

SHRI K. C. PANT : Speaking from memory, they have come down somewhat according to the latest figures that I have seen some days back, but I do not think one can by a week to week assessment in these matters. One will have to wait for the trend. The latest figures, I do recollect, show a downward trend, but I would not presume too much on that.

I think it was Shri Ramavatar Shastri who referred to unemployment causing frustration among the youth and asked whether this was not the reason for such activities. We all know that there is unemployment in this country, and which of us does not know that if a young man does not get employment after education, it does lead to frustration. All of us are aware of these problems not only in the abstract, but in our own homes among our own relatives, but these are problems which the country has partly inherited at the time of freedom. We have poverty in this country, we have a large population and a growing population. In 1947 when we became free, the conditions which we faced were perhaps unique in their formidableness, if I may say so, and now we are trying to tackle these problems. We have adopted the democratic path in approaching these problems. It is impossible, whatever the system, to tackle these problems overnight and find solutions to them. Even if violence is used, you cannot solve these problems overnight. The point to consider is that these problems will remain with us for sometime. We can collectively and with joint will and determination try to solve these problems to the best of our ability...*(Interruptions)* But if there is confusion of ideas on the basic point whether violence is to be allowed to be justified in solving the problems of the country because of socio-economic factors, I think it is wrong and the confusion of ideas should be cleared. We must try to solve the problem but not through violence. I do recognise that the socio-economic factors must be taken into account and these problems must be kept out of the way. Otherwise we do not go to the root of the problem. I am not denying the existence of these problems; I am only saying that it does not justify the violent activities of these groups. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI : Why do you not declare them political prisoners ?

SHRI K. C. PANT : I have been asked to cut short my speech. I shall conclude by saying that we in this country, like any other nation, have to work out our destiny; every country does according to its own genius, traditions and history. We cannot be a pale imitation of any other country. Our methods must grow out of our experience and in the light of the democratic path that we have chosen and in order to preserve our national identity, we must view these activities as dangerous to certain basic things which we hold dear. It is in this context that I welcome the opportunity of discussing this matter which Mr. Hem Barua has provided.

18 13 hrs

DISCUSSION RE: ESTABLISHMENT OF COTTON CORPORATION OF INDIA

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House will take up the discussion on the statement laid on the Table by the Minister of Foreign Trade on the 31st July, 1970 regarding establishment of Cotton Corporation of India.

The time allotted is two hours...*(Interruptions)* I think we shall not be able to finish it today.

SHRI SHRI CHAND GOYAL (Chandigarh) : I have to point out with a sense of great pain that a discussion of such importance on a vital subject affecting the future of three million people is being fixed up at this late hour when practically the time of the House is over. It is for the first time that a discussion like this is fixed even after the half an hour discussion. These half an hour discussions are no more half an hour discussions; it is a misnomer to call them so; they take more than an hour. In fact the Minister himself has taken today more than half an hour.

The recent decision of the Government to take over trade in domestic cotton and the setting up of a cotton corporation of India for canalising of imports of cotton arises out of political considerations rather than economic considerations. In order to cover up its failure in various economic fields, the Government have chosen the path of slogan-mongering just like the slogan that

[Shri Shri Chand Goyal]

they gave in the case of bank nationalisation; they are totally ignoring the serious consequences that this step is likely to entail.

I shall refer to the circular which Shri Mishra has sent to the Members of his own party, the members of the ruling Congress Parliamentary Party. It has been mentioned in the statement...

SHRI SHIVAJIRAO S. DESHMUKH (Parbhani): On a point of order. Is it in order for an hon. Member to refer to a circular directed to the members of a party other than his own, perhaps obtained by shady means and a doubtful in text.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is no point of order.

SHRI SHRI CHAND GOYAL: This has appeared in the press also, and the Minister has admitted that "we have no machinery, that we have no expertise, we have no knowhow, and what will happen after five to 10 years, I cannot say at this stage."

May I ask him a question? Is he not just taking a step which can be said to be a leap in the dark? I would submit that this step of the Government is a step towards totalitarianism and this will weaken the fabric of democracy in our country. I am noting a tendency that ever since the assumption of power by Shrimati Indira Gandhi, the Government is concentrating all political and economic power in the Government hands. In fact, the need of the hour is decentralisation of economic policy. Cotton trade is a vast decentralised sector, employing about three crores of people. All of them would become overnight the servants of the State and there will be a curb on their political activity. My apprehension is that after some time, the party in power will be able to even command their votes for the future elections. I have to point out that this will create a serious unemployment problem. At the moment, three lakhs of traders are carrying on this trade, and if you just calculate at the rate of five members for each family, this figure will come about one and a half million. If we take the figure of the

employees to be almost the same, then it will be three million people and I submit that they will all be facing practically starvation. We have not been able to solve the problem of unemployment, and this step of the Government will add to this gigantic problem of unemployment.

