aspect of the textile industry because in certain sections of our House as well as elsewhere, a lot has been sought to be made that the entire textile industry is in doldrums and that the only reason for that—because we are in difficulties in the matter of running the textile industry—should be squarely laid on the management and the industrialists. I would like to put certain viewpoints on behalf of the management and the entire textile

industry. Before commenting on that, I would like to make a general comment that, in the political life of our country, we only learn management by crisis. Whenever a deep situation arises due to a number of factors spread over successive years, then only we become aware of the gravity of the situation and until then, the cancer spreads, just as the symptoms of cancer are ignored over the whole world by millions of people till the patient finds himself completely involved in such a cancerous situation that a remedy is not possible.

I would like to submit respectfully to this House that the textile industry as well as the other industries, both in the public and in the private sectors, are here to stay, not only to cater to Indian customers and Indian clients; but we have to take our respectful and rightful place in the world markets and in the exports which the country so direly needs.

It is a matter of commonsense and general knowledge that in a battlefield, the combative strength, of ours, the weaponry, the technique, and the leadership that are required by us should at least be equal to those of the enemy, if not superior. Then only we can hold on our own and we could make an impression and we could make advancements.

Here, on the one side, you see that we are expected to increase our exports in the world market. We see that we are asked to improve our performance as far as exports are concerned, be it the textile industry or the paper industry or the engineering industry. For this, we should have the wherewithal, the prerequisites, the essentials, the tools and techniques, the atmosphere in which the industry has to perform and not strangulating rules and regulations. We have all the time to be aware of the situations and of the conditions and of the price structure in the world markets, not only of those that are operating here but in the USA, the UK, the USSR and elsewhere. After

the continuous lack of these things, if the policies of our Government still continue to be indifferent to the industry, then, of course, once and for all, we should be told that we are catering essentially to the Indian public, disregarding the cost structure, disregarding the quality and disregarding whatever other jobs we have to do, and we have nothing to do with exports. I would, therefore, like to plead for a long-term policy of encouragement. We should not think of today's exports or of today's labour situation or of financing it for today only. We do not live from day to day. We have to think of 20 years or 25 years or 30 years or 50 years. At every point of time we should not only compare our cost structure, we should not only compare our technological advancement, we should not only compare and equip ourselves with all these things, but we should at least be on a par with the world producing centres; otherwise, we should not be expected to export.

Against this background, for a moment, let us please consider what the textile industry has been subjected to since Independence and even before that. I would like to remind the Commerce Minister that there was a serious move immediately after the Second World War by the textile industry in India to rejuvenate itself, to modernise itself, to rationalise itself and to completely change the old and ancient and antiquated equipment that we had. At that time, a lot of plea was made that that was not the time to rationalise the textile industry that was not the time to improve the productivity or the performance of the textile industry, because it was going to affect directly the employment situation which was serious at that time, and which continues to be serious even now. If at that time, mills were not allowed to change, if at that time we were not allowed to be equivalent to our counterparts in the world, how are we expected, especially after a series of controls, the series of such strangulating policies, and factors that have come into being as have made

[Shri N. K. Somani]

it nearly impossible for a large majority of the textile mills in this country, to operate efficiently and economically? There have been efforts and there have been moves to give a dog a bad name and try to hang it.

As far as I am concerned, I would say that we are interested in national interest, not only in increasing the production and productivity from the textile industry but in increasing the production and productivity of the entire industry. As the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance has said, and as the other leadership of our country has said on several occasions outside and in the House, what the country needs today is more production; it needs more efficiency; it needs more hard work on the part of industry, on the part of labour and on the part of everyone concerned.

I would, therefore, briefly go through the background of what we have been subjected to. You know, Sir, that cotton forms 50 per cent of the price of cloth in any given production and at least 65 per cent of the cost of yarn. Now if succeeding due to scarcity conditions and neglect of the growth of cotton both in its output and in its per acre yield and quality, cotton has not been made available and imports have been very scanty, we certainly cannot blame the textile industry in not being able to operate within the ceilings which are both out of date and inadequate.

I would like to submit that only 40 per cent of cloth is subject to price control and the costs that have risen are completely out of proportion to the price rise. Therefore, we would have to think not only of some long-term remedies but also of short-term remedies because of the crisis that has overtaken us. Cotton growth has not kept pace with the increase in the spindleage, with the increase in the looms that has taken place in the country. Therefore, we are faced with this situation. Scientific methods of culti-

vation have not been given due prominence.

I would respectfully submit that not only should the cotton textile mills be encouraged to go into production of this agricultural commodity by giving them special incentives, but they should be able to bank upon the technological advances that have been made. I thus have demonstrated that special quality cotton can be grown in this country. I do not know why it is impossible for us to raise our per acre yield. I do not know why it is impossible for us until now to improve the quality of cotton grown. I do not know why we have not been able to boost up and have adequate supplies of cotton within our own country.

After all, the textile industry has been given a second-rate position. It should not definitely be treated with so much disregard because it is not only the largest and the oldest of our industries but it yields crores of rupees of excise duty and also earns a colossal amount of foreign exchange. Therefore, this industry should have a claim on the revenues derived from it. I know that if there are any surpluses, they should be utilised for investment in other projects. But the primary task of improving the textile industry, the primary task of being able to renovate it based on its own foreign exchange earnings should also be kept in view.

Take, for example, the wage position. The dearness allowance in Bombay used to be Rs. 89 in 1960. Today it is Rs. 160. The dearness allowance in Ahmedabad used to be Rs. 88 in 1960; in 1967 it is more than Rs. 181. Consider the rise in Kanpur in the matter of D. A. Whereas it used to be Rs. 60 in 1960, it is Rs. 127 this year.

Compare the cost of cotton, the cost of power, the cost of replacement, the cost of capital. Are we in one stroke to under-write the consumer in respect of all these costs without a commensurate increase in the selling prices of cloth?

I would like to bring another vital factor to the House's attention. All foreign Governments, whether American, British, European or German, are taking vigorous steps over the last ten years—because the cotton textile industry is passing through a series of crisis not only here but in all other countries—to modernise and renovate the industry, allowing the completely out of date and antiquated units to die down, allowing them to rationalise by means of tax concessions, tariff barriers and other encouragement so that the textiles produced in those countries do not suffer. On the other side, we in this country only come to expect the textile industry to keep on increasing its exports disregarding the cost structure, ignoring the conditions under which they have to operate, overlooking all these attitudes of the Government.

I would like to make one or two suggestions for the serious consideration of the hon. Minister. This is an unfortunate pity that at the moment our house is divided. The cotton trader, the industry, Government and the public are not on talking terms, as far as the textile industry is concerned, which is a very bad sign, and the first thing that the hon. Minister can very usefully do, and very gainfully do, is to put all these warring factions together, because, after all, the interests of the cotton grower are not something which are against the textile industry, and the interests of the textile industry are not something which are against the nation. Therefore, not only to investigate but also to come to long-term suggestions which are acceptable to all people concerned, should be the first step as far as I am concerned.

The question under discussion is about cotton requisition and closure of mills for a day per fortnight. I would like to submit that we should not treat all cotton textile mills with the same policy. In this country, as the hon. Minister has just now pointed out, we have very highly modern, efficient and export-oriented mills; we

have mills that should better be shut because they are completely out of date; we have mills whose economy is on the border line, which, if given the requisite dose in time, can certainly spring back to life. Certainly you do not want to mete out treatment or justice with one blind figure. I would, therefore, respectfully submit before concluding that those mills which are exporting, those mills which are highly efficient should not be allowed to close; we should increase this closure as far as the old and antiquated mills are concerned, and this should certainly be done.

श्री कंधर लाल मुक्त (दिल्ली सदर) :  
सभापति महोदय, जो बिल सदन के सामने रखा गया है, मैं उसका स्वागत करता हूँ क्योंकि कुछ भावा में क्यों न हो, इस बिल से मजदूरों को राहत मिलेगी और जो कठिनाई कपास के मिलने में है उसमें कुछ मदद मिलेगी। एक दृष्टिकोण अभी मुझ से पूर्व बकता ने आप के सामने रखा। जो हमारा ऐसेम्बल कमोडिटीज ऐक्ट है उस के पढ़ने के बाद, और मेरा ब्याल है कि पिछले ग्यारह या बारह वर्ष से यह हमारे देश पर लागू है मैं समझता हूँ कि इस में कुछ और तरकीबें होनी चाहियें थी इन्हें का अनुभव करने के बाद मालूम हुआ कि इसमें कुछ चीजें ऐसी हैं जिनकी जरूरत नहीं है और कुछ चीजें ऐसी हैं जिनको और ज्यादा होना चाहिये।

एक तरह से यह बिल इन्कम्प्लीट है और केवल एक ही समस्या को ले कर इस सदन के सामने आया है। जो ऐसेम्बल कमोडिटीज ऐक्ट है वह जम्मू और काश्मीर पर लागू नहीं होता। मैं समझता हूँ कि इस को जम्मू और काश्मीर पर भी लागू होना चाहिये, क्योंकि वहाँ के लोग भी हमारे देश के हिस्से हैं और उन लोगों को भी तस्से दामों पर अच्छी चीज हमेशा मिलती रहनी चाहिये, जो कि इस ऐक्ट का उद्देश्य है। मैं अपने मंत्री महोदय से कहूँगा कि वह इस पर विचार करें, जब इस में कुछ अमेंडमेंट आयें, कि यह बिल जम्मू और काश्मीर पर भी लागू होना चाहिये।



[श्री कंबर लाल गुप्त]

जैसा मैंने बतलाया, इस बिल का उद्देश्य सप्लाइज, डिस्ट्रिब्यूशन और कीमतों को रेगुलेट करना है, लेकिन अगर व्यवहार में देखा जाये तो मैं समझता हूँ कि यह अपने उद्देश्य में पूरा नहीं उतरता है। लोग तो यह समझते हैं कि सरकार अपनी कीमतें तय करती है और हर एक चीज हमें सस्ती मिलेगी, अच्छी मिलेगी और समय पर मिलेगी। लेकिन अनुभव कुछ दूसरा ही है। जो चीजें सरकार ने अपने कंट्रोल में ली हैं, जो कि एसेन्शियल कमोडिटीज हैं, जैसे शूगर है, इम्पोर्टेड व्हीट है, राइस है, डालदा है या कपड़ा है, उन की कीमतें जितनी बढ़नी चाहिये थी शायद उस से कई गुनी ज्यादा बढ़ी हैं। इस का एक कारण है कि जो इंडस्ट्रीज हैं उन को कंट्रोल करने वाली वह भारंगनाइज्ड हैं, उन के पास पैसा बहुत है, उन के पब्लिक रिलेशन्स हैं। उन के मुकाबले में जो हमारा ऐग्రిकल्चर है, ग्राम मानेंगे कि वह इनएफिशिएन्ट है, उस में रेड टेपिज्म है और करप्शन है। जिस ऐग्निस्ट्रेशन में इनएफिशिएन्सी, रेड टेपिज्म, करप्शन जैसी चीजें हैं उस ऐग्निस्ट्रेशन को ग्राम जितनी भी कंट्रोल करेते की पावर्स दें, वह उन को कंट्रोल नहीं कर पायेगा। नतीजा यह होगा कि जो वैस्टिड इंटिरेस्ट्स हैं जो बड़े-बड़े लोग हैं उनको वे किसी न किसी तरीके से प्रभावित करके अपना काम करवा लेंगे। इस तरह से लोगों को सस्ता भनाज नहीं मिलेगा, लोगों को सस्ती चीजें नहीं मिलेंगी। इसलिए मैं चाहता हूँ कि जैसे कल राज्य सभा में लाइसेंसिंग के बारे में एक रिपोर्ट आई थी उसी तरह से अगर सरकार पिछले दस सालों की इस तरह की एक रिपोर्ट संभव है कि ये जो कंट्रोल हैं या यह जो ऐक्ट है इसको ठीक प्रकार से कार्यान्वित किया गया है या नहीं किया गया है, और इसके लिए एक कमेटी बनाई जाए तो अच्छा होगा। मैं हूँ वास्तविक स्थिति का पता चल सकेगा। मैं समझता हूँ कि जो रिपोर्ट इस कमेटी द्वारा प्रस्तुत की जाएगी उसको देख कर आपकी आश्चर्य होगा। इस रिपोर्ट को देख कर आप

