

tivation of these crops and the reactivating of regulated markets lying dormant for want of funds.

Introduction of auction-cum-tender system in the regulated markets with the right to pre-empt any lot at the highest price reached in the bid has been suggested in the case of cotton and jute. In the case of tobacco introduction of auction sales on a universal basis has been recommended as essential. Secret bid tender system followed in certain parts of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka has been commended in the case groundnut.

The Commission has also suggested that the Ministry of Industrial Development should take steps to encourage indigenous manufacture of new types of gins and presses to meet the processing requirements of extra long, long and finer varieties of cotton. To meet the immediate needs, their import has been suggested.

The Commission has recommended that minimum support price should be fixed in the case of tobacco, particularly for VFC and bidi types.

13.07 hrs

MATTER UNDER RULE 377

ALLEGED IMPROPRIETY IN ANNOUNCEMENT MADE OUTSIDE THE HOUSE ABOUT EXEMPTION FROM PAYMENT OF NEW ONE PER CENT EXCISE DUTY IN CERTAIN CASES.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Burdwan): Mr. Speaker, I beg to raise the question of a grave impropriety which has been committed by the Government of India. In the Budget speech of the hon. Finance Minister on 28th February, he announced the imposition of the Central excise duty on all items not already covered by the schedule to the Central Excise and Salt Act at the rate of one per cent. He has proposed an amendment to that effect in the Finance Bill which we are going to consider. The budget discussions are

going on in the House from day to day but surprisingly we find in today's papers—I am also told that in the announcements on the radio last night this was stated—that the Government of India had announced exemption from payment of this new one per cent excise duty in respect of some goods. So far as exemption itself is concerned, we are not opposing; naturally we welcome this. We are against the imposition of the excise duty but what we object to is the manner in which this House is being treated. When this very matter is before the House and the House is seized of his matter, the Budget is being discussed from day to day, to announce this important policy decision through the medium of the Press and the Radio and not to come before the House and make a statement before the House is a matter of grave impropriety and I submit that it impinges on the rights of the House and it amounts to a breach of privilege. We should like to know why the Government rushed to the Press and radio and did not come before the House when the House is sitting from the 28th February. There is no reason why this House is being treated in such a cavalier manner, why the Ministers cannot come before the House.

MR. SPEAKER: What is the source of the news? Is it some statement by the Minister?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: It says here: spokesman of the Finance Ministry.... We are not going to give up whatever limited rights we have. They must express their regret

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur): I may add this to what Mr Somnath Chatterjee had said. When the Minister explains, I would only urge upon him to tell us whether such decisions to exempt goods from duty will be taken for more commodities, without reference to Parliament, merely because there is a demand for certain exemption or withdrawal. As long as Parliament is in session,

[Shri S. M. Banerjee]

let it not come as a post mortem; let it be announced here; let him take the cheers and applause from us.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): I am sorry the hon. Member is totally mistaken. What has come in the Press is nothing but what is already contained in the budget document, page 37 of the explanatory memorandum. That had been elucidated and explained in the Press communique issued by the Finance Ministry. It is the normal practice. Not only that. All these notifications were laid on the Table of the House on 5th March. Immediately after the budget proposals are placed before the House, certain explanations are being issued, whether in the explanatory memorandum itself or in the notification. Therefore it was given to the Press through a Press communique; it came slightly late. It is not a new proposal. Certain explanations are being issued and that is the normal practice. This has been laid on the Table of the House on 5th March and it is in that notification.

13.13 hrs.

GENERAL BUDGET, 1975-76—
GENERAL DISCUSSION—contd.

श्री बरबारा सिंह (होशियारपुर) :

स्पीकर साहब, पिछले दो दिन में बजट पर जो बहस हो रही है उस में कई दोस्तों ने बताया है कि मुल्क के लिए पिछले तीन चार माल बडी कश्मकश और क्राइमिन् के थे और गवर्नमेंट ने कुछ कदम उठा कर इकनोमी की हालत को बेहतर बनाने की कोशिश की है। जैसा कि मिनिस्टर साहब ने बताया है इनफ्लेशन को रोकने के लिए मनी-स्क्वीज किया गया है। इसके अलावा एकसेपेडीचर को स्लैश करने और धनप्राइविटव कामो को रोक कर रुपये को इस ढंग से खर्च करने की कोशिश की जा रही है, ताकि वह डब्लेपमेंट के काम आ सके।

मिनिस्टर साहब ने यह भी कहा है कि प्राइसिज को 2.9 परसेंट के हिसाब से कम किया गया है। हालांकि एंसेशन कामोडिटी की ऐलेबिलिटी की हालत बहुत अच्छी नहीं हुई है, लेकिन फिर भी उस में कुछ इम्प्रूवमेंट जरूर हुई है। सब से बड़ा काम यह किया गया है कि कॅपेसिटी की यूटिलाइजेशन को बढ़ाने की कोशिश की गई है इस के बावजूद तेल और हर्टलाइजर की कीमतें बढ़ने की वजह से हमें कई मुकिलात का सामना करना पड़ रहा है।

आज जहरत इस बात की है कि हमारी एग्री कल्चरल इकनोमी को निहायत अच्छे ढंग से रीसेप और रीआर्गनाइज किया जाये। मिनिस्टर साहब को इस बात के लिए सुचारुकाद देना कि उन्होंने बहुत सालों के बाद एग्रीकल्चर को बूस्ट और प्रायर्टी देने की कोशिश की है। पांच-साला ड्राफ्ट प्लान में एग्रीकल्चर के लिए 16 परसेंट रखा गया था। लेकिन उस के बाद जो प्लान बना है, उस में एग्रीकल्चर के लिए प्राविजन को 8 1/2 परसेंट कर दिया गया है, जिस से मुझ बहुत मायूसी हुई है। अब मिनिस्टर साहब ने कहा है कि एग्रीकल्चर पर मेजर पोर्शेन खर्च करना है। पगने तजुबों की बिना पर उन्होंने एग्रीकल्चर को प्रायर्टी दी है। एग्रीकल्चर पर हमारी इकानोमी ठहरी हुई है। सब से जरूरी एंसेशन कामोडिटी, धनाज और दूसरे रा मैटीरियल उस से पैदा होते हैं। इस लिए एग्रीकल्चर को प्रायर्टी दे कर उन्होंने बहुत अच्छा काम किया है।

हमें समझ में नहीं आता है कि यह एग्रीकल्चरल प्राइसिज कमीशन किस तरह से काम करता है। उसका चैयरमैन अपनी मर्जी से फ्रीसले करता है। यह काम एक प्राइमी के सुपुर्द कर दिया गया है। आखिर यह आटोक्रेसी नहीं है; यह डेमोक्रेसी है। इस कमीशन में तीन चार ऐसे मेम्बर होने चाहिए, जो इकानोमी और स्टैटिस्टिक्स को समझ सकें, जो खेती के काम की जानने वाले हों, जो इन मामलों के एक्सपर्ट हों, ताकि वे खेती की पैदावार के खर्च, मुकतलिक कन्डीशन्स और पैमानों के मुताबिक कीमतें मुकदर कर सकें।