

11.15 hrs.

MATTER UNDER RULE 377

GRANT OF ADDITIONAL DEARNESS ALLOWANCE TO CENTRAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES AND PENSIONERS

MR. SPEAKER: Shri S. M. Banerjee to raise a matter under Rule 377—He has already raised it.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur): Let the Finance Minister reply. I raised it as an objection then. Now I am raising it under Rule 377.

MR. SPEAKER: Briefly.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: I am really indebted to you for giving me a chance to raise two most important issues under 377. This should be regarded as a maiden 377 because this is the first in this session. I raised the same issue when objecting to the High Court Judges (Conditions of Service) Amendment Bill.

Today is the last day of the session and we are not going to meet before the Budget. So I would invite your kind attention and the attention of the hon. Deputy Minister of Finance, who is here, again to the most burning problem of the Central Government employees, about sixth instalment of DA. It has not yet been paid I am not talking of the seventh and eighth instalments because the price has not gone up, but the sixth instalment was agreed to be paid by the Government, by the Finance Minister, at the meeting of JCM. They said they would pay; they did not deny it. So the sixth instalment should be paid.

The second point is that a final decision should be taken without further delay regarding payment of DA to the pensioners. Their conditions excite horror rather than pity.

I would also make another request. A solemn promise was made by the

then Health Minister, Shri Karmarkar, and later on also, that the benefits of the CGHS will be extended to the pensioners. After retirement, what should they do? Let him at least pay Rs. 2 or Rs. 3. They should be given some medical benefit.

I am raising these points with your permission and I would request the Deputy Finance Minister to give a reply. /

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): Both these points were raised during the course of the discussion on the Supplementary Demands sometime back. I think they were raised not only by Shri Banerjee but by various other hon. members also. At that time, I had said that both these matters are under Government's consideration.

We are also aware of the plight and difficulties of the pensioners. At the same time, when he mentioned that we have to take the economic condition of the country into consideration, that is only natural. After all, it is not only the amount involved, but the availability of the resources, how these are going to be given to them, all these matters have naturally to be taken into consideration. That is where the overall resource mobilisation and the economic outlook comes into the picture. But I would certainly like to say that both these points, about the Central Government employees and the pensioners, are under Government's consideration.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Shahnawaz Khan

SHRI ERASMO de SEQUEIRA (Marmagao): Will a decision be taken within the next thirty days?

**SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYA** (Serampore): Shri Raghu Ramaiah knows that I made some representations to him in his weekly meeting The Forms department under his Ministry in Calcutta is now being decentralised causing serious alarm to hundreds of employees. As per his advice, I sent in a short notice question. But that has not been admitted. Today is the last day of this session. He should give a reply to this.

Another thing. Only yesterday we discussed about layoff, closure and so on. Here is a telegram from a jute mill. The question was put by some MPs here. The telegram says:

"Large retrenchment threatens layoff closure deployment armed police within Kamarhati Jute Mill Intervention sought...."

We have received this from our friends in the Kamarhati Mills. It is near Calcutta. I do not know who will be responsible for it. Tomorrow you will not be here ; I will also not be here. We do not know where we can contact the Minister. What is the protection to these workers who are being threatened with layoff? The police are going inside the factory. May I request you to at least convey my feelings to the concerned Minister?

**SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE** (Howrah): Shri B. N. Reddy wanted to raise a matter. I have also one point to raise.

Yesterday I got a telegram to the effect that 50 employees of the Raut Bhatta Atomic Energy Commission have been dismissed. The case is going on in the Labour department. This is absolutely illegal. Previously I had drawn the attention of Shri K. C. Pant, he said he would talk to Dr. Sethna. But no remedy is there. I want that the matter should be looked into.

**SHRI B. N. REDDY** (Niryalguda): The agricultural prices have fallen to

half the normal price in our State and therefore there is a grave crisis in Andhra Pradesh. The peasantry are undergoing a lot of hardship. I request the Government to intervene and maintain a reasonable price, a remunerative price for the peasantry and a fair price for the consumer.

Of late political murders are taking place and particularly some persons on behalf of the ruling party are encouraging this type of murder. They have been brought to the notice of the Central Government and the Home Ministry. I request the Government to advise the State Government. MISA is misused and applied particularly against CPM members. I request the Government to withdraw all the warrants and release all the leaders.

