

डा० लक्ष्मी नारायण बाबू (मंदसौर) :

अध्यक्ष महोदय, कृषि राज्य मंत्री महोदय ने अपने एक वक्तव्य में कहा था कि उन को कृषि मूल्य आयोग का प्रतिवेदन प्राप्त हो चुका है। उधर गन्ना उत्पादकों तथा किसानों के अन्दर सरकार की नई खाद्य नीति के अन्तर्गत गेहूँ आदि की प्रोक्योरमेंट तथा गन्ने की कीमत को लेकर बड़ा भारी असंतोष है। स्वयं कृषि राज्य मंत्री जी ने इस तथ्य को स्वीकार किया है कि कृषि मूल्य आयोग ने अपनी सिफारिशों में गन्ने की कीमत बढ़ाने के बारे में सिफारिश की है। मैं समझता हूँ कि मंत्री जी के माध्यम से कृषि मंत्री महोदय से अनुरोध करूँगा कि वे इस बारे में एक वक्तव्य देने की कृपा करेंगे कि गेहूँ के प्रोक्योरमेंट और गन्ने की कीमत के बारे में उनकी नीति क्या है? आप इनकी कीमतें बढ़ाना चाह रहे हैं अथवा नहीं?

मेरा यह भी अनुरोध है कि उस प्रतिवेदन को सभा पटल पर रखा जाये तथा इस सदन में उस पर चर्चा हो।

SHRI K. RAGHU RAMAIAH: Sir, as you have rightly observed, my statement relates to the business during the next week. So, whatever pertains to the business during the next week, I shall communicate it to the concerned Ministers.

12.30 hrs.

TOBACCO BOARD BILL—contd.

SHRIMATI T. LAKSHMIKANTHAMMA (Khammam): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I welcome the Tobacco Board Bill, 1974. We have been for many years pleading on the Floor of the House for appointment of a Board like this. Shri L. N. Mishra, when he was Minister of Commerce assured this House that such a Board will be set-up and now this Bill is before the House and we welcome it. Andhra Pradesh has been the largest grower of virginia tobacco. I think, Andhra grows more than 80 per cent of the total production of virginia tobacco in the country. Even in Andhra Pradesh

the largest quantity of tobacco is grown in the district of Guntur. The tobacco growing agriculturists have a number of difficulties and lack of facilities as far as growing and marketing is concerned. I hope this Bill tries to remove some of these drawbacks. I request that some of the difficulties that the agriculturists have been facing such as payment for their produce, or the marketing of their produce or the prices for their produce. I think, in the Bill, certain provisions have been made for stabilising the prices of tobacco. Sir, the agriculturists should be given fertilisers. Though the Bill seeks to remedy many of the difficulties of the agriculturists, still, it is not all comprehensive. There is no mention about the purchase or the marketing of tobacco. Now, in auction, anybody can go and purchase and if they all are united, the same old difficulties will continue.

Sir, the companies which are in this trade are exploiting the agriculturists to such an extent that payment is not made in time. If tobacco is bought this year, most probably, the payment will be made next year. Not even half of the payment is made this year. The agriculturists are not able to get fertiliser on loan. Sir, tobacco is such a produce which needs a lot of fertiliser and fertiliser is not available in the open market. They have to go somewhere and buy fertiliser at an exorbitant price. So, how are you going to remedy the situation? The proposed Board should see that the agriculturists are given fertiliser in adequate quantities. Some facilities should be given so that the agriculturists are able to get fertiliser. I think there are some private companies which give fertiliser on loan—I remember one—and they deduct the amount at the time of purchasing the tobacco. So, you should evolve certain things like this so that the agriculturists are able to get fertiliser. There should also be some facilities for making payments. When tobacco is bought, there should be immediate payment, instead of postponing it to next year or some other year.

I am also glad that some provision has been made in this Bill for research. Tobacco is a produce which needs research from time to time. Improvements can be made. There should also be publicity abroad. This is a commodity which fetches substantial amount of foreign exchange for the country. We now learn—I do not know the reasons; the Minister must be able to explain—that there has been a fall in demand in the international market. I do not know whether it is because the consumption of tobacco is coming down. We do not grudge about it. But, why has it been so? What are the reasons? Some people have been complaining that the demand for tobacco has fallen, compared to the previous years. The question is, whether it is only in regard to our tobacco. It is also good that the Bill makes provision for publicity abroad so that Indian tobacco can be exported and we will be able to get more foreign exchange.

Sir, another question is, what is the Government going to do in regard to the private companies? These private companies have not been very clear in their dealings, as far as the agriculturists are concerned. What is the Government going to do? It is all right you have said that the agriculturists have all to get registered. Only when you give a certificate, they will be eligible to grow tobacco otherwise not. In order to remove the injustices that may be done in this process, the agriculturists who have been growing tobacco for a long time should be allowed to continue growing tobacco and their requests for issue of these certificates should not be rejected.

I think there is scope for expansion also. After the Nagarjunasagar project is completed, there will be change in production-complex in Guntur in respect of tobacco because it will be mostly irrigated land and there might be change in production pattern. But what about expanding it to other parts? All this had to be surveyed and help should be given to the agriculturists. I welcome this Bill.

The Bill also says that the grower should get a remunerative price and that there should be no wild fluctuations in price. But how are you going to do it? You are going to auction and the same companies may unite and see that a fair price is not paid to the agriculturist. One thing is that there should be improved marketing within the country. All those clauses are there. What is more important is implementation. You are going to constitute a board with eminent Members of Parliament as well as Members in the trade and some officers. They should take suitable steps. They should take special interest because their resources which we see from the Bill are not much. They should be given more resources and facilities to under take the work entrusted to them.

SHRI PATTABHI RAMA RAO (Rajamundry): Sir, this legislation is long overdue. But better late than never and I am glad that the Government had come forward with this Bill at least now, to safeguard the interests of the farmers as well as persons in tobacco trade. Andhra Pradesh grows the largest amount of tobacco and thus contributes to the Government by way of excise and sales tax. So we feel that people should be given the benefit, they are entitled to. At present there are a few monopolists who dictate the price to the grower who takes all the trouble. The grower parts with the commodity at whatever price they give. Their interests should be safeguarded by this legislation.

I have tabled a few amendments to make the Bill fool proof and I want to refer to them. Clause 6(5) in the Bill as is worded at present prohibits the full time officers from undertaking any work unconnected with their duties except with the permission of the Central Government. In view of the provision contained in clause 9(1) whereby the Government may dissolve the board at any time, such officers should be permitted to continue their connections, if any, with business concerns other than tobacco companies.

[Shri Pattabhi Rama Rao]

Suppose they appoint a brilliant lawyer who is a retired judge and who practices in the High Court or Supreme Court which does not come in clash with tobacco business. If he is asked to stop the practice completely and serve the Board as its chairman, what is his position? Suddenly after a year or so, if they dispense with his services, he will be neither here nor there. I suggest that in such circumstances they may be allowed to continue in their own business or calling which will not come in the way of his duties as chairman. Or, in the alternative, the appointment of these officers must be for a minimum period of five years in order to attract exceptionally qualified persons. Personally I feel that a person who is appointed as chairman must have perfect knowledge not only of tobacco growing but also the tricks of the business and he will be a good chairman.

I have also given notice of a new sub-clause 8(2)(k). The reason is quite obvious. It is the general impression that certain companies which are part of the world monopolies are controlling the prices of Indian tobacco.

With regard to clause 8(2)(h), I may say that the expression 'promoting' gives an impression that at best it is an honest endeavour. For proper auctioning of tobacco, as envisaged under section 13, it is essential that tobacco must be graded by the farmers themselves. Otherwise there will be confusion. If the farmer does not grade the tobacco and sends it in a lot in a confused way, the monopolies can dictate their own terms. By making use of this lacuna that it has not been properly graded, he will put up any price that suits him. That way the grower may lose. If grading is done at the farmers' level, it will serve a useful purpose.

New sub-clause 8(2)(1) is proposed with the idea that the tobacco board should take over the functions of the present AGMARK department connected with tobacco. This is essential

for proper functioning of tobacco marketing, both from the point of view of foreign Exchange Regulations Act, and also for the purpose of scientific auctioning of tobacco. Getting a proper label for the grade is a prerequisite before auctioning of tobacco commences and this should be within the jurisdiction and functions of the Tobacco Board. If it is left to AG-MARK that may do it in their own way and take their own time. This responsibility has to be given to the board.

With regard to clause 13(b), while part of the proposed amendment is covered by clause 8(2)(b) and (g), the proposed amendment clearly defines the functions of the Board vis-a-vis the auctioning of tobacco. As one of the main functions under sub-clause 8(2)(h) is grading of tobacco at the level of growers, certain non-descript tobacco will be left over with the growers for which they may not have an immediate outlet. It is this difficulty that is making them not to grade the tobacco, so that they can mix all types of tobacco and dispose of them. So that the farmer does not lose, it is essential that the Board must be in a position to purchase the tobacco unsold on the auction floor and find a market for it either in India or abroad.

These are the few suggestions I am making in connection with the amendments I have given notice of, and I am sure this legislation will help the grower and the trader, and Andhra Pradesh particularly is grateful for this legislation.