को पता लगेगा कि जो कंट्रोल चीजें हैं, इनके दाम जब सरकार निश्चित करती है तो वैसा करते समय यह जरूरत से ज्यादा इनके दाम बढ़ा देती है और बढ़ाती गई है। इसका कारण यह है कि जो वैस्टिड इंटिरेस्ट्स हैं, जो पैसे वाला वर्ग है और वह वर्ग जो ग्रफसर लोग हैं उनको प्रभावित करके किसी न किसी तरीके से दाम बढ़वा लेता है और अन्त में जा कर जो नुकसान है वह कज्यूमर को उठाना पड़ता है, उपभोक्ता को उठाना पड़ता है। उसको सस्ते दाम पर चीजें नहीं मिलती हैं। मैं चाहता हूँ कि इसके बारे में सरकार इनकवायरी करवाये कि कहां तक यह जो ऐक्ट है इसका ठीक प्रकार से पालन हुआ है और इस ऐक्ट का जो प्रभाव है, जो बंध है, वह किम को भुगतना पड़ा है। इसका प्रभाव छोटे छोटे व्यापारियों पर हुआ है। इसका कारण यह है कि जो प्रोसीजर है वह बहुत ही कम्प्लीकेटेड है, बहुत ही टेढ़ा है। जो रूल्स बनाये गये हैं उनके कारण छोटे छोटे व्यापारी बहुत तंग होते हैं। इन्वेंटर लोग जाते हैं और वे उनको तंग करते हैं। उनको उठा कर अन्दर धर देते हैं। छोटे छोटे व्यापारियों से रिश्वत मांगी जाती है और अगर वे नहीं देते हैं तो उनको पकड़ लिया जाता है। रिश्वत की उनकी यह रकम बंधी रहती है हर एक दुकानदार से। कोई दस रुपये महीना देता है तो कोई पंद्रह रुपये। इन छोटे-छोटे व्यापारियों को तो तकलीफ होती है लेकिन जो बड़े-बड़े इंडस्ट्रियलिस्ट हैं उनको कोई तकलीफ नहीं होती है। उनके साथ बड़े-बड़े व्यापारी मिले रहते हैं। नतीजा यह होता है कि चीजों के दाम बढ़ते जाते हैं और आपने देखा है कि बालू के दाम बढ़ रहे हैं, चीनी के दाम बढ़ रहे हैं। ये दाम इतने बढ़ते हैं जितनी कास्ट उनकी नहीं बढ़ती है।

एक और दिक्कत की ओर मैं आपका ध्यान दिलाना चाहता हूँ। दिल्ली में जो चीनी दी जाती है वह चीनी बेरठ से प्राप्ती है। बेरठ की मिलें चीनी को ज्यादा भाव से बेचती है।

उसके मुकाबले में मुरादाबाद की जो मिलें हैं वे सस्ते दामों पर चीनी बेचती हैं। इसका नतीजा यह होता है कि एक करोड़ रुपया ज्यादा एक साल में दिल्ली के लोगों को इसलिए देना पड़ता है क्योंकि उनको मेरठ से चीनी सप्लाई होती है। अगर मुरादाबाद से सप्लाई हो तो दिल्ली वालों को एक करोड़ रुपया कम देना पड़े। मैं कहूंगा कि इसकी आप इनकवायरी करायें और दिल्ली के लोग जो कई सालों से एक करोड़ रुपया ज्यादा दे रहे हैं यह बन्द होना चाहिये। अगर आप मुरादाबाद से चीनी नहीं दिनवा सकते हैं तो मेरठ के जो चीनी के दाम हैं उनको मुरादाबाद की मिलों के चीनी के दामों के बराबर करे। यह चीज चार पांच साल से चल रही है। किसी कारण से, किसी घोटाले की वजह से अभी तक यह हो नहीं पाया है। यह एक बार हो भी गया था कि दाम एक जैसे हों। लेकिन फिर पता नहीं क्यों ये एक समान नहीं किये गये। मैं चाहता हूँ कि अब ये दाम आपको एक जैसे करवाने चाहिये और अगर आप ऐसा नहीं कर सकते हैं तो दिल्ली को आपको मुरादाबाद से चीनी लेने की इजाजत देनी चाहिये।

**श्री प्रकाशचौर शास्त्री (हायड्र) :** मुरादाबाद से क्यों, विजनीर से क्यों नहीं।

**श्री कंबर लाल गुप्त :** विजनीर से मिले, तो शायद चीनी और भी सस्ती पड़ेगी। हिन्दुस्तान में सब मिला कर जो कम्पोजिट मिलें हैं उनकी संख्या 603 के करीब है। ये टैक्सटाइल मिलें हैं। उन में करीब साढ़े नौ लाख मजदूर काम करते हैं। मेरा कहना यह भी है कि अभी कुछ महीने पहले व्यापारियों से जो बेल्ट खरीदी गई थीं वे ब्लैकमार्किट में खरीदी गई थीं, सी सी और डेड सी का। दे कर ब्लैकमार्किट में उनको खरीदा गया था। ये बेल्ट लोगों ने स्टॉक में रजो हुई थीं। मेरी इनफार्मेशन के मुताबिक लगभग बीस लाख बेल्ट या तो बड़े बड़े व्यापारियों के पास हैं या बड़े बड़े इंडस्ट्रियलिस्ट्स के पास हैं या जो

बड़े बड़े जमींदार हैं उनके पास हैं। चूंकि आप कंट्रोल लगाते हैं और प्रोक्वोरमेंट के लिए कोई मशीनरी आपके पास नहीं है इस वास्ते यह हॉर्डिंग होता है ऐसा मैं समझता हूँ। अगर कंट्रोल हो तो पूरा होना चाहिये, गुरु से आखिर तक होना चाहिये और आपके पास प्राक्वोरमेंट के लिए कोई मशीनरी होनी चाहिये वरना वह नहीं होना चाहिये। आपने सीलिंग प्राइस तय की है, फ्लोर प्राइस तय की है और जब सीलिंग प्राइस से कीमतें बढ़ जाती हैं—चूंकि बुनिया में कपास कितनी पैदा होती है उस पर यह डिपेंड करता है—तब दिक्कतें पैदा होना गुरु हो जाती है। अब देखने में यह भा रहा है कि लोगों ने कपास बोना बन्द कर दिया है क्योंकि कपास बोने से उनको नुकसान होता है और जो मिलें हैं वे कपास की स्केरिस्टी को अनुभव कर रही हैं चाहे यह स्केरिस्टी ब्राड-फिशल हो या न हो और इस स्केरिस्टी की वजह से वे लोग ब्लैक में बेल्ट खरीद रहे हैं। इसलिए यह इंतजाम होना चाहिये कि किसी न किसी तरीके से यह जो हॉर्डिंग है चाहे यह व्यापारी के लेवल पर हो या इंडस्ट्रियलिस्ट के लेवल पर हो या जमींदार के लेवल पर हो यह खत्म हो। साथ ही साथ जब तक हमारी एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन कमजोर है, इनएफिसेंट है तब तक उसको कंट्रोल कम से कम लगाना चाहिये। आपके पास एक ही तरीका है कि कंट्रोल लगा दो, सारी स्थिति सुधर जाएगी। मैं इसको सिद्धांत रूप में प्रच्छा नहीं समझता हूँ। कंट्रोल जितना आप लगायेंगे उतनी करप्शन बढ़ेगी और सही मामों में वह कंट्रोल नहीं होता है।

**श्री मंत्री महोदय ने कहा है कि कपड़े के दाम बढ़ने वाले हैं। मैं चाहता हूँ कि यह जो बोझ है यह उपभोक्ता पर नहीं पड़ना चाहिये। अगर आपने दाम बढ़ाने ही हैं तो जो बूटी है उसको आप कम कर दें और कंज्यूमर से कपड़ों के दाम ज्यादा चार्ज न करें। पहले ही कंज्यूमर बोझ से दबा हुआ है और उसको ही ज्यादा नहीं दबाया जाना चाहिये। मैं चाहता हूँ कि**

[श्री कंबर लाल गुप्त]

कपड़े के दो काम बाज हैं वे वही रहने चाहियें। अगर कहीं उनको पैसा देना है तो ब्यूटी कम करके दिये।

Shri N. C. Chatterjee (Burdwan): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the industry's point of view has been very well put before the House by the first hon. Member who spoke on the Bill. I think that case could not be better put, and I congratulate him on it. But we are not satisfied when it is said that the industries are wholly free from all blemish and blame, when the artificial imbalance between demand and supply was there. We honestly felt that in this particular crisis, the industry did not play a proper part; possibly with their co-operation, the difficulty in securing equitable distribution could have been mitigated.

I am on one point. I also agree with Mr. Kanwarlal Gupta, the hon. Member who just now spoke, that this kind of Bill should also be extended to the State of Jammu and Kashmir. I was one of those few in this House who raised this point in the year 1953, for the first time when I moved the resolution for getting Kashmir integrated into India, and when the great Dr. Shyama Prasad Mookerji started the movement outside for this kind of thing. I am glad that there has been good response now, and there is a general willingness that Kashmir should come into the category of the legislative sphere throughout India so that there will be no inequality. I am happy that that is now being accepted by the Jammu and Kashmir Government. Again, the Minister is perfectly justified in bringing this measure before the House. There is no escape, and it has got to be done, because the ordinance is lapsing.

The only point that is troubling me is this. Is it constitutionally permissible to have clause 4B? Kindly look at page 2 of the Bill; just see what they are doing. Clause 4B says as follows:

"(4B) Where in pursuance of an order under clause (b) of subsection (4A) an undertaking is closed, whether partially or wholly for any day or number of days in a week, the employer of the undertaking shall pay for such closure to each of the persons employed in the undertaking or any part thereof which is closed, compensation which shall be equal to fifty per cent. of the total or the basic wages and dearness allowance that would have been payable to such person had there been no such closure."

We are changing the statute itself. The whole Bill is not limited to this particular crisis which faced this particular industry and for which a particular ordinance had to be introduced. This is a general measure, a general change in the law. Is it proper? Is it permissible under our Constitution? Is it permissible to do away with all fundamental rights or to abrogate and amend the fundamental rights? This is the basic norm of our Constitution. The fundamental rights are the cardinal principles which cannot be suppressed or abridged. I remember the great Sardar Patel saying, "I would not like to pay compensation to the landlords and all the big zamindars; but if we have any such Bill, I would say it will be legal dacoity and I would never be a party to it." Look at clause 4A(b). In any industry, whatever its shortcomings in any particular situation, if the Government thinks that there should be a closure, Government will order the closure. It says:

"No employer shall keep his undertaking working for more than such number of days in a week and such number of hours each day, as may be specified in the order."

17 hrs.

Any moment the Commerce Minister can pass an order that a particular

mill shall not work for 4 days in a week and although the closure is not demanded by the industry and it is not due to the volition of the industry, yet compulsory compensation should be paid! This is against the basic principles of compensation.

The Supreme Court of India has laid down what compensation means in that great case which came from Bengal. Millions of refugees were coming and squatting in the garden houses of the big people near about Calcutta. Dr. B. C. Roy was approached and he wanted that the squatters should be regularised. He said, "All right; you came in 1949 and squatted. I will pay compensation to the owners at the prices which prevailed in 1949." But the Supreme Court said, compensation means that which compensates for the default, for the loss of the thing imposed by the violation of the particular person. Therefore, you must pay them compensation at the rate which prevailed on the date on which the notification was issued. It became a huge amount and the Bengal Government could not pay it and millions of refugees are still in a pitiable plight. Possibly the same is the position in Punjab. I do not know.

Is it fair, just, equitable or permissible under our Constitution to give the power to Government to pass an order to make the industry pay for a closure ordered by the Government? I do not know whether the Minister has considered this aspect of the matter and consulted the Law Minister, the Attorney-General, the Solicitor-General or anybody else. This is troubling me. Can you demand that they shall pay 50 per cent of the wages and DA to all the employees when they are not working, only because the Government orders the closure, although the industry is willing to work?

There is another aspect. Apart from the fact that this kind of clause will be against the spirit of the Constitution and against the guaranteed fundamental, basic, human rights, it will foster indiscipline and will not lead to

industrial peace. Therefore, I want to know if he has considered this aspect and whether the industry has accepted this position. Possibly in a particular case like this crisis, there may not be difficulty. But when they are legislating for ever, making a basic change giving the power to the executive to impose this kind of compulsory closure, they should be careful. I want to know whether the legal, constitutional aspect has been verified and the Minister is satisfied that he has got the power and the Parliament is competent to enact such a legislation.

**Shri Shantilal Shah (Bombay North West):** Sir, I rise to support this Bill and to make a few suggestions. Before that, I should like to meet some of the points raised by Mr. Chatterjee. I am sure he is aware that payment of half the wages as compensation during the period of lay-off is already existing now under the Industrial Disputes Act. That is to say, where for any fault of the employer, the factory is closed, he has to pay half the wages to the workers. This is an extension of the same principle. There are sufficient guidelines provided in clause 4A. They do not give to the Government absolute power, but power which has been restricted and has been circumscribed. The first thing that is said in this section is:

"Where, for any reason, supplies of any article or thing required for the production or manufacture of an essential commodity are not adequate to meet the full requirements of all the undertakings...."

Therefore, the first thing is that the full requirements cannot be met. The second thing is:

"The Central Government is of opinion that with the available supplies of such article or thing all the undertakings engaged in the production or manufacture of such commodity should, as far as practicable, be kept as going concerns...."

[Shri Shanti Lal Shah]

That is the second guide line. The last one is:

"...to the fullest extent possible and also for the prevention of unemployment, as far as practicable, amongst persons employed in such undertakings...."

With these three guide lines I am of the view—I do not wish to match my legal knowledge with that of the hon. Member, he is pretty senior—that there is nothing unconstitutional in the provision as made.

I will, however, come to the Bill itself. I will also, in anticipation of the amendments speak on the proposal that the full wages should be paid. I would like that closures under this Act should be as few as possible. I am grateful to the hon. Minister for his announcement that instead of the mill's being closed every Saturday as heretofore, they will be closed every alternate Saturday. That is to say, the closures will be half of what it used to be.

