

अध्यक्ष महोदय : कानून के मूतालिक सवाल नहीं पूछा जा सकता है। जो कानून किताबी में लिखा है उसको देखा जा सकता है। इसलिए कानून के बारे में सवाल पूछना मुनासिब नहीं है और न उसकी इजाजत दी जा सकती है।

श्री जवाहरलाल नेहरू: माननीय सदस्य को मालूम होगा कि अभी तक हमारा दूतावास वहां है और उन का भी यहां है, हालांकि उस में कोई बड़े एम्बसेडर न हों। यह रिश्ता कायदे से कायम है।

(b) G.S.R. No. 1494 dated the 21st September, 1963.

(c) G.S.R. No 1624 dated the 12th October, 1963.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2011/63.]

(ii) A copy of Notification No. G.S.R. 1697 dated the 2nd November, 1963 making certain amendment to Schedule III to the Indian Police Service (Pay) Rules, 1954.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2012/63.]

12.14 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE
REPORT OF THE INFORMAL GROUP ON
GOLD CONTROL

The Minister of Finance (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of Report of the Informal Group on Gold control. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-2009/63.]

ANNUAL REPORT OF OIL AND NATURAL
GAS COMMISSION, 1962-63

The Minister of Petroleum and Chemicals (Shri Humayun Kabir): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of Annual Report of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission for the year 1962-63, under sub-section (3) of section 23 of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission Act, 1959. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-2010/63.]

AMENDMENTS TO INDIAN ADMINISTRATIVE
SERVICE (PAY) RULES ETC.

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Hajarnavis): I beg to lay on the Table under sub-section 21 of section 3 of the All India Services Act, 1951:—

- (i) A copy each of the following Notifications making certain amendment to Schedule III to the Indian Administrative Service (Pay) Rules, 1954:—

(a) G.S.R. No. 1469 dated the 14th September, 1963.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTION

TWENTY-NINTH REPORT

Shri Krishnamoorthy Rao (Shimoga): I beg to present the Twenty-ninth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

12.15 hrs.

MOTION RE: FOOD SITUATION—
Contd.

Mr. Speaker: Further consideration of the following motion moved by Shri A. M. Thomas on the 2nd December, 1963, namely:—

"That the Food Situation in the country with particular reference to rice and sugar be taken into consideration."

The substitute motions are also before the House.

Shri Kapur Singh (Ludhiana): We want to know when the Minister will be called upon to reply.

Mr. Speaker: I have extended the time. One hour would be given to private Members, and then the Minister would reply. Now it is 12.15. I will call him at 1.15.

Shri Shivaji Rao S. Deshmukh (Parbhani): In one hour hardly six people can be accommodated.

Mr. Speaker: Whatever can be done.

Shri Ranga (Chittoor): Mr. Speaker, we find an atmosphere is being created by the concerned Ministers and also a number of hon. Members from the Congress and Communist benches that controls should be brought in, if not directly, at least in an indirect manner in the name of protecting the peasants on the one side and the consumers on the other. It was in this way that the British Government introduced controls during the last war and the country paid a very high price. In spite of seeing this, the communist-minded Ministers fell in love with these controls when they came to power soon after the advent of freedom and wartime controls continued. Gandhiji had to raise his voice against these controls. In spite of that the Prime Minister continued them. Then it fell to the lot of Gandhiji to threaten to go on satyagraha before the Government allowed itself to be persuaded to drop the controls. That was the first experience. A second time controls were brought in again and it was the administrative courage and political courage of Rajaji and the late Kidwai which came to the rescue of this country and controls came to be withdrawn. With what result? When controls were there, consumers and producers, both suffered; the middlemen also suffered. The country as a whole groaned under that suffering. When controls were removed prices came down and blackmarketing came to an end. Foodstuffs came into the market and country again began to breathe a sigh of relief. Therefore, I wish to warn the Government against any direct or indirect plan or scheme to introduce controls and compulsory procurement and rationing and all the rest. Let them not take advantage of the present atmosphere of discontent prevailing due to their own mismanagement of sugar supply and distribution, in order to bring in these controls in an indirect way, first for sugar and later on for food products. Secondly, we are opposed to the pre-

sent policy of discrimination that the Government is pursuing between urban consumers and rural consumers, between urban people and rural people even in regard to gur distribution.