डा० लक्ष्मीनारायण राव (मदनौर) :

तम्बाकू उद्योग को सुव्यवस्थित करने के लिए किसानों को तम्बाकू का ठीक दाम दिलाने के लिए तथा विर्जीनिया तम्बाकू का विदेशों में ज्यादा से ज्यादा निर्यात करने के लिए उसको ज्यादा से ज्यादा निर्यात योग्य बनाने के लिए तम्बाकू बोर्ड विधेयक यहां लाया गया है। जहां तक तम्बाकू उद्योग का सम्बन्ध है केवल प्रांत में ही नहीं भारत के विभिन्न राज्यों में भी काम कर रहा है दूसरे राज्यों में

मे भी काफी बड़ी मात्रा में तम्बाकू का उत्पादन होता है। उन राज्यों में मध्य प्रदेश और गुजरात राज्यों के नाम उल्लेखनीय हैं। मैं समझता हूँ कि माली महोदय अमहमन नहीं होंगे कि अन्य राज्यों में भी इसका भारी मात्रा में उत्पादन होता है और उसका भी ठीक तरह के उपयोग हो सके, उसको भी निर्यात योग्य बनाने की चेष्टा हो सके, इस दृष्टि में उस पर भी विचार किए जाने की आवश्यकता है। वहाँ पर भी उसके उत्पादन को बढ़ाने तथा किस्मों सुधारने के प्रयत्न होने चाहिये, हममें वह इन्कार नहीं करेंगे।

जहाँ तक तम्बाकू उद्योग का सम्बन्ध है सरकार के द्वारा कई बार घोषणा की गई है कि इस प्रकार का एक बोर्ड बनाया जाएगा। 1972, में 1973 में और 1974 में भी लगातार इसके बारे में घोषणा की जाती रही है कि इस प्रकार का बोर्ड बनाया जाएगा। अभी तक यह बनाया नहीं गया था। आध्र में और कर्नाटक में किसानों के सामने उत्पादकों के सामने कठिनाई आई और उनके पास स्टॉक जमा हो गया भारी मात्रा में और जब विदेशों में हमारे निर्यात में कमी होनी लगी और जो बीच वाले लोग थे या मध्यस्थता करने वाले लोग थे वे कम दामों पर उस तम्बाकू को खरीदने लगे तो किसानों की उत्पादकों की कठिनाई को सरकार ने भी अनुभव किया और बोर्ड बनाने का निर्णय किया और अग्रे हमारे सामने तम्बाकू बोर्ड विधेयक लेकर वह आई है। उसके कारण में हम काफी हर्षित हैं और आगे भी हम प्रकार की हानि पहुँचने की सम्भावना न रहे इस दृष्टि से बोर्ड का गठन किया जा रहा है क्योंकि उस समय भारी मात्रा में विर्जीनिया तम्बाकू का स्टॉक जमा हो गया था।

जहाँ तक बोर्ड के गठन का सम्बन्ध है इसके बारे में कोई विवाद नहीं है। जहाँ तक तम्बाकू उत्पादन का सम्बन्ध है, विर्जीनिया तम्बाकू का बड़ी भारी मात्रा में विदेशों को

निर्यात किया जाता है और लगभग पचास देशों को उसका निर्यात होता है। इसका पचास प्रतिशत भाग आन्ध्र में जो तम्बाकू का उत्पादन होता है, उसका होता है। इस दृष्टि में यह आवश्यक था कि जो डिप्लोमेट बोर्ड था वह इस काम में रूचि लेता। लेकिन उसने रूचि नहीं ली। इस का परिणाम यह हुआ कि विदेशों की तुलना में हमारे यहाँ प्रति एकड़ तम्बाकू का उत्पादन बहुत ही कम है। हमारा देश में इस का उत्पादन प्रति एकड़ 340 किलो है जबकि यू.एस.ए. में 908 किलो इसका एकड़ उत्पादन है और रोडेशिया में 540 किलो है। इस दृष्टि में उत्पादन के मामले में हमारा देश बहुत पीछे है। तम्बाकू बोर्ड को इसका उत्पादन बढ़ाने की दिशा में इसकी रिसर्च की दिशा में तथा इसका ठीक ढंग से निर्यात हा इस दिशा में विशेष प्रयत्न करने के लिए कहा गया है। यह स्वागत योग्य है। मैं समझता हूँ कि भारत को ज्यादा में ज्यादा सक्षम 'रीति' से इस कार्य को करना चाहिये और उत्पादन तथा निर्यात को बढ़ाना चाहिये।

यह जो बोर्ड बनाना का मुद्दा है यह केवल विर्जीनिया तम्बाकू का उत्पादन या उसकी क्वालिटी का रेग्युलेशन तक ही सीमित है जैसा कि विधेयक की धारा 7(जी) में कहा गया है

"purchasing virginia tobacco from growers when the same is considered necessary or expedient for protecting the interests of the growers and disposal of the same in India or abroad as and when considered appropriate"

मैं समझता हूँ कि किसी विशेष किस्म तक ही इसको सीमित रखने की आवश्यकता नहीं है। यह ठीक है कि एक्सपोर्ट की दृष्टि से विर्जीनिया तम्बाकू का विशेष महत्व है। मैं समझता हूँ कि विशेषकर गुजरात और मध्य प्रदेश में जहाँ दूसरी किस्म के तम्बाकू

[डा० लक्ष्मीनारायण पांडेय]

का उत्पादन होता है यदि उसका विदेशो में निर्यात हो सकता है तो उस और भी बोर्ड को ध्यान देना चाहिये और उस दृष्टि से उस तम्बाकू का विकास भी करने का प्रयत्न करना चाहिए। उसका उत्पादन हमारे यहाँ भी बढ़ सकता है उसकी क्वालिटी में सुधार लाया जा सकता है और इस दृष्टि से उस दिशा में प्रयत्न करने की आवश्यकता है और वे किए जाने चाहिये। बोर्ड को इस और भी ध्यान देना चाहिये।

जो बोर्ड का गठन है उस में भी बहुत सी खामिया है। दो राज्यों को बोर्ड में सम्मिलित करने की व्यवस्था की गई है :

"The Government of Andhra Pradesh and the Government of Karnataka"

यह भी कहा गया है कि प्रोपोजेंटली या बारी बारी में उन राज्यों को भी हमने लिया जाएगा जो तम्बाकू का उत्पादन करने हैं। मैं समझता हूँ कि बोर्ड में अगर गुजरात और मध्य प्रदेश इनदी राज्यों को पहले से ही सम्मिलित कर लिया जाए तो ज्यादा अच्छा रहेगा। इनका तम्बाकू के उत्पादन में बहुत बड़ा हिस्सा है। दूसरों का जिन का उतना बड़ा हिस्सा नहीं है उनके लिए जो व्यवस्था आपने रखी है वह कायम रह सकती है। इसके सम्बन्ध में मैंने सशोधन भी प्रस्तुत किया है कि गुजरात और मध्य प्रदेश को उसका रेग्युलर मैम्बर बना लिया जाए और इस हेतु धारा तीन में उपयुक्त संशोधन कर दिया जाए। यदि आप मेरे इस संशोधन को स्वीकार कर लेंगे तो मैं समझता हूँ ज्यादा अच्छा होगा।

पार्लियामेंट के मैम्बर जो आपने इस में रखे हैं उसके बारे में भी मेरा एक संशोधन है जिस में मैंने चाहा है कि उनकी संख्या को बढ़ाया जाए। मैं आशा करता हूँ कि मेरे इस संशोधन को भी आप स्वीकार कर लेंगे।

धारा 8 में ऐसे लोगों का जो इस बोर्ड में सम्मिलित किए जाने की व्यवस्था की गई है जो तम्बाकू उद्योग के अन्दर रुचि रखते हैं या जिनकी सहायता से सरकार उपयुक्त समझती है, उत्पादकों के प्रतिनिधियों को लेने की भी आपने व्यवस्था की है मैं चाहता हूँ कि इसके साथ साथ आप श्रमिक जो हैं उनके प्रतिनिधियों को भी सीधे इस में सम्मिलित करने का प्रयत्न करें। इसके सम्बन्ध में जो मैंने सशोधन दिया है यदि आप उसको स्वीकार कर लेंगे तो यह ज्यादा उपयुक्त होगा। प्र.अ.अ. के प्रतिनिधियों को तो आपने सम्मिलित किया है लेकिन उनके प्रतिनिधियों को भी आप सम्मिलित करें। आपने इसको खुला रखा है और कहा है कि आप चाहें तो ऐसा कर सकते हैं। क्लॉज 8 में आपने लिखा है

"The Board may associate with itself in such manner and for such purposes any person whose assistance is necessary"

मैं चाहता हूँ कि आप स्पेसिफिकली कहें कि जो मजदूरों के प्रतिनिधि हैं वे भी नामिनेट किए जाएंगे। किसानों के साथ साथ मजदूरों को बहुत बड़ी संख्या में इस में काम करना है और उस दृष्टि से इस संशोधन को स्वीकार करने से ज्यादा उपयुक्त होगा, उसका संशोधन सेना ज्यादा उपयुक्त होगा। साथ ही तम्बाकू में चलने वाले अन्य उद्योगों के बारे में भी बोर्ड को कोई व्यक्तिगत नीति निर्धारित करना आवश्यक है।

अन्त में मैं इतना ही कहना चाहता हूँ जहाँ आपने विर्जीनिया तम्बाकू के बारे में विशेष प्रावधान किया है वहाँ आप दूसरे तम्बाकू के बारे में भी विचार करें ताकि जहाँ विर्जीनिया तम्बाकू के एक्सपोर्ट पर ध्यान दिया जाना आवश्यक है वहाँ दूसरे तम्बाकू का भी एक्सपोर्ट किया जा सके और ज्यादा से ज्यादा विदेशी मुद्रा प्राप्त हो सके। इस दिशा में सरकार ने अब तक जो प्रयत्न किए

हैं वे काफ़ी प्रतीत नहीं होते हैं। क्वान्तिटी, रिखर्स आदि की जो बातें मैंने पहले कही हैं उन पर ध्यान दिया जाए और विधेयक में जो कुछ खामियां हैं उनको दूर करने का प्रयत्न किया जाए ताकि विभिन्न राज्यों में तम्बाकू उत्पादक जो हैं उनके हितों का संरक्षण हो सके और विदेशी मुद्रा भारी मात्रा में प्राप्त हो सके।

MR. SPEAKER: Shri B. K. Daschowdhury. He may speak after lunch.

13.00 hrs.

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

*The Lok Sabha reassembled after lunch at Five Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock*

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

### TOBACCO BOARD BILL

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. B. K. Daschowdhury.

SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY (Cooch-Bihar): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I must thank the hon. Minister for coming forward with this Bill. It is really a very welcoming measure, though belated. But, Sir, I must say at the same time that, if one goes through the Bill, one will find that the entire Bill is only—if I may put it subject to qualification—for that tobacco, the quality of which is exported to earn foreign exchange, i.e., the virginia tobacco. No doubt, in Clause 8, sub-clause (3), there is a little reference:

"Without prejudice to the generality of the provisions of sub-section (1) and subject to priority being given to matters specified in sub-section (2), the measures referred to in sub-section (1) may also provide in relation to tobacco, other than virginia tobacco, for all or any of the matters specified in clauses (c) to (g) of sub-section (2) and for this purpose any reference in those clauses to virginia tobacco shall be construed as including a refer-

ence to tobacco other than virginia tobacco."