What has been the consequence, and what has happened up to now? Taking from 3rd December up to date the total closure has been for 17 days, and the total consumption of cotton in the industry, as mentioned in the statement laid by the Minister before the House, was between 6.2 million and 6.6 million. That is to say, normally a textile mill in this country works for 305 to 308 days, and taking the average working as 306 days one-eighteenth of the working has been closed. Saving of cotton bales by closure on every Saturday, for these 17 days, would be roughly 3,50,000 to 3,60,000 bales. I find that in the statement laid before the House by the hon. Minister he has given all statistics but he has failed to mention the saving of cotton bales as a result of this closure for these 17 days. As I have got the figures now, for these 17 days closure, on the basis of 306 days working, the saving of cotton bales will be 3,50,000 to 3,60,000 bales. That

should be added to the total stock available. I also concede that whereas in his statement before this House he has put the total as 5.6 in the Upper House he has put the production as 5:3. Again, I concede that it is not enough that at the end of the year you consume all the stock: some carry-over ought to be provided.

But taking all these factors into consideration, I would still appeal to the hon. Minister to consider whether even this limited closure which he has proposed can be avoided. I am trying to place before you how it works out. As far as the textile worker is concerned, on an average, in Bombay and Ahmedabad and also in the south, he earns about Rs. 200 per month or roughly Rs. 7 per day. He has lost by way of loss in wages for these 17 days roughly half of Rs. 120—because half has been given by the industry—which comes to Rs. 60. If this goes on at the end of the year he will lose a full month's wages which is a very heavy loss. On the one hand, when the worker says that he is not able to make both ends meet and he wants full neutralisation, on the other, this cuts into the neutralisation which has been granted. The remedy suggested is worse than the disease. The remedy suggested is that full wages should be paid. Today at least half the burden is on the mills. The proposal is that the whole burden should be on the textile mills. The textile industry has already shouldered the burden of 5 per cent increase given a few months ago. If the full burden is shifted on to them, I am afraid a very large number of textile mills will have to be closed. I have some knowledge of the textile industry both in the State of Maharashtra and in the State of Gujarat and though their balance sheets for the year ending 31st March are not ready, I am afraid that a large number of big units will come in the red when those balance sheets are prepared. Therefore, it will not be in the interest of labour to ask for full compensation instead

of half compensation and lay off, because if they do that the result may be that the industry may have to close down. My view is that the industry is like a cow. Take as much milk as you like, as best as you can, but see that the cow is not killed. If the industry is closed, the workers will lose employment. Therefore, the reasonable thing for the workers to do will be to see that the industry gets to working, take as much as possible in the form of wages, dearness allowance and bonus but not to force the closure of the industry. If the whole wages are out on the industry then there will be a much greater closure than heretofore.

The other point was about the grower. I am afraid he does not come into the picture now. As far as I can see, all the cotton has passed out of the hands of the grower and it is now with the trader. If any incentive is to be given to the grower, then a further revision of prices should be announced just before the monsoon. But to do it now will not do any good to the grower and might do good to those who are holding up cotton.

In these circumstances, what do we do? My suggestion is this. The savings in cotton is 20,000 to 22,000 bales per day even if the mills are allowed to work. The new cotton season will commence in September and the new crop will begin to come in October. In September there will be a very fair estimate of the likely cotton crop. Then it will be possible to decide whether it will be possible to carry on without any closure at all. My submission is that it would be possible provided the present system of requisitioning and the present production are continued. I am suggesting that there should be no closure at all, not even on alternate Saturdays. Then, in September or early October they would be in a position to know what has been the total imports. Yesterday the hon. Minister mentioned that Government is importing some cotton from the United Arab Republic and from

Sudan. We may be able to import more cotton.

If all these are taken together, possibly without any closure government might be able to work all the mills. But supposing closure becomes necessary, my suggestion is that in October the mills may be given a block closure of 8 or 10 days as may be necessary. I will tell you why I am saying this. This closure of 8 or 10 days should be set off against the holidays with wages which the workers are entitled under the Factories Act. The result would be that the workers would not lose the wages. The workers will then enjoy full wages, as desired by the hon. Members. The industry will not have any additional burden because in any case the industry will have to pay 15 days wages under the Factories Act. Therefore, asking the industry to pay it in a block will not add to the burden of the industry, giving the workers off for 10 days or so with full wages instead of half wages will be advantageous to the workers, and the whole situation can be considered in September, so that without any loss of wage to the workers and without any extra burden on the industry, and after assessing the future imports which we can make, and the crop possibly it may be practicable to carry on the mills without any closure.

**Shri Umanath:** That scheme will mean that when his health is not good he will not get leave. His medical leave is adjusted against the closure.

**Shri Shantilal Shah:** Of course. His choice is between starving and falling sick.

I feel that if this matter is left to be negotiated between the trade unions and the industry, they will be able to settle it and come to an amicable settlement. If the desire is that we should put the burden on the industry, I have nothing to say. I am not one of those who would desire to do it that way. I would request that the hon. Minister may consider the savings already made, 3,52,000 to 3,60,000 bales,

[Shri Shantilal Shah]

the saving which is likely to be made, the prospect of future crop and the likely imports. If all this is done, possibly no closure would be necessary. May I request that he may reconsider his position, that this Bill may be passed but the powers may be kept in reserve to be utilized if any when he finds it necessary?

Mr. Chairman: Shri Viswanathan.

Shri K. N. Pandey (Padrauna): Kindly look to this side also. We also want to speak.

श्री मुकम चन्व कडवायः प्रापकी तरफ से तो सरकार बोनेगी। हमें बोलने दीजिए।

Some hon. Members rose—

Shri K. N. Pandey: This is a very important subject so far as we are concerned.

Shri Manubhai Patel (Dabhoi): We should be allowed to participate.

Mr. Chairman: Did you send your names?

Shri Sonavane: I have already sent my name. Three days back I gave it.

Shri K. N. Pandey: My name is K. N. Pandey.

Shri Tenneti Viswanatham: Mr. Chairman....

Mr. Chairman: I have called Shri Viswanathan of the DMK.

Shri Tenneti Viswanatham: Will I be allowed to speak?

Mr. Chairman: I will call one Member from this side and later on you may be called.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Parties should be given time.

Shri G. Viswanatham (Wandiwash): Mr. Chairman, the Minister wants to

hurry up and pass this Bill. I want to submit that this is an important measure and it deals with the lives of millions of mill workers and poor weavers.

The closure of cotton mills in Madras State has caused untold misery and hardship to both the mill workers and the handloom weavers. Already eight mills have been closed down and I understand that 19 mills are going to follow suit. This means that already 18,000 workers are thrown out of employment and many more thousands will be going out of employment very soon. This is a very serious condition.

The number of mill workers in Tamilnad in September 1966 was 1,23,726. I am very much agitated about the future of these mill workers. Though the Government has asked the mill-owners to close the mills one day in a week, the mill-owners are generous enough to close down the mills all the seven days in the week. The workers are left in the lurch like orphans. The Government must take immediate steps to re-open these mills.

Sir, our State is well known for handloom cloth. I am proud to say that about 70 to 80 per cent of the exportable varieties of handloom cloth is produced in Tamilnad. Most of them are produced by handloom weavers. The handloom weavers are in a poor condition. On 31st March, 1963, the number of registered handlooms was 5,16,086. The handloom weavers are the worst affected people by the closure of mills. They are unable to make both ends meet. They cannot escape from the clutches of poverty in which they have fallen.

The price of yarn is too high. The weavers have to purchase the yarn, make cloth from it and sell the cloth. They are unable to purchase the yarn at those high prices. So, most of them work for wages and the wages that they receive are too low. Because of the closure of spinning mills

they do not get the yarn and most of them remain unemployed. Not even for a single day or two in a week they get employment.

To put in a nutshell, the handloom weavers in our State are born in poverty, live in poverty and die in poverty. The Government have so far done nothing to uplift their standard of life. We have been demanding now and then that they must be shown some preferential treatment. We had been demanding that the bordered sarees and dhoties should be allocated to the handloom industry and the mills should be prohibited from producing these bordered sarees and dhoties. They should be produced only by the handlooms. I think, the Minister will be generous enough to accept this demand.

There are many co-operative spinning mills in our State. They cannot compete with the private mills. Those co-operative spinning mills are supplying yarn to these handloom weavers. Hence, these co-operative spinning mills must be shown some preferential treatment at the time of distribution of cotton.

Sir, the Bill mentions the payment of 50 per cent of the total wages and allowances for the days on which the mills are closed. The Minister will be required to justify this. This is very unjust. Full payment should be made to the employees even if the mill is closed on a particular day.

The Minister should not feel proud in importing foreign cotton. I find from the report that import has gone up from 527,000 bales to 950,000 bales. We should feel ashamed to import foreign cotton even after the much-boasted three big five-year plans.

The Government must take immediate steps to supply yarn to the handloom weavers and to reopen the mills that are closed. Again, I would request the Minister to find ways and means to export more and more of our

handloom varieties to foreign countries.

Finally, I may say that, if it is going to neglect the legitimate demands of the millions of mill workers and handloom weavers and pursue the same policy, a sort of *laissez faire* policy, regarding employment, I am sure, the city of Delhi, which is the graveyard of so many empires, will soon witness the downfall of the Congress dynasty, if I may say so.

Mr. Chairman: One request to the members. Whenever they send their names to me, they may please indicate the Party to which they belong.

श्री हुकूम चन्द कछवाय : यह तो जैनरत्न विषय है अगर दल के नाम से भेजेंगे तो कोई नहीं बोल पायगा । इसलिए जो समय मांगता है उसको समय दिया जाय ।

Some hon. Members rose—

Mr. Chairman: When the Chairman is on his legs, it is not proper that the members should stand. This is a very elementary courtesy. It is not bad to make frequent references to notes but it is not proper to read the whole speech from the notes. I would request the members kindly to avoid it.  
Mr. Rane.

Shri Rane (Buldana): I rise to speak today on behalf of the cotton growers. The interests of cotton growers during the last 15 years have suffered to the tune of several crores of rupees on account of the anti-growers price policy pursued by the Government. I submit that the Government is most unwilling to raise the price of cotton. If you examine the figures, you will find that from 1951-52 to 1961-62, the ceiling price was Rs. 820 per candy and the floor price was Rs. 497. For ten years continuously, not even by a single rupee, the price was raised. During these ten years, as we all know, the prices of other commodities have doubled or even trebled.



An hon. Member: Cloth also.

Shri Rane: I am coming to that also.

I have brought it to the notice of Government several times, but I must confess that I have failed completely or partially. If the Government wants to solve this question of supply of cotton—short supply of cotton—it is time they took a long-term policy. As I said, from 1951-52 to 1961-62, the per candy ceiling price of cotton was Rs. 820. I think, the ceiling price of basic jarilla might be today Rs. 1100 or 1200. During these 15 years since 1951-52, the raw cotton prices have gone up at the most by 150% whereas the prices of other commodities have increased three times or four times.

The growers are not able to get a fair remunerative price or an incentive prices. Besides this, there is another reason why the growers are put to losses. That is the floor price. Today, there is a wide gap between the floor price and the ceiling price. In 1945-46 the gap was Rs. 130, and in 1948-49 it was Rs. 125, but today I believe—I am speaking subject to correction—that it must be about Rs. 300. Because of the floor price and because there is an artificial crisis, to which I shall come presently, there are wide fluctuations; and on account of these wide fluctuations, the growers get at the most only the floor price and not the ceiling price.

If Government is serious and sincere to solve this problem of short supply of cotton, then I would like to make three suggestions to them for implementation. My first suggestion has already been negated in the hon. Minister's opening speech. That was that the ceiling price should be abolished. If that is not possible, then I would submit that at least for 1967-68 the ceiling price should be raised by at least 25 per cent, and further, by 50 per cent; the gap between the floor price and the ceiling price should not exceed Rs. 100.

Shri Shrivaji Rao D. Deshmukh (Parbhani): Rs. 50.

Shri Rane: All right, it should not exceed Rs. 50. I stand corrected by my hon. friend. But the gap should never exceed that. On account of the wide gap, fluctuations take place, and then nobody else suffers except the growers. During these 25 years of the control policy, I submit that the growers of cotton have suffered to the tune of several crores of rupees while the industry had made tons of rupees or tons of money or tons of currency notes.

Coming to the Bill which seeks to replace the Ordinance, I would submit that the ordinance has been necessitated because there was a crisis in the textile industry. As regards this crisis, I want to submit that it is an artificially created crisis. This is not a new thing this year only. If the hon. Minister examines the position from 1962 till today, he would find that it is an annual phenomenon, namely that the prices tend to rise in November or December and immediately the harsh hand of the Textile Commissioner comes in....

Shri Sonavane: That is the usual feature.

Shri Rane: He steps in, and he does so even when the prices are below the ceiling and when they are just near the ceiling, and then the markets are closed for months sometimes, and the fate of the growers is that they get the lowest price.

If the hon. Minister wants to avoid all these things, then he should seriously consider the question of reducing the gap between the floor price and the ceiling price. This is the most important thing. As I have already submitted, he should also consider the question of raising the ceiling prices. Of course, he has committed himself by saying that abolition or control is not possible; I quite understand that he cannot do so immediately, but I would submit that the question needs to be looked into.