**श्री सरजू पांडे** (गार्जापुर) : अध्यक्ष जी, मुझे पता चला है कि उत्तर प्रदेश में जो गन्ने का दाम तय किया गया है 12.25 पैसे, उन्ने कम से कम 18 र० से कम नहीं होना चाहिये, मुझे पता चला है कि यहाँ के एक बरिष्ठ मंत्री ने जो कैबिनेट रिक के हैं, मुख्य मंत्री पर दबाव डाला है कि आप इस में ज्यादा गन्ने का दाम तय नहीं कीजियेगा । इंगलिये में केन्द्रीय सरकार का इंटरवेंशन चाहता हूँ । उत्तर प्रदेश में झालू का भाव भी काफ़ी गिर गया है, कोई खरीदने वाला नहीं है, और अगर गन्ना 12 र० 12.25 पैसे के भाव बिकेगा तो सूखी लकड़ी और गन्ने में कोई फ़र्क में नहीं होगा । तो मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या केन्द्र के किसी बरिष्ठ मंत्री ने उत्तर प्रदेश के मुख्य मंत्रों पर दबाव डाल कर गन्ने का भाव तय कराया है ?

**दुबि और सिबाई मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री शाहनवाज खाँ) :** नहीं, किसी ने नहीं कराया ।

**श्री रामेश्वर ब्रह्मचारी (मधेपुरा) :**  
प्रध्मक्ष जी, कम मुगर केन प्राइस पर जो  
डिस्कान चल रहा था उस दमियान श्री  
रामबहाग सास्त्री ने बताया कि बिहार  
सरकार ने गन्ने का दाम 12.50 केसे तब  
किया है। इ के बाद दूसरी बात उन्होंने यह  
बनाया कि साउथ बिहार मुगर मिल में,  
जो आप के क्षेत्र में है, उन्होंने कहा कि वहां  
13 रु० गन्ने की कीमत हो जा रही थी,  
लेकिन बूकि उस मिल के मालिक मुख्य मंत्री  
के संबंधी हैं इस लिये उन के दबाव पर गन्ने  
का दाम कम देने के लिये बाध्य किया जा  
रहा है। तो मैं जवाब देही के साथ  
इस बात को रिप्यूट करना चाहता हूँ कि  
मिल मालिक का मुख्य मंत्री से कोई सम्बन्ध  
नहीं है। यदि ऐसी बात है, जैसा उन्होंने कहा  
है कि कम दाम किसानों को दिया जा रहा है,  
तो हम भी चाहते हैं कि किसानों को ज्यादा  
दाम मिले लेकिन हम तरह की निराधार बात  
सदन में नहीं कही जानी चाहिये।

**श्री रामबहाग सास्त्री (पटना) :** उस  
का आधार है।

**श्री कमला निब "भुक्कर" (केसरिया) :**  
प्रध्मक्ष जी, 3 तारोख के बिहार के तमाम  
ग्रामबारों में निकला है कि मोतीपुर, बारह  
बकिया, मोतिहारी, सुगौली, मन्नीलिया, चम्पारन  
और भुक्करपुर की जितनी मिलें हैं  
उन मिलों के मालिकों पर करोड़ों रु० किसानों  
का बकाया है जिस के चलते इस साल गन्ने  
की खेती कम होने जा रही है। तो सरकार  
कोई ऐसी कार्यवाही करने जा रही है जिस के  
अरिये किसानों के बकाया का भुगतान हो  
सके और गन्ने की खेती पर बुरा असर नहीं  
पड़ सके। इम बान की और मैं सरकार का  
ध्यान दिलाना चाहता हूँ और जानना चाहूंगा  
कि सरकार क्या कार्यवाही करने जा रही  
है उन मिल मालिकों के खिलाफ किसानों  
के बकाया का भुगतान कब तक होने जा रहा