This is the only slight reference but has been made here. It is true, as the hon. Minister has said, we are growing tobacco to the extent of nearly 400 million kgs. or a little more. I would like to point out that the hon. Minister, in the Statement of Objects and Reasons, has said that in India our average annual production is 350 million kilograms, but according to Government statistics, it is more than 400 million kilograms. But that is not the main point. The question is, out of these 350 million kgs. of annual production of tobacco in this country or 400 million kilograms, there are a number of other varieties also. It is not only the virginia tobacco that we are producing in this country. There are a good number of other varieties also. In Bihar there are ten or twelve varieties; in some other places also there are other varieties. I do not know why particular importance or emphasis has been given to the virginia tobacco. I could appreciate one thing that it gives us a good amount of foreign exchange. But I would should consider giving directions to the urge upon the hon. Minister that he Tobacco Board that is contemplated under this particular Bill that it should give priority, facilities and subsidies not only to virginia tobacco as the Bill provides, but it should also give due importance to the other varieties of tobacco which are produced in the country. If one has the time to go through the rules and regulations and the directions given by the Central Board of Revenue in regard to tobacco production, its curing and other things, one will be astonished to learn that the facilities in respect of tobacco production which are being offered by the Government are limited only to certain States; by and by, they have been extended to Bihar and Orissa and all other States in the West and the North, but unfortunately, those facilities have not been extended to West Bengal and Assam and other States in this region.

[Shri B. K. Daschowdhury.]

Now, let us consider what is the total production in West Bengal and Assam. Out of the production of 350-400 million kgs. or in other words 400,000 tonnes of tobacco, Assam grows 6,000 tonnes. West Bengal grows 8,000 to 10,000 tonnes and some other States, e.g. Maharashtra grows roughly 6,000 tonnes which is equivalent to Assam's production or a little less. But West Bengal is producing more. But the facilities and subsidies given to the tobacco growers in Maharashtra, Bihar and Orissa are not being offered to the tobacco-growers of West Bengal and Assam. I do not know why this discrimination.

Moreover, out of the total 10,000 tonnes of annual production in West Bengal, about 80 per cent grows in a particular area of one district alone, that is Cooch-Behar. Their annual production varies from 7,000-10,000 tonnes. Out of this total 7000-10,000 tonnes of tobacco that is grown in that district of Cooch-Behar, the wrapper tobacco is one which, according to experts, is decidedly one of the best varieties of the world. There is no dearth of buyers for this wrapper tobacco. Unfortunately, the poor wrapper tobacco-growers are not in a position to get even a minimum price, that should be paid for this wrapper quality tobacco that is grown because the market is such that big tobacco merchants and firms have their own agents and they are purchasing from the villages and they have their bonded houses according to the Central Board of Direct Taxes and the Excise Department whereas the poor growers have no facilities to keep their produce in bonded houses. Therefore, they are forced and compelled to sell their tobacco within a certain stipulated period. As a result what happens? The poor growers do not get a fair price, not even the minimum price which should be given to the growers. I have not seen any provision here in this Bill where there is a word at least to say that a sort of a fair price will be given to the tobacco-growers. Mention should be made—I should not

omit that—that an attempt will be made so that poor tobacco-growers may also get a fair price. But how are you going to implement it? Is the proposed Board going to purchase tobacco in bulk quantities from the growers so that the growers may get a remunerative or fair price that you may fix? No such power has been given also to the Tobacco Board. It is all left in the hands of the private traders though directions and other things may be given from here. Therefore, I would submit that facilities and the assistance offered to the tobacco-growers in other States of India—I mean States other than West Bengal, Assam and the small States like Mizoram, Maghalaya, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland should be extended to these States also. If there is anything, it should be uniform throughout the country. West Bengal, Assam and other eastern States should not be neglected and deprived of this concession.

Thirdly, as I mentioned, there must be a specific system as to how you are to fix the price in order to give a fair price to the growers. That is the crux of the whole problem.

Why are you thinking of forming a Board? It is in order to reform the entire business, not only to earn money and foreign exchange which is no doubt one of the main objects but the main emphasis should also be that the poor growers should be given an adequate and fair price and to do that, it should be considered seriously as how to eliminate these middlemen or these small agents who are depriving the poor growers of getting a fair price. My fourth point is this. In Cooch-Behar tobacco is grown in a very light, sandy, alluvial soil. The Objects and Reasons of the Bill says that this Virginia tobacco is grown on a light soil. In Cooch-Behar we have this sort of light soil and this area should be given all necessary facilities. I request that the hon. Minister may send an expert team to

look into the condition of this soil in Cooch-Bihar area and to give them necessary facilities. This is one of the most neglected areas. If you grow virginia tobacco in Cooch-Bihar it will compare very well one of the best varieties of Virginia tobacco that is grown in different parts of the world. Not only wrapper tobacco, but I would like to tell the Minister, that tobacco research should include all other aspects also. You are carrying out research in regard to wrapper tobacco for manufacture of cigar at Cooch-Bihar. That is not enough. You must go to the various other researches also. You should find out what is the best way to develop these varieties of tobacco. These tobacco-growing areas will have to be developed and for that purpose some schemes have to be taken up. With these words I support the Bill.

श्री इसहाक सम्भली (भमरोहा) : डिप्टी स्पीकर साहब, मुझे खुशी है कि सरकार ने तम्बाकू बोर्ड बिल में तम्बाकू पैदा करने वालों और तम्बाकू का काम करने वालों की तरफ भी तबज्जुह दी है। लेकिन मुझे यह देख कर दुःख होता है कि सरकार की आदत हो गई है कि वह छोटे छोटे टुकड़े कर के बिल लाती है। आज तम्बाकू गायज और तम्बाकू वर्कज का जिस तरह एक्सप्लोएशन हो रहा है, उस को देखते हुए जरूरत इस बात की है कि इस बारे में एक काम्प्रिहेंसिव बिल गये।

मेरी स्टेट में भी तम्बाकू पैदा होता है—आन्ध्र प्रदेश के मुकाबले में थोड़ा सा। बिहार में भी तम्बाकू पैदा होता है। आप बो मालूम हैं कि किस तरह तम्बाकू प्रोडर्ज का एक्सप्लोएशन होता है और किस तरह एक्सट्राक्ट वाले उस को परेशान करने हैं। एक तरफ सरकार की एक्सट्राक्ट ड्यूटी भारी जाती है और दूसरी तरफ तम्बाकू प्रोडर्ज को पूरे दाम नहीं मिलने हैं। क्या सरकार ने इस तरह तबज्जुह दी है? क्या किसानों को पूरे दाम दिलाने के लिये बोर्ड की इयूटीज में कोई बात शामिल की गई है? नहीं।

तम्बाकू की पैदावार तब बेहतर होगी, जब तम्बाकू पैदा करने वाले किसानों और तम्बाकू वर्कज को राहत दी जाएगी और उन्हें सहूलियत मुहैया की जायेगी। सब से ज्यादा तम्बाकू बीड़ी बनाने वाले यूज करते हैं। लेकिन क्या बीड़ी वर्कज की हानत को बेहतर बनाने के लिए इस बोर्ड के फ़रायज में कोई चीज रखी गई है?

जहां तक इस बात का ताल्लुक है कि इस बोर्ड में कौन कौन होंगे, इस बिल में बताया गया है कि उस में पालियामेंट के मेम्बर होंगे।

श्री नवल किशोर वर्मा (दौसा) : वही तो बीड़ी वालों के रिप्रेजेंटेटिव होंगे।

श्री इसहाक सम्भली : उस में बीड़ी वर्कज नहीं, बीड़ी फ़ैक्टरियों के अधीन होंगे, जो मध्य प्रदेश में सरकार बनाने की कोशिश करते हैं। वह बहुत भयानक लाठी है।

एम बोर्ड में रिमर्च स्कालर होंगे, एक्स-पोर्टर्ज के रिप्रेजेंटेटिव होंगे और मैनुफ़ैक्चरर्ज के नुमायंदे भी होंगे। लेकिन अगर कोई नहीं होगा, तो वर्कज का नुमायदा कंटि नहीं होगा। इस तरह पर आखिर टुबैको ओथर्स के लिए कौन बहनरी की जायेगी? किस तरह पर टुबैको का प्रोडक्शन कुछ बेहतर बनाया जायेगा? उन में काम करने वाले इसान 40 लाख हैं जो हिन्दुस्तान में सिर्फ बीड़ी बनाने में लगे हुए हैं। लाखों की तादाद में हैं जो सिगार और सिगरेट बनने में लग गए हैं। लेकिन उन का रिप्रेजेंटेटिव बोर्ड में कोई नहीं होगा। बार बार सब ल उठा रहे हैं, दूसरे मुल्को से मांग आई है, अमेरिका और कुछ दूसरे अफ्रीकन देश तथा कुछ और दूसरे देश हिन्दुस्तान की बनी हुई बीड़ी पसंद करते हैं, मंगवाना चाहते हैं, लेकिन हमारे यहां बूँक बड़ मिल मालिकों को कोई फायदा नहीं होगा जो बड़े बड़े कारखाने चलाते हैं, इसलिए की उस की तरफ तबज्जुह नहीं दी जाती ताकि तम्बाकू



[ श्री इमाहाक सम्मेली ]

सस्ता मिलता रहे। मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ तम्बाकू में काम करने वाले मजदूरों के रेप्रेजेंटेटिव को आपने इस में क्यों नहीं रखा ?