In fact, the need of the hour is that we should invest more funds in the development of cotton. In this behalf, I would like to submit that hitherto and also in the fourth five year Plan, we are spending about Rs. 80 lakhs only for the development of cotton. I have to assert that this is just going waste, because the amount is so insufficient, so inadequate and so niggardly that it is not serving any useful purpose, and it is just going waste. On the other hand, we are spending Rs. 80 crores to Rs. 90 crores on the import of cotton. If out of this sum of Rs. 80 crores to Rs. 90 crores, we could only spare Rs. 10 crores and invest it on the development of cotton, then some effective results can certainly be achieved. For the last five years, production has been stagnant at 58 lakh bales per year. For the last five years we are only producing 58 lakh bales of cotton. The stock argument of the Minister is that this production has doubled from 1948. Why do you take 1948 as the base year when the country was divided and the rich cotton-producing fields went to Pakistan and the farmers were facing so many difficulties. So, it is unfair to choose this year 1948 as the base year in order to prove that the production has almost doubled.

In fact, we have to take notice of the increasing demand for cotton. The number of spindles has gone up from 10 million to 17½ million. That is, the demand has increased almost by 75 per cent. Our production of cotton per acre is the lowest in the world. I would be just quoting some figures in this connection. Let me take the major cotton producing countries in the world. In the USA, the per acre yield of cotton is 493 lb. In the case of the USSR, it is 736 lb. Brazil, 223 lb; Mexico, 618 lb; UAR, 576 lb; Peru, 487 lb; China, 258; Sudan, 365 lb; Syria, 501. Even in Pakistan it is more than double of our production; it is 254 lb per acre. In India, it is only 117 lb per acre.

That means our yield per acre is the lowest in the world and we have not taken effective steps. If we invest Rs. 10 crores for development of cotton, we can certainly achieve satisfactory results. Effective measures have to be adopted by Government and in the next three years, cotton production must go up by 33 per cent if the fourth plan target of 80 lakh bales is to be achieved. There is plenty of evidence from demonstration plots and commercial cultivation of thousands of acres that per-acre yield can be raised by 80 to 100 per cent in irrigated land and 60 to 75 per cent in unirrigated land, provided the cultivation is carried out on modern and scientific lines. If the farmer is given a regular supply of improved seeds, fertilisers, pesticides etc. and is educated in their proper application, he will produce impressive results.

Instead of being a trade corporation, the corporation which the Government is going to set up should be a development corporation and it must devote its time, energy and resources to cotton development so that we can save this Rs. 80 or 90 crores we are spending on importing cotton. There is absolutely no sound reason for setting up this corporation or taking over domestic trade for canalisation of cotton import business because cotton business is a complicated one. There are hundreds of varieties of cotton, counts of yarn spun ranging from 1 to 120. There are various mills working of various varieties of cotton. It is over a century that India has developed cotton trade and all its expertise. India's cotton trade is recognised as a well-organised and competent trade in the world. According to its own admission, Government does not possess these resources or expertise or experience.

What has impelled the Government to take up this step? Has it received any complaint from the industry that the trade is not rendering satisfactory service to the industry? On the contrary the industry is completely happy with the trade. In fact, the trade has been assisting the weaker sections of the industry financially and by giving them cotton on credit. There is absolutely no complaint of evasion of foreign exchange regulations by cotton trade, as is the general complaint about other

trades. I would like to quote the minister's statement in this regard:

"The canalised system would also prevent any possible loss of foreign exchange by collusion between the importers and the suppliers abroad, although there is no suggestion that the cotton trade is one of those where such mal-practices are rampant."

That means there is the admission by Government that at least cotton trade is not evading foreign exchange regulations.

At present, we are importing about 50 per cent of our cotton from Egypt and Sudan. Is it not a fact that we have entered into a special trade agreement with these countries which enables us to make payment in rupees rather than in foreign exchange? I have also studied the foreign exchange regulations of those countries which are most stringent and there is absolutely no scope for evading those regulations. The major portion of the balance of our imported cotton comes from the USA under PL-480. Even there, there is no scope for evading or violating the foreign exchange regulations.

One argument which is given by the Government is that since Sudan and Egypt, from where we are importing 50 per cent of the cotton, have nationalised this trade, we should also do it in order to come to their level. But, are there not many other countries, like Japan, UK, France and Hong Kong, which are also buying cotton from Egypt and Sudan and have still not nationalised this trade? In fact, they are doing their business quite successfully without facing any difficulty.