है, इस बारे में आप कोब सी कार्यवाही  
करने जा रहे हैं, यह मैं जानना चाहता हूँ।

**श्री रामबहाग सास्त्री :** प्रध्मक्ष जी,  
आप जानते हैं कि पटना जिले के कुलबारी  
बाने में एक मौलाना बुद्ध चक मानक बांध  
है वहां के हरिजनों पर और एक बार जो  
मुसलमान का है उस पर वहां के भूमिपक्षियों  
ने हमला किया 25 जनवरी को और फिर  
दहाड़े एक हरिजन की, जो पी०डब्ल्यू०डी०  
में काम करते थे, हत्या कर दी गई। मैं स्वयं  
1 फरवरी को उस गांव में गया था और  
मैंने देखा कि किस तरह के उभ की विध्वंस  
हत्या की गई। मैं ने खून के छम्बे और तमाम  
बातें देखीं। लेकिन ताज्जुब की बात है कि  
जिन लोगों ने हरिजनों की हत्या की, बिल्कुल  
फ्रीज की तरह जा कर के, उन को उभयत  
पर छोड़ दिया गया और वे छुट्टा भूम रहे  
हैं। हरिजनों को काम नहीं करने देवे,  
वह बेचारे डर के मारे निकलते नहीं हैं।  
इस की खबर सरकार को है लेकिन कोई  
कार्यवाही नहीं की जा रही है। तो मैं चाहूंगा  
कि जो लोग इस हत्याकाण्ड से संबंधित हैं,  
जिन्हें गिरफ्तार किया गया था और जो  
जमानत पर है, उन्हें एम०आइ०एस०ए०  
के अन्दर गिरफ्तार कर के जेल में रखा  
जाय। वे तमाम लोग अयप्रकाश नारायण के  
आन्दोलन के समर्थक थे और एक जो वहां  
का नेता था वह एम०एस०एस० का बड़ा  
लीडर है जिस ने वहां संगठन बनाया है और  
आज भी वहां उन की ड्रिल होती है। तो  
मैं चाहूंगा कि सरकार फ्रीज कार्यवाही करे  
और उन को एम०आइ०एस०ए० के अघोन  
गिरफ्तार करे।

**MR. SPEAKER:** I would like to in-  
form the House that in this session I  
have received a number of complaints  
about the atrocities committed on the  
Harijans. Now, I have not allowed a  
discussion on this point because every  
day we cannot take the time of the

House. But I have referred all these complaints to the Committee on the Welfare of the Scheduled Castes & Scheduled Tribes to enquire into the matter and, if necessary, the Parliamentary Committee will submit a report to the House. (Interruptions).  
11.25 hrs.

#### DISCUSSION RE. PRICE OF SUGARCANE

MR. SPEAKER: We shall now take up further discussion on the sugarcane price. Shri Shah Nawaz Khan,

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): Sir, I am very grateful to the large number of the Hon. Members who have taken part in this debate. Sir, I can well imagine the concern of the hon. Members in ensuring the welfare of their constituents and the farmers. It has been rightly emphasised by all the Members who spoke on the subject that the farmers must get a fair and remunerative price for their produce. Sir, that is precisely the intention of our Government. Over 29 per cent of the population of our country lives in the villages and are engaged in farming. Therefore, the welfare of such a large number of population, that is about 80 per cent of our population—approximately 70 per cent are farming class and about 10 per cent are agricultural labourers living in the country-side—are living in the villages and subsisting on farming, is the primary concern of the Government of India. The Government is fully conscious of the efforts that will have to be made and the Government fully supports the efforts of the farmers to make the country self-sufficient in food. Shri Pande, Shri Genda Singh and Shri Vikal and other hon. Members who are the true representatives of the farmers and who are the custodians for watching the interests and welfare of the farmers have spoken in very emphatic and very strong terms. The Government is aware of the fact that the efforts of the Government are to provide them

with the necessary inputs like irrigation facilities, loans from the banking institutions, etc. As a result of joint efforts of the Government and the farmers the country is now passing through rather a comfortable period in the matter of production. Luckily we had a good rabi crop followed by a good kharif crop. The prospects of the coming rabi crop are equally good. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our farmers on making the country self-sufficient in food. In fact, as a number of hon. members have pointed out, the main concern of the government how is to ensure that when the farmers produce more, the prices should not fall to such an extent that they become unremunerative. This is a very valid point to which the government is directing its full attention. It is with a view to ensuring this that the government has fixed the minimum support price to ensure that the prices of foodgrains and other articles would not be allowed to fall below a certain level. This minimum support price policy is being fully implemented by the government. The Food Corporation is on the alert and if in any area the prices of foodgrains—wheat, paddy or coarse grains—fall below a certain level, the government comes in with support measures.

I am aware of the difficulties of the farmers about potatoes and the government is doing whatever it can to help the farmers. The point at issue today is the sugarcane. Sugarcane and sugar play a very important role in the economic life of our country. Here again, I would like to congratulate the farmers, the industry and the workers for working unitedly to increase sugar production in the country. I would give some figures. In 1971-72, sugar production was 31.13 lakh tonnes. In 1974-75 it shot up to approximately 48 lakh tonnes. I would also take the House into confidence about our exports. The exports have also been going up and we had placed at the disposal of the STC about 13 lakh tonnes for export, which is nearly two