So, these are my suggestions, namely that the ceiling price should be raised by at least 25 per cent during the coming year and 50 per cent from the next year onwards.

श्री स० नौ० बनर्जी : सभापति महोदय, मैं यह समझता हूँ कि जब इस सदन के सामने यह सुझाव प्राया था कि सूती कपड़ा मिल उद्योग में जो रूई की वजह से संकट की परिस्थिति उत्पन्न हुई है उस को किस तरीके से सुलझाया जाय तो मैं समझता हूँ कि यह कह देना जैसा कि स्टेटमेंट में माननीय मंत्री ने कहा है कि उन्होंने सब से पूछ लिया था और पूछने के बाद ही कुछ ऐसे सुझाव प्राये हैं जिस से मजदूरों को तकलीफ कम हो जायेगी मैं समझता हूँ कि जब हम लोग उन से मिले थे तो एक बात कम से कम मेरी तरफ से या मेरे मित्र श्री डांगे जो कि आल इंडिया ट्रेड यूनियन कांग्रेस के जनरल सेक्रेटरी हैं उन की तरफ से साफ तरीके से कह दिया गया था कि आल इंडिया ट्रेड यूनियन कांग्रेस इस बात की मुखालफत करती है और मजबूत करती है कि एक दिन या एक घंटा भी कारखाने बंद नहीं होने चाहिए सिवाय इतवार के क्योंकि सभापति महोदय इस से पहले जब 15 दिन ब्लॉक क्लोजर की बात आई थी उस वक्त श्री मनुभाई साह मंत्री होते थे और उन्होंने कहा कि ऐसा नहीं होगा बल्कि हम एक दिन बन्द करेंगे हफ्ते में और 15 दिन तकरीबन-तकरीबन आज तक बन्द हो चुकी है। उस वक्त भी हम ने यह कहा था कि अगर प्राप बन्द करना चाहते हैं तो मजदूरों को तनब्बाहें और ऐलाऊर्सेज मिलने चाहिये। मैं आप से निवेदन करूँ कि 15 दिन में जो एक दिन बन्द हुआ करता है तो उस में जितने भी सन्टीम्बुट्स हैं या बदली है उन को तनब्बाह नहीं मिला करती है जोकि इस बिना मैं है कि बदली को नहीं मिला करेगा। बहु प्राप्ती बात है उस का मैं स्वागत करता हूँ लेकिन आज जितनी तनब्बाह मिलती है जिसको कि से प्रोफ कम्पेंसेशन कहते हैं 45 दिन से ज्यादा कानून के अन्तर्गत

मिलता नहीं है। इस के लिए मैं कहूँगा कि पहले तो इस की जांच होनी चाहिये कि बाकई में देश की रूई का संकट इतना है या नहीं है जिसके कि फलस्वरूप कारखाने बन्द होने की नीबत हो रही है। मैं समझता हूँ कुछ ऐसे हाउसैज हैं कुछ पुप्स हैं बिड़लाज रूईयाज वगैरह जिन्होंने कि काफी रूई इकट्ठा कर के रख छोड़ी है। मैं समझता हूँ कि आज अगर सरकार में हिम्मत है हमारे नये मंत्री हैं नौजवान हैं वह हिम्मत से काम लें और हिम्मत से अगर काम लें कीटन बेल्स रिक्वीजीशन करें, इन मैगनेट्स के गुदामों में जाकर पता लगायें कि क्या वहां पर रूई की गांठें पड़ी हुई हैं। छोटे कारखाने बड़ों की वजह से परेशान हैं और ऐसी नीबत प्रा गई है कि कारखाने बन्द होते जा रहे हैं तो इसका कोई उपाय है क्या? कहा जाता है कि इस वक्त हमारे मामले और कोई सुझाव नहीं है बजाय इस के कि हर शनिवार को बन्द हो महीने में केवल दो शनिवार बन्द की जा सकें यह रिश्रायत के रूप में उन्होंने ऐलान किया है। लेकिन मैं महसूस करता हूँ कि आज भी किसी भादमी से पूछा जाय जिन्हें इस का ज्ञान हो, चाहे इधर का हो या उधर से हो, वह भी कहेगा कि सही तरीके में अगर इस की जांच हो कि क्या बाकई में कुछ कीटन मैगनेट्स ने कीटन व बेल्स का स्टोरेज कर रक्खा है, क्या बाकई में उन्होंने अपने गुदामों में भर रक्खा है या नहीं, अगर इस बात का फसला हो जाय तो मैं आप से निवेदन करूँगा कि एक घंटे के लिए भी कारखानों को बन्द करने की जरूरत नहीं होगी। मैं इस की मुखालफत करता हूँ और कारखाने बन्द नहीं होने चाहिए। मजदूरों के कुर्बानी करने की बात अगर प्राती है तो मैं कहूँगा कि अगर मिलमालिकों ने इतना मुनाफा कमाया है तो हमें भी उस का कुछ हिस्सा दिया जाय। मैं भी उसी नगर का रहने वाला हूँ जिस को कि मैनेबेस्टर प्रोफ इंडिया कहा जाता था यानी कानपुर। वहां पर काफी कारखाने हैं। वहां पर रूई की ज्यादा जरूरत

[श्री म०मो० वनर्जी]

है और वह इसलिए है कि मीडियम या कोर्स क्लास वहां पर बनता है। फार्इन और सुपर फार्इन कपड़ा बनाने में रूई की खपत कम ही होती है मीडियम और कोर्स क्लास कम रूई में बन जाता है। हमारे सामने जो मसला है कानपुर में वह यह कि उन कारखानों में मोटा कपड़ा बनता है। मोटे कपड़े की खपत हमारे देश में उतनी भी नहीं हो रही है और हमारा ऐक्सपोर्ट के बारे में भी मार्केट नहीं है क्योंकि चीन और दूसरे लोगों ने किसी तरीके से मार्केट कैंपबर कर दिया है, हम सोते रह गये और उन्होंने हमारा मार्केट कैंपबर कर लिया तो हमें देखना है उन को किस तरीके से चलना है ?

कारखानों के बारे में कहा जाता है कि ज्यादा कारखाने बन्द हो जायेंगे। मेरे मित्र श्री शांति लाल शाह जिन्हें इस उद्योग का काफी तजुर्बा है उन्होंने कहा है कि ब्लॉक ब्लॉजर 14 दिन का कर दिया जाय और मजदूर उस में अपनी छुट्टी ले ले। अब 14 दिन उसे मुश्किल में छुट्टी मिलती है। उसे घर जाना है, उस की मेहत खराब हो जाती है, उसे अपना इलाज करना होता है, इन न्युट्रिटिवों को इसलिये वह लगा दे ताकि सरमायदारां का मुनाफा बढ़ जाय मैं ममसता हूँ कि मजदूर सरमायदारां के लिए और ज्यादा कुर्बानी करने को तैयार नहीं है और न हम उस को कुर्बान होने देंगे। सबान होता है कि किया क्या जाय ? मेरा सुझाव यह है कि जिस तरीके से एक दफा इस सदन में बहुत भी हुई थी और काफी मैम्बरो ने अपनी सम्मति प्रकट की थी और उन्होंने कहा था कि एक टेक्सटाइल कारपोरेशन सरकार क्यों नहीं बना देती ? टेक्सटाइल कारपोरेशन बना कर उन कारखानों को ले लिया जाय। मैं आप से निवेदन करता हूँ कि यह जो कारखानेदार कहते हैं कि कारखाने बल नहीं रहे हैं, कारखाना मालिकान चलाना नहीं

चाहते हैं और वह इसलिए है कि वहां पर जो मिस्मैनेजमेंट है उसे वह नहीं चाहते हैं कि वह इन्वेस्टिमेंट हो जाय। सरकार अपने हाथों में कारखाने ले और दो, तीन साल तक सरकार अपना पैसा उस में बहायें और पैसा बहाने के बाद जब मुनाफा होने लग जायेगा, कारखाने के मालिकान को कहा जायेगा कि लीजिये हमने यह कारखाना एसा कर दिया कि इस में मुनाफा हो रहा है, आप अब इस को ले जाइये। यही चीज सूती कपड़ा मिलों के बारे में, शक्कर मिलों के बारे में होती आ रही है। मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि आज से कुछ दिन पहले साल भर पहले कानपुर की म्योर मिल जोकि एक बहुत बड़ा कारखाना है उस मिल को अचानक बन्द कर दिया गया मालिकान ने यह कहा कि हमारे पास साधनों को कमी है, पैसे की कमी है हमें 60 लाख (?) रुपया दो करना यह कारखाना नहीं चलेगा और उनके कारखाने को अचानक बन्द कर देने से 6 हजार मजदूर बेकार हो गये। मैं धन्यवाद देना चाहता हूँ उस व्यक्ति को जोकि हमारे बीच में नहीं है, स्वर्गीय श्री लाल बहादुर शास्त्री, जिन्होंने हिम्मत से काम लिया, हौसले से काम लिया। उन्होंने उत्तर प्रदेश की सरकार को कहा कि उस कारखाने को ले लेना चाहिए। एक ऐथो-राइज्ड कंट्रोलर नियुक्त होने के बाद 6 महीने के अन्दर कारखाने में जितना भी नुकसान हो रहा था वह नुकसान मुनाफे में बदल गया और आज मजदूरों को वहां बोनस भी मिल रहा है। इसलिए मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि इस के बारे में एक जांच बँटानी चाहिए, जांच कमेटी होनी चाहिए कि रूई का वितरण किस तरीके से किया जाय। आप इम्पोर्ट करेंगे लेकिन जितनी भी इम्पोर्ट करेंगे उस रूई का आमतौर पर वितरण कहाँ होगा ? वह भी बिहलाल के पास चली जायगी, रूईयाज के पास चली जायगी और वह भी दूसरे मैगनेट्स के पास चली

बायबी और हमारी जो छोटी यूनिट्स हैं वह उन के सामने नहीं टिक पायगी।

मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि यह टेक्सटाइल कारपोरेशन बनाने में हिम्मत की जरूरत होगी। टेक्सटाइल कारपोरेशन अगर बनायेंगे तो मैं जानता हूँ कि टेक्सटाइल मिल मैगनेट्स जिन्होंने कि काफी मदद सत्ता दल के लोगों की की है इस चुनाव में वह इस का विरोध करेंगे। वह कहेंगे कि हमारे कारखानों को न लिया जाय लेकिन मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि टेक्सटाइल कारपोरेशन अगर ग्राज बन जाय इन्हीं कारखानों को लेकर तो उस में बुलाका होगा और वह कारखाने चलेंगे। साइक इंधोरेंस के काम को भी हम ने कारपोरेशन के रूप में ले लिया लोगों ने कहा था कि यह चलेगा नहीं, बीमा व्यवसाय अगर राष्ट्रीय उद्योग में आ जायगा तो उस में सुकसान होगा लेकिन क्या बीमा कारपोरेशन द्वारा चल नहीं रहा है? मेरे मित्र मंत्री महोदय में अगर हिम्मत है और सरकार यदि सचमुच में चाहती है कि यह देश सार्मजवादी दिशा में चले यह उद्योग हमारा कुछ अच्छा हो तो ऐसा कर देना चाहिए।

समापति महोदय, एक छोटा सा इशारा मैं यह करना चाहता हूँ कि जिस तरीके से मिस्मैनेजमेंट कंसर्न्स में है वह हमारी आंखों के सामने है, श्री राम रतन गुप्ता की लक्ष्मी रतन कौटन मिल्स जिसकी कि बाबत सवाल मैं ने इस सदन के सामने बार-बार उठाया उस में ग्राज भी 5000 मजदूर बेकार हैं, दस महीने से बेकार हैं। हमारी उत्तर प्रदेश की सरकार ने जबकि हमारी वहन श्रीमती सुचेता कृपलानी वहां पर मुनय मंत्री थी उन्होंने कहा था कि हम ने केन्द्रीय सरकार से सिफारिश कर दी है और उस का इन्वेस्टिगेशन हो जायेगा। श्री मनुषाई शाह ने इन्वेस्टिगेशन किया और इन्वेस्टिगेशन की रिपोर्ट में यह कहा गया कि इस कारखाने को सरकार ले ले। इस कारखाने के मासिक