मुझे देख कर के ताज्जुब हुआ, आप अच्छी तरह से जानते हैं कि आज भी फारेन कन्ट्रीज वाले, फारेन इन्टरेस्ट रखने वाले तम्बाकू के कारखानों के मालिक हैं। आज भी उन की गिगरेटे चल रही हैं। इस बोर्ड के अंदर यह क्यों नहीं रखा गया है कि उन को न लिया जा सके ? मैं कहूंगा सरकार को ऐलान करना चाहिए कि सरकार ऐसा इंतजाम करेगी कि फारेन इन्टरेस्ट रखने वाले किसी नुमाइन्दे को इस बोर्ड में नहीं आने दिया जायगा, वरना ये फारेनर इसी तरह इस में बैठे रहे तो शायद यह इस्ट्री भी कभी तरक्की नहीं कर पाएगी। इसलिए इस की जरूरत है और मैं फिर जोर देकर कहूंगा कि मिनिस्टर साहब इस का इत्मीनान दिलाए कि इसका इंतजाम वह करेंगे कि वर्कर्स के नुमाइन्दे इस में आयें। आखिर उन्होंने क्या कसूर किया है कि टी बोर्ड में वर्कर्स के नुमाइन्दे होंगे, काफ़ी बोर्ड में वर्कर्स के नुमाइन्दे होंगे, सिर्फ़ टूट्टीको बोर्ड में ही वर्कर्स के नुमाइन्दे नहीं हाँगे ? इसलिए मेरी दरखवास्त है तीन चीजों के लिए पहली चीज प्रोड्यूसर्स के लिए माकूल और वाजिव कीमत मिलती रहे इस का इंतजाम किया जाय। बोर्ड को अधिकार दिया जाय कि वह तम्बाकू खुद खरीदे। कम से कम इस के होलमेल ट्रेड को सरकार को अपने कब्जे में लेना चाहिए। दूसरे, वर्कर्स की इस में नुमाइन्दगी होनी चाहिए। तीसरे, जो और वर्कर्स डिफरेंट मेकशस में काम करते हैं तम्बाकू के उनका भी उम में लेना चाहिए। तब ता इस बिल के लाने का कोई मकसद है वरना कोई मकसद इस से हल होने वाला नहीं है।

[ श्री अस्वाक सल्लेली (अमरुसे) :

तृतीय सेशन में सदन के अध्यक्ष

हैं कि सरकार ने तम्बाकू बोर्ड में तम्बाकू पैदा करने वालों और तम्बाकू का काम करने वालों की तरफ़ भी توجه दी है - लेकिन मुझे यह दिक्कत है कि सरकार की आदत यह होती है - कि वह ज़रूरतें चूँके ठीक ठीक करके हल करती है - आज तम्बाकू क्रोवर्स और तम्बाकू क्रोवर्स का जिस तरह अक्सलेंटेशन हो रहा है - इस को देखते हुए ज़रूरत इस बात की है कि इस बारे में भी एक कमिटी गठित हो

सभी सदस्यों में भी तम्बाकू पैदा होता है - अंदरूनी प्रोड्यूसर्स के मुकाबले में तबोरा सा - बेहतर में भी तम्बाकू पैदा होता है - आप को मालूम है - कि किस तरह तम्बाकू क्रोवर्स का अक्सलेंटेशन होता है - और किस तरह अक्सलेंटेशन वाले इन को प्रोड्यूसर्स करते हैं - एक तरफ़ सरकार की अक्सलेंटेशन टैक्स्टी माय जाती है और दूसरी तरफ़ तम्बाकू क्रोवर्स को पुरे दाम नहीं मिलते हैं - कि सरकार ने इस तरफ़ तबोरा दी है - कि किसानों को पुरे दाम मिलने के लिये बोर्ड की टैक्स्टी में कौन सी बातें शामिल की गयी हैं - नहीं -

तम्बाकू की पैदावार तब बेहतर होगी जब तम्बाकू पैदा करने वाले किसानों और तम्बाकू क्रोवर्स को राहत दी जाएगी और तब सदन में भी बातें शामिल होंगी

سے زیادہ تمباکو بھڑی بنانے والے استعمال کرتے ہیں۔ لیکن کیا بھڑی ورکرز کی حالت کو بہتر بنانے کے لئے اس بورڈ کے فرائض میں کوئی چھڑ رکھی گئی ہے۔

جہاں تک اس بات کا تعلق ہے کہ اس بورڈ میں کون کون ہونگے۔ اس بل میں بتایا گیا ہے کہ اس میں پارلیمنٹ کے ممبر ہونگے۔

شری نپل کشور شرما : وہ ہی تو بھڑی والوں کے ریپرزیٹیتو ہونگے۔

شری استحق سلہلی : اس میں بیڑی ورکرز نہیں۔ بھڑی فیکٹریوں کے اونرز ہونگے۔ جو مدعیہ پردیش میں سرکار بنانے کی کوشش کرتے ہیں۔ وہ بہت مضبوط لابی ہیں۔

اس بورڈ میں دیسپچ سکالر ہونگے۔ ایکسپورٹرز کے ریپرزیٹیتو ہونگے۔ اور میلفوفیکچررز کے نمائندے بھی ہونگے۔ لیکن اگر کوئی نہیں ہوگا تو ورکرز کا نمائندہ کوئی نہیں ہوگا۔ اس طرح پر آخر تمباکو گروورز کے لئے کون بہتری کی جائیگی؟ کس طرح سے تمباکو کا پروڈکشن کچھ بہتر بنایا جائیگا؟ ان میں کام کرنے والے انسان 40 لاکھ ہیں۔ ہندوستان میں صرف بھڑی بنانے میں لگے ہوئے ہیں۔ لاکھوں کی تعداد میں ہیں۔ جو سکالر اور سگریٹ بنانے میں لگے ہوئے ہیں۔

لیکن ان کا ریپرزیٹیتو بورڈ میں کوئی نہیں ہوگا۔ بار بار سوال اٹھا رہے ہیں۔ دوسرے ملکوں سے مانگ آئی ہے۔ امریکہ اور کچھ دوسرے افریکن دیس تہا کچھ اور دوسرے دیس ہندوستان کی بلی ہوئی بھڑی دستد کرتے ہیں۔ ملکوانا چاہتے ہیں۔ لیکن ہمارے یہاں چونکہ بڑے مل مالکوں کو کوئی فائدہ نہیں ہوگا۔ جو بڑے بڑے کارخانے چلاتے ہیں۔ اس لئے اس کی طرف توجہ نہیں دی جاتی تاکہ تمباکو سستا ملتا رہے۔ میں پوچھنا چاہتا ہوں تمباکو میں کام کرنے والے مزدوروں کے نمائندے کو آپ نے اس میں کیوں نہیں رکھا۔

مجھے دیکھ کر تعجب ہوا۔ آپ اچھی طرح سے جانتے ہیں کہ آج بھی فارن کلٹریز والے فارن انڈریسٹ والے تمباکو کے کارخانوں کے مالک ہیں۔ آج بھی ان کی سگریٹیں چل رہی ہیں۔ اس بورڈ کے اندر یہ کیوں نہیں رکھا گیا ہے کہ ان کو نہ کہا جاسکے۔ میں کہتا سرکار کو اعلان کرنا چاہئے۔ کہ سرکار ایسا انتظام کریگی کہ فارن انڈریسٹ رکھنے والے کسی نمائندے کو اس بورڈ میں نہیں آنے دیا جائیگا۔ ورنہ یہ فارن اسی طرح اس میں بیٹھے رہے تو شاید یہ اندستگی بھی کبھی ترقی نہیں کر پائیگی۔ اس لئے اس کی ضرورت ہے اور میں پھر زور دے کر

[ شری استیاق سلیمانی ]

کہونکا کہ مسٹر صاحب اس کا  
اطمینان دلائیں کہ اس کا انتظام وہ  
کرینگے کہ ورکرز کے نمائندے اس میں  
آئیں۔ آخر انہوں نے کہا قصور کیا  
ہے۔ کہ دئی، بورڈ میں ورکرز کے  
نمائندے ہونگے۔ دکانی، بورڈ میں  
ورکرز کے نمائندے ہوں گے۔ صرف تمباکو  
بورڈ میں ہی ورکرز کے نمائندے نہیں  
ہونگے۔ اس لئے میری درخواست ہے  
تھن چاروں کے لئے۔ پہلی چیز  
پروٹیکشن کے لئے۔ معقول اور واجب  
قیمت ملے۔ اس کا انتظام کیا  
جائے۔ بورڈ کو اڈھیکار دیا جائے کہ وہ  
تمباکو خود خریدے۔ کم سے کم اس  
کی ہول سیل ٹریڈ کو سرکار کے لئے  
قبضے میں لے لیا جائے۔ دوسرے ورکرز  
کی اس میں نمائندگی ہونی چاہئے۔  
تیسرے جو اور ورکرز مختلف سیکٹرز  
میں کام کرتے ہیں تمباکو کے، ان کو  
بھی اس میں لے لیا جائے۔ تب تو  
اس بل کے لانے کا کوئی مقصد ہے  
ورنہ کوئی مقصد اس سے حل ہونے  
والا نہیں ہے۔ ]

ڈا॰ کॅلس (بمبई دکن) : اُپا-  
ध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं बधाई देना चाहता हूँ  
सरकार को कि वह आज इस सदन के सामने  
टुबैको बोर्ड बिल 1974 ले कर आई है।  
यह बिल आज कई वर्ष की माँग के बाद आ  
रहा है। तो बधाई तो सिर्फ इस बात की  
है कि देर आए दुल्हा आए। जब बिल  
के स्टेटमेंट आफ प्रॉपोजिशन को मैं ने पढ़ना  
शुरू किया तो मालूम हुआ, जो बातें मैंने वो

तीन साल पहले सरकार के सामने रखी थी,  
सिर्फ यही नहीं बल्कि अलग अलग विधान  
सभाओं में सरकार की निगाह जिन बातों  
की तरफ खींची गई थी उस वक्त उन की  
समझ में वह बात नहीं आ रही थी लेकिन  
अब उन्होंने उस बात को समझा और  
यह बिल सामने आया है।

इस में कोई शक नहीं, तम्बाकू उद्योग  
देश के अंदर एक ऐसा उद्योग बन रहा है  
जिस से देश का धन बढ़ रहा है, बेरोजगारी  
भी दूर हो रही है और काफी बड़ी रकम  
फॉरेन एक्सचेंज में हमें डम में मिलती है।  
इसलिए यह बोर्ड जब बनाया जा रहा  
है तो जिस प्रकार मेरे पूर्व बक्ता सम्भली  
साहब ने कहा, उस में मट्रल गवर्नमेंट के  
नुमाइंदे रखे हुए हैं मेम्बर पार्लियामेंट के  
नुमाइंदे रखे हुए हैं टुबैको के एक्सपोर्टर्स  
का नुमाइंदे रखा हुआ है, टुबैको से जो  
चीजें बनती हैं सिगरेट या बीड़ी उन के  
बनाने वालों को भी रखा हुआ है तो क्या  
ही अच्छा होता अगर जैसा कि सभली साहब  
ने बताया, जो 40 लाख आदमी बीड़ी  
सिगरेट बनाने में लगे हुए हैं उनके भी  
नुमाइंदों को उस में रखा जाता।

मैं अगर बिल की अलग अलग क्लॉज  
की तरफ आप का ध्यान खींच तो पैर 2(4)  
के नीचे काम्पिटिशन आफ बोर्ड में यह  
लिखा हुआ है :

"(d) two members to be appoint-  
ed by the Central Government, by  
rotation in the alphabetical order, to  
represent the Governments of  
tobacco-growing States other than  
the States of Andhra Pradesh and  
Karnataka;"

यह एक अच्छा तरीका है अल्फाबेटिकल आर्डर में लेने का, लेकिन मैं यह चाहता था कि प्रांथ प्रदेश और कर्नाटक के बाद जो भी ज्यादा से ज्यादा तम्बाकू उपजा रहे है उन को रखा जाता और उस में मैं यह मानता हूँ कि तीसरे नम्बर पर महाराष्ट्र आता है . . .

