

(a) whether his Ministry has appointed a Committee of Experts to find out the desirability of Bansagar Project;

(b) whether there is great resentment in Bihar with regard to the decision of Madhya Pradesh Government to construct Bansagar Project across the river Sone; and

(c) whether the Central Government intend to ask the Madhya Pradesh Government to await the report of the Committee of experts in order to avert bitterness between the two sister States ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. N. KUREL) : (a) and (b). Pursuant to the discussion on the Bansagar Project held on 1st August 1971 amongst the Chief Ministers of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh and the Union Minister of Irrigation and Power, a technical Committee comprising the Chairman, Central Water and Power Commission and the Chief Engineers of the three States is working out details for further consideration by the Chief Ministers. This technical Committee has not yet completed its work.

(c) The Bansagar Project has not been so far accepted by the Centre for inclusion in the developmental plans of Madhya Pradesh. As indicated above, efforts are being made to evolve proposals which might be acceptable to all the States.

12.02 hrs.

### CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

#### PRICE RISE OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी (स्वालयर) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं अविलम्बनीय लोक महत्व के निम्नलिखित विषय की ओर माननीय वित्त-मंत्री जी का ध्यान दिलाता हूँ और उन से

प्राथना करता हूँ कि वे इस के बारे में एक बक्तव्य दें :—

“बढ़ते हुए मूल्य, विशेषकर आवश्यक वस्तुओं के बढ़ते हुए मूल्य, जिन का कि निश्चित आय वाले तथा निम्न आय वाले वर्गों पर कुप्रभाव पड़ता है।”

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH) : I share the anxiety of the Hon. House regarding increase in the prices of essential commodities in the recent months and the hardships caused to the people belonging particularly to the lower income and fixed income groups. Several factors like large influx of refugees from Bangla Desh, widespread floods and droughts in various States and also to some extent the levies imposed in the last Budget have contributed to the price increase in the recent months. As a result, between end-May and end-October, 1971, the Wholesale Price Index rose by 4.1% while the Consumer Price Index moved up from 224 in May 1971 to 238 in September 1971. As compared to the position a year ago, the general index of wholesale prices has shown a rise of 4.9 per cent. However, the Wholesale Price Index shows a decline in the month of October.

It is a matter of some satisfaction that the price increase in food articles over the year has been moderate and the buffer stock of foodgrains with the Government is of the order of 7.5 million tonnes. In the case of pulses, production has not been keeping up with the demand. The prices of oilseeds and edible oils have also risen in this period but their level is lower than what it was last year. Price of gur has risen due to lower production last year. Anticipations of lower sugar production in 1971-72 consequent on a decline in the acreage under sugarcane, account for an increase in sugar prices. In the case of other consumer goods, raw material shortage has been the principal factor for the rise in prices. The cotton crop although better than last year, is still not sufficient for our requirements.

During the slack season (April to October), seasonal factors become operative and

general up trend in prices is a usual phenomenon. As I have observed earlier, this year the seasonal pressure has been aggravated by a number of additional factors. Government have taken several steps to check the increase in prices. The textile mills have been asked to increase their production of controlled cloth and in order to prevent malpractices in the sale of such cloth, Government have also issued orders that the consumer price should be marked on every metre length of controlled cloth. To keep the cotton price in check, considerable imports of cotton are also being resorted to. Raw materials other than cotton which are in short supply are edible oils and certain varieties of steel, both of which are being imported in substantial quantities. Apart from credit control and direct physical control over a number of commodities, steps have recently been taken to check speculative activities through amendment of the Forward Contracts (Regulation) Act and forward trading, including trading in non-transferable specific delivery contracts in edible oils and oilseeds, has been suspended and future trading in gur has been banned. To meet the increased expenditure on refugees, steps are being taken to restrict non-Plan Expenditure, both at the Centre and in the States, and to raise additional resources. In a recent Conference of the Chief Ministers, the question of additional mobilisation of resources by the States to meet the extra expenditure on refugees was also discussed and as a result several State Governments as also the Central Government have taken measures in that direction. Major foodgrains are being sold at fixed prices through a network of fair price shops in the country and the States have been advised to further strengthen the public distribution system. In view of the rising trend in sugar prices, the availability of bank credit to sugar mills and trade has been further curtailed in August, 1971. The validity period of release orders was reduced from 45 to 30 days and the sale of sugar by factories to registered dealers and stocking of sugar by traders has also been restricted. Long-term measures to increase the productivity and yield of commercial crops are also being pursued vigorously, and steps are being taken to step up the production of oilseeds, raw cotton and pulses. Research

activities for developing new strains and hybrid seeds are being intensified. It is hoped that these measures will have a perceptible impact on the price level in the coming months.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : अध्यक्ष जी, मंत्री महोदय ने अपने वक्तव्य में यह स्वीकार किया है कि आवश्यक वस्तुओं के मूल्यों में वृद्धि हुई है। उन्होंने वृद्धि के केवल थोके मूल्य दिये हैं जोकि हरदम फुटकर मूल्यों की तुलना में कम होते हैं। कल राज्य सभा में एक प्रश्न के उत्तर में सरकार ने एक वक्तव्य सभा-पटल पर रखा था, जिस का अध्ययन करने के बाद पता लगता है कि अलग-अलग चीजों के दामों में जो वृद्धि हुई है वह असाधारण है और उस वृद्धि का कोई तर्कसंगत कारण न तो सरकार ने इस वक्तव्य में दिया है और न देश की जनता के सामने रखा गया है। उदाहरण के लिये मई, 1971 की तुलना में अक्तूबर, 1971 में ज्वार के दाम 10.7 प्रतिशत बढ़ गये। इसी बीच में दानों के दाम 23.1 प्रतिशत बढ़ गये, गुड़ के दाम 22.2 प्रतिशत, रा-काटन के दाम 13.4 प्रतिशत, काटन यार्न 10.8 प्रतिशत और एलू-मिनियम यूटेन्सिलज, जो गरीब आदमियों के काम में आता है, उन के दामों में भी 10.2 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि हुई है। यह सब मैं आम आदमियों के काम में आने वाली चीजों के बारे में बतला रहा हूँ। मैं चाहूँगा कि जब मूल्य वृद्धि के आंकड़े एकत्र किये जाते हैं तो फुटकर मूल्यों का भी हिसाब लगाना चाहिये, क्योंकि आम आदमी थोक में चीजें नहीं खरीदता, उसे फुटकर व्यापारियों की दया पर निर्भर रहना पड़ता है।

मूल्य वृद्धि के जो कारण दिये गये हैं उन में मुझे यह देख कर बड़ा दुःख हुआ कि सरकार पूर्वी बंगाल से आने वाले शरणार्थियों की भी मूल्य वृद्धि के लिये उत्तरदायी ठहरा रही है। एक करोड़ लोगों के आने के कारण जो आर्थिक स्थिति पर बोझ पड़ा है वह स्पष्ट है लेकिन

## [श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी]

मूल्यों की वृद्धि प्रारम्भ हुई जब आम बजट में आम आदमी के काम में आने वाली चीजों पर टैक्स लगाए गये और घाटे का बहुत बड़ा भाग छोड़ दिया गया। उस समय सरकारी प्रवक्ताओं ने कहा था कि मूल्यों में मामूली वृद्धि माजिनल इन्फ्लेज होगी। क्या वित्त मंत्री कहेंगे कि यह वृद्धि मामूली है? इस वक्तव्य में भी कहा जा रहा है।

“It is a matter of some satisfaction that the price increase in food articles over the year has been moderate...”