The Government has given a statement that it will be able to procure cotton for the mills which have been taken over and which are being managed through the National Textile Corporation. That is one of the arguments which is being advanced by the Government. But does the Government want to take undue advantage of its position? The Government should, in fact, enter the market like other purchasers. Why should the Government take undue advantage? It should come in fair competition along with other buyers of cotton. If we adopt the policy of procurement, as is done in the case of foodgrains, it will be an

[Shri Shri Chand Goyal]

unfair advantage and will be concentration of economic power.

Another argument—a funny argument, you will appreciate—which is given is that it is in order to offer support prices to the producer. But is it not a fact that for the last four or five years the ruling market prices are higher than the support prices which the Government has declared? In fact, they are from 60 to 80 per cent higher than the support prices. So, where is the necessity for providing any support when the prevailing prices are much above the support prices? There are no prospects of the fall in prices either because at present our demand is 10 lakh bales more than our present production in the country. Therefore, demand being higher there is absolutely no prospect of the prices falling down. There is absolutely no logic or rational behind this argument which is being advanced by the Government.

Another argument is that we shall be able to offer support prices to the growers of special varieties. The same argument which I have advanced just now holds good even in the case of special varieties.

With these observations, I will emphasize that this step will throw out of employment 3 million people who are facing starvation and the Government should not indulge in slogan-mongering but should take these decisions after considering their economic aspect rather than considering only the political aspect.

SHRI M. R. MASANI (Rajkot): Mr. Chairman, when this proposal was first made there was a certain ambiguity about its range and extent, but I am very glad that later on the hon. Minister himself, by his statement in the Rajya Sabha on the 3rd August, clarified the position and the cat came out of the bag.

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA): I was never ambiguous; I was always clear.

SHRI M. R. MASANI: It was earlier stated that the intention was to confine this project to the import trade but later on in the Rajya Sabha the Minister admitted that the domestic trade was also in danger and that the relieve was only momentary.

This is what he said on the 3rd August:

"My ultimate objective is to take over domestic trade also. Otherwise, how can this public sector Corporation function effectively?"

This is very true. Unless the Government establishes a monopoly, there is no chance for it to survive at all because of its inherent inefficiency. But when the Minister talked of "ultimate", he went on frankly enough to say:

"It is not for me to say 10 years or 6 years...If we can do in 2 years, well and good."

We therefore face an attempt here to establish a monopoly of the Government over the entire import trade and domestic trade in cotton at the earliest possible moment and, if the Minister cannot follow-up this policy of "grab" all at once, he will do so as soon as his hands can reach for enough.

The nature of the cotton industry, unfortunately, for the country and for the Government is of a very delicate kind. It is a product where the prices fluctuate all the time and there is a world-wide demand. It requires expertise of the highest order. Experience and personal attention are required in making a selection of the qualities of cotton and also of choosing the time of purchase. Cotton of different varieties has to be blended. You cannot just sell bulk cotton to one mill because each mill will require a particular blend for its own milling for the type of machinery it employs, and so on.

The Indian industry and Indian trade have achieved a very high level of competence and efficiency in this matter over generations. The importers have established a system of financial assistance to the mills through a system of mutual accommodation spread over several years. If the mills are not given accommodation, as they will not be given from now, they will not be able to find money to invest. In other words, this is a very specialised field of work which the Government will be the least competent to handle.

Now, there has been no monopoly in this field. My hon. friends opposite talk of monopoly in season and out of season. Here, like the goldsmiths of India, is a

large number of people, small people, competing and competing very intensely. There is no question of monopoly here. About 3 lakhs of small people are competing in this trade and the beneficiaries of the competition are both the farmer, the grower of cotton, on the one side and the consumer—the mills and all of us who wear the cloth on the other.

The profit margin in the cotton trade is the lowest in the world. The Indian cotton trade has been giving the lowest dividend. A study was recently completed by the Research Cell of the Bombay University Department of Economics. *(Interruption)* The University of Bombay is an autonomous organisation. I resent any suggestion that the University of Bombay serves any particular interest. This study came to the conclusion that the gross returns to the merchants and traders was 3 per cent on aggregate sales. But if we deduct the cost, then the net return is between 0.5 and 1 per cent on their sales. On the other hand, the Indian cotton grower is a favoured person. The average return to cotton growers throughout the world on the ultimate price is 35 per cent to 80 per cent in all the other cotton growing countries. As to what goes to the primary producer for whom we have every sympathy in India, it has been arrived at by the University of Bombay that 90 per cent of the ultimate price goes to the primary producer, that is, the farmer. These are the conditions in which we have to deal with this matter.