श्री डी० डी० वे. ई. (करा) नहीं नहीं, गुजरात ।

डा० कैनस : वह कल तक जो गुजरात स्टेट थी बम्बई उस में महाराष्ट्र और तमिल दोनों साथ साथ थे । अब शायद जिन महाराष्ट्र में होता है उतना ही या उसमें कुछ ज्यादा गुजरात में होता है । मेरा कहना यह है कि ऐसी स्टेट्स जो है उन को यह कह कर के कि तुम्हारा नम्बर जल्दी लगेगा अगर तुम ज्यादा उत्पादन करोगे उन्हें ज्यादा उत्पादन करने के लिए एक इमेटिव के रूप में इस को रख सकते हैं तब जाये इस के कि आप अल्फाबेटिकल आर्डर में डा० को ले । अब अल्फाबेटिकल आर्डर में लेगे तो आसाम में इनता तो नहीं होता लेकिन कुछ वह पैदा करते हैं, तो उन का नम्बर पहले लग जाता है न कि गुजरात या महाराष्ट्र का पहले लगेगा । तो मैं और इसी भावना से नहीं कह रहा हूँ, बल्कि मैं यह बतलाना चाहता हूँ कि लोगों को ज्यादा उत्पादन करने की, देश का धन बढ़ाने की और ज्यादा एक्सपोर्ट कर के देश के लिए ज्यादा फारेन एक्सचेंज कमाने की दृष्टि से यह तरीका ज्यादा अच्छा रहेगा । ठीक इसी प्रकार इसमें लिखा हुआ है :

“(e) not more than eight members to be appointed by the Central Government from amongst growers of tobacco, dealers and exporters (including packers) of tobacco and tobacco products, manufacturers, of tobacco products and from amongst

persons who, in the opinion of the Central Government, are experts in tobacco marketing or agricultural economics.”

मैं ऐसा चाहता था कि अगर आप असेम्बली में उसमें ध्यान रखने तो ज्यादा अच्छा होता । क्योंकि ध्यान दि सपाट जो स्टेट्स के अंदर असेम्बली में काम करने वाले लोग हैं उनका ज्यादा संबंध आता है उन काश्तकारों में । इसलिए शायद वह अच्छे नुमाउदे बन सकेंगे । अगर आप उनको इस में एंटरजस्ट न कर सकें तो मैं आपका ध्यान चैप्टर 2 की तरफ खींचना चाहता हूँ जिसमें यह प्राविजन किया हुआ है :

“The Board shall have the power to co-opt as members of any committee appointed under sub-section (1) . . .”

अगर बोर्ड के मेम्बर न होकर जो स्टेट कमेटीज बनाने जा रहे हैं उसमें भी अगर असेम्बली के मेम्बर को रखें तो भी अच्छा रहेगा । क्योंकि मैं हमेशा नामिनेशन के विरुद्ध हूँ । हमेशा अगर चयन कर व्यक्ति आता है तो वह अच्छा काम करता है । नामिनेशन की कटि खराबिया भी है । मैं जिस आदमी को पसन्द करता हूँ शायद उस आदमी को रख दूँ लेकिन कोई अच्छा काम करने वाला आदमी है शायद मैं उसको पसन्द नहीं करता तो मैं उसको न रख । इसलिए एलेक्शन द्वारा या ऐसे व्यक्तियों को जो चुन कर आये हैं उनको रखें और सब-कमेटीज अगर हम रख सकें तो ज्यादा अच्छा होगा ।

मैं ऐसा मानता हूँ कि बर्जीनिया ट्यूबको का एक बड़ा इतिहास है लेकिन अब जो फारेन मोनोपलिस्ट्स यहां पर आ गये हैं जो ब्रिटानिया नाम से पहले बसाया करते थे, ट्यूबको कम्पनी थी, आज वह इंडियन ट्यूबको कम्पनी के नाम से बड़े लम्बे चौड़े एकरेज में तम्बाकू उपजा रहे हैं, इस नाम से कि हम रिसर्च कर रहे हैं

[ डा० कॅलास ]

और उसकी क्वालिटी बढ़ाने पर ध्यान दे रहे हैं, शायद उनसे सतर्क रहना पड़ेगा और प्रोमर्स की तरफ से, फार्मर्स की तरफ से मुनाफ़े चाहते हैं और एक्सपोर्ट करने वालों की तरफ से नुमाइशे चाहते हैं तो उनसे हमें सतर्क रहना पड़ेगा।

एक बात और कहना चाहता हूँ। मैं यह नहीं समझ पाया कि

"No person shall grow virginia tobacco except under, and in accordance with, the conditions of a certificate of registration"

यह सर्टिफिकेट आफ रजिस्ट्रेशन का क्या कानून धाया है। कल हम गेहूँ उपजायेगा तो उसके लिये सर्टिफिकेट आफ रजिस्ट्रेशन चाहिए, चावल उपजायेगा तो उसके लिये भी सर्टिफिकेट आफ रजिस्ट्रेशन चाहिए। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि यह आपने किम हेतु शुरू किया है? आप एक्सपोर्टर्स का भी रजिस्ट्रेशन करने वाले हैं। मैं यह मानता हूँ कि इसमें अभील का प्रावीजन है, लेकिन हमारे कानूनकार इनने अनुमती नहीं हैं, वे इनने कानूनों को समझ नहीं सकेंगे कि समय पर एप्लीकेशन दे। दूसरे लोग जो उनकी मदद के लिए आयेगा या उनमें एप्लीकेशन दिलवाने का काम करेंगे वे उनको गलत रास्ते पर डाल सकते हैं। इस लिये मैं मंत्री महोदय से निवेदन करूंगा कि वे कृपा कर बतलाये कि ऐसा क्यों होना जा रहा है, रजिस्ट्रेशन में उनका क्या हेतु है?

आकशन का तरीका बहुत दिनों से चला आ रहा है। एक रेगुलेटेड मार्केट होनी चाहिए—इस बात को मैं समझता हूँ। लेकिन आकशन का जो तरीका है कि प्लेटफार्म बना कर उस पर आकशन करेंगे, इसमें पांच-सात आदमी मिल कर कम दामों पर भाग को कानून करने का काम कर सकते हैं। इस लिये हमें इस पद्धति के बारे में सोचना चाहिए, इसको बदल सकें तो अच्छा होगा।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, आप ने घंटी बजा दी है, मैं अभी दो तीन बातें और कहना चाहता था, लेकिन बूक समय कम है, इस लिये बैठ जाता हूँ।

\*SHRI J. MATHA GOWDER (Nil-giris) Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on behalf of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, I rise to say a few words on The Tobacco Board Bill. I wholeheartedly support this Bill which seeks to constitute a Board for the development of the tobacco industry.

I have no hesitation in saying that such a Board is very necessary because over 50 per cent of the Virginia tobacco produced is exported and India is the second largest exporter of virginia tobacco in the world. But, I would like to take this opportunity to say that the Tobacco Board should not become another Board in the chain of institutions which have been sent up for the development of particular commodities, for example, the Tea Board, the Coffee Board, the Jute Corporation, the Cotton Corporation etc. Though it may not be quite relevant to the Bill under discussion, yet I would like to refer to a particular incident because of my anxiety that the Tobacco Board should not also face such a contingency. Sir, you may remember that the hon Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Raghu-ramaiah, and the hon Minister of Commerce, Shri Chattopadhyay, had to go in a delegation to the Finance Minister for the purpose of requesting him to allocate adequate funds to the Cotton Corporation which would enable it to procure stagnating cotton in the country with a view to giving some price stability to cotton. Is it not really strange that a ministerial delegation should supplicate to the Finance Minister for the allocation of more funds to a public sector undertaking? I have referred to this because of my desire that the Tobacco

\*The original speech was delivered in Tamil.

Board should not also be placed in such a financial precipice.

Sir, I would also refer to the fact that the Tea Board located at Calcutta has not been able to help the small growers of tea in Nilgiris in Tamil Nadu and also in Kerala. I have been demanding that a Small Growers Cell should be located in Coimbatore so that the needs of the small growers of tea in Nilgiris and also in Kerala can be met expeditiously. I have also written to the Commerce Minister in this respect. I am referring to this because I want to stress that the Tobacco Board should pay adequate attention to the problems of small growers.

I am happy that the Tobacco Board would be located in Andhra Pradesh. Though the headquarters is located in Andhra Pradesh, the Tobacco Board should establish Small Growers Cells in the States producing Tobacco so that the essential needs of the small growers can be met in time and adequately.

As has been pointed out by the hon. Members who preceded me, I would like to urge upon the Government that the Tobacco Board should truly be a representative body of all interests. It should not confine its representation to the Ministers and bureaucrats. While growers of tobacco, dealers and exporters of tobacco products, manufacturers of tobacco products are being given representation on the Board, I would like to stress the need for giving representation to the Co-operatives of Small Growers of Tobacco and also to the Workers in the industry. There are lakhs and lakhs of workers engaged in Cigar and Bidi industry. It is essential that they also get representation on the Board. Tamil Nadu occupies third place in the production of tobacco. I would like to emphasise the need for giving permanent representation to Tamil Nadu on the Board and not rotational representation in alphabetical order.

3725 LS—11

Before I conclude, I would refer to another important issue. I understand that a major portion of Virginia Tobacco production in the country is exported to Russia. Backed by the patronage of a certain political party and also encouraged by a particular section of the Press devoted to Russia, a few people in the export trade have got near-monopoly position in the export of Virginia tobacco to Russia. I would like to appeal to the hon. Minister that the entire export of Virginia tobacco to Russia—for that matter not only the export of tobacco to Russia but also the export of tobacco to other countries also—should be taken over by the Government; it should not be allowed to continue in the hands of private promoters of export of tobacco.

In conclusion, I would end by repeating that the Tobacco Board must be representatives of all interests in tobacco industry including co-operatives of small growers of tobacco, workers in the industry of cigar and bidi, and that the export trade in tobacco should be taken over by the Government.

SHRI K. GOPAL (Karur): I rise to support this Bill. For a long time there has been a demand for this, both inside and outside and Mr. Raghu Ramaiah when he was a Member advocated strongly the formation of this Board. As early as 1972 it was assured that the Tobacco Board would come into being. I am glad that a Bill had come at last. We are in our country growing tobacco in more 400,000 hectares and the yield is about 350 million kg; one-third of it is virginia tobacco. More than 55 million kg is exported. We rank sixth in the world. In 1968-69 our export was worth Rs 33 crores and it is around Rs. 58 crores now. It has got excellent export potential, given proper encouragement.