ज्वार के दाम बढ़ गए, वह माडरेट है? खाने की चीजों के दाम बढ़े वह माडरेट है? मैं जानना चाहता हूँ माडरेट और हार्ड में कौन विभाजक रेखा है? पहल जो वृद्धि हुई थी वह माजिनल थी और अब माडरेट है? आम आदमी पर अनाज की कीमतें बढ़ रही हैं और अनाज के दाम बढ़ने का तो कोई औचित्य ही नहीं है। फसल अच्छी हुई है। किसान को शिकायत है उम उमकी महलत का पूरा पैसा नहीं मिल रहा है और उपभोक्ता को अधिक दामों पर अनाज खरीदना पड़ रहा है। वित्त-मंत्री महादय इस अनावृद्धि को किस तरह से हल करत है? यथा सनाप प्रकट किया जा रहा है कि मरिन्ति बड़ी माडरेट है। इसमें कहा गया है

“It is a matter of some satisfaction...”

ऊपर के परिच्छेद में कहत है कि मूल्यों में वृद्धि हुई है, चिन्ता का वान है और नांचे कहत है कि कम वृद्धि हुई है, मतोप की बात है—यह आपका वक्तव्य है। आम कामे सतोप प्रकट कर सकते है?

इसके साथ ही वित्त मंत्री महादय स्वीकार करेगे कि औद्योगिक उत्पादन में कमी हो जाने, योजना के भौतिक लक्ष्यों के पूरा न होने—मुझे

खुशी है कि योजना मंत्री सदन में मौजूद है—राज्य सरकारों द्वारा रिजर्व बैंक से 9 सौ करोड़ रुपए का ओवर ड्राफ्ट करने, किसी प्रकार के वित्तीय अनुशासन में रहने, सरकारी खर्च में कमी करने में शासन की विफलता और इन स्थितियों के लिए पूर्वा बगाल के लोगों को दोषी ठहराना, यह समझ में नहीं आता है।

क्या राज्य सरकारें वित्त मंत्री के इस आदेश को मानने के लिए तैयार हैं कि अब वे रिजर्व बैंक से ओवर ड्राफ्ट नहीं करेंगी? अभी मुख्य मंत्रियों का सम्मेलन हुआ था, क्या आप मुख्य मंत्रियों को इस बात के लिए तैयार कर सके कि ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में जो सम्पन्नता आई है जिसका लाभ बड़े किसानों को मिला है उनको भी राष्ट्रीय समृद्धि में कुछ हिस्सा बटाना चाहिए, सरकारी कोष में कुछ धन देना चाहिए—क्या बड़े किसानों पर टैक्स लगाने के लिए राज्य सरकारों को आप तैयार कर सके? इन विफलताओं के लिए पूर्व बगाल के विस्थापितों को दोष देना अपनी विफलताओं पर परदा डालना है।

मैं जानना चाहता हूँ मूल्यों को स्थिर करने के लिए आदेश जारी करने के अलावा और क्या किया गया? यह सारा वक्तव्य ही आदेशों से भरा हुआ है कि हमने कपड़ा मिल मालिकों को आदेश दे दिया है कि दाम न बढ़ने पायें लेकिन दाम बढ़ रहे हैं, हमने चीनी मिल मालिकों को आदेश दे दिया है कि दाम न बढ़ने पायें लेकिन दाम बढ़ रहे हैं—क्या किंग केन्यूट की तरह से आदेश देकर दामों की बढ़ती हुई लहर को वित्त मंत्री रोक सकते हैं?

गन्ने के दाम कम तय किए गए हैं किसानों ने गन्ना कम बोया है और अगले साल चीनी कम होगी, इस बात का डर है इसलिए चीनी का संग्रह किया जा रहा है।

श्री राजि भूषण (दक्षिण दिल्ली) : आप सोशलिस्ट पालिसीज को स्वीकार कर लीजिए ।

श्री छटल बिहारी बाजपेयी : अध्यक्ष जी, इनको तो एक ही राग अलापना है, वह जन्तर मन्तर में जा करके अलापें । (व्यवधान)

श्री के० डी० मालवीय (डुमरियागंज) : मैं भी इस बात में इत्फाक करता हूँ कि सोशलिस्ट एकोनामी को आप स्वीकार कर लें तो समस्यायें हल हो सकती हैं ।

श्री छटल बिहारी बाजपेयी : आपने स्वीकार किया है तभी तो वह हो रहा है ।

अध्यक्ष जी, केवल आदेशों से सद्भावनाओं से या चिन्ता प्रकट करने से मूल्यों की वृद्धि रुकेंगी नहीं । मैं जानना चाहता हूँ क्या सरकार चीनी पर पार्शल कन्ट्रोल लागू करने के लिए तैयार है ? चुनाव के पहले पार्शल कन्ट्रोल लगा हुआ था । जो खुले बाजार में चीनी खरीदना चाहते थे वह खरीद सकते थे लेकिन आम आदमी को विषिक्त मूल्य पर राशन की दूकान पर चीनी मिलनी थी । हमारे विरोध के बावजूब भी वह कन्ट्रोल खत्म कर दिया गया और अब आम आदमी को दो रुपए तीस पैसे किलो चीनी खरीदनी पड़ रही है ।—(व्यवधान) मंत्री महोदय ने कहा है कि हम सारे देश में उचित मूल्य की दूकानें खोलना चाहते हैं लेकिन वे स्वीकार करेंगे कि दूकानों की संख्या पर्याप्त नहीं है और उनपर अच्छा माल नहीं मिलता है । उदाहरण के लिए गेहूँ बाजार में 75 ह० क्विंटल बहुत अच्छा बिक रहा है लेकिन दिल्ली में राशन की दूकान पर जाइये तो गेहूँ अच्छा नहीं है । बाजार में आटा खरीदिए तो एक रुपया दस पैसे किलो मिलता है ।

देश में संकट की स्थिति है, मूल्य स्थिर रहने चाहिए । अनापक्षनाप मुनाफे की मनो-वृत्ति को निवृत्ताहित करना आवश्यक है । क्या