There are three or four consequences that are bound to follow, as my hon. friend, Shri Goyal, has pointed out from this utterly irresponsible approach to take over a very highly refined trade of this nature. The first consequence will be that the farmer, the grower, will be victimised. Today, the traders go to him and offer him a price. We know what happens when Government monopoly procurement is enforced. The farmer is mulcted and sweated. I can assure the hon. Members opposite who are misguided that this will not do the farmer any good. The very first victim of this monopoly buying of the Government is going to be the farmer, the grower of cotton in my State of Maharashtra and the other States of the Union,

These misguided gentlemen are going to regret what they are doing to their own

class of peoples, the farmers, in the coming months and years. If we are all here at the time, we shall be able to see it.

The second consequence will be to send up the prices of cotton to the consumers, that is, to the mills and to us who buy cloth. This will be done, because they will destroy a mechanism perfected over generations and replace it by inefficient, incompetent and corrupt bureaucratic machinery.

We know, what happens when the State Trading Corporation takes over the import of any commodity. All the costs go up. And the Reports of the Public Undertakings Committee and other Financial Committees of Parliament bear eloquent testimony to the fact that State Trading machinery is the most incompetent and the biggest profiteer in this country. Cotton is now being subjected to this corruption and profiteering of bureaucratic administration.

Bulk purchase has been advanced as an argument. If anyone knows anything about cotton, he will know this that bulk purchase is not what is required. What is required is the purchase of varieties, of different qualities, different staples, and bulk purchase is one thing that does not work. In fact, bulk purchase will endanger the Indian Industry. Because, bulk sellers will be reluctant to sell to Government organisations. The exporting countries are likely to put up their prices when they are faced with one monopoly buyer. This will cost the country valuable foreign exchange. They will demand a higher price than you anticipate. The mills will have to be forced to take cotton at prices they do not want.

The Burmese Government indulged in the same kind of irresponsibility as these gentlemen are now doing. Burma had a surplus in her foreign trade of 2470 lakhs kyats in 1940-41 before the nationalisation of foreign trade. After the nationalisation of foreign trade, there was a deficit of 2897 lakh kyats in 1969-70. I venture to forecast that this measure will have the same consequence as in Burma. You are trying to follow in the footsteps of your fellow-communists and socialists in Burma. Other countries have tried it. The United Kingdom tried to canalise the import of cotton, because the United Kingdom, like us, is a very big textile producer. They tried it; it did not work, and they give it up. I make hold

[Shri M. R. Masani]

to say that when this Government is removed, as it must be, their successors will promptly drop this disastrous experiment.

A third consequence, as Mr. Goyal pointed, is that this will increase unemployment. As if there is not enough unemployment already in this country, this Government, in a criminally irresponsible manner, is now going to add to it. There are 3,00,000 small people earning their livelihood as small businessmen in this trade and they are now to be replaced by bureaucratic drones who will not do half their work. The Government are fond of talking about unemployment day in and day out and this is the way in which they are trying to solving the problem of unemployment.

And, finally, I wish to say this. By putting Mr. Rasiklal Parikh, a discredited Gujarat politician of their party as the Chairman of this Corporation, they have shown very clearly that they are playing politics with this trade, that they want to export money from this trade through the Chairman whom they are appointing. This shows political influence right from the word go. If they had appointed a good business manager, somebody who knew about cotton, who was in this field, I would have said that at least they were trying to be honest. But the moment they form a Corporation, instead of finding an expert to head it from any field, anyone from there, they put in one of the politicians of their own party and thereby show what their intentions are. Their intentions are thoroughly dishonourable. They are going to ruin—by political lobbying and political intrigue—a very fine industry that this country enjoys. Mr. Goyal rightly pointed out that there is no positive economic justification in this measure. It is purely a political gimmick to extort money from this prosperous trade of cotton. We talk of Land-grab, but can anything be more disgraceful than this grab of trade? This is grab of money by this Government, wherever money can be found.

Now, if the Government had a scheme, they should have brought out a White Paper; they should have appointed a Committee of Enquiry. Did they appoint a Committee of Enquiry? No. They did not appoint any Committee of Enquiry to investigate into

these matters. Did they prepare a White Paper, make out a case, put it before the country, wait for three months or so, invite opinions, invite evidence? Nothing of the kind was done. First they act and then they try to justify their action retrospectively.

There are some misguided people in this country—journalists and businessmen—who in the last few weeks have imagined that this Government is on the mend. There are certain comments in leading newspapers and I have met some otherwise intelligent businessmen, and they tell me "Mrs. Gandhi" is improving, her Government is becoming more responsible, more moderate, and turning away from the extremist path." To such misguided gentlemen I make a gift of this grab of a well-established, well-run, well-disciplined trade and ask them if this is a sign of the growing intelligence, growing sanity and moderation of this Government? As Mr. Goyal rightly pointed out, they are on the totalitarian path and they will grab everything they can in this country, until they bring it down in ruins. I regard the take-over of this trade as one more nail in the coffin of this Government and in the economy of this country.

