

is a very important matter. I happen to know about it because I am the Chairman of the West Bengal Small-Scale Industries Corporation which arranges for supply of these materials to different Small-Scale Units. Not only in West Bengal, but in every State, there is a Small Industries Corporation which gets the supply from the Steel Authority of India Limited at a reasonable rate. And it is only a very small percentage which we have to cover our expenditure. We distribute these raw materials to the registered small scale units. There is complete monitoring by the SAIL authorities also. Now what will happen is there will be total decontrol due to this proposal. Therefore, the Small Industries Corporations (SICs) will not get any material from the Steel Authorities. And the only beneficiary will be the TISCO. They will be fixing their own rates

Now the small units cannot go to market and compete with the big units and purchase the iron and steel material or the pig iron for that matter. Even we are not able to meet the demands of the small scale units. The hon. Finance Minister is here; the Industry Minister is also here. Fifty per cent of the turn-over of the Small Industries Corporation is related to the iron and steel items. With this the small scale units will go out of circulation. The Small Industries Corporation which is performing a very good role in the matter and supporting the small scale units, they will also have to wind up. Therefore, I earnestly request the Government about this. This is a very serious matter. I do not know why he is sitting like a sphinx. The Industry Minister should respond. This is very very important. I am happy that Shri Bhakta has raised this matter. I am sure, all the sections of the House will join us. Whatever policy you adopt, what are you going to do with the small scale industries, tiny industries who need these iron and steel items and pig iron the most? I was going through closely this policy statement regarding the small scale industries and medium industries. Nothing

has been said about the availability of the raw materials. This is the difficulty of the small scale industries. There are two major difficulties—one is obtaining raw material and the second is marketing apart from finance. Therefore, these two aspects need to be looked after. Small scale industries provide the largest quantum of employment in the industrial sector. The exports from the small scale units are unit-wise, the highest in this country. Therefore, please do not kill these small scale units; do not make it difficult for them to function. I appeal to the Government, not only appeal but I demand from the Government that they should see that the small scale units do not suffer in the name of 'perestroika' here. Do not finish these units. I know, our Finance Minister has many dreams. But in your euphoria, do not kill these units in this country. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI TEJSINGHRAO BHONSLE (Ramtek): With your permission, I want to raise the following matters.

One is about the circulation of spurious cylinders in the market by not destroying the same and putting them to use again in connivance with the oil company's representatives and ISI representatives.

Second is about the recovery of tariff plus penal amount realised in the Western region in places like Baroda and Bhopal-Baroda from the distributors by applying different yardsticks at two places which are in the Western region. It is not known why, by applying the same formula in the Northern region, the recovery is made good from the transporters. What action has been taken by the Government in this matter?

[*Translation*]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (South Delhi): Sir, there is a proverb that says "bad man in bad company". The same is true of rising prices. On one hand the prices are rising and on

the other, the public distribution system has collapsed. According to official figures, the wholesale price index has risen by 13% in the last eight weeks. I have collected the prices of 21 items marketed by multinationals and big traders. Topaz blades available for Rs. 3.75 during the pre-budget period is now selling at Rs. 4.50. Similarly, the price of Surf has increased from Rs. 31.50 to Rs. 36.50 and the price of washing soap from Rs. 12.00 to Rs. 15.00.

So these are the figures. On one side is the price rise which has adversely affected the poor man and those with fixed income and on the other side, 3000 out of 3610 fair price shops in Delhi have no stocks of wheat and rice and sugar is being sold at inflated rates. When enquiries were made, it was told that F.C.I. employees had started a work-to-rule agitation. The consequences of such agitations have to be borne by the citizens of Delhi. The fair-price shop-owners have deposited their drafts one month ago but they have not received any stock till now. The Hon. Prime Minister says that the public distribution system is being strengthened, but in the capital city of India 3000 of the 3600 shops have run out of rations. And festival time is approaching. I request the hon. Minister of Civil Supplies to attend to this matter on a priority basis and take steps to control the price-rise. The ruling party had promised to bring down prices within 100 days, but the prices instead of coming down have risen. I request for replenishment of stocks at the fair-price shops and strengthening of the public distribution system.

SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH (Rajgarh): Sir, ever since the last Lok Sabha elections were held, the atrocities on Adivasis have increased. They are being exploited much more now and their plight has become worse. Earlier this month, on 9th August, in Somakheri village of Khargone district upper caste people killed two Adivasis, burnt their dwellings and

forced other Adivasis to leave the village. Police had prior information regarding this. Such incidents had occurred on 7th July and 15th July also, but the Madhya Pradesh police failed to take any security measures. This has led to a feeling of resentment among all Adivasis.

Sir, I request the Government to provide security to the Adivasis in consultation with the Madhya Pradesh Government...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Ask the people from Andhra, they will tell...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH: It is necessary. The atrocities on Adivasis have increased to such an extent that their very existence is in jeopardy. This calls for a statement from the leader of the House...*(Interruptions)*...Please sit down, you do not know as to what is happening there.

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): Sir, earlier also when such issues were raised the hon. Home Minister has always informed the House about such incidents because this House has given due importance to the question of safety and security of Adivasis, Harijans, backward classes and minorities. I believe that this time also the hon. Minister will apprise the House of the situation after collecting the full information.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Sir, I would like to draw your attention to an important matter. The L & T take over bid would be put through today. My other colleagues will speak on the matter...

MS. SPEAKER: I am giving you permission to speak on the subject of floods.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Floods have affected northern Bihar and eastern Uttar Pradesh. According