The plight of the small farmer who grows tobacco is such that he is completely at the mercy of the trader. Today the small farmer does not know grading and whatever the trader says, the smaller farmer has to accept which means that the price is also dictated

[Shri K. Gopal]

by him. Big firms hold these small farmers to ransom. I am glad that a board has been formed and even though it has not been specifically stated that it will help the small farmer I am sure that the board will be of great help. Inputs are a great problem for the small farmer. He cannot get credit from any source. So he goes to the trader for money on credit and promises to supply the produce. But he does not pay him immediately all the money; he holds back certain money. Tobacco is a product which cannot be kept for more than a month and so the farmer has to sell it at whatever price. That is why many farmers are switching over to other commodities such as cotton. I hope that the formation of the tobacco board will help to look into these matters.

Clause 4 refers to the composition of the Board. It does not refer to the interests of small farmers. Even in the Coffee Board you have got representation for a small planter. It says here that eight members will be appointed by the Central Government. I am sure that no small farmer is going to get it because the lobby is so powerful and it will never allow the small farmer. Much has been said about the representation of workers. I do not understand why representation for the worker is not given. The hon. Minister may say that in the organised sector there were only 15,000 workers. In the bidi industry twenty lakhs of people are having direct employment. More than 40 lakhs of people are employed and they are all tobacco workers and they do not have representation.

SHRIMATI T. LAKSHMIKANTH-AMMA: Most of these workers are women.

SHRI K. GOPAL: I wish women are not given representation; it is a question of arguing the cause of tobacco effectively. In Coffee Board you have got representation for consumer. Why not do the same thing in the Tobacco

Board also? A person like Piloo Mody will give certainly useful suggestions to the Tobacco Board.

Representation to different States had been given. Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, etc. are given. Gujarat grows more than 100,000 tonnes a year but it is not represented. Is it the intention of the Government that only those States which grow virginia tobacco should be represented? Whether it is virginia or any other variety, tobacco has got excellent export potential. Tamilnadu is not represented. I am not saying that all States should be represented because it is impossible. But where you have got the potential, you should include that State. Cigars produced from tobacco from our State is supposed to be the best in the world and given proper encouragement you have got good potential for export.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I would not know it.

SHRI K. GOPAL: Apart from Gujarat, Tamilnadu should also be included. Amendment No. 17 of Shri Madhu Limaye reads;

for lines 12 to 17, substitute—

“(e) not more than ten members to be appointed by the Central Government, including two each from amongst tobacco growers, tobacco dealer—exporters and manufacturers of cigarettes, provided that none of them is an employee past or present or a representative of any company having majority foreign shareholding.”

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That has not been moved.

SHRI K. GOPAL: Just because a man is a past or a present employee of a company which has got a majority foreign share holding, should it be a disqualification? For example, I am affected personally because I am a past employee of such a company. If a man is an employee of a foreign company, that does not mean that he is a stooge of a foreign country. Mr.

Jyotirmoy Bosu was an employee of a foreign company, that does not mean that he is a stooge of a foreign country.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER, Have you got any personal interest in this?

SHRI K GOPAL Fortunately not. It is a matter of principle.

If he had said that foreigners should not be included I can agree, but just because they are employees why should they not be entitled? There is nothing wrong in taking advantage of their knowledge and experience.

The board should have demonstration farms as they do not exist now in the country except in the case of some private companies. Exports cannot be canalised through the Board and exports should not be an exclusive function of the Board, but they should find out from other countries what is being done and they should not leave it to private agencies. It is rather a half-hearted thing that the board is going to take up.

SHRI D. D. DESAI (Kaira) I congratulate the Government on bringing this Bill which has special sentimental and even historical connection with my family. It was centuries back that my forefathers brought the tobacco plant to Gujarat in sailing boat, and that plant has been one of the important sources of income in this country.

Going through the Bill I find that Gujarat is nearly unrepresented. Andhra Pradesh produces about 175 thousand tonnes of tobacco, Gujarat produces 116 thousand tonnes, and Karnataka, which is represented, produces about 16 thousand tonnes. Gujarat produces over 7 times the production of Karnataka, but still it is not represented. This is unusual. Though in the Bill the Government has mainly covered virginia it has also introduced terms and conditions which cover other types of tobacco. Gujarat is essentially producing bidi tobacco and also virginia, but I would say that it is one of the largest revenue earners for the Government of India through excise and this fact is known to the

Central Government. On only 20 per cent of the country's land, Gujarat is producing nearly one third of the tobacco of the country. So the productivity of Gujarat far exceeds the general productivity of the whole country. So I would suggest that the Bill may be amended to include a permanent representative of the State of Gujarat on the Board.

Except for Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat, the rest of the States are hardly producing 6,000 to 16,000 tonnes except for Tamil Nadu which produces 17,000 tonnes. I am surprised to see that there is not a single State which produces even 20,000 tonnes. That shows that the Government is completely unaware from where the revenues come and what they should do. It was my request during the 1971 and 1972 debates that a Tobacco Board should be established. This Board should not only have a centre in Andhra Pradesh, it should also have a satellite centre in Gujarat. This is a most essential requirement. My family had in the last century established centre on a big piece of land and given money for tobacco research and partly because of the research which had been carried on with the help of my grandfather, tobacco as Commercial Crop still exists. This establishment can be taken over by the Government.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER We have to finish before 3.30. This is a long Bill and clause-by-clause consideration will take time.

SHRI D. D. DESAI If you like I can provide the statement of figures given in reply to Question No. 8387 in May, 1973. I have got here the statistics of the Government of Gujarat for 1974 which shows that 20 per cent of the land produced during 72/73 year over 30 per cent of the tobacco grown in the country.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I think a very strong case has been made out for Gujarat.

SHRI D. D. DESAI: To eliminate Gujarat altogether is a serious thing.



**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** You have made that point.

**SHRI D. D. DESAI:** So far as the finances are concerned, we are contributing heavily to excise, but looking at the amounts given by the Central Government for tobacco development we find that Andhra Pradesh has got Rs. 59 crores and Mysore Rs. 24 crores but Gujarat has been given only Rs. 8 crores. This is something which is not proper. Gujarat provides some 100 crores rupees by way of tobacco excise to the Central Government and in spite of that why is it given this meagre amount and eliminated altogether from the Board? The revenue from the other States is negligible.

The financial provision would not be sufficient for carrying on research and marketing activity. My hon. friend Shri Gopal raised the issue that tobacco farmers are presently suffering acute distress. The reason is that their crops are not bought by any regular public agency. Unfortunately the traders take them away and then pay for them at times after a couple of years. This sort of thing is going on. So a corporation for tobacco may be established as in the case of cotton.

Again I would like this body to come under the Ministry of Agriculture because after all it is the Ministry of Agriculture which has the interests of the farmers and growers at heart.

**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** In that case he should withdraw the Bill and the Minister of Agriculture should come forward with another.

**SHRI D. D. DESAI:** Often the Commerce Ministry's interests conflict with the farmers' interests. We have seen that in the case of cotton where the Commerce Ministry is totally against the interests of the growers. We cannot allow that in the case of tobacco also.

**SHRI NOORUL HUDA (Cachar):** It is good that after a long time the

Central Government has come out with this Bill because it is well known and there was a report in the press also that Indian tobacco earned a foreign exchange of Rs. 51 crores during seven months in 1974 and the quantity of tobacco exported amounted to about 53,000 tonnes.

We also know that UK and Russia are the two biggest buyers of Indian tobacco. In spite of all these, the Bill has come up with a very laudable statement of objects and reasons. But we would say that there should be parity between precept and what they actually implement in the future years to come. I am saying this because of our bitter experience of the working of all these boards.

Now I want to highlight some of the points in the Bill. Coming to clause 4, which relates to the constitution of the Board, it says that "the Board shall consist of the following members, namely, (a) a Chairman to be appointed by the Central Government." A colleague of ours has given an amendment to which I want to draw the attention of the Government. He has suggested that a non-official MP should be appointed by the Central Government as the Chairman of the Board. He has further suggested that instead of four Members of Parliament, there should be six Members of Parliament of whom four shall be elected by the House of the People and two by the Council of States.

Similarly, there is another amendment which suggests that there should be eight members to be appointed by the Central Government from among the following: one agronomist, one representative of the State Trading Corporation, one economist specialised in international trade, one industrial economist specialised in tobacco, if available, two representatives of workers and two representatives of kisans and peasants' organisations in the tobacco growing areas. Many hon.

Members have raised this point that the Bill does not provide for any workers' representative or the growers' representative. That is why it is specifically mentioned that there should be two representatives each of the workers and the kisans and peasants.

There is another amendment that there should be a Consultative Committee consisting of not more than 12 members to be appointed by the Central Government from amongst the consumers, growers of tobacco, dealers, exporters, packers of tobacco and tobacco products, manufacturers of tobacco products and from among persons who, in the opinion of the Central Government, are experts in tobacco marketing.

Uptill now the production of Indian tobacco is under the grip of three monopolist companies, namely, India Tobacco Limited, Vazir Sultan Company and Godfrey Philips India Limited. Last year, the then Industrial Development Minister, who is now the Finance Minister, Shri Subramaniam, had promised that these three companies would be Indianised. We do not know what he meant by "Indianisation of these companies". What we want is that these three companies should be nationalised. Because, in 1972-73 as much as Rs. 2.27 crores was repatriated by these foreign companies to their respective countries and in 1973-74 it amounted to about Rs. 1.45 crores. That is the Indian Tobacco Company figure. The Godfrey Philip India Ltd. remitted an amount of Rs. 12 lakhs in 1973-74. Naturally, we would like the Government to take note of the huge amount of remittance of Indian money to foreign countries by the foreign companies. We also demand nationalisation of these three tobacco companies which are dealing in tobacco in India.

15.00 hrs.