श्री देवराव पाटिल (यवतमाल) : सभापति महोदय, वैदेशिक व्यापार मंत्री ने भारतीय रुई निगम की स्थापना करने के बारे में जो वक्तव्य दिया है उसमें दो बातों का स्पष्ट रूप से उल्लेख किया है। एक तो घरेलू कपास की खरीद और उसका उचित बितरण सरकार द्वारा जो भारतीय कपास लिमिटेड कम्पनी नामक—संस्था स्थापित की जायेगी वह करेगी। एक दूसरा उद्देश्य यह भी था कि कपास इम्पोर्ट करने का जो काम है वह भी निगम करेगा। निगम स्थापित करने का जो उद्देश्य है वह बहुत बहुमूल्य है कि जो कपास प्रोड्यूसर्स है उनको उनकी कपास की उचित कीमत मिले, अच्छी कीमत मिले। कपास का उत्पादन ज्यादा भी हो तब भी उनको उसकी अच्छी कीमत मिलेगी, इस बात की गारन्टी उनको दी जायेगी। उनका एक उद्देश्य यह भी

था कि जो मिडिलमैन हैं उनको एलिमिनेट कर दिया जाये। इसी कारण से सदन में जो प्रस्ताव आया था, जो वक्तव्य दिया गया था उसका मैंने बहुत स्वागत किया था। निगम स्थापित करने का जो उद्देश्य है और जो फंक्शनस निगम को दिए गए हैं, उनका मैं आज भी स्वागत करता हूँ।

यह वक्तव्य देने के बाद देश में एक बहुत बड़ा आन्दोलन चला—रुई व्यापारियों का आन्दोलन। आप लोगों को शायद न मालूम हो लेकिन चूँकि हम लोग प्रोड्यूसर हैं इसलिए ऐसे आन्दोलन का मुकाबला करने का मौका हमारे सामने अनेक बार आया है। रुई व्यापारियों का आन्दोलन चला कि रुई कारोबार हथियाने का काम सरकार करने वाली है जैसे कि आज देश में भूमि हथियानो आन्दोलन चल रहा है। हमारा घंघा भी लेने का काम सरकार कर रही है, इसलिए यह आन्दोलन चल गया। आन्दोलन का असर यह हुआ कि 15 दिन कारोबार बन्द रहा। अर्थात् चलीं। लेकिन उसके बाद सरकार की जो नीति हमारे सामने आई उससे मेरे को बड़ी निराशा हुई। यह जो प्रस्ताव है कारपोरेशन की स्थापना के बारे में उसके ऊपर मुझे आज खेदानन्द है। आनन्द इसलिए है कि सरकार ने कारपोरेशन की स्थापना की। दुःख इसलिए है कि सरकार की जो नीति थी, सरकार ने प्रोड्यूसर्स को उचित मूल्य दिलाने का जो आश्वासन दिया था उससे सरकार पीछे हटी और उसने अपनी नीति में परिवर्तन किया। परिवर्तन करने के बाद यह साफ तौर से कहा गया कि देशी व्यापार जो चल रहा है उसमें सरकार कोई दखल नहीं देगी—जैसे चल रहा है वैसे ही चलेगा।

बंबेसिक व्यापार मंत्री (श्री ल० ना० मिश्र) : चूँकि आज मुझे उत्तर देना नहीं है इसलिए एक बात मैं कह देना चाहता हूँ कि

हमने अपनी नीति में कोई परिवर्तन नहीं किया है। शुरू से जो कहा था वही कर रहे हैं। व्यापारियों ने आन्दोलन किया और बिना शर्त वापिस लिया। सरकार की नीति में कोई परिवर्तन नहीं हुआ है। जो अन्दरूनी व्यापार हमें लेना है वह हम लेंगे। नीति में कोई परिवर्तन नहीं किया है।

श्री देवराव पाटिल : धन्यवाद। यहां पर मैं यही स्पष्टीकरण चाहता था। हमारे मुबईयों में और इधर-उधर व्यापारियों ने कह दिया है और अखबारों में भी आया कि आप उसमें परिवर्तन कर रहे हैं।

सभापति जी, जो मिल गोनर्स हैं, उनका जो संगठन है, कम आदमी होते हुए भी उनका बहुत जोरदार संगठन है, वह संगठन कपास का पूरा व्यापार करता है। मैं छोटे व्यापारियों की बात नहीं कर रहा हूँ। छोटे ट्रेडर्स से और प्रोड्यूसर्स से माल लेने और बेचने का काम है वह बड़ा नाटकीय है। पूरा नाटक मिल-गोनर्स करते हैं। मिल-गोनर्स का काम यही है कि किसानों से सस्ते दाम पर कपास लेना, और आज तक विदेश व्यापार मंत्रालय ने इसमें पूरा साथ दिया है। इतना ही नहीं, जब-जब मौका आया तब-तब उनको मदद देने के लिए उन्होंने जी जान से कदम उठाया। मैं आज की बात नहीं पिछले साल के बारे में भी बतलाता हूँ, कि सरकार ने कपास के भाव गिराने का जी जान से प्रयत्न किया। कपास का भाव गिराने के प्रयत्न के बारे में वार्षिक रिपोर्ट में लिखा है कि :

“कपास के मूल्यों के नियंत्रण सम्बन्धी विभिन्न उपायों पर सन्तोषजनक रूप से अमल किया गया।”...