12.19 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

There are gur producers in U.P. and Bihar and in Andhra Pradesh in the south and they are made to suffer just because of the various restrictions that Government imposes on them. I need not go into details from the licensing of the gur producers and khandsari producers, most of whom happen to be kisans, to the inter-state restriction that they have imposed. The result is that prices have come down. But this hits the consumer in Gujarat and in Maharashtra and in Andhra also in places where gur production is deficit. Consumers in these places want to have gur but are prevented. Even in Delhi there is the recent scandal in regard to gur distribution and prices in spite of invoking the aid of co-operatives. Government should consider the interest of the consumers and producers also of gur. They talk as if they have done a great thing about the minimum prices of foodgrains, cotton and sugar. What is the minimum that they have fixed? It is such rock bottom at which it would not be possible for our peasants to go on producing anything at all because it is so much less than their cost of production. It is extra-ordinary that during all these years when discussions were going on in regard to food question in this House and the other House, most of the Members go on speaking in favour of the fixation of remunerative prices. Yet this popular Government continues to fail to fix the remunerative prices. They are agreeable to fix remunerative prices in regard to various industries, but when it comes to agriculture, they are not prepared to yield even to public opinion on their own side. Let them look into the records of this House, and they will find that a great majority of the Members speaking from

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the Congress Benches themselves not only now but over all these years have been demanding the fixation of remunerative prices, and the Government has been continuing to fail in this regard. They appointed committees after committees; they made their recommendations and the Government made various promises from time to time, and yet the Government have not been able to implement any of those recommendations in regard to the fixation of remunerative prices.

What is it that can induce our peasants to produce more and more in order that the country can achieve a greater production? First of all, it is the remunerative prices. Till now the Government have failed in it. There should be an insurance against the loss of crop caused by floods resulting in famine and drought. Till now nothing has been done in that regard. They have left it to the discretion of the State Governments whether they would be willing to set apart any fund at all as an insurance against the vicissitudes of seasons, and nothing is being done by way of initiative from the Centre itself. When the prices fall, whenever there are bumper harvests, Government is not prepared to consider its responsibility beyond fixing, as I have said, the rock-bottom price level which does not cover even the cost of cultivation. On the other hand, Government have been taking initiative in creating what are known as disincentives in order to discourage our peasants from putting their best possible effort in production. There is now the latest threat which is hurled at the peasantry by way of the Constitution (17th Amendment) Bill. Even before they pass it, even today, the peasants all over India—millions and millions of them—are beginning to wonder what would happen at all to their own holdings. When the prices are going down in regard to their own land values, how can you expect them to do their best in order to improve the quality

of their soil and also develop more and more production?

There is also the threat of co-operative farming. We know the result of co-operative farming in Soviet Russia. They have been bargaining for purchasing three million tons of foodgrains from America alone and they are going to purchase from Canada, Australia and various other countries also. The total amount of imports that we are getting from all the countries of the world is not more than 3.8 million tons, but from one country alone Soviet Russia is obliged to import three million tons, and that is the achievement of co-operative farming.

Therefore, I wish to warn once again the Government against their suicidal policy of co-operative farming. What is worse, it works as a disincentive to our peasants. Then there is the latest one—the discrimination between the ordinary peasant and the co-operatives. By all means, give every possible encouragement to co-operatives, but, at the same time, do not make any discrimination against independent peasants who would like to go and purchase various things or sell their own things apart from the co-operatives.

Then there is the other question—the ever-increasing burdens on land revenue. In several States, and in my own State, they have gone up by more than 100 per cent and in some cases by 200 per cent also. There are the rising burdens of excise duties to the credit or the discredit of this Union Government. Unless these tax burdens are reduced it would not be possible for you to give any kind of incentive to our kisans.

Then there is the question of the imports being utilised in order to keep down our own growing prices. I

want the imports to be utilised in order to help the under-privileged people in our country, the people who are living under sub-normal conditions and sub-normal living standards, but on the other hand, these imports cannot be used in order to keep down the price level to such an extent that our peasants cannot obtain their remunerative prices. The same criticism would apply to the policy of warehousing also. These warehouses—independent, co-operative and Government—are to be utilised in order to help our peasants but not to weaken their capacity to obtain a decent enough price in the markets. But the Government, on the other hand, seem to be too much concerned about the cities. Our friends from the communist benches have been making so much noise in regard to the difficulties of Calcutta. Why not the Government think of subsidising the under-privileged people, the low-income people, in all these big industrially prominent cities of this country, instead of trying to keep down the prices of agricultural produce over the whole country and in that way subsidising the food consumption of the richer people and the upper middle-class people at the cost of the peasants themselves? Bombay, Calcutta, Kanpur, Jamshedpur, Madras, Delhi and other industrial cities can thus be helped and the food problem can be solved, without in any way injuring the peasants, if only Government would be really keen on solving the problem in a statesman-like manner.