Lastly I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the sad plight of about 30-40 lakhs—we do not know the actual figures—bidi and cigarette workers all over the

country. These 30-40 lakhs of bidi and cigarette workers are not organised. I think a majority of them are in an unorganised sector. In 1966, there was an Act, the Bidi and Cigarette Workers Act of 1966 which, unfortunately, has not been implemented by the different States of our country except in Karnataka and Kerala. In Kerala and Karnataka, the employers are supposed to enter an agreement with the workers granting benefits to them arising out of the good features of the Act. But in other States, uptill now, though 8-9 years have elapsed, no State Government has come to any agreement with the workers. The result is that the workers have been ruthlessly exploited. The working and living conditions are scandalous, barbarous and medieval. They are paid extremely low wages and their wages are fixed arbitrarily. There are different rates of wages in different States. The contractors and middle-men have been looting the workers and employees in the tobacco industry all over the country. There is no guarantee of work. There are no equal wages for men and women. There is no bonus for the employees in the tobacco industry. There is an extremely medieval form of child labour. That is why these employers have been evading clauses which are favourable to the workers and employees of bidi and cigarette industry.

Therefore, welcoming the good features of the Tobacco Board Bill, I would remind the Government that much has yet to be achieved by the Government and, specially, the bidi and cigarette industry workers which number about 30-40 lakhs should be taken care of, the ruthless exploitation of child labour and of men and women workers should be put a stop to, the huge loot by the foreign tobacco companies should be put a stop to and the good features of the Tobacco Board Bill should be implemented as early as possible.

**SHRI B. V. NAIK (Kanara):** Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I welcome the Bill. I am glad that because we grow a substantial quantity of fine quality tobacco, we have been given a representation on the Board of Directors.

This is one of the Boards, like other Boards, the Coffee Board, the Cardamom Board, the Tea Board, etc. The ex-Chairman of the National Shipping Board is here, Mr. P. Rama Rao. Of course, that is under a different Ministry. What I have found is this. The bureaucrats whom you nominate—I think, Mr. P. Rama Rao, our esteemed colleague will bear me out,—do they take interest in the functioning of the Board? Why do we go on the basis of the old grooves. Can we not make a sort of Board which is composed of experts, of growers, of bidi workers, of the people who have a stake in this particular trade, in this particular business? Instead, you have put these people. Of course, we have no complaints against them. But they are plainly not interested, they are there because they are in your Ministry, in the Ministry of Industrial Development or in the Ministry concerned, but they will not be taking any interest. We are not calling for a total revolution. Let us have at least revolution by instalments, changes from time to time in the *modus operandi* of the Government of India.

My second point is this. In the case of another Board which is functioning under the hon. Minister, the Cardamom Board, even a small grower—if in an area of two acres he has something like ten plants—has to take a licence; for ten plants; he has to run to the branch office of the Cardamom Board in order to get a licence and pay a fee of Rs. 50 in addition to the charges of going and coming back which might come to Rs. 150. I would urge on the hon. Minister to exempt these small growers. I would

request him to exempt the tobacco growers having smaller than one acre. Particularly in the West Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh, there are big growers. But I am talking of small growers. Those growers who have below one acre or even 20 *gunthas* at least should be exempted.

Since you have rung the bell, I have nothing more to add, though there are many other points which I would like to make.

**MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** You have made very good points

Mr. Chapalendu Bhattacharyya

**SHRI CHAPALENDU BHATTACHARYYA (Giridih)** Mr Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister through you a point of some importance. We are discussing the systematic, integrated approach to the development of the tobacco industry, its export and its manufacture. So far, it has suffered from absence of any coordination at any level. Therefore, if only co-ordination could be introduced by this Tobacco Board Bill, it is to be welcomed from all sections of the House.

Coming down to figures, it is quite clear that Andhra Pradesh has been one of the largest tobacco-producing areas, but after the construction of the Nagarjunasagar Dam, with the water level rising. I am afraid, the best virginia tobacco areas from Andhra Pradesh will slowly shift towards Karnataka. Another break-through has been achieved by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, that is, they have been able to grow the lowest nicotine-content virginia tobacco in the world. In Bishungarhi, in my old district of Hazaribagh, the ICAR is running some experimental station. But unfortunately it has been starved of funds. When I say the lowest nicotine content virginia tobacco in the world, it holds out a lot

of significance for the backward region from which I come. It will be a top-money-spinner. Our exports are going up. It is very heartening. But we could do very much more. I have a letter from Mr. Gopalachari of the Central Tobacco Research Station that they got a 'princely allotment' of Rs. 50,000 for pushing through this research. When we have to achieve a breakthrough in growing the lowest nicotine content Virginia tobacco in the world, I think, a much greater effort is called for because even from the point of cost effectiveness, it will pay many times over.

I will not go into the constitution of the Board and so on. I will not repeat the points that have already been made by the previous speakers. The tobacco industry is a part of the world monopolist organization and, while consolidating our base, if necessary, we should temporise rather than rush into a certain revolution by instalments as suggested by an hon. Member because it may upset the precarious balance in the tobacco industry and trade.

**SHRI P. ANKINEEDU PRASADA RAO (Ongole):** While supporting the Bill, I congratulate the Government for bringing forward this Bill and contemplating the setting up of a Tobacco Board which was a long-cherished desire of the people, especially of Andhra Pradesh.

I also congratulate the Government for contemplating to location the headquarters of the Board in Andhra Pradesh, especially in Guntur, for this Tobacco Board is entrusted with the responsibility of regulation and production of Virginia tobacco and 90 per cent of the Virginia tobacco is grown in Andhra Pradesh and especially within 100 miles around Guntur. As most of this tobacco is grown in Guntur and nearabout and marketed

from there, I congratulate contemplating to have the headquarters at Guntur.

About tobacco there is a long history. I say this is the only crop which is neglected until now by the Agriculture Department. Though this crop is earning as nearly Rs. 50 crores of foreign exchange every year and double that amount by way of excise duty, till now nothing has been done on the research side and for increasing the productivity. If we go into the figures of the last 4-5 years, the area that is transplanted in the country and the quantity produced is gradually going down. Though the figures of exports may show a constant trend, that is due to the rise in the international price, but actually the production is going down and the farmer is not evincing any enthusiasm and he is switching over to other crops by which not only we will have lesser production of tobacco but we will also lose valuable foreign exchange. And if this trend continues, I am afraid, the day is not far off when we may have to import tobacco. This year if you go into the figures of the Agriculture Department, nearly 20 per cent of the acreage under tobacco has gone down. Certainly, this is going to have an effect on our export earnings from tobacco. So, I would suggest that the Tobacco Board should not alone be content with controlling the price level but should give positive support to the agriculturist to take to and increase the tobacco cultivation and thereby we may earn more foreign exchange. I would also suggest that more funds should be provided for research.

Before concluding I would like to make one or two points. About the constitution of the Board, it will have 8 members from growers, packers and traders. I request the Minister to keep in mind to have more number of growers than packers and traders. The other thing is that the Board is

[Shri P. Ankineedu Prasada Rao] contemplating going into the market only when a crisis develops. I request the Government that the Board should play a positive role in increasing the production and also in ensuring a fair price to the grower. In this trade a lot of people are making quite a good amount of money by way of export trade. They call themselves as manufacturers of tobacco. But, tobacco, in the real sense, is manufactured at the level of the agriculturist and not by the so-called manufacturers of tobacco who only process the tobacco. They corner the largest chunk of the profits of the trade and do not pass on a paise to the agriculturist and I would suggest that the Board should take over completely this trade of tobacco exports. They should also see that part of the profits are passed on to the agriculturists. This is my submission. I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak.

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH (Nandyal): I compliment Government for having thought it fit to bring this legislation after a long time. I pay my compliment to the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs Shri Raghu Ramiah who has worked hard to bring forward this Bill. There are two points which I wish to bring to the notice of the Government. Point Number one is this. This Tobacco Board is intended to protect the interest of the small growers and also to regulate the market and to provide them with better price and export market facilities and also for having best varieties to be grown. I would only caution the Minister as several other Members have done, that there should not be too much of bureaucratisation of this Board. It must be able to involve the people who have got real stake in the matter. It should not become another stereotyped sort of Board which does nothing except spending some money. Necessary facilities should be given and amount

provided for agricultural research and it should be seen that the per acre productivity is increased. We see that the Virginia tobacco production is shifting slowly from Guntur district and it is being done in Rayalaseema districts and Mysore also. I would request the Minister that he should see that in the composition of the Board due representation should be given to all the States where there is great potential of growing this tobacco. I welcome this Bill. It should be seen that this Tobacco Board gives due and remunerative price to the growers, especially, the small-growers.

श्री राजकंवर (टोंक) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, सरकार द्वारा जो तम्बाकू बोर्ड का विधेयक लाया गया है, मैं उसका समर्थन करता हूँ। लेकिन मेरा निवेदन यह है कि विधेयक तो बहुत अच्छे लाये जाते हैं, लेकिन उनको कार्यान्वित करने, और उनको सुचारु रूप से चलाने, ये सरकार परामर्श रहती है। मैं इस सम्बन्ध में एक उदाहरण देना चाहता हूँ। मैं ने आन्ध्र प्रदेश और केरल बगीरह के चाय बागान देखे हैं। पहले उन बागान में लाखों रुपये पैदा होते थे, लेकिन अब वे बिल्कुल उजड़ गये हैं और उनकी बहुत बुरी दशा है।

इस लिए मेरा निवेदन है कि यह जो बोर्ड बनाया जा रहा है, उसमें ज्यादा अक्सर और नीकरशाही के लोग नहीं होने चाहिए। जो लोग तम्बाकू को उगाते हैं, उनको बोर्ड में ज्यादा प्रतिनिधित्व मिलना चाहिए, वह मेरी मांग है।

राजस्थान में कोटा ज़ावे में भी तम्बाकू की पैदावार अच्छी होती है। इसलिए राजस्थान में तम्बाकू के बागान को प्रोत्साहन देना चाहिए। मैं तम्बाकू बिल्कुल हस्तोन्नत नहीं करता हूँ और सिगरेट भी नहीं पीता हूँ।

लेकिन मैंने हिन्दुस्तान में काफी महिलाओं को देखा है, जो तम्बाकू और बीड़ी-सिगरेट का इस्तेमाल करती हैं।

मैं मांग करता हूँ कि राजस्थान में इस उद्योग को ज्यादा से ज्यादा बढ़ावा दिया जाये और वहाँ तम्बाकू का उत्पादन बढ़ाया जाये। इससे और ज्यादा फायदा होगा। हम इसमें व्यक्तिगत मदद देने के लिए तैयार हैं।

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member, Shri Naik spoke of revolution by instalments. That revolution may not come in instalments, but this Bill has come in instalments! Perhaps, everything connected with tobacco including this Bill should come in leisure so that we may enjoy slowly.