“कपास के मूल्य में वृद्धि शीघ्र ही सुस्पष्ट हो गई और सरकार ने इसे रोकने के लिए उचित उपाय किये।”

[श्री देवराव पाटिल]

कपास के मूल्य कम करने के उपाय किये जिसमें उन्होंने यह दिया है कि :

“यह सूचना मिली है कि कपास की फसल की कुछ क्षति हुई है।”

उन्हें मालूम हो गया है कि कपास कम पैदा होने वाली है।

“यह सूचना मिली है कि कपास की फसल की कुछ क्षति हुई है और उसके उत्पादन का अनुमान अब लगभग 60 लाख गांठों का है। कपास के मूल्य में वृद्धि शीघ्र ही सुस्पष्ट हो गई और सरकार ने इसे रोकने के लिए उचित उपाय किये।”

यानी कपास का उत्पादन कम हो जायेगा और उसके दाम बढ़ेंगे। यह भ्रन्दाजा लगाया गया और सरकार ने इसको रोकने के लिए उचित उपाय किये। क्या उपाय किये, यह मैं बाद में बतलाऊंगा। उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि देखो, किसान अगर तुमने भाव बढ़ाने की कोशिश की—उन्होंने यह घमकी दी। घमकी क्या थी ?

“इस मौसम में मिलों द्वारा कपास की विशाल परिमाण में निकासी होगी और कपास की स्वदेशी प्राप्यता को आयातों द्वारा पूरा किया जायेगा।”

यानी मिल-घोनस के लिये जो माल चाहिये वह आपके भरोसे पर हम नहीं हैं। हम आयात कर के उनकी जरूरत को पूरी करेंगे। दुःख की बात है कि जब कारपोरेशन बना उस वक्त भी और उसके बाद भी उन्हीं लोगों से सलाह ली गई। रिपोर्ट को अन्तिम रूप देने से पहले एक समिति की बैठक में उद्योग और व्यापार के प्रतिनिधियों की सुनवाई की। मेरे कहने का मतलब यह है कि सरकार मिल-घोनस की सलाह से चलती है। इसलिये मुझे यह नहीं लगता कि इस गवर्नमेंट

ने जो स्टेप लिया वह उससे पीछे हट नहीं जायेगी? हर दफा सरकार ने ऐसा किया है। इसलिए मैं कहता हूँ श्री मसानी साहब का जो वक्तव्य है वह मेरे लिए कोई आश्चर्य की बात नहीं है। उनके पत्र का और कार्यक्रम स्पष्ट बतला देता है कि भ्रमीर लोगों का खयाल करना और गरीबों की उपेक्षा करना, किसानों की उपेक्षा करना उनका काम हो गया है। निगम की स्थापना यह सरकार का राजनीतिक खेल है या क्या है, इससे मुझे मतलब नहीं है, लेकिन एक बात मैं बतलाना चाहता हूँ। आपने जो यह कहा है कि उत्पादकों को 90 परसेंट मिलता है, यह गलत है। आपको मालूम नहीं है कि उत्पादकों को क्या मिलता है। आपको मालूम है ट्रेडर्स, आपको मालूम हैं मिल-घोनस, आपको मालूम हैं टेक्स्टाइल कमिश्नर। कपास के मूल्य के बारे में आपको कुछ मालूम नहीं है।

SHRI KAMALNAYAN BAJAJ (Wardha) : The figure has been given by the survey of Bombay University that 90 per cent of the price realised goes to the growers.

श्री शिवाजीराव शं० देशमुख : उन्होंने कह दिया है कि ट्रेडर्स ने फाइनेन्स किया है। जब ट्रेडर्स फाइनेन्स करते हैं तब उसका क्या नतीजा होगा। यह आप जानते हैं।

SHRI KAMALNAYAN BAJAJ : I am sorry to hear that an hon. member like Shri Deshmukh should insult Bombay University.