श्री राम रतन गुप्ता साहब जोकि एक बहुत बड़े सरमायेदार हैं, किसी का पैसा वह देते नहीं हैं, यानी मैं कहना चाहता हूँ नोन पेमेंट फ्राऊ बर्नमेंट रेव्यू, बिसाई का पैसा उन्होंने नहीं दिया। प्राविडेंट फंड का पैसा नहीं दिया, बोनस का पैसा नहीं दिया और अपने कारखाने को उन्होंने मोटंगेज कर दिया 12 लाख रुपये में। किस के पास मोटंगेज किया? वह अपनी ही जो बम्बई में बी० आर० कौटन मिल्स है उसे मोटंगेज कर दिया। इस तरीके से जो लोग फ्रीड कर रहे हैं, जो चीट कर रहे हैं, वह जेल में नहीं गये। उनके बैंक डिस्पीनर होते जा रहे हैं लेकिन ग्राज भी उन को दो महीने का समय दिया जा रहा है। मैं श्री दिनेश सिंह से निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि वह हिम्मत करें इस बात की कि इस कारखाने को अपने हाथ में ले लें जिस की कि जांच हो चुकी है। लेकिन हालत यह है कि जब श्री सी०बी० गुप्ता की उत्तर प्रदेश में मिनिस्ट्री हो गई तो श्री राम रतन गुप्ता डंके की चोट पर कहने लग गये कि हमारा क्या हो सकता है? अब तो श्री सी० बी० गुप्ता आगये हैं हमारे कारखाने को कोई नहीं ले सकता है लेकिन अब तो वहां दूसरी सरकार आ गई है और मैं चाहता हूँ कि इन्वेस्टिगेटिंग कमेटी की जो रिपोर्ट है उस को सदन के पटल पर रखना चाहिए क्योंकि उस में साफ तरीके से कहा गया है कि उन्होंने चीट किया है और ग्राज भी 6 हजार मजदूर दस महीने से बेकार हैं। उन्हें ले और कम्पेसेशन नहीं मिला, प्राविडेंट का पैसा नहीं मिला और जो बीमार मजदूर हो जाते हैं उनकी दवा का पैसा भी उन्होंने जमा नहीं किया है, बिसाई का पैसा भी उन्होंने जमा नहीं किया है यहाँ तक कि बिजली के बिल का। लाख 35 हजार रुपया भी उन पर बकाया है और वह भी उन्होंने ग्राज तक नहीं दिया है। एक बैंक दिया वह भी डिस्पीनर हो गया है। बजाय इस के कि मजदूरों को कुर्बान किया जाय इस मामले में कि उन्होंने कुछ

## [बी स० मो० बनर्जी]

इतिहास प्रंगेज बाते कर दी सँ समझता हूँ कि श्री राम रतन गुप्ता की कुर्बानी होनी चाहिये।

लेकिन विनेश सिंह जी की चिट्ठी जब मुझे मिली तो उसको देख कर मैं दंग रह गया। उन्होंने कहा कि उत्तर प्रदेश की सरकार ने कोई वादा ही नहीं किया था और न लेने की कोई इच्छा प्रकट की थी। हमारी भूतपूर्व मुख्य मंत्री श्रीमती सुचेता कृपलानी यहाँ पर हैं उनसे पूछा जाय। वहाँ फाइलस में नोट है कि आइन्हा ले लेते हम यह कारखाने हमारी बचकियती है कि गुप्ता जी जब मुख्य मंत्री नहीं रहे और उनका मंत्रीमंडल खत्म हो गया तो जितनी फाइलें थीं उनको लोगों ने रिक्शों और मोटरों में भर कर बाहर निकालना शुरू कर दिया।

श्री सी० एम० केदारिया : (मांडवी) ; जो सही बात है वह कहिए। इरेलिवेंट बात मत कहिये।

श्री स० मो० बनर्जी : मैं निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि अगर लक्ष्मी रतन कारखाने को सरकार नहीं ले सकती है तो यह उस की कमजोरी है। यह बात जरूर है कि चुनाव में चूँकि उन्होने उत्तर प्रदेश कांग्रेस कमेटी की काफ़ी मदद की थी और भाल इंडिया कांग्रेस कमेटी की थी, इस लिये उन का हाथ कांप जाते हैं। मैं दुबारा निवेदन करूँगा कि यह 6,000 मजदूरों का सवाल है, यह भुख-मरी से पीड़ित हैं और दस महीने से उन के फाकाकसी करने की गोवन झा गई है। भगवान न करे अगर उन का कोई बच्चा मर जाये तो बिना कफन के ही उस का जनाजा उठ जायेगा। इस लिये इस कारखानों को लिया जाये और टेक्स्टाइल कारपोरेशन जरूर बनना चाहिये और इसका सब कुछ होते हुए भी मैं बेज कट की मुबालिफ़त करता हूँ।

श्री के० जी देशमुख (भनरायती) : सभापति महोदय, जो मिल साया गया है

आम तौर पर मैं उस का स्वागत करता हूँ क्योंकि जो मिलें बन्द होने वाली हैं उनको बालू रखने के लिये साया गया है। लेकिन मैं इस के साथ दो एक सुझाव देना चाहता हूँ।

जैसा हमारे श्री राणे ने बतलाया और जो भाषण मैं ने सुने, उन में केवल मिल-मालिकों और मजदूरों की बात कही गई है। मजदूरों के बारे में मुझे कुछ नहीं कहना है क्योंकि उन को पैसा मिलना ही चाहिये और मिले बालू रखनी ही चाहिये। मिल वालों ने दो एक सुझाव रखे हैं, और श्री बटर्जी साहब ने भी कहा, कि मिल वालों की कुछ मदद करो क्योंकि मिलों पर आलरेडी पहले से बहुत बर्दन है। अगर मजदूरों को वह पैसा देगे तो सबकुछ मिलें बन्द हो जायें। पिछले दस पंद्रह सालों से हम देख रहे हैं और इनकम टैक्स की स्टेटिस्टिक्स देखने से पता चलता है कि कितना पैसा उन लोगों ने कमाया है। वह सिर्फ मजदूरों का नाम ले कर कास्तकारों की हमेशा कल करना चाहते हैं।

श्री सी० एम० केदारिया : सही बात है।

श्री के० जी० देशमुख : मजदूरों को बोनस भी देना चाहिये और तन्बाह भी देनी चाहिये और इस से मिल वालों पर कोई प्रभाव नहीं पड़ेगा, लेकिन मजदूरों के नाम पर कास्तकारों कितना कल हो रहा है इस को राणे साहब ने बतलाया है। पिछले दस सालों में कपड़े की कीमत मिल वालों ने कम से कम तिगुनी और चौगुनी बढ़ा दी है। लेकिन अगर कपास की कीमतों को देखा जाये तो सिरफ 840 से लेकर 1130 तक ही बढ़ी है यानी सर्फ 30 परसेंट बढ़ी है। कास्तकारों को कपड़ा लेना पड़ता है। जब वह कपास बेचता है तो उस से कपड़ा बनता है

जिस के लिये उस को तिगुना और चौगुना दाम देना पड़ता है जब कि कपास का पूरा पैसा उस को नहीं मिलता है। अभी कई कई मिलों ने बतलाया, साथ ही स्वतन्त्र पार्टी के होंगे कि कलाब का जो कास्ट आफ प्रोडक्शन रहता है उस में कपास का 50 फी सदी हिस्सा रहता है। मैं दावे के साथ कह सकता हूँ कि अगर आप एक गज कपड़ा लें तो उस में 20 फी सदी से ज्यादा कपास का हिस्सा नहीं रहता है। लेकिन कपास के दाम पर उन्होंने कीमतें बढ़ा दी हैं। आखिर कास्तकार लोग क्या करें ?

दूसरी बात यह है कि टेक्स्टाइल कमिश्नर के नाम से एक बड़ा अफसर बम्बई में रहता है और वही इस सारे उद्योग को कंट्रोल करता है। मैंने पिछले दस पन्द्रह सालों में देखा है जो भी काटन की पालिसी बनती है या कलाब पालिसी बनती है, वह बम्बई में बनती है और जो भी कंट्रोल होता है वह वहीं से होता है। आप कपास के कंट्रोल को देखिये। हमारी फ्लोर प्राइस और सीलिंग प्राइस में एक खंडी पर 100 रु० का फर्क है लेकिन जब भी व्यापारी लेता है वह कभी भी सीलिंग प्राइस नहीं देता है। इस साल भी नहीं मिली है। मिनिस्टर साहब से स्वयम् कबूल किया है कि पिछले दो सालों से कपास की कमी के कारण कलाब का प्रोडक्शन कम हो रहा है और इस लिये सीलिंग प्राइस गिरी है। इंडस्ट्रियलिस्ट्स को हमें सीलिंग प्राइस देना भी अच्छा नहीं लगता है और न वह भी जा रही है, इस लिये कि जो भी पालिसी बन रही है, जो भी पालिसी टेक्स्टाइल कमिश्नर बनाते हैं वह मिल वालों से इसारे पर बनाते हैं। ऐसा मेरा क्वाल है। हमारी कपास का दाम गिरता जाता है इस लिये कास्तकार बिस्वासे हैं। हम कास्तकारों को क्या मिला है। सीलिंग प्राइस के ऊपर सिर्फ 5 फी सदी, जब कि हम को कपड़ा दुगुनी और चौगुनी कीमत पर मिल रहा है। जो 5 फी सदी हमको मिल

रहा है वह भी टेक्स्टाइल कमिश्नर की सलाह के ऊपर।

इस के अलावा जो दूसरे प्रकार के कंट्रोल हैं उन को भी आप देखिये। जहां भी थोड़ा कपास का दाम सीलिंग तक आ गया फोरन उस के यूबर्सेट पर कंट्रोल कर लिया जाता है। बरार की कपास खानदेश की कपास गुजरात नहीं जाने दी जाती है। आखिर क्या बात है ? इस साल भी उस का फो यूबर्सेट नहीं है। उस को वहां क्यों नहीं जाना चाहिये ? अगर गुजरात में हमारी कपास जाती है तो क्या वह हिन्दुस्तान से बाहर जा रही है ? हमेशा जोनल रेस्ट्रिक्शन आ जाते हैं और इसी लिये कपास की कीमत गिर जाती है। कुछ रिनिवजिशन हो रही है। नतीजा क्या होता है कि सीलिंग प्राइस खानदेश और बरार में कम हो रही है, वह कास्तकारों को मिल नहीं रही है, जो कि मिलनी चाहिये और गुजरात में कपास की कीमत बढ़ रही है, मेरे पास तार आया है जिस की काफी मेरे पास है। लेकिन फिर भी आप मिल वालों को प्रोटेक्शन देते हैं। कास्तकारों से अपील की जा रही है मिनिस्टर साहब ने भी अपील की है कि कास्तकारों को कपास का उत्पादन बढ़ाना चाहिये, लेकिन उन को आप खाने को तो दीजिये, पेट तो उन का भरना चाहिये। मैं अपील करना चाहता हूँ कि फ्लोर प्राइस और सीलिंग प्राइस में कम से कम 50 प्रतिशत का फर्क होना चाहिये। पत्रों प्राइस भी बढ़नी चाहिये। टेक्स्टाइल कमिश्नर को हिदायत दी जानी चाहिये कि वह कास्तकारों के हित को धो देखे, खाली मिल वालों के कास्ट आफ प्रोडक्शन को ही न देखे।

Shri Umanath: Mr. Chairman, Sir, first, I would like to demolish the argument of Shri Dinesh Singh when he said that the present crisis is due to the fact that textile production has increased to such an extent that cotton production is not able to cope with it. That was the explanation he made and to prove his case, he quoted certain figures of textile production, expansion, spindleage and all those things.

[Shri Umanath]

To say the least, I would like to say this is misleading the House, because cloth production, for example has been declining: in 1964, it was 465 crore metres; it had fallen to 459 crore metres in 1965 and to 424 crore metres in 1966. Is it not a decline in the recent years? Take the question of spindleage. The Minister gives the installed capacity; that is a very cunning method of doing it. Actually, one must take the utilised spindleage; if we take the utilised spindleage into account, it was 13.5 million in 1965; it had fallen to 13.2 million in 1966. Again, does it not show a fall in trend in textile production? So, the truth is that textile production has been declining and the Government has failed to make cotton available to the industry even for its declining production. This is the truth which Shri Dinesh Singh is trying to cover up by jugglery of figures.

Is the cotton stock position in the country so bad as to necessitate a weekly closure of mills envisaged in this Bill? Shri Dinesh Singh asked me whether I was glad, since he has now reduced the closure of two days per week to one day per week. It is just like asking a man, who is condemning to two strips by the whip earlier, and whose punishment is reduced to one stripe, "Are you not happy now?" It is just like that.

My case is, today's cotton stock position in the country is not such as to warrant any closure all the year round; it can run through. I will give you the figures given by the Indian Cotton Mills Federation. It has given its assessment of the cotton capacity in the country in the latest issue of the *Eastern Economist*. It says that the carry-over of the cotton stock, making allowance for the export and other things, was 2.5 million bales as on 1st April, 1967. I am giving the figures published in the *Eastern Economist*. 2.5 million bales mean, if you take the monthly requirement as five lakhs to six lakhs, whatever it is, even if they keep up their minimum guar-

antee of production, there is cotton available for more than two months' production. This is according to the calculation of the Indian Cotton Mills Federation.

So, when that is the position, what is the truth about availability? Cotton is available, but is cornered by speculators and big magnates of the textile industry. Government refuses to seize it and distribute it. Instead, Government compels the workers to give up their wages and compels the consumers to pay more for cloth. Government claims that its action in December, 1966 has slightly improved the situation. But it is not so. The average cotton consumption in 1966 was 4,92,000 bales. But after the Government's action, in January 1967 it was 4,50,000 and in February it was 4,18,000 bales. Where is the improvement? In fact, availability of cotton has shrunk further.

Take the ceiling and market prices. Government says that after its action, market prices ruled at about the ceiling prices and there was some improvement. That is not a fact. I am again quoting from *Eastern Economist* dated 16th March, 1967:

	Ceiling Price	Market Price
Gujrat CO <sub>2</sub>	1735	2400
AK 235 and 277	1300	1655 to 1550
Digvijay (bali)	1478	1650 to 1700
PA 32OF	1244	1330 to 1350

I have got figures for a number of varieties, but I have no time. When there is a crisis in the textile industry, they are violating the ceiling prices fixed by Government and openly selling at higher prices. This was the position in January and February, after the Government's action. Where is the improvement? They get the workers handy to rob them of their wages and they do not care about the ceiling prices at all.