बित्त मंत्री इस सदन के सामने ऐसी योजना रख सकते हैं कि देश में आम आदमी के काम में आने वाली चीजें जैसे अनाज, दाल, खाने का तेल, मिट्टी का तेल, मोटा कपड़ा और थोड़ी सी चीनी उचित मूल्य पर हर नामरिक को मिलेगी ? यदि बित्त मंत्री इस तरह की गारन्टी दे सकेंगे हैं तो फिर देश में आज के संकट की स्थिति में भी लोगों को बढते हुए मूल्यों के गहवर में से निकलने के लिए प्रेरित कर सकते हैं और हर किसी संकट का मामना करने के लिए लोग तैयार हो सकते हैं । बकनब्य में जितने भी उपाय सुझाए गए हैं वह दूरगामी हैं । सभी स्वीकार करेंगे कि जब तक उत्पादन में वृद्धि नहीं होगी, कच्चे माल का आयात जारी रहेगा, औद्योगिक विकास नहीं बढेगा तब तक दाम स्थिर नहीं होंगे लेकिन मैं जानना चाहता हूँ क्या दूरगामी और तात्कालिक, लॉग टर्म और शार्ट टर्म किम तरह के उपाय इन्होंने अपनाये का प्रयत्न किया है ? अगर किया है तो वह शार्ट टर्म उपायों के बारे में सदन को विश्वास में लें और केवल यह न कहें कि दाम बढ़ रहे हैं, हमें चिन्ता है क्योंकि चिन्ता मात्र से आम आदमी की चिन्ता कम होने वाली नहीं है ।

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN) : बाजपेयी जी ने भी मेरे साथ चिन्ता ही प्रकट की है जबकि मैं समझता था वे कुछ सुझाव भी देंगे ।

As he very rightly says, when we consider the question of rising prices, naturally we have to go into the basic causes of price rise. Some of the causes are of a long term nature and the solutions will also have to be of a long term nature.

For example, we have mentioned the inflationary trends. It is the basic cause of the price rise. Then we have mentioned the Bangla refugees. We have not tried to put the entire blame on the Bangla Desh refugees. But the fact of life is that nearly a crore of people are here and their requirements are also to be met.

**SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur) :** Why did you import a car for Rs. 6 lakhs ?

**SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN :** Do not divert the attention now. It may be relevant in some other context. I am now dealing with the problem of prices. When the problem of the refugees was mentioned, it was not with a view to find a scapegoat. But it was one of the factors which have strengthened the inflationary trends which were already there.

Then we have mentioned about production. There are basic raw materials needed for industrial production. Production of agricultural commodities like cotton and oilseeds is certainly most important. When there is some sort of a constraint on production certainly it affects the prices. We have to import and we have undertaken an import programme for these raw materials. This is an aspect which should affect the prices ultimately. The long term effects are important.

He says : You cannot order prices to stay still, just as King Canute could not order the waves of the sea to stop. I cannot do that; yet he expects me to do that. The Finance Minister or for that matter any administration can take certain corrective measures to see that ultimately they result in the stabilisation of prices. Certain immediate steps no doubt become necessary and I have explained what immediate steps were taken.

For example, he mentioned the rise in the price of *jowar*. He must have known the reason. *Jowar* is produced in Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Mysore. Unfortunately, these very States are affected by famine conditions. It has had its impact on production which has affected the price of *jowar*. Practically the whole of the rabi crop, and in some States the kharif crop, was affected. If the next crop is somewhat better, possibly things may improve in the case of *jowar*.

**SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA (Jainagar) :** Have the prices of cotton gone down in Maharashtra ?

**SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN :** Yes.

**SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA :** It is an anomaly.

**SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN :** It is a good thing I should say. On the one side you ask me to stabilise the prices, on the other you say the prices are going down. It is good that prices are going down, but they should not be depressed artificially I quite agree, because the growers also should get a reasonable price. That objective also we should not lose sight of. At the same time, artificial pushing up of prices also is not good. Ultimately in the artificial pushing up of prices, the advantage is taken by the middlemen, the speculator. For restricting speculative activity we will also take recourse to some sort of credit planning. We have taken some steps to see that credit facilities in these particular fields are made available in a mere selective manner. That also will ultimately affect the prices. Some of these steps we have taken and are taking, and we have to wait for their results. Some of the things are against us, and we are trying to fight with them.

He mentioned the question of the overdrafts of the States. The Planning Minister and myself had discussions with nine or ten States which are mainly responsible for these overdraft difficulties in the country. They explained their difficulties, and we tried to explain our difficulties to them. As you know, in this country politically you just cannot order the States about or declare non-co-operation with the States. These things ultimately have to be evolved after discussions and deliberations, evolving a certain consensus. I cannot be a drill master giving them orders of quick march or to move left or right. They have got their problems. I have to sit with them, understand them, but ultimately we are trying to evolve a policy, and we would try to see that that policy is accepted by the States.

He asked whether we have succeeded in our efforts in making the States accept the principle of levying tax on agricultural income. Of course, they have not accepted the specific proposal that we had made to them to hand over the right of levying tax to the Centre, but the general feeling which they

expressed was that they are willing to tax the agricultural sector. On that point they have agreed and they have agreed also to make further efforts in resources mobilisation.

There is formal control on a large number of things like electric wires, cables, aluminium and its manufactures, synthetic rubber, vanaspati, cement, motor car, agricultural tractor, drugs, kerosene oil etc.

**SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE :** If there is control on the price of kerosene oil, why has the price gone up ?

**SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN :** I am coming to that. There I want his co-operation. Really speaking, there the culprit is this middlemen and the anti-social elements of the traders' class on which you may have some influence. Please help me there.

**SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE :** At the time of the elections he had all the influence, and now I have influence.

**SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN :** Possibly you may have influence. I am pleading with you, I am not accusing you. There are anti-social elements, certain irrational forces, speculative elements in society. These will have to be controlled, but merely passing an Act does not work. I have mentioned it before that there is necessity of some sort of consumers' resistance movement in this country.

**SHRI DASARATHA DEB (Tripura last) :** And gherao also.

**SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN :** I am not for gherao. Without gherao also there can be a consumers' resistance movement, if it is properly organised. I would expect co-operation from the hon. Members.

In saying that in certain sectors the rise was not high, there was no sense of satisfaction at all.

**SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE :** Then why express satisfaction ?

**SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN :** If you do not want that word, if you are so angry with it, scratch it, but it is a manner of saying something.

**SHRI PILOO MODY (Godhra) :** It is a figure of speech.

**SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN :** It is a figure of speech, I am very glad.

**SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE :** What a figure ?

**SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN :** Sometimes the figure of speech is coming to my help ! I am very glad about it. So, it is not true that we are not looking into it. The question is very ticklish and the solutions are not easy. It will require sustained efforts and sustained cooperation from hon. Members. Particularly in the present crisis, merely to make it as a bogey for starting an agitation is not going to help either the consumer or the political parties or the country as a whole.

**SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE :** I referred to the abnormal increase in the sugar prices, what stands in the way of Government introducing partial control ?

**SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN :** I will have to consult my colleagues in the Agriculture Ministry about it, but I will tell you what led to decontrol. There was a time when there was not only surplus of sugar but also surplus of stocks. It was a very heavy drag on the credit system. So, decontrol was thought of. Whether partial or full control is necessary is a matter for further examination. I cannot straightway say yes or no.

**SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Alipore) :** The more this question is discussed, the more it becomes clear that it is too ticklish and serious a question to be disposed of by way of a calling attention motion. We have given notices for a discussion on this matter. I hope, Sir, during this session you will give us an opportunity to discuss it at greater length, because it cannot be dealt with so briefly.

[Shri Indrajit Gupta]

As far as this statement is concerned and this analysis of index figures, etc., I do not attach very great importance to it. Even a paper like *Statesman* today comes out with the heading "Paradox of High Prices and Low Index". When the whole country knows that prices are rising, the index figures are going down. The jugglery of index figures and the method of compilation, we know.

SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN :  
But the index figures are quoted against me !

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Unfortunately, there is no other yardstick by which one can go.

During this brief discussion, I want to highlight one aspect. It is not merely a question of hardship for the common people that is involved of course, that is exercising the minds of all of us but the entire economy of the country is being distorted by this galloping monster of inflation and deficit financing, which is leading to price rise. We are now meeting at a time when there is a grave emergency on the borders. At a moment like this, however important the front may be, the rear is equally important. As my friend Mr. Vajpayee said, we have to think of short-term, emergent, measures also in this emergency, apart from long-term measures, which are, of course, necessary. Otherwise, you cannot defend your country and fight a war in the front, if the rear is going to collapse. I hope he will consider this when he replies. At the time of presentation of the last budget a few months ago by the Finance Minister members from all sections of the House, including many from the other side, had expressed their apprehension that this large number of indirect taxes and imposts will lead to a general increase in the price level again.

At that time the Finance Minister had assured us that since he had not placed any new burdens on those commodities which are essential for the use of the common man, there is no reason why the prices should go up. After a few weeks, when the prices had suddenly begun to rise, we read in the press

—at that time Parliament was in recess—that when a press man had asked him how it is happening, he was quoted in the press as saying "I have been let down by the traders and the business community." After a few more days he was quoted again, either in a speech or in a statement, saying that the only solution is for the people to develop consumer resistance. That means that Government cannot do anything, which is a confession of bankruptcy or defeat. He said that it is for the public and the consumers to organise resistance against these unscrupulous profiteers, speculators, hoarders, and so on. I am not discussing that here because that cannot be done here; it has to be done outside. I am also quite sure that it can be done outside with the co-operation of the people, provided government give an assurance to the people of this country that when they seriously take up resistance against profiteers and hoarders the police will not come to the rescue of the hoarders and act against the people.

This evening in this city of Delhi, and in other cities also, the trade unions and workers will be organising an indirect form of resistance, not to the traders but to the venerable institution which finances these people and allows them to go on indulging in speculation and hoarding, that is, the Reserve Bank of India. Demonstrations are going to take place this very evening demanding a change in the credit policy. I will remind the hon. Minister that his own Economic Survey of last year, which is quite cautious in a way when it describes the situation, had this to say on page 44 :

"Irrespective of selective credit and administrative controls where supplies are constricted, a general increase in credit is bound to leave some influence on prices."

It is very cautiously worded.

"Besides in a situation marked by excess demand, the exercise of group or monopoly power, of which speculative activity is a manifestation, cannot but gain a certain ascendancy."

This is what your own Economic Survey has said on page 44 last year. This is sufficient warning and acceptance of the basic cause of the malady. It is not simply a case of production not increasing, as Shri Vajpayee has said. Even if the production increases the prices may not go down. The whole paradox and contradiction of the present economic system not only in this country but in other countries where a similar system exists is that high production does not necessarily ensure cheaper goods to the people. In fact, when production goes up there are vested interests involved who prefer to see that production is kept down, artificially curtailed and restricted, supplies are restricted, so that the prices and profits can go up. We are talking about green revolution, record food production and so on and yet we find no reflection of it on prices. Last year the sugar production was very high, record production as he himself said. But did it bring the desired relief to the people? Not at all. They are again thinking of imposing restrictions. The same thing happened in textiles, in oilseeds, oils and so many other things. So, the truth of the matter is what has been very cautiously revealed by the Economic Survey. You may impose price control but the stocks and supplies are controlled by somebody else. So, your price control has no value and you cannot implement it. Therefore, the paradox of this system is that people who are controlling production, trading, market etc., whose only *raison d'être* is to make profits, these people are not going to submit to this kind of administrative control of prices and so on. If they find that production is going up and prices are likely to fall, they have sufficient power even today to keep production down artificially, restrict supplies so that prices and profits are kept up. If you are fighting shy, if you are burking the issue for other reasons, for political or other reasons you will never be able to get out of this mess. Now what is happening is that the Reserve Bank of India, which is controlling the credit policy, particularly after the nationalisation of banks, even though I do concede it is giving credit to some sectors which were neglected before, by and large, the bulk of its credit is still going along the old lines.

It has been revealed in so many statements. Economic journals have given all the facts. It is there. Once the big business people complained a few months ago that they were being starved of credit after the nationalisation of banks. This was a ruse, I think, to provoke you. The custodians of the banks immediately rushed to the press with a joint statement to assure these people saying, "No, no; we have given very little credit to other sectors; the bulk of the credit is still reserved for you." It is on record in the statement.

What is happening is that white money of the Reserve Bank and the banks is combining with black money which is hoarded outside and the two together see to it that prices do not come down at all. Artificial restrictions are imposed on production and the whole market is being controlled by speculators.

Therefore, I only want to ask him whether, apart from the long-term policy and apart from the fact that we do not have any confidence at the moment that this Government will ever take the kind of steps that are necessary to break this grip of big monopoly and vested interests over the economy, they will consider at least some immediate, emergency measures not only because of the situation facing the country but also because we are now, as it happens, at the beginning of the new season. This is the beginning of the credit season; so, do not let last year's things be repeated.

In the name of this policy of liberal credit, you know very well what is happening actually. I think, the different ministries of the Government of India have got differing viewpoints on this policy. Perhaps, the Planning Ministry is not so happy with this policy of liberal credit as the Finance Ministry is. The Finance Ministry is afraid that if credit is squeezed, there may be a fall in prices. The Planning Commission and the Planning Ministry, I think fear that if in the name of liberal credit policy these people are allowed to go on doing speculation, holding of stocks and all that, prices will go from bad to worse. Therefore,



[Shri Indrajit Gupta]

my first suggestion would be an immediate halt to this policy of liberal credit and money supply specially in the trading sector at this time when the season is beginning.

Secondly, all forward markets should be closed. Why should you not close them? Close all the forward markets. Why are you allowing this particular device of the capitalist system?

**SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN :** It is being done.

**SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :** It is not being done. Some regulations in one or two forward markets have been introduced; that is all.

Thirdly, would you consider physical controls on the storage, distribution and prices, not only on prices but on storage, distribution and prices, of certain essential commodities which are very necessary for the people? At least as an emergency measure, do this, otherwise, I shudder to think what will happen if some bombs fall on Calcutta City tomorrow and if a war breaks out. Already the condition of the market is such that people are being fleeced right and left. Then the profiteers and vested interests will run riot, because Government has no control over supplies and stocks. They are in somebody else's hands and you go on issuing only paper orders to impose price control which nobody observes.

Fourthly, these large credits for holding stocks of consumer goods should be withdrawn.

If you are prepared to take even these steps, then we would consider them to be some earnest measure of your future intentions; otherwise, I think, we are dealing only superficially with these things. The real problem is much deeper and this problem of the monopoly and the speculative interests has to be squarely tackled and fought. You have not nationalised a single industry which produces consumer

goods for the people. Why do you not take over one at least and see what can be done about it? Just see what is the condition of the oldest industry in this country, the textile industry. From year to year prices are going up. Sometimes mills are closing down; sometimes stocks are piling up; sometimes prices are raised; sometimes prices are brought down; sometimes production is deliberately curtailed. What is this? Why do you not take it over? At no stage the people are getting the benefit of cheaper cloth. Therefore, you must introduce measures of nationalisation and physical control and take certain emergency measures to curb this speculation by banning all forward markets and lending for holding of big stocks.

**SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN :** About the first point that he raised, viz., it is not enough to have a Call Attention Notice and that there should be a fullfledged discussion on this matter. Personally, I am willing to have a discussion. It will help us to know the ideas and suggestions of the hon. Members. As far as that is concerned, at least I am for it.

**SHRI S. M. BANERJEE :** The more the discussion, the more increase in price.

**SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN :** I will get more suggestions from you.

I do not want to go into the general criticism and analysis that the hon. Member made. Possibly, I may agree with him on certain points and I may not agree with him on some other points.

About the consumers resistance movement, yes, provided it is not a violent movement which may lead to anarchy in which possibly some hon. Members may be interested.....(Interruption)

**SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU :** You have taken huge contributions and so you have to oblige them. We know all this.

**SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN :** Mr. Jyotirmoy Bosu, I have not even mentioned your name.

The latter part of the question of Mr. Indrajit Gupta has some constructive approach. I would like to deal with that. There also, he has played a usual political game of trying to play Finance Ministry against Planning Ministry...

**SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :** You deny it on the floor of the House.

**SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN :** I am denying it on the floor of the House. I may tell you that your leader of the party came to discuss the matter with me and I explained the whole matter to him in detail. Even then, you are repeating it here. There is no question of Finance Ministry advocating any liberal policy.

**SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :** There are reports coming out in the press which are not being contradicted.

**SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN :** I cannot go on contradicting reports which people go on making.

**SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :** If you do not contradict them, how can we think that these are wrong ?

**SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN :** Your people came in a deputation to me I explained the whole matter. Still, you are repeating it here.

Coming to the Reserve Bank and to your having demonstration, certainly, it is a free country and everybody has a right to have demonstration...

**SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE :** What about tear-gas ?

**SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN :** That is the Home Ministry's problem. That is a different matter. I am not dealing with tear-gas here. I am dealing with prices.

As far as the credit policy is concerned, I entirely agree with him. This is the policy that we have followed. This is not something he is telling us. This is something we are trying to follow. In the case of priority sectors, we will have to see that more liberal credit facility should be given. There are certain difficulties in the matter. But, I think, we have succeeded in one thing that the speculative elements which, really speaking, used to influence banking, the working of the banks, before have been more or less controlled. In the case of other sectors, the private sector, there are productive activities and there are merely trading and hoarding activities. We have decided to have a strict control on the credit facility to this particular type of activity. There, my approach and his approach are identical.

Only yesterday morning, I had a long discussion with the Governor of the Reserve Bank. We have taken certain decisions in the matter. I am sure, this policy will be consistently followed during the season which starts from October and goes upto April. But now-a-days, it goes upto July. As far as limitation of the credit facility to speculative elements for trading and hoarding activities is concerned, I think, our thinking is the same and our policy is the same. We have taken certain decisions in the matter and we will pursue them. This was the only constructive suggestion he made.

Then, he made a suggestion about physical controls. As far as essential commodities are concerned, we have got a distribution system for the distribution of foodgrains. We have not dismantled it. On the contrary, really speaking, we are trying to strengthen it. Mr. Atal Bihari Vajpayee also mentioned that, actually, in the shops, the quality of foodgrains that is sold is not good. I think, that is certainly a matter that will have to be gone into. This is the difficulty in the case of physical controls because, instead of working efficiently, they give opportunities for corruption and malpractices. Really speaking, when you come to the question of physical controls, you have to see the administrative aspect of it. Sometimes, they are rather discouraging.

[Shri Yeshwantrao Chavan]

As far as cloth is concerned, there is a control. There is the suggestion that we should stock it and distribute it. If it becomes feasible and necessary, certainly, we will take those steps.

**SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA** . What about forward market ?

**SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN** : He mentioned about forward markets. Forward trading is banned.

**SHRI S M BANERJEE** The forward trading in gur has been banned only a few days ago when I myself raised the matter.

**SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN** But steps have been taken. What I have been stating is that steps have been taken.

**डा० लक्ष्मीनारायण पट्टिय (मदसौर) :** मन्त्री महोदय ने देश में सूखे की स्थिति, बाढ़ की स्थिति और बंगला देश के शरणार्थियों के आगमन का बहाना लेकर उन तथ्यों को छिपाया है, जिन के कारण देश में महंगाई निरंतर बढ़ती जा रही है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या इसके पीछे आपके सरकारी कारखानों में निरंतर होने वाले घाट भी नहीं है ? क्या इन घाटों के कारण भी देश की आर्थिक स्थिति खराब नहीं हुई है ? हिन्दुस्तान स्टील लिमिटेड हो, हिन्दुस्तान जिक हों या फटिलाइजर के कारखाने हो क्या इन सरकारी कारखानों में जो निरंतर घाटा होता चला जा रहा है उस घाटे के कारण भी देश की आर्थिक स्थिति खराब नहीं हुई है, उस पर भी कुप्रभाव इसका नहीं पड़ा है। इस पर मन्त्री महोदय ने कुछ नहीं बताया है। कहीं भी यह नहीं बताया गया है कि इन घाटों को रोकने के लिए क्या कदम उठाये जा रहे हैं ? इन सरकारी कारखानों को प्रभावी बनाने के लिए, ये ठीक ढंग से काम कर सकें, अच्छा उत्पादन कर सकें, लाभ में चल सकें मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इनके बारे में क्या

कदम उठाये जा रहे हैं ? निरंतर बढ़ रही महंगाई का क्या यह भी एक कारण नहीं है और यदि है तो इस कारण को दूर करने के लिए क्या उपाय किये गये हैं ?

मन्त्री महोदय ने विदेशी कर्ज जो हमारे ऊपर है, उस तथ्य को भी छिपाया है। क्या विदेशी-कर्ज भार के कारण भी देश में निरंतर महंगाई नहीं बढ़ती चली जा रही है ? क्या यह सही नहीं है कि विदेशी ऋण-भार ने महंगाई को बढ़ाया है ? महंगाई के कुछ आँकड़े मन्त्री महोदय ने दिये हैं। उन्होंने कहा है कि साठे बार प्रतिशत महंगाई बढ़ी है। मैं चाहता हूँ कि पिछले आँकड़े आप उठा कर देखें। जब 1965 में कीमतों का औसत स्तर सौ रुपया लगाया जाए तो 1970-71 के अन्त में आकर वह 166 या 167 हो गया था। पिछले बजट के बाद अब छ. महीने बाद ही वह बढ़ कर 244 के आसपास आ जाता है। क्या पहले जो महंगाई बढ़ती रही है उसके अन्दर भी बंगला देश से आए शरणार्थियों का योगदान था ? मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि वित्त मन्त्री महोदय ने असली कारणों को छिपाने का प्रयत्न किया है।