I would first take the suggestion of the hon. Member, Shri Noorul Huda. Perhaps he has been briefed by his friend, Shri Bosu because it was his amendment which he has put forward namely, that an M.P. should be the Chairman of the Board. I may say that if Shri Bosu is made the Chairman, the Board may benefit. But, I am also sure that the work of the House will suffer—at least the zero hour will really be reduced to zero! Our work output will be proportionately increased.

Sir, one of the queries that has been made by the hon. Members was about the representation of their States Andhra and Karnataka have been given permanent representation on the Board, other States also will be given representation in the alphabetical order. Andhra, as many hon. Members have said, because of its importance as a major flue cured virginia tobacco growing State is first to be represented on the Board. Flue cured virginia contributes 90 per cent of the export earnings and 95 per cent of the virginia tobacco is grown only in Andhra Pradesh. In Karnataka, though, at present, the production

may not be so high, yet it is the State of the future. The quality of tobacco depends on the nicotine content and nicotine content of tobacco depends upon the soil where it is grown—for lesser nicotine the soil should be lighter. Since in Karnataka, the tobacco has lesser nicotine content, it has more prospects. The Agriculture Ministry has already started a Centre for increasing the production of tobacco. It may be, the rationale alphabetical order may not be sustained, but sometimes, we find rationality even in irrationality!

If we look at the alphabetical sequence, the two States which would be included immediately are Gujarat and Bihar. Gujarat's complaint is that they have not been included. In the first round, it will be included (*Interruptions.*)

SHRI D. D. DESAI: Gujarat comes second in the list. It is the next largest producer of tobacco. Karnataka produces hardly 14 per cent of Gujarat but still he has put it.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: He has agreed to the proposal.

SHRI D. D. DESAI: I would say that he should include it.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: He has said so.

SHRI D. D. DESAI: It is not proper. You cannot satisfy Gujarat. You include Gujarat as a mere eye-wash.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: As I said, two representatives would be on the Board by rotation according to alphabetical order. Gujarat will come in first round. (*Interruptions.*)

SHRI D. D. DESAI: My objection is that it should not be at the expense of Karnataka.

SHRI NATWARLAL PATEL (Mehsana): You give representation to Gujarat because there tobacco grow-

[Natwar Lal Patel]

ing is more as compared to Karnataka.  
(Interruptions.)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: In all this confusion, I am the happiest person because I am a non-smoker.

SHRI D. D. DESAI: Let us have the assurance that you will consider the case of Gujarat.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: He has already said so. You have made the point and also put great force in that.

(Interruptions)

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: Sir, perhaps the nicotine content is increasing the blood pressure but we have very coolly and calmly considered this matter. On account of the importance of virginia tobacco which is the main export earning item Karnataka and Andhra were given priority but Gujarat also is coming in the Board in the very first round. Sir, concern has been expressed about the other varieties that these might be neglected—Mr. Daschowdhury made this point—in this connection I want to draw the attention of the hon. Member to Clause 8(1) which reads:

"It shall be the duty of the Board to promote, by such measures as it thinks fit, the development under the control of the Central Government of the tobacco industry."

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of the provisions of sub-section (1), ...."

Thus, all tobacco is covered by the Bill and all interests will be taken care of. For other tobacco, reference has been made in Clause 8(3) also. While we have concern for every variety of tobacco—when I say every variety it means every variety—sometimes quality has to be given preference and for this reason virginia has been mentioned as a matter of priority.

SHRI D. D. DESAI: Sir, for Gujarat, I made two requests. One regarding representation and the other regarding satellite R. & D. Marketing Centre. We have requested, not by begging, but by right as we produce and contribute heavily by way of excise to the Central exchequer.

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR (Ahmedabad): The question is, whether Gujarat will be there permanently on the Board. That is the point. What is Gujarat's status in the Board? (Interruptions).

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: I will try, to the best of my ability, to answer the points raised by the hon. Members. If we convert this into a question hour, I do not think we will end with the debate.

Sir, Members have expressed concern about the representation of growers, consumers and workers on the Board. A point was made by hon. Members, Mr. Gopal, Mr. Sambhall, Dr. Kailas and Mr. Desai, about this. Growers, in the tobacco industry, unlike that in the rubber, coffee or tea industry, by and large, are small growers who own small farms. If you step into other plantations, owners, of different large companies are there. By and large, this is the position in the tobacco industry. In regard to the representation of growers, we have not specified the minimum number. Sometimes, when we fix the minimum number, this minimum number usually operates as the maximum number. If you say that there shall be at least two members, then, possibly there would be no more than that. In the Bill, there is a flexibility so that various interests are represented according to the situation. There can even be more growers than what the people might be envisaging. Then, the rules will be framed and they will be placed before the Parliament. Hon. Members will be on the Board and I am sure they will represent the interests of the various sections like workers, consumers and growers.

Sir, some concern has been expressed that the big monopoly houses or the big tobacco firms will monopolise this Board. But, if the thrust of the Bill is seen, all these doubts will be dispelled. At present, it is true that the big tobacco companies exploit the market situation. When a grower goes to the platforms of these companies like Indian Leaf Tobacco Development Company or the British India Tobacco Company or the Nav Bharat Tobacco Company, he has to have issued excise permit at his own risk. If at these platforms, these big firms refuse to make purchases, then, the grower has no option but to go back and obtain a fresh excise permit. This is the situation, and they exploit it. In this Bill, when we provide for auction platforms under the supervision of the Board, we are going to directly hit the monopoly buyers. With this thrust of the Bill and with this intention of the Government, all these doubts that the big houses will monopolise the Board and so on, will be dispelled. Further, every bit of wisdom need not be enshrined in law through a statutory pronouncement. This much judgement should be left to the Government to take care of the various interests.

About consumers' interests, I am sure, majority of the Members of the Board will be consumers of tobacco and that they will be ... (*Interruptions*).

**SHRI K GOPAL (Karur):** In the Coffee Board, there are representatives of consumers.

**SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY:** The facilities that are given in the form of subsidies and others should be extended to West Bengal and Assam. (*Interruptions*).

**SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH:** I am coming to that. If I have to answer all the questions simultaneously, (*Interruption*). I am coming to every clause and every point that has been raised. My inability is

that I cannot frame one single sentence in which I can answer all the questions.

Sir, hon. Members Mr. Gopal, Mr. Sambhal and Mr. Huda made the point about the workers' representation on the Board. Sir, Mr. Huda said that the biri workers though they constitute a large part of the labour force, are not organised.

It is a sad thing that such a vast labour force still remains unorganised. Just by picking up a worker because he is a worker and putting him there, does not mean that he becomes a representative of the workers. This is so because there is no organisational backing. A worker becomes a representative when there is organisational backing. In fact, there is a separate Biri and Cigar Workers Act of 1966 which takes care of the wages and other conditions of work of the biri workers. The organised sector among tobacco workers is only in the cigarette trade. The workers employed there are 14,000—20,000, a small number. But if the organisational base of workers is there and a worker of a representative character could be taken, that would be considered.

**SHRI ISHAQUE SAMBHALLI:**  
Biri workers number 40 lakhs.

**SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH:** About Shri Huda's suggestion for Kisans' representation and of increasing MPs' representation, this will be taken care of. About kisan representation, if there is an organised body of growers, we would certainly look into it and prefer that.

A point was made by Shri Rama Rao about grading being made at the growers' level. It is a very good suggestion because if grading is done at growers' level, the quality will be improved. But I think we should rely more on educating the growers rather than making a statutory provision which may be harrassing to them.



[Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh]

The other point made was about monopoly houses in the cigarette industry. The cigarette industry is notified in the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, Schedule one. The MRTP Act and the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act are fully enforced, and if there is any violation of it, the Board will fully cooperate with the authorities because that is our policy.

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH: Is it not in force now? What is the new thing you are saying?

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: That is what I am saying. The Board will co-operate with the law.

SHRI K. S. CHAVDA (Patan): That means the equity of foreigners will be reduced to 40 per cent?

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: I do not think I have to deal with elementary matters; these problems are taken care of the MRTP Act and the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act.

SHRI K. S. CHAVDA: They are making huge profits.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: This is not the forum where these problems can be sorted out. There are separate Acts dealing with them. The essence of the Bill is that tobacco is an agro-product and we are dealing with it under this Bill as such. The other aspects can be dealt with under relevant sections of other legislation. With these remarks, I commend the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for the development under the control of the Union of the tobacco industry, be taken into consideration".

*The motion was adopted.*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: We shall take up clause by clause consideration

on the next occasion. (Interruptions)—  
What do we do?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): On a point of order.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: What is the point of order?

SHRI K. RAGHURAMALAH: No point of order. He is not raising it.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: We have crossed the time limit for private Members' business by ten minutes. I thought we should take up this on the next occasion but unfortunately I do not find Shri Shyamnandan Mishra here.

SHRI K. RAGHURAMALAH: I have told him that it will be taken up a little later.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I have no objection if the House agrees.

SHRI K. RAGHURAMALAH: The House agrees.... (Interruptions).

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER. I do not not understand what has happened to the hon. Members. They will not even allow me to say what I want to say to regulate the business. I am saying that if it is the desire of the House to go through with this Bill, let us go through with it. We take up clause by clause consideration. There is an amendment to clause 2 by Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu. He is not here. The question is:

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 2 was added to the Bill.*

*Clause 3 was added to the Bill.*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: There are a number of amendments to the other clauses.

SHRI PATTABHI RAMA RAO. I am not moving my amendments.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The others who have tabled amendments are not present now. So, I put clauses 4 to 33 to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"That clauses 4 to 33 stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was adopted.*

Clauses 4 to 33 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1—(Short title, extent and commencement).

*Amendment made:*

Page 1, line 5,—

for "1974" substitute "1975" (7)

(Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 1, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

Clause 1, as amended, was added to the Bill.

**Enacting Formula**

*Amendment made:*

Page 1, line 1,—

for "Twenty-fifth Year" substitute—"Twenty-sixth Year" (8).

(Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Enacting Formula, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

The Enacting Formula, as amended, was added to the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Title stand part of the Bill".

*The motion was adopted.*

The title was added to the Bill.

SHRI VISWANATH PRATAP SINGH: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

*The motion was adopted.*

15.45 hrs.

**COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILL AND RESOLUTIONS**

SHRI S. P. BHATTARCHARYYA: (Uluberia). Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the Fifty-first Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 26th February, 1975."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Fifty-first Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 26th February 1975."

*The motion was adopted.*

15.46 hrs.

**RESOLUTION RE. GROWTH OF FASCISM IN THE COUNTRY**

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: We now resume discussion on the resolution moved by Shri Shyamnandan Mishra on the 30th August 1974. He had just started.