After requisitioning of surplus stocks, Government claim to have

taken some action. When mills want some stocks from the requisitioned stocks, the must deposit Rs. 25 per bale. Government have collected deposits for 75,000 bales, but the actual quantity requisitioned—not what you have frozen in Bombay port—is only 5000 bales. The *Eastern Economist* confirms this:

"The Government has simply failed both to make cotton available to the mills and to enforce the ceiling prices thereof. Today, if any mill wants the Government to requisition cotton for it, it has to deposit Rs. 25 per bale. It is understood that total deposits made thus relate to no less than 75,000 bales, but the Government does not appear to have requisitioned anything more than 5,000 bales."

Even in this critical situation, the Government is not prepared to ban forward trading. In reply to a question, Mr. Dinesh Singh said, "even as it is, there are certain restrictions on forward trading". But notwithstanding the restrictions, there is a crisis and cotton is not available, though the stocks are there in the country. What is the use of your imposing restrictions now, when you should ban forward trading? Instead of trying to resolve the crisis by doing all these things, Government would try to resolve it by increasing the cloth and yarn prices and hit the people and resort to deduction in wages to hit the workers. This means, according to the Government, cotton traders and textile magnates have the right to corner and to sell above the ceiling prices and the speculators shall have the right to do forward trading and indulge in speculation. But the worker will have his right to full employment curtailed and the public will have its right to get cheap cloth curtailed.

Our mill-owners also do not ask the Government to touch the speculator. They say, let him have it, but let me also take advantage of it. They want scaling down of excise duty, 12

relief and money for rationalisation and control, as though if they are given money for modernisation, they will give cheap cloth to the consumers. Already Rs. 300 crores have been given to them in 6 years. Yet they are trying to take advantage of the position and of the Government's refusal to get stocks from the speculators, and the textile magnates, so that they can have their own part in the loot.

In conclusion, my submission to the Government is, withdraw the provisions of the Bill, excepting the one preventing closure without Government's permission.

We also demand that you should stop export of cotton at this juncture, ban forward trading, you should confiscate surplus and cornered stocks and distribute them to needy mills, you should procure cotton direct from growers and distribute, you should give financial assistance to needy mills and you should have a permanent machinery to keep a watch on mills finances. You should prevent closure and provide for expeditious taking over of the mills that are closed. I do not think the Government will do it, because the Government themselves are connected with the speculators and millowners or textile magnates. You will not do it. If you will not do it, the people will compel you to do it.

Shri K. N. Pandey: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am really thankful to the hon. Minister because he has realised the gravity of the situation. This crisis did not arise at the time when he took over charge of this Ministry, it has been there since long.

But we have to look at this problem from two angles. There are certain things which in my view have led to such a crisis where the labour are suffering, the factories are suffering and the Government is also suffering because it has lost several lakhs of rupees in excise duties due to less production. Therefore, we have to consider the problem very seriously.



[Shri K. N. Pandey]

First of all, it is true that because of failure of rains there has been a short fall in production resulting in shortage of raw cotton in the country. Moreover, Government also tried its best to minimise imports. After all, it involves foreign exchange. Moreover, how long can we depend on imports.

Mr. Chairman: Please speak within the scope of the Bill.

Shri K. N. Pandey: I am coming to that and then I will give my suggestions. In the meanwhile I want to draw the attention of the Ministry to one thing. Only when the problem arises they issue some ordinance and then the crisis starts. It requires deep consideration. The production of raw cotton was 2.97 million in 1951 and it went up to 5.4 million upto 1954. Similarly, imports came down from 1.1 million to .64 million. But the consumption of yarn and cloth went up from 3.8 million to 6.2 million. Now the consumption increases but the production of raw cotton decreases. Similarly, spindleage and also looms were increased. Before granting licenses for these spinning mills and looms to be installed, they should have taken this fact into consideration whether they would be able to supply sufficient cotton or yarn to meet their requirements. This was not taken into consideration at all. This is also one of the causes why this problem has arisen.

I am happy to say that the hon. Minister, while speaking, said that they were going to put some restriction on addition of more spindleage. But it will not serve any purpose if you only put restriction on that. You have to put restriction on the looms also.

13 hrs.

I want to give one or two suggestions. I am making this suggestion to this Ministry because this closure of one day in a week was done by this Ministry and not by the Labour Ministry—otherwise I would have

suggested this to the Ministry of Labour. This Ministry in consultation with the Labour Ministry should call a tripartite conference to consider whether it is desirable to have the closure for some days at one time or one day in a week because it is causing more hardship.

The other suggestion is the stoppage or increasing the number of looms in future till the position becomes normal. Thirdly, a machinery should be evolved by the Ministry which will ensure that the distribution of cotton between the mills is even. This problem should not be tackled only on emergency basis but the Government have to take steps to see how the problem could be solved on a long term basis.

श्री कृष्ण लिंगम (मूंगेर): सभापति महोदय जो विषयक हमारे सामने प्राया है, प्रसन्न में वह रही की टोकरी में फँकने लायक है, क्योंकि इस के द्वारा कोई अच्छा मकसद हल नहीं हो पा रहा है। इस के उद्देश्यों में कहा गया है :

"With a view to conserving cotton and ensuring a more orderly and equitable distribution of the limited supplies available and prevention of unemployment, it was essential to secure a reduction in machine activity. This was sought to be achieved through a scheme of compulsory closure of textile mills for one additional day per week."

पहले तो मैं माननीय मंत्री से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या इस अधिनियम पर पिछले कुछ महीनों में हिन्दुस्तान के सभी कोनों में प्रयत्न हुआ है। क्या वह सही है कि कानपुर में पदमपत सिंहानिया की जिले सप्ताह में छः दिन बराबर चलती रही और पंजाब में भी कई जिले ऐसी हैं, जिन्होंने इस अधिनियम का बरा भी पंजाब नहीं की और बराबर छः दिन तक उन का काम चलता रहा? प्रसन्न में जब सरकार कोई अधिनियम जारी करती

है तो उसको इस सदन को इस बात से अवगत करना चाहिए कि क्या उस पर अमल हो रहा है या नहीं ?

सरकार ने रूई का दाम इस भाषा से पांच प्रतिशत बढ़ाया कि नये दाम पर सारी रूई कपड़े के पेदावार के लिए मिल जायेगी लेकिन जैसाकि ईस्ट्रन इकॉनोमिस्ट और कॉम्स प्राइ प्रखबारों में झा चुका है, रूई के लगभग जो सभी प्रकार है उनका दाम नियंत्रित दाम से अधिक है। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि यह जो नियंत्रित दाम से अधिक दाम मिल रहा है, वह किन लोगों को मिल रहा है ? यह बात सही है कि जो पैदा करने वाला किसान है उस को यह दाम नहीं मिल रहा है बल्कि जमाखोर लोगों और बड़े-बड़े पूंजीपति लोगों की मिलों को मिल रहा है जिनमें बिड़ला साम्राज्य की मिलें भी हैं। उन के पास घाट घाट महीनों का स्टॉक पड़ा हुआ है। हो सकता है कि मिल का जो कम्पाउंड या प्रांगण है उस में बहुत स्टॉक न मिले। वह स्टॉक उन्होंने कुछ व्यापारियों और कुछ बड़े काश्तकारों के पास रखा हुआ है। प्रसल में वह रूई है बिड़ला मिलों की, लेकिन वह रूखी हुई है किसी अन्य जगह। नियंत्रित दाम से ज्यादा दाम पर रूई बेची जाती है उस का फायदा किसानों की नहीं, बल्कि जमाखोरों और बिड़ला जैसे बड़े पूंजीपतियों की मिलों को मिल रहा है।

यह जो सीलिंग दाम नियंत्रण हैं, यह तो एक मजाक है, क्योंकि सरकार ने औद्योगिक विकास कानून के मातहत जिन मिलों को अपने कब्जे में लिया है, खुद उन के व्यवस्थापक नियंत्रित दाम से अधिक दाम देकर रूई खरीद रहे हैं। अगर मंत्री महोदय मेरी बात को काट सकते हैं, तो वह काटें, लेकिन मेरे पास जानकारी है कि खुद सरकार ने जिन मिलों को अपने हाथ में लिया है, वे अधिक दाम देकर रूई खरीद रही है। इसीविषये मैंने कहा है, यह सीलिंग बर्बर एक मजाक है।

मेरी दरखास्त है कि इस साल जिस किसी के पास रूई का स्टॉक हो, उसको नियंत्रित दाम से हाथ में ले लिया जाये क्योंकि वह अधिकतर बड़ी मिल वालों और जमाखोरों के पास है। लेकिन अगले मौसम में किसानों को अधिक दाम का फायदा दिलाने के लिये सरकार नीचे वाले नियंत्रण अर्थात् फ्लोर प्राइस को तो रखे लेकिन किसानों को किस से तकलीफ होती है, वह सीलिंग बिल्कुल हटा दी जाये, क्योंकि उस से जमाखोरी बढ़ रही है और उससे कोई फायदा नहीं हो रहा है। मैं इस साल के लिये नहीं कह रहा हूँ क्योंकि इस साल तो किसानों के पास रूई है नहीं—वह केवल जमाखोरों और बड़ी मिल वालों के पास है। इसलिये इस साल का स्टॉक नियंत्रित दाम से ले लिया जाये और अगले साल कोई सीलिंग न रखी जाये ताकि किसानों को फायदा हो।

सरकार ने अभी तक रूई के स्टॉक को अपने हाथ में लेने के लिये कुछ नहीं किया है। इतना ही नहीं, टेक्सटाइल कमिश्नर के कार्यालय ने रिपवतखोरी कर के इधर की रूई उधर भेजने के लिये ट्रांसपोर्ट सर्टिफिकेट दे रखे हैं। सरकार जब भी कोई नया नियंत्रण लगाती है, तो उसका फायदा केवल इन भ्रष्टाचारी अधिकारियों को ही होता है। वे ज्यादा पैसा खाने लगते हैं।

भूतपूर्व व्यापार मंत्री के कई रैकट चलते थे, जिन में से एक एक्सपोर्ट प्रोमोशन स्कीम, आयात प्रोत्साहन योजना, भी था। इण्डोनेशिया और दूसरे देशों को कपड़ा भेजने की योजना बनाई गई थी और जो बाटा होता था, उसको पूरा करने के लिये उन्होंने क्या किया ? जो रूई आयात की जाती थी, उन्होंने काटन मिल प्रोनर्ज फेडरेशन को उस पर फीस, लैबी लगाने का अधिकार दिया। पब्लिक एकाउंट्स कमेटी ने यह कहा है कि पार्लियामेंट की इजाजत के बिना इस तरह का टैक्स लगाने का काटन मिल प्रोनर्ज फेडरेशन को कोई अधिकार नहीं था। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि

## [श्री मधु लिमये]

पब्लिक एकाउंट्स कमेटी की इस धालोचना की रोशनी में इन मिल फेडरेशन वालों को सजा और दण्ड देने के लिये सरकार ने क्या कदम उठाया है। अगर कोई गैर सरकारी नागरिक, या नागरिकों की सस्था, पूंजी-पतियों की संख्या इस प्रकार गैर-कानूनी ढंग से टैक्स लगाने लगे, तो हम उस बात को बर्दाश्त नहीं करेंगे, क्योंकि उन से घाटा हमारे देश का होता है।

मेरी राय है कि पांच दिन मिल चलाने के नाटक को अन्त किया जाये। मैं इस बारे में एक सुझाव देना चाहता हूँ। जब यह धाड़िलेंग जागी था तो उस अवधि में किस मिल ने हर महीने कितनी रई का इस्तेमाल किया, सरकार के पास उसके आंकड़े हैं। सरकार चार पांच महीनों के आंकड़ों के आधार पर हर एक मिल का औसत मासिक रई का उपभोग यानी इस्तेमाल, ऐवरेज मंथली कन्जम्पशन निकाल ले। सरकार मिलों को सप्ताह में एक दिन जबरन बन्द न रखे, बल्कि मिलों को चलाने की छुट्टी दे। जमाखोंगें और बड़े मिल-मालिकों से जो कोटा सरकार लेगी, उसका वितरण मिलों को उनकी ऐवरेज मंथली कन्जम्पशन के आधार पर कर दिया जाये। उमसे क्या फायदा होगा? उमसे यह फायदा हो सकता है—मैं तात्कालिक इलाज बता रहा हूँ—कि मिश्र वाने उन्हीं मशीनों से दो तीन काउंट बढ़ा सकते हैं—अगर आज वे बीस काउंट का मूत निकालते हैं, तो उन्हीं मशीनों से बाइस तेईस या चौबीस काउंट को निकाल सकते हैं—जिससे उसी रई से पैदावार ज्यादा होगी और मजदूरों को काम भी ज्यादा मिलेगा। मैं यह मानता हूँ कि अगर यह व्यवस्था ज्यादा समय तक चले, तो गुणवत्ता पर असर पड़ेगा। लेकिन चूंकि इस वक्त संकटकाल है इसलिये मेरी दरखास्त है कि सरकार एक दिन की जबरन छुट्टी को हटा दे। मिल वालों को पिछले चार पांच महीनों

की औसत उपभोग के आधार पर नियंत्रित दाम से रई बांटे और उनसे कहे कि वे दो तीन काउंट बढ़ा कर पैदावार को भी बढ़ायें और काम को भी बढ़ायें, जिससे बेरोजगारी को नोबत नहीं आयेगी।

सरकार ने विदेशी मुद्रा देकर पाकिस्तान से रई की पचास हजार बेल्ट खरीदी। क्या यह सही है कि पाकिस्तान ने यह दिखाया कि वह माल एडन या हांगकांग से भेजा गया है जबकि वास्तव में वह रई सीधी बम्बई या कलकत्ता आई और उसका दाम रई के अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय दाम से ज्यादा दिया गया? क्या यह सही है कि सरकार ने रई के अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय दाम से ज्यादा दाम देकर पाकिस्तान से पचास हजार बेल्ट रई खरीदी है?