वित्त मन्त्री जी ने पहले कहा था कि बजट के कारण करीब दो प्रतिशत की मूल्यों में वृद्धि हुई है। लेकिन अब वह स्वीकार करते हैं कि साठे बार प्रतिशत की वृद्धि हुई है। आमतौर पर जो वृद्धि हुई है वह लगभग तीस प्रतिशत की हुई है।

आँकड़े अगर आप देखें तो यह सिद्ध हो जाएगा। शक्कर के भाव, दालों के भाव, केरोसीन आयल के दाम, लकड़ी और कोयला के दाम, अर्थात् जो आम उपयोग की वस्तुएँ हैं, दैनिक उपयोग की वस्तुएँ हैं उनकी कीमतों के दो-तीन महीने पहले के आँकड़े उठा कर आप देखें तो यह सिद्ध हो जाएगा कि किसी में बीस

प्रतिशत की, किसी में तीस प्रतिशत की ओर किसी में चालीस और पचास प्रतिशत की वृद्धि हुई है। इस के कारण निम्न आय और मध्यम आय वर्ग के लोगों का जीवन दूबर हो गया है। अखबारों ने जो इकोनोमिक सर्वे किया है उसके आधार पर यह कहा जा सकता है कि केवल दिल्ली में ही लगभग चालीस प्रतिशत की आम उपभोक्ता वस्तुओं के मूल्यों में वृद्धि हुई है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि शक्कर, दालों, केरोसीन, आयल, लकड़ी, कोयला आदि जो उपभोक्ता वस्तुयें हैं इनके मूल्य स्थिर रह सकें, ये न बढ़ने पायें, इसके बारे में आपने कौन से कदम उठाये हैं ?

योजना आयोग द्वारा भी इस संबंध में कुछ स्टेप उठाये जाने के सुझाव दिये गये हैं। उन पर आपने क्या अमल किया है ? योजना आयोग द्वारा सुझाये गये उपाय क्या हैं और किस तरह से आप मूल्यों की वृद्धि को रोकने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं ?

मैं यह भी जानना चाहता हूँ कि निम्न और मध्यम आय वर्ग के लोगों पर पिछले दस वर्षों में कितना भार बढ़ा है और उनकी आमदनी में कितनी वृद्धि हुई है या कितना ह्रास हुआ है ?

मब बातों की सही सही जानकारी मिलनी चाहिये अन्यथा यही कहा जाएगा कि आसू पीछने वाली बात की गई है। आम आदमी की कठिनाइयाँ बढ़ती जा रही हैं, उसका जीवन दूबर होता जा रहा है। मैं चाहता हूँ कि मेरे सवालों का स्पष्ट जबाब आना चाहिये कि निम्न तथा मध्यम आय वर्ग के लोगों पर पिछले दस साल में कितना कर भार बढ़ा है, उनकी औसत आमदनी कितनी बढ़ी है, योजना आयोग द्वारा बताये गये कदम कौन से हैं और आपने क्या कदम उठाये हैं। शक्कर, कपड़ा व तेल जैसे दो तीन आइटम्स के बारे में आपने बताया है। अन्य वस्तुओं की कीमतें भी स्थिर रह सकें,

उसके लिए आपने क्या उपाय किये हैं, कौन से कदम आप उठाने जा रहे हैं ?

**SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN :** I don't think the hon. Member has asked me any question particularly except that he mentioned kerosene and other things, I have said that kerosene is one of the items on which we are having a formal price control. Now of course, we have not made arrangements with regard to distribution of those things, but the prices are fixed and there is formal control on kerosene oil. He wants me to give information as to what is the rate of rise of taxes for the last 10 years. Possibly, he may have to raise a question on some different occasion. Most of the things he said have been repeated by other Members. I have to repeat my answers.

**डा० लक्ष्मी नारायण पारिय :** मैंने यह भी पूछा है कि योजना आयोग द्वारा कीमतों को रोकने के लिए क्या उपाय सुझाये गये हैं और सरकार ने क्या स्टेप्स लिये हैं। ये सब मूल्य-वृद्धि से संबंधित प्रश्न हैं। अगर मंत्री महोदय इस बारे में जानकारी देंगे तो अच्छा होगा।

**MR. SPEAKER :** All these questions are interlinked and the reply is also coming on the same lines. I am so sorry about it.

**SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU :** I have given notice under Rule 193 for a Short Duration discussion.

**अध्यक्ष महोदय :** माननीय सदस्य का नोटिस तो हमेशा रहता है।

**SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA (Serampore) :** You also agreed, Sir, there should be a full-fledged discussion.

**MR. SPEAKER :** It all depends upon the time available.

**SHRI SAMAR GUHA (Contai) :** You have given chance to 3 Jan Sangh friends and 2 CPI friends; no chance for others.

MR. SPEAKER : All these names come out of the ballot. Your self and myself are helpless. If they are lucky, they are there; that is all.

श्री जगन्नाथ राव जोशी (शाजापुर) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, पिछले कई सालों से मूल्यों में वृद्धि हो रही है और कीमतें बढ़ रही हैं और यह कोई मामूली बात नहीं है। उत्तर में हमेशा इस बात को स्वीकार किया जाता है। जैसे, आज व्यापार मंत्री ने बताया है कि विकासमान देश में आयात बढ़ना स्वाभाविक है। वैसे ही विकासमान देश में मूल्य वृद्धि होना स्वाभाविक है। किन्तु मैं मंत्री महोदय के वक्तव्य के बारे में कुछ पूछना चाहता हूँ। सोशलिस्ट इकानोमी की बात करने वाले, श्री मालवीय और श्री शशि भूषण वाजपेयी, चले गये दिखते हैं। लेकिन हमारे समाजवादी मंत्री ने स्वयं यह स्वीकार किया था कि मूल्य-वृद्धि "मार्जिनल" होगी, जबकि उन्होंने यह बजट पेश किया था। आज के उनके वक्तव्य में "माइंट" की बात कही गई है अंग्रेजी का फिगर आफ स्पीच हो सकता है और जहाँ तक फिगर का संबंध है, श्री पीलु मोदी और किसी दूसरे व्यक्ति में अन्तर होता है। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि जो एक्जुअल मूल्य-वृद्धि हुई है, वह मार्जिनल है या माइंट। जैसे, मछली पहले तीन रुपये किलो थी, लेकिन वह आज नौ रुपये किलो तक पहुँच गई है। अण्डा पहले 25 पैसे में मिलता था, लेकिन अब वह 35 पैसे तक पहुँच गया है। मटर तीन रुपये किलो तक पहुँच गयी है। इसी तरह गोभी और उर्द की दाल के भाव भी बहुत बढ़ गये हैं। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या यह मार्जिन इनक्रीज है या माइंट, या ज्यादा है।

हम अपने देश में हमेशा देखते आये हैं कि—

Governement always decides to hold the price line.

But it only beholds the price line rising over higher and higher.