श्री देवराव पाटिल : मैं यह कह रहा था जो इस सभा के सदस्य हैं उनको यह भी जान लेना चाहिये कि उत्पादक जो उत्पादन करता है और मार्केट में बेचता है वह रा काटन भी नहीं है। रा काटन तो रुई को कहते हैं। यही तो हमारी आपत्ति है। गांठ जब तैयार होती है तब उस को काटन कहते हैं। जो कपास पैदा

करता है और मार्केट में उसको बेचता है उसे क्या मिलता है, यह मेरा पहला सवाल है। रुई बनने के बाद व्यापारी लेते हैं। रुई बनने के बाद जब मिल-घोनस बेचते हैं उसका भाव अलग है। उत्पादक लोगों को जो प्राइस मिलती है उसके बारे में मैंने कहा था कि आज जो कहा जाता है कि उसको 90 परसेंट प्राइस मिलती है यह गलत है।

एक माननीय सदस्य : बिल्कुल सही है।

श्री देवराव पाटिल : मूल्य नीति जो है उसके बारे में मुझे कहना है कि कृषि उपज के मूल्य नीति निर्धारण करने का काम कृषि विभाग का होता है। कृषि उत्पादन बढ़ाने का जो मुझसे आगे हमारे साथी मेम्बरों ने दिया है उसके लिये सबसे बड़ा प्रोत्साहन यह होगा कि उत्पादकों को उचित मूल्य मिले। आपने कई इन्सेन्टिव दिये लेकिन वह कम पड़ जाते हैं जब तक उनको उचित मूल्य नहीं मिलता। जो खाद्यान्न के मूल्य हैं, गन्ने के मूल्य हैं उनके बारे में मूल्य निर्धारण करने का काम खाद्य नीति निर्धारित करने का काम, ऐग्रीकल्चर डिपार्टमेंट करता है। मैं प्रार्थना करूंगा कि कपास का मूल्य निर्धारण करने का काम भी ऐग्रीकल्चर डिपार्टमेंट करे। हमारी यह मांग बहुत दिनों से है और इसके बहुत से कारण हैं। लेकिन चूंकि समय कम है, इसलिये मैं उन में नहीं जाता हूँ।

कपास का आप कोई भी मूल्य निर्धारित करें, लेकिन उसकी एफेक्टिवनेस डिपेन्ड करती है उसकी खरीद की व्यवस्था पर। यह मेरा कहना नहीं है। जो चौथी पंच-वर्षीय योजना है उसमें पेज 144 पर दिया हुआ है कि अगर मूल्य नीति को परिष्कारक बनाना है तो खरीद की व्यवस्था करनी होगी। आपको पता होगा कि कृषि मूल्य आयोग की स्थापना की गई, खाद्य निगम की स्थापना की गई और इस निगम के द्वारा खरीद के लिए एक अखिल भारतीय मशीनरी की व्यवस्था की गई है। खाद्यान्न, जैसे गेहूँ, चावल, ज्वार, गन्ना,

पटमन, जूट आदि की खरीदारी के लिये अखिल भारतीय मशीनरी की व्यवस्था की गई है। इस खरीद की व्यवस्था भारतीय खाद्य निगम करता है। कई जगह राज्य व्यापार निगम करता है और कई जगहों पर सहकारी संगठनों द्वारा यह व्यापार किया जाता है। भंडार की भी व्यवस्था की गई लेकिन कपास के लिए खरीद की व्यवस्था आज नहीं है। इसलिए कपास की खरीददारी के लिए यह निगम की व्यवस्था करे। ... (श्ववधान)... मेरी प्रार्थना है कि कपास की खरीद के लिये एक उन्नत मशीनरी की स्थापना की जाये। सहकारी संगठन की व्यवस्था की जाये।

समापति महोदय : यहां पर कांग्रेस की तरफ से और भी बोलने वाले लोग हैं। इसलिए श्री पाटिल जितना शार्ट कर सकते हों करें।

श्री शिवाजीराव शं० देशमुख : कम से कम आप व्यापारियों जितना वक्त तो किसान को दीजिये।

समापति महोदय : मैं उनसे ज्यादा दे रहा हूँ।

श्री देवराव पाटिल : आज खरीद की जो व्यवस्था है वह यह है कि उत्पादक मार्केट में कपास ले जाता है और वहां जाने के बाद व्यापारियों की मर्जी पर उसको रहना पड़ता है। किसान कुछ नहीं कर सकते हैं। वहां की जो मार्केटिंग कमेटी है वह कुछ नहीं कर सकती है। यह स्पष्ट है कि जिस की चीज होती है, उसको ही प्राइस कोट करने का अधिकार होता है। दूकान में आकर आप कपड़ा लेने के लिए जाते हैं या कोई और चीज लेने के लिए जाते हैं तो आप देखते ही हैं कि जिस का माल होता है वही कीमत बताता है और जो कीमत वह बताता है अगर आप उस कीमत को अदा कर देते हैं तो आपको वह चीज मिल जाती है और अगर अदा नहीं करते हैं तो नहीं मिलती है। लेकिन यहां उत्पादक की शोषणीय अवस्था को आप देखें। उत्पादक की कीमत बताने का अधिकार नहीं है। व्यापारी लोग जो कीमत उसको देंगे उस कीमत को उसको लेना पड़ता है।