मैं जानना चाहता हूँ यह कौन सा व्यापारी सिद्धांत है जिसके लिये आप यह विदेशी मुद्रा बरबाद कर रहे हैं? क्या बजह है, मिल है, सुदान है, पूर्वी अफ्रीका है या दूसरे जो ऐसे दुनिया के देश हैं उन देशों से, क्यों नहीं लेते? अगर विदेशी मुद्रा खर्च करनी ही है और करनी तो पड़ेगी, आयात तो करना पड़ेगा, तो ठीक तरह करो यह पाकिस्तान के साथ जो आप ने करार किया है उस से हमारे देश का घाटा हो रहा है, तो यह चार पांच सुझाव मैंने आप के सामने रखे हैं उस पर आप सोचें। यह जो आयातित रई पर लेवी बसूल करने का गैर कानूनी काम हुआ जिसकी धालोचना पब्लिक एकाउंट्स कमेटी ने की है, उस को भी जांच की जाय और संबंधित लोगों को आप दंड देने का, उनके ऊपर जुर्माना लगाने का काम करें।

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Mohan Swarup.

Shri Sonavane: I come from a textile industry State. I should be allowed to speak.

Mr. Chairman: I am calling those members whose names have been given by the party or group leaders. Mr. Mohan Swarup.

श्री मोहन स्वरूप (पीलीभीत) : सभापति महोदय, रोटी कपड़ा और मकान यह जिनकी की सबसे आवश्यक वस्तुएं हैं। लेकिन न तो इस देश में रोटी मिल रही है, हजारों धादभी इस वकत खाने के बिना मर रहे हैं और अज कपड़े की भी चर्चा हमारे यहां है। जैसी कि यह फिगर्स दी हैं मिनिस्टर साहब ने कि मिलों की संख्या बढ़ती जा रही है, 1951 में 378 मिलें थीं, 1966 में 514 हो गईं और यह भी बताया कि 6.6 मिलियन टैल्स हर सल हमारे लिये चाहिए तो मैं समझता हूँ कि इस तरह से बाहर से रई मंगा कर अगर हम अपने कारखानों को चलाना चाहते हैं या कपड़ा बनाना चाहते हैं तो यह बहुत मुश्किल बात है। और इसका हल सोचना चाहिए। इसका हल केवल यही हो सकता है कि जिस तरह से खाद्यान्न के बारे में हम ध्यान निर्भर होने की बात सोचते हैं उसी प्रकार रई के बारे में भी ध्याननिर्भरता लानी चाहिये। हमारे देश में कई ऐसे राज्य हैं जहां कि रई काफी पैदा होती है; जैसे गुजरात है, मध्य प्रदेश है या इधर घांघ की तरफ भी और यू० पी० में भी कपास काफ़ी पैदा हो सकता है अगर कोशिश की जाय। तो मैं समझता हूँ कि जब तक कि हमारे पास रा मंत्रीगियल नहां किसी काम को चलाते रहने की क्षमता हम में अधिक नहीं रह जायगी। इसलिये जहां एक तरफ मालिकों की बात कही गई, मजदूरों की बात कही गई वहां किसानों के बारे में भी मैं कहना चाहता हूँ। अभी उधर के एक दो साथियों ने, राणे साहब ने किसानों की बात रखी। जैसे खाद्यान्न के बारे में है, उसी प्रकार कपास के बारे में भी स्थिति यह है कि उन को प्राज इन्फ्लैटिव नहीं मिलती। इन्फ्लैटिव इसलिये नहीं है कि रेग्युलेटिव प्राइस उन को

नहीं मिलती, बाजिब कीमत नहीं मिलती। इसलिये रई पैदा करने की जो उनकी क्षमता होनी चाहिये वह घटती जा रही है और रई पैदा करने का एरिया भी घटता जा रहा है। इसलिए मेरी मांग है कि जिस तरह से बहुत से कारपोरेशंस हम ने बना रखे हैं, एक और उस में इजाफा किया जाय और काटन कारपोरेशन बनाया जाय। उस में कामर्स. मंत्रालय और खाद्य मंत्रालय मिल कर हम बात की कोशिश करें कि रई का उत्पादन ज्यादा से ज्यादा हो। इसी के साथ साथ कीमत का मसला भी उसी में तय हो। उस में काटन ग्राधर्स, मिल मालिक और सरकार के नुमाइन्दे बैठकर उसकी भी कीमत तय करें और काटन के उत्पादन का भी ज्यादा से ज्यादा तरीका निकाला जाय। इस तरह से रई ज्यादा पैदा होगी। तो मिलों में भी जो दिक्कत है जिसकी चर्चा की ग. कि मिनें इमप्लि. टन्द होना चाहती है कि रई नहीं है, मेरे बहुत से साथियों ने बहुत सी बातें कहीं कि मिलों के मास स्टॉक बहुत काफ़ी जमा है और वह धोखा देते हैं, यही नहीं, मेरे इलम में तो यह धाया है कपड़े का भी स्टॉक बहुत काफ़ी उन के पास है और उन्होंने अपने होल्सेल स्टॉक-किस्टम को कह रखा है कि कपड़ा रोक कर निकाला जाय या जब उनकी तरफ से इन्ट्रूशन प्रायें तब निकाला जाये, इस तरह से मैं समझता हूँ कि कपड़े का बहुत बड़ा स्टॉक मिलों के पास और उनके होल्सेल स्टॉक-किस्टम के पास है। उस का खमियाजा भुगतना पड़ रहा है उपभोक्ता को। कल मंत्री जी ने एलान किया है राज्य सभा में कि कपड़े की कीमत भी बढ़ने जा रही है। यह एक और भारी बोझ कन्स्यूमर पर होगा। इस तरह से वह मिल मालिकों को भी सलूलियल दे रहे हैं कि कास्ट ग्राफ प्रोडक्शन जो है उसके आधार पर कपड़े की कीमत बढ़नी चाहिये और दूसरी तरफ मजदूरों को भी कह रहे

[श्री मोहन स्वरूप]

है कि 50 प्रतिशत वह जो बसोखर होगा वह उसको मिलेगा लेकिन किसान को केवल 5 प्रतिशत देना चाहते हैं। तो मेरा सुझाव है कि किसान की तरफ भी ध्यान जाना चाहिये और जब तक कि काटन प्रोन्नत अधिक से अधिक ताबाद में काटन नहीं पैदा करेगा तब तक यह जो समस्या है इसका समाधान नहीं हो सकेगा। इस लिये मैं चाहता हूँ कि जहाँ आज मजदूर की बात सोची जाती है, जहाँ मिल मालिक की बात सोची जाती है, वहाँ किसान की बात भी सोचनी चाहिये ताकि उसको भी सही दाम मिले, उचित दाम मिले और उसके लिये काटन बोनो का अधिक से अधिक भाव पैदा हो। इन सबों के साथ मैं अपनी बात खत्म करता हूँ।

श्री बिनोद सिंह : सभापति महोदय, श्री माननीय सदस्य श्री मोहन स्वरूप ने भी जिक्र किया . . . . .

Shri Umanath: The hon. Minister started the Bill with a speech in English but now he has switched over to Hindi.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : सभापति महोदय, मुझे पांच मिनट दीजिए। मुझे टाइम नहीं मिलेगा ? . . . .

श्री बिनोद सिंह : रुई के वितरण के बारे में निगम का एक सुझाव उन्होंने रखा। जितनी खाद्यान्न सम्बन्धी वस्तुएं हैं उन के वितरण के बारे में कोई निगम बने कोई ऐसी चीज हो तो एक बहुत अच्छी चीज होगी। लेकिन उसमें बड़ी कठिनाइयां आ जाती हैं और उन की वजह से देबना पड़ता है कि एक काम को करने से बचाया अच्छा होने के और एक बहुत मुश्किलता का सामना करना पड़े तो वह ठीक नहीं होता। लेकिन यह सब सुझाव हमेशा सरकार के सामने आते रहते हैं और इस पर विचार होता रहता है। जब भी ऐसी भाग आयेगी

और इस की आवश्यकता समझी जायगी तो इस पर ध्यान दिया जायगा।

माननीय सदस्य श्री मधु लिये जी ने कई बातों का जिक्र किया था। उन में जो जो सुझाव हैं उनपर हम जकर विचार करेंगे। कई सवालना भी उन्होंने पूछे थे। लेकिन इतनी जल्दी में ये कि मालूम होता है कि वह चाहते थे कि सिर्फ लिख जाय और वह उसको कह दें, कह कर चले गए, तो उनका जवाब देने में भी कोई खास फायदा मैं नहीं समझता हूँ।

एक माननीय सदस्य : अनिवार्य भी नहीं है।

Shri Dinesh Singh: Shri Umanath wanted me to reply in English so that he could straight away understand it. So, I shall certainly reply to his points in English. He mentioned that cloth production had been going down. He quoted various figures from *The Eastern Economist* in this connection. I did not know that he had become so fond of the *The Eastern Economist*.

Shri Umanath: Only for facts.

Shri Dinesh Singh: He could have got his figures as easily from the *Indian Statistics of Cotton Production*.

Shri Umanath: The figures regarding g spindleage are from the Government statistics. Only for the cotton price. I quoted from *The Eastern Economist*.

Shri Dinesh Singh: From the production figures that I have here, it does not appear that the production has fallen.

Shri Umanath: I challenge him on the figures. I quoted only the Government figures.

Shri Dinesh Singh: The hon. Member must have seen some other column.

Shri Umanath: I quoted from public documents. I am prepared to challenge him on the figures.

Shri Dinesh Singh: I am quoting from the Indian Textile Bulletin (January, 1966, vol. 12, No. 10), page 69. This gives the mill production of cotton. It has been going up. For the hon. Members' benefit, if he so wishes, I shall read out the figures. It has varied from year to year. In 1962, the figure as mentioned here was 380; in 1963, it went down to 368; in 1964 it went up to 387; in 1965 it was 382. So, he cannot say...

Shri Umanath: Let him give the figure for 1966 also.

Shri Dinesh Singh: For 1966 the figure is only for the period from January to November; the figure for the other months is not here. Probably, the hon. Member had missed that part.

Shri Umanath: Is it cloth production? Is he quoting the figures of cloth production?

Shri Dinesh Singh: I am giving the figures of cloth production from this.

So, he will see that the figures that I have quoted were not wrong. Also, the spindleage and its utilisation has been going up. I can read out the figures in this connection also, if he so desires.

He also mentioned some figures about requisitioning also, I guess, from *The Eastern Economist*, which I am afraid are equally wrong. The figures that I have are that the requisitioning in January, 1967 was of the order of 8000 bales, in February it was 4,000 bales and recently since we stepped it up in March, we requisitioned 20,000 bales.

Shri Umanath: It includes the frozen stock at Bombay port?

Shri Dinesh Singh: Requisitioned stock.

I would beg of him to bear in mind that we are endeavouring in every possible way to requisition cotton that we can get and to make sure that the mills do not stop beyond the permissible time had that we shall make every effort to do so because it is something which has to be done.

Shri S. M. Banerjee talked about the Lakshmiratan Cotton Mills. I had already talked to him about it earlier and I do not think it was necessary for him to mention that we were not doing anything in it because Shri Ram Ratan Gupta or somebody else had given any money to the Congress Party. I have not raised any money for the Congress Party.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: He has not done it. Shri Manubhai Shah's brother and Shri Sampurnand's brother—they are still working there. I can give the names.

Shri Dinesh Singh: I want to assure him that I shall not be under any of the pressures he has mentioned. I mentioned to him that if the Government of UP were willing to appoint a Controller to take it over, we shall very gladly cooperate with them. I had also told him that if that Government were not willing to do so and if there was something that we could do, we shall examine it, and if it is at all possible in the sense that it is really causing hardship and the financial aspect was all right, we shall certainly take it over to avoid any hardship.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Let him send his own officers.

Shri Dinesh Singh: I am in the process of having that matter examined. I can assure him that I shall give it my sympathetic consideration.

He also talked about our taking over the mills and setting up a corporation. I did say in the body of my speech moving for consideration that

[Shri Dinesh Singh]

we are contemplating to doing exactly the same thing. In fact, if I may say so, we said it on our own without his having to refer to it. That is our own intention. Of course, the legal and other aspects have to be examined before I make a commitment. I only expressed my desire to do so.