जहाँ तक गाय और बछड़े की बात है, कर का बछड़ा और मंहगाई की गाय हमेशा साथ-साथ होते हैं। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि बछड़े के हिसाब से गाय मार्जिन है या माइंट है।

मंहगाई को रोकने के लिए कई सुझाव दिये गये हैं। सरकार उन सब सुझावों से सहमत है। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि उन सुझावों पर अमल कब होगा।

अभी श्री बनर्जी ने एक्स्ट्रा एक्सपेंडीचर की बात कही है। वह भी मंहगाई का एक कारण है। बात छोटी सी है, लेकिन उमसे सरकार की नीति और दृष्टिकोण का पता चलता है। प्रधान मंत्री जी ने बंगला देश के बारे में वक्तव्य में कहा है कि पाकिस्तान के गलत प्रचार का निराकरण करने के लिए उन का प्रवास उपयोगी रहा है। लेकिन उनसे पहले कई व्यक्ति विदेशों ने इस उद्देश्य से गये। यदि प्रधान मंत्री जी के दौरे से ही वह असर होने वाला था, तो वह अकेली चली जाती और इन प्रकार उस पैसे की बचन हो जानी। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि सरकार ने कहाँ-कहाँ बचत करने का निर्णय किया है और वास्तव में कहाँ-कहाँ बचत की है।

इस वक्तव्य में कहा गया है 'दि टैंक्स्टाइल मिल्ल हव बिन आस्कड टु इनक्रीज देयर प्राडक्शन ऑफ कन्ट्रोल्ड क्लाय।' मैं जगह जगह घूमा हूँ और मुझे यह सुनने को मिला है कि कन्ट्रोल्ड क्लाय के गट्टे के गट्टे पड़े हुए हैं, लेकिन उसकी कोई माँग नहीं है। मुझे जो जानकारी मिली है, यदि वह सही है, तो फिर मंत्री महोदय द्वारा कन्ट्रोल्ड क्लाय की प्राडक्शन में वृद्धि की बात कहना कहाँ तक उचित है ?

अभी मेरे माननीय मित्र ने कहा है कि जब लोग बढ़ती हुई मंहगाई का विरोध करेंगे, तो उन पर टीयरगैस छोड़ी जायेगी। मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि होम मिनिस्टर साहब तो टीकर

गम छोड़ कर आँखों में आँसू लायेंगे, लेकिन वित्त मंत्री द्वारा कीमतों में वृद्धि करने से ऐसे ही सबकी आँखों में आँसू आ जायेंगे। विदाउट गम ही विल बिग टियर्ज टु आल।

मे यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि प्राइम में जो वृद्धि हुई है, वह मार्जिनल है या माड्रेट, या वह ज्यादा बढ़ी है। अगर वह ज्यादा है, तो उसका अध्ययन करने के लिए क्या कोई मशीनरी बनाई गई है। इस मामले को कन-जूमर्ज रेसिस्टेंस पर छोड़ने में काम नहीं चलेगा। यह काम सरकार को करना पड़ेगा। अगर सरकार कीमतों की वृद्धि को रोकने में अपने आप को असफल अनुभव करती है, तो फिर उसका इस मामले को लोगों के मध्ये डाल कर अलग ही जाना ठीक नहीं है। देश में हम समय जो बातावरण है, उसमें अनुशासन नहीं है। बड़े-बड़े लोग अनुशासन भंग करके क्या क्या करते हैं, आज उम पर बहस होगी। लोग विन्कूल तंग आ गये है। अगर कीमतों को बढ़ने में न रोका गया, तो इट विल बि इनसा-इटिंग पीपल टु बायलेंस।

कई लोगों ने कीमतों को रोकने का उपाय घेंगव बताया है। कई जगह ऐसा हुआ भी है। जैसे, इडली के दाम घटाने के लिए रेसिस्टेंस सोसायटी के लोग होटल को घेर कर खड़े हो गये, या टिकटों के दाम घटाने के लिए थियेटर के सामने खड़े हो गये। जब स्टेड्स एन्टरटेनमेंट टैक्स और सेल्स टैक्स पर सरचार्ज लगायेंगी, तो फिर कीमतें बढ़ेंगी। जब रेलवे और पोस्ट आफिस अपने रेट बढ़ायेंगे, तो क्या होगा? क्या सामान्य आदमी यह कहे कि मैं इनलैड लैंटर के पंद्रह पैसे दूंगा, पाँच पैसे पोस्ट आफिस स्वयं लगाये? पोस्ट आफिस या रेलवे के ममंत्र कनजूमर्ज की रेसिस्टेंस क्या करेगी? अपनी असफलता को छिपाने के लिए इस काम को जनता के मध्ये मढ़ना ठीक नहीं है। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि कीमतों को रोकने के लिए सरकार ने क्या रास्ता निकाला है।

श्री यशवन्तराव चव्हाण : जो कीमतें बढ़ रही हैं, उससे मुझे दुख हुआ है। मैं श्री जोशी से सहमत हूँ। लेकिन मुझे इस बात की खुशी है कि पंडित जो मछली अन्धे में रस लेने लगे है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : वह सुबह से उनका नाम ले रहे है। क्वेश्चन आवर में भी अन्धे और मछली का नाम लिया गया है।

SHRI JAGANNATHRAO JOSHI : I have got an objective interest.

SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN : Too much is made out of the words 'moderate' and 'marginal'. Hon. Member should really see the thing with respect to which the word 'moderate' has been used. In the statement we have said:

"It is a matter of some satisfaction that the price increase in food articles over the year has been moderate and the buffer stock to foodgrains with the Government is of the order of 7.5 million tonnes."

So, the satisfaction is about the rise in the buffer stock.

SHRI JAGANNATHRAO JOSHI : The satisfaction is moderate.

SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN : One should read it properly and see what exactly is conveyed.

श्री जगन्नाथ राव जोशी : हमें बतव्य हिन्दी में नहीं दिया गया है। हम क्या करें? हम अँग्रेजी नहीं समझते हैं।

SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN : माननीय सदस्य बहुत अच्छी अँग्रेजी जानते हैं।

He has only repeated the same question which had been asked earlier, namely what steps we were taking in the matter. As I have said, these are the steps that we can take.

[Shri Yeshwantrao Chavan]

Some are long-term steps and some are short term steps. Some of these steps relate to credit policy, to production and to having some sort of arrangement for distribution in some specific cases, in the form of physical control and so on. These are things that have generally emerged as a result of the discussions here, and as such we are trying in all these three directions.

**श्री जगन्नाथ राव जोशी :** सरकार जनता को रेसिस्टेंस करने के लिए कहती है। वह खुद क्यों नहीं करती है ?

13.00 hrs.

**SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN :** He spoke about the budget provisions. We have not levied any tax on fish or eggs. But the rise in their prices is there. Even prices of commodities not subjected to tax are rising. It is because of certain other speculative elements and the middlemen trying to take advantage of the situation. It is here that I said that there should be some sort of consumers' movement, but resistance not of the type that will invite tear gas as that should be rather taking the whole things to the other extreme, which is not in my mind. My reference to resistance is not of that type.

**SHRI JAGANNATHRAO JOSHI :** Controlled cloth.

**SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN :** I quite see the possibility. The stocks may be there. It is also necessary to educate the consumer to go in for those types of cloth and not for other types of cloth and then complain that the prices are rising. What can we do ?

**SHRI S. M. BANERJEE :** I have heard patiently the statement of the hon. Minister and his replies to questions put previously. Unfortunately, the position today is that the Government have miserably failed to hold the price line. That should be clearly admitted by Government. Take the prices of commodities in Delhi. They have all shot up fish, eggs and everything else. Even after

the green revolution, the prices of grain have gone up.