[श्री देवराव पाटिल]

यहां यह कहा गया है कि कपास की खरीददारी की बहुत जटिल समस्या है और इसमें बहुत तजुर्बा चाहिए। कपास के व्यापार में घादमी का एक्सपर्ट होना बहुत जरूरी है। मैं आपको व्यापारियों का अपना अनुभव बताता हूँ। एक ही बवालिटी की कपास अगर आप दो गाड़ियों में ले कर जाते हैं तो दोनों गाड़ियों के आपको वहाँ दो भाव मिलते हैं। यह एक्सपर्ट लोगों का काम नहीं तो और किस का है? पचास-पचास रुपये तक का गाड़ी के पीछे फर्क डाल दिया जाता है। साथ ही मिक्सिंग भी किया जाता है। अच्छे माल में खराब माल मिला दिया जाता है। उसमें ये लोग एक्सपर्ट हैं। इस वास्ते कपास का जो अन्दरूनी व्यापार है, यह सरकार के हाथ में होना चाहिये।

हम रुई सूडान से, यू एर से मंगते हैं। वहाँ सारी कपास का व्यापार सरकारी हाथों में है। मैं समझता हूँ कि कपास खरीदने की व्यवस्था उसी तरह से काटन कारपोरेशन को भी करनी पड़ेगी जिस तरह से खाद्यान्न निगम खाद्यान्नों की खरीद की व्यवस्था करता है। मैं यह नहीं कहता हूँ कि जहाँ-जहाँ कपास का उत्पादन होता है वहाँ हर जगह आप स्वयं ही खरीदें लेकिन जिस तरह से खाद्य निगम सहकारी बिपड़न संगठन द्वारा खरीदता है या जिस तरह से एस टी सी के द्वारा काम होता है, उसी तरह से काटन कारपोरेशन को भी खरीद की व्यवस्था करनी होगी।

खरीददारी की व्यवस्था में प्राइस का सवाल भी आता है। स्पॉट प्राइस का सवाल भी इसके साथ जुड़ा हुआ है। यह कहा गया है कि प्राइसिस कृषि मूल्य आयोग तय करता है। लेकिन प्राइस तय करते वक्त आपको कपास की जो कास्ट आफ प्रोडक्शन है इसका भी ध्यान रखना पड़ेगा। मिल ओनर्ज जो काटन

खरीदते हैं और उसे जो कपड़ा तैयार करते हैं उस कपड़े की कास्ट जो पड़ती है उसको ध्यान में रख कर वे कपड़े की कीमत तय करते हैं। उसी तरह से आप कपास की कीमत भी तय करें। इस वर्ष की विदर्भी एल 147 किस्म की कपास की स्पॉट प्राइस 344 रुपये प्रति क्विंटल है यानी रुई की दो दो गांठ की स्पॉट प्राइस 1200 रुपये है और उसकी प्रिवोलिग प्राइस 1800 रुपये है। आम तौर पर यह देखने में आता है कि पचास परसेंट डिफेंस स्पॉट प्राइस और प्रिवोलिग प्राइस में होता है। तीन साल के आंकड़े अगर आप देखें तो आप भी इसी नतीजे पर पहुँचेंगे। इस वास्ते मेरी मांग है कि पिछले साल के नवम्बर महीने से मई महीने तक जो काटन का व्यापार हुआ है और जो प्राइस मिली है, उसकी एवरेज प्राइस आप निकाल लें और उस प्राइस को स्पॉट प्राइस फिक्स कर दें। इस हिसाब से एल 147 किस्म की कपास की स्पॉट प्राइस 200 रुपये से 225 रुपये निकलती है। मेरी मांग है इससे कम स्पॉट प्राइस तय नहीं करना चाहिये। अन्त में जो एलीगेशन लगाया गया है उसका उत्तर मुझे देना पड़ेगा ...

सभापति महोदय : आपका समय हो गया है। श्री बजाज :

SHRI KAMALNAYAN BAJAJ : Mr. Chairman, Sir... (Interruptions)

सभापति महोदय : आप दूसरे रोज बोलें इसके लिए स्पीकर साहब जिस रोज समय निश्चित करें, और जिस रोज यह डिबेट हो, उस रोज आप बोलें।

श्री देवराव पाटिल : सभापति महोदय, आई एम स्टिल थान माई लैंग्ज।

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House stands adjourned.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, August 28, 1970 Bhadra 6, 1892 (Saka)