He also mentioned about cotton being in stock in excess. If he or any other member would kindly give me any information, I shall see that those stocks are immediately requisitioned.

**Shri Umanath:** What is his machinery doing?

**Shri Dinesh Singh:** I gave the figures earlier. The machinery has stepped up requisitioning and it is our intention to step it up further, if necessary so that this cotton is un-earthed.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** You promise to arrest Shri Ram Ratan Gupta. Then you will see the cotton stock which has been hidden.

**Shri Dinesh Singh:** Shri Gupta talked about lay-off compensation and rise in price of cloth. I would like to assure the House that it is not our intention to increase the price of cloth beyond what is more or less obligatory. There are certain factors in the multiplier and if they go up, we have to give sympathetic consideration. We shall endeavour to see that the least hardship is placed on the consumer and as such, any rise that we may permit will be the absolute minimum. I can assure the House that we would not like to place any extra burden on the consumer.

So far as the lay-off compensation is concerned, I think Shri N. C. Chatterjee raised the question of its legality. I am informed that this is perfectly in order. In fact, we have taken

it from the Industries' Disputes Act of 1947 which has provided for lay-off compensation. They have no talk of badli workers there. We have included badli workers in this. If I may say so, it is an improvement.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** I have congratulated him on that.

**Shri Dinesh Singh:** Reference was made about the need for the extension of this legislation to the States of Jammu and Kashmir. We have no hesitation in doing so except that the original Act which we are endeavouring to amend today does not extend to that State. So that will have to be by a separate amendment. But the Government of Jammu and Kashmir have been approached and I expect full co-operation from them in this respect. Some hon. Members have referred to the hardship that is being experienced by the growers, and I can assure them that we have every sympathy and consideration for them. In fact, it was only in December that we increased the ceiling price of cotton.

**Shri Umanath:** That goes to the speculator only, it does not go to the grower. That does not help them.

**Shri Dinesh Singh:** So far as the floor price is concerned, if the hon. Member is referring to that, we shall certainly examine whether there is any need to raise it, because at the moment prices, as has been pointed out, are ruling over the ceiling, and as such there should be no difficulty in selling cotton, but if there is any difficulty that the producers are experiencing we shall certainly go into it.

Hon. Member, Mr. Somani has also gone away after making his first speech in the House. I believe he had put the industry's point of view which is well known. He talked about export.

I wish the industry would endeavour to export textiles. In fact, their export today is just over 10 per cent. If they are genuinely willing to step up their export, I am willing to sit down with them and consider what assistance they require, but they have this tremendous internal consumers' market, and therefore I do not think that they are putting in the effort that they should really put in for export.

So far as industry is concerned, he blamed that we had prevented its modernisation. In fact, the industry itself has not made efforts to modernise. While new spindleage has been added, new units have been added, they have not gone in so much for transformation. We cannot allow large numbers of workers to be thrown out of employment by their trying to close down. Instead of going in for new mills, they can easily go in for improvement of existing mills so that workers will find employment and the mills themselves will be renovated. I think it is a thing which the industry needs to consider, and as I have said, the Government will consider it.

I hope I shall have the co-operation of the House in getting this amendment through, and also in maintaining efforts in bringing about a reasonable distribution of cotton and also textiles.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** No co-operation in the matter of closure.

**Shri Senavane:** Will the hon. Minister look into them if the problems and difficulties of textile mills in Sholapur District are brought to his notice?

**Shri Dinesh Singh:** I will look into them.

**Shri Shivaji Rao S. Deshmukh (Parbani):** The hon. Minister was pleased to state that the extension of this Act to Jammu and Kashmir will entail an amendment of the original Act. I may point out that by a mere Presidential order it can be done.

**श्री हुक्कम बन्ध कल्याण :** मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानकरी चाहता हूँ कि हमारे देश में रुई के उत्पादन के बारे में जो सुझाव दिया गया था कि सरकार उस को अधिक प्रोत्साहन देने के लिये काश्तकारों की सहायता करे उस के बारे में क्या सरकार विचार करेगी।

इस के साथ साथ आप ने देखा होगा और सरकार को स्वयं अनुभव होगा कि सीजन के समय में जब काश्तकार के घर से रुई आती है तो कपास की एक गांठ का भाव 175 रु० क्विन्टल खुलना है, लेकिन जब माल मार्केट में आता है तो वह 140 रु० पर खरीदा गया। यह जो भेद-भाव किया गया और भावों में जो इतना बड़ा गैप है उत्पादनकर्ता और खरीदने वाले के, उस को क्या समाप्त किया जायेगा ?

अन्त में मेरा सुझाव है मिल मालिकों की जो हालत है उस के बारे में। रुई की कमी की वजह से, उत्पादन में कमी की वजह से, पैसा न होने से जब मिलें बन्द हो जाती हैं, उन के बारे में एक प्रादमी सरकार का, एक प्रादमी सजदूर का और एक प्रादमी मालिकों का, इन तीनों को मिला कर एक कमेटी बनायें और उन को पैसा दे कर मिल चलती रहे इस का प्रयास करें।

**श्री दिनेश सिंह :** महापति महोदय, इस के ऊपर हम विचार करेंगे और ऐबी-कल्चर मिनिर्टी भी इस के बारे में सोच रही है। पहली बात तो यह कि जो रुई पैदा होती है उस के ऊपर अब कंट्रोल नहीं है। इस में लोगों को प्रोत्साहन मिलेगा। दूसरी बात यह कि अब की मर्नवा हम ऐसा भी सोच रहे हैं कि जो रुपया गेडवार्न्स जो किया जाता है रुई के लिये उसको कम किया जाये जिम से जो लोग रुई रखते हैं वहन रख सकें।

**Mr. Chairman:** The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, and to continue for a further



[Mr. Chairman]

period the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 1964, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Chairman: I shall now put clause 2 to vote.

Shri Indrajit Gupta (Alipore): I have tabled some amendments.

Mr. Chairman: The time is already half past six. All right. You may move them.

Clause 2 and 3

Shri Indrajit Gupta: I move my amendments Nos. 1, 2, 7 and 10

Page 2, line 4,—

for "for, any reason," substitute—

"the Central Government is satisfied that"

Page 2, lines 28 and 29,—

omit "fifty per cent. of" (2)

Page 2, line 21,—

for "more" substitute "less" (7)

Page, 3—

for lines 11 and 12 substitute—

"undertaking which shall be equal to the total of the basic wages and dearness allowance that would have been payable to such persons had there been no such closure". (10)

Shri K. Ramani (Coimbatore): I move my amendments Nos. 3, 4 and 5.

Page 2,—

omit lines 20 to 22 (3)

Page 2, lines 28 and 29,—

omit "fifty per cent. of" (4)

Page 3,—

for lines 11 and 12 substitute—

"undertaking which shall be equal to the total of basic wages

and dearness allowance that would have been payable to such persons had there been no such closure" (6)

Shri Umanath: I move my amendments Nos. 12 and 13.

Page 2, line 17,—

after "wholly" insert—

"or render any machine idle" (12)

Page 2,

after line 22, insert—

"(c) no person shall indulge in forward trading, direct or benami, in such commodities referred to in sub-section (4A)." (13)

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Sir, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs said this morning that it was essential to pass this Bill and that this was going to the Rajya Sabha this evening. The Rajya Sabha has adjourned at 5 O'clock So, some more time may be allowed for us to discuss the amendments.

Mr. Chairman: This evening perhaps means the next sitting.

Mr. Chairman: I shall now put all the amendments to clause 2.

The Amendments Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 12 & 13 were put and negatived.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Mr. Chairman: I shall now put the amendments to clause 3 to the vote. Amendments Nos. 5 and 10 were also put and negatived

Mr. Chairman: I shall now put clause 3 to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"That clause 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 3 was added to the Bill.

Clause 4 was added to the Bill.

Mr. Chairman: I shall now put clause 5 to the vote of the Bill.

Shri Umanath: Sir, we protest against this procedure. We are not allowed to discuss or speak on our amendments. This affects millions of people. Rajya Sabha is not sitting now. There is no harm if 15-20 more minutes are allowed.

Mr. Chairman: There was not a single dissenting voice when the time-limit was fixed in the morning. It was fixed by the House.

Shri Umanath: No, no. He wanted four hours; and I said that at least three hours should be given. Now that the Rajya Sabha is not sitting, it is unfair to adopt this procedure.

श्री हुकम चंद कछवाय : प्रती कुछ नहीं हुमा है। अगर दो घंटे उहरायें जाते हैं तो एक घंटा और बढ़ा दिया जाता है। तीन हो जाते हैं। यह दो घंटे चल चुका है, एक घंटा संशोधन पर चर्चा हो सकती है।

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Sir, I rise on a point of order, under rule 376(2), a point of order may be raised in relation to the business before the House at the moment. The business before the House at the moment is the Essential Commodities Bill. The first reading has gone through; the second reading has been reached; the third reading remains. During the second reading, on certain clauses, there were many important amendments. One of the amendments tabled by Shri Indrajit Gupta was to the effect that there should be full payment made to the workers. We are dealing with the question of workers; they have elected us to this House. (Interruption). We were told that only two hours have been fixed. (Interruption). Please try to understand something.

Shri Sheo Narain (Basti): We are understanding.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Kindly hear me, Sir. This is an extraordinary situation where even important amendments like the one moved by Shri Indrajit Gupta that full compensation should be paid, or like the one moved by Shri Umanath are passed over without being discussed. We are not allowed to even move those amendments. What is this steam-rolling? I do not understand.

Mr. Chairman: I am very sorry. In this very House, during the past few days, I myself witnessed amendments being thrown out or passed in bulk. At that time, the hon. Members did not take any objection.

Shri Umanath: After discussion of the amendments, they were put to vote in bulk; here, there was no discussion at all.

Mr. Chairman: They were discussed along with the main motion.

Shri Umanath: In the case of amendments to a resolution, they are combined and put in bulk. But here, in the case of this Bill, no discussion has been allowed in respect of the amendments which we have moved. In the case of the resolutions, the amendments are combined and put to vote. But here is a Bill, which has reached the clause-by-clause consideration stage, and so there must be a discussion of the amendments.

Mr. Chairman: I quite agree. On the one hand, the House has already fixed the time-limit; this is the last day of the session.

Shri Umanath: The sitting can be extended.

Mr. Chairman: We have to start the half-hour discussion which is to begin at 6.30. It is already half past six.

श्री हुकम चंद कछवाय : हम लोग बटने के लिये तैयार हैं। प्राप समय क्यों नहीं बढ़ाते।

Mr. Chairman: Order, order. One at a time.

**Shri Indrajit Gupta:** With all respect to you, I may say that it was in your discretion to see that time was given for the amendments; but then even within the time-limit fixed, which was up to 6.30, the general discussion on the Bill should have been curtailed, so that enough time may be left for moving the amendments. You permitted them to go on, and the Minister by the time he had finalised the reply—it was 6.30—and there were two minutes remaining. But then you wanted to guillotine the amendments and finish the Bill.

**Mr. Chairman:** I am sorry my courtesy and accommodation shown to them is recoiling on me. I had accommodated the maximum number of opposition Members within the time fixed.

**Shri Umanath:** In view of the fact that you are not supporting the request for extension of time to discuss the amendments, I am walking out.

श्री म व लिंगे एक घंटा समय  
बर्दा दीजिये ।

**Mr. Chairman:** I am now putting clause 5 to the vote of the House.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** We walk out in protest.

**Shri Umanth:** We walk out.

(*Shri S. M. Banerjee, Shri Umanath, Shri Indrajit Gupta and some other hon. Members then left the House.*)

**Mr. Chairman:** I am very sorry; it is not fair. The question is:

“That clause 5 stand part of the Bill”.

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 5 was added to the Bill.  
Clause 1. the Enacting Formula and the Title were then added to the Bill.*

**Shri Dinesh Singh:** I move:

“That the Bill be passed.”

**Mr. Chairman:** Motion moved:

“That the Bill be passed.”

Now, the question is:

“That the Bill be passed.”

*The motion was adopted.*

**Mr. Chairman:** I am very sorry that some hon. Members left the House. I gave the maximum time to the Opposition. Now, the House will take up the half-an-hour discussion. Shri Prakash Vir Shastri.

**Shri Shree Narain:** There is no quorum in the House.

**Shri Inderjit Malhotra (Jammu):** Sir, on a point of order. There is no quorum in the House.

**The Minister of Law (Shri Govinda Menon):** I would like to make an appeal to Mr. Prakash Vir Shastri about the elections in Jammu and Kashmir. There are 6 writ petitions pending in the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir. There are 25 election petitions pending before the election tribunal about Assembly elections. There are four election petitions pending in the High Court about Parliament elections. In these circumstances, since the matters which are proposed to be raised...

**Shri Shree Narain:** On a point on order, Sir There is no quorum.

**Mr. Chairman:** The bell is being rung.

श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री (हामुड़)  
जनवृत्त कर पश्यत रचा गया है ।

**Mr. Chairman:** I am sorry I have given enough time for the members to assemble, but in spite of that the number is less than the requisite number. There is no other alternative but to adjourn the House *sine die*.

18.44 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned sine die.*