The hon. Minister requested Shri Vajpayee to control the traders. Between the green revolution of the Congress and the yellow revolution of the Jan Sangh, the consumer is suffering.

**SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE :** He wants a red revolution.

**SHRI S. M. BANERJEE :** It is yet to come, and when it does, prices will be reduced.

Apart from the measures suggested by my hon. friend, Shri Indrajit Gupta and others, I would like to know why when a solemn promise was made in this House that speculators would be properly dealt with and would not be given any advances from the banks, such action is not being taken. I have had to carry on a fight for four or five months, a crusade, to bring about a ban on forward trading in gur. Still, I know it has been done only for 24 or 25 days. One can see from the newspapers that in Delhi and Punjab alone, there was blackmarketing to the tune of Rs. 5 crores.

When a promise was made about foodgrains saying that prices would be controlled and if the traders did not behave properly, then the wholesale trade in foodgrains would be taken over by Government, I would like to know why no action is being taken. When we have nationalised the banks, should Government not nationalise or take over the wholesale trade in foodgrains ? I want a categorical answer whether instructions would issue to stop credit to speculators.

Then the question arises about the unfortunate refugees who number about a crore now. The price rise is attributed to their influx. This question was argued by the Labour Minister in the Indian Labour Conference, but I know that Shri Dange and others blasted this argument and proved that the prices had risen before the refugees came.

Then there is the question of austerity. Here I want to place on record my protest against the import of a Mercedes car costing Rs. 2½ lakhs involving Rs. 6 lakhs in customs duty. Everyone is being asked to practise austerity. But it is a said commentry on this when the highest dignitary in the country cannot practise it and only the common man is told to practise it. I never expected this Government which claims to be socialist, which shouts from the housetops that it wants to usher in socialism, to practise its socialism in this fashion. It has imported a Mercedes-Benz with six doors; four are not sufficient. They want six doors. I am really sorry for the whole thing.

Is it a fact that black money plays a very vital role in unsettling prices? What steps have been taken to unearth black money? When we ask for demonetisation, they say it is not possible. When we ask for nationalisation of other big industries, they say it is not possible. What steps have been taken? They can impose 144 today because there is a demonstration by the All India Trade Union Congress and tear gas, lathis, shells, even bullets can be used to control that, to control anything, but not the prices, not the blackmarket, not the corruption. I do not know why they shiver when they are told to do these things. I am sorry to say this. I am yet to see a big industrialist or a monopolist or a hoarder being convicted. Nobody has been convicted; they are simply arrested. Small shopkeepers are arrested. Are they serious about controlling the prices? Co-operation of all the parties would be forthcoming to find some ways and means to control the prices. They can take over the wholesale trade immediately; that will be a step towards socialism which they claim.

**SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN :** I really do not know what he wants. Certainly he made some valid criticism.

**SHRI S. M. BANERJEE :** I said that wholesale trade should be taken over by the Government.

**SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN :** That was one point; Second, he referred to

black money and asked what steps we were taking about it.

The idea of taking over the wholesale trade is very attractive. But I have not gone through its mechanics, its administration, etc. It is difficult for me to express an opinion about it but it is certainly an idea which can be gone into and examined so as to find out the implications. I think it is not very easy to take over the entire wholesale trade as such. This is my first reaction.

As far as black money is concerned, it is a very complex and a very comprehensive problem. Blackmoney arises out of certain processes. One is evasion of tax. Steps to stop evasion have been thought of and the Justice Wanchoo Committee has made certain recommendations, on the basis of which I have moved a Bill which will come up for discussion in this House today. It deals with people who are making use of black money to buy properties, by underestimating properties and investing their money in that form. We are taking those steps. In the case of evasion of tax certain other measures are necessary which pertain to collection, enforcement of the taxation clauses effectively, starting prosecutions and penalising people, etc. These measures are being strengthened and pursued vigorously and we shall continue to do this. These are the two things which can be done.

The problem of blackmoney is a terrible problem. He mentioned about taking action against such people. Only the other day my colleague Shri Siddhartha Shankar Ray was saying that they took action under the Preventive Detention Act in Bengal in certain cases of hoarding and that it did produce some results. There is no unwillingness to make use of these powers against hoarders. We consider that economic offences are worse than the other criminal offences and we will have to deal with them firmly and strongly.

**SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour) :** It is an important matter and we should have a discussion on it. We have given notice under the rules. Would you



[Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu]

kindly consider them and allow a discussion ?

MR. SPEAKER : I want to make this observation. Normally we allow only questions on call attention motions. We are again relapsing into the old practice of making long speeches. We should ask questions in one minute or at the most two minutes. I suggest that such questions are put and replies also given on the same lines as they used to be before.

So far as Mr. Bosu's question is concerned, it will be placed before the Business Advisory Committee. It is up to them to agree or not; I have no objection.

13.10 hrs.

## RE : ISSUE OF ORDINANCES

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी (ग्वालियर) : अध्यक्ष जी, कल मैंने आप को एक पत्र लिखा था, उन आर्डिनेन्स के बारे में जो सरकार द्वारा जारी किये गये हैं। मैं चाहता हूँ कि उस पर चर्चा हो, यह बड़ा महत्वपूर्ण मामला है। कल डिप्टी स्पीकर महोदय ने हम को इजाजत नहीं दी.....

SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN : When they come up, they can be discussed.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : वह चर्चा जब होगी तो हर एक पर अलग-अलग होगी। मेरी प्रार्थना यह थी कि आप अध्यक्ष के नाते इनको फटकार लगाइये। ये आर्डिनेन्स राज्य चलाना चाहते हैं। मावलंकर साहब ने ऐसा किया था, आप उन की परम्परा को कायम रखना चाहते हैं तो ऐसा कीजिये।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मावलंकर साहब जैसा माहौल तो दीजिये, आप उस माहौल को कायम

नहीं करते हैं। कल मावलंकर साहब के जमाने की बात हो रही थी, आप भी इस तरह का माहौल पैदा न कीजिये। मैं आप की इस बात से सहमत हूँ कि इतने आर्डिनेन्स जारी नहीं करने चाहिये, मावलंकर साहब के हुकम को मानना चाहिये।

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur) : Yesterday I wanted to submit something, but I could not. You are allowing calling attention on high prices etc., for which I must thank you, but there are other very important matters also. For instance, 32 Defence employees and 13 employees of the West Bengal Government have been dismissed under the President's special powers under various articles of the Constitution, without being given an opportunity to explain. I request you either to admit a call attention or ask the Minister to make a statement in this regard. I was a Government employee. I know, the same thing was used against me.

MR. SPEAKER : There is a proper time for referring to everything, and you should not abruptly get up.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : I requested you.

MR. SPEAKER : You cannot take advantage saying that you requested me. We have a discussion fixed on West Bengal.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : This is not covered by that. That motion reads :

“That this House expresses its serious concern at the deteriorating law and order situation in West Bengal and role therein of a section of the police, C.R.P., official machinery and anti-social elements.”

Neither the anti-social elements nor the C.R.P. have dismissed them. Will you allow me to speak on this in that discussion ?