In the same way, it is also wrong for people to think that food prices have risen far too high. Let them consult the statistics themselves. The Minister also has given some information in regard to that matter. What I want and what all the consumers in urban and rural areas desire is that there should be parity between agricultural price and other prices. Parity policy is being followed by other countries like Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Denmark, Holland and also

America. Why not we adopt that particular policy?

There are these Government plans. Are they imaginative? They seem to be. Are they visionary? They seem to be. Are they practical? They are not. Are they realistic? They are not. Why do I say so? They have set the price level for 1960-61 at Rs. 563 per ton. When it comes to their expectations, their expected price for 1965-66 is Rs. 560. Their later expectations for 1970-71 are Rs. 560. Will it ever be possible for Government to keep this price at this particular level? What happens to inflation? What happens to the built-in inflation, as they say, in all their developmental plans? What happens to the currency inflation that they are bringing into this country? In 1956-57 there were Rs. 2373 crores worth of credit placed at the disposal of the people by way of currency notes as well as bank advances. By 1963, Rs. 2282 more crores were placed at the disposal of the people. They have doubled the circulation of the money in the hands of the people. Naturally prices go up. Then how do they plan for this?

Therefore, I wish to say that it is not possible for the Government to maintain the prices for agricultural produce in the manner in which they have planned while at the same time enjoying their freedom to go on inflating our own currency, depreciating its value and robbing the poor people of the value of their own money. All that they can do, if they have statesmanship, is to develop a plan for achieving parity, so that if industrial prices go up, if consumer prices go up, if the cost of cultivation goes up, let the prices that they would allow for agriculturists also go up.

So, in conclusion, I repeat my warning again against any scheme of introducing directly or indirectly their so-called policies of regulation, which would only result in compulsory procurement and fixing unremunerative prices for the peasants. If they do not give up their disincentive policies, it would be impossible for them

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to expect agricultural production to go up and they would be only living in a fool's paradise.

श्री बहाप्रकाश (बाह्य दिल्ली) : जनाब डिप्टी स्पीकर, मेरा इरादा बहस में हिस्सा लेना का नहीं था लेकिन मेरे पुराने मित्र डा० लॉहिया ने मुझ पर मेहरबानी की और मैं ने जरूरी समझा कि मैं उस में कुछ हिस्सा लूं ।

उन्होंने कोआपरेटिव स्टोर पर कुछ लांछन लगाये थे । उस की बाबत जब मैं ने सिनोप्सिज्ड में पढ़ा तो ऐसा महभूस हुआ कि उस में स्टोर और डा० लॉहिया दोनों पर ही एक तरीके से अन्याय हुआ है क्योंकि उस में लिखा गया है कि कोआपरेटिव स्टोर ने ४० रुपये मन गुड़ बेचा जोकि उन की स्पीच में नहीं है । तब मैं न तफसील से उन की स्पीच पढ़ी । यह बात गलत है कि किसी स्टोर ने ४० रुपये मन गुड़ बेचा ।

जनाब को शायद मालूम हो कि मेरा सम्बन्ध दिल्ली की को-आपरेटिव सोसायटियों से ख़ास तौर पर और हिन्दुस्तान की को-आपरेटिव सोसायटियों से आम तौर पर है । मेरी यह राय है कि अगर हम चाहते हैं कि किसान को उस की सही कीमत मिले और कन्ज्यूमर को सही कीमत पर चीज मिले, तो सिवाये इसके दूसरा कोई तरीका नहीं है कि स्ट्रांग मार्केटिंग सोसायटियां हों, कन्ज्यूमर होल सेल स्टोर हों, और चैन कन्ज्यूमर स्टोर्ज हों । डा० लॉहिया ने स्पीच करते हुए ख़ास तौर से यह निष्कर्ष निकाला है कि किसान को इतने आने मिले, कन्ज्यूमर को इतने आने में माल मिला और जो बीच का पैसा था, वह को-आपरेटिव सोसायटियां खा गईं, गवर्नमेंट वाले खा गये, मिनिस्टर खा गये । इन बातों को बयान करने का उन का अपना तरीका है । उस तरीके को तो मैं नहीं बदल सकता, लेकिन आख़िर में उन्होंने यह इल्जाम लगाया कि किसान को थोड़ा सा

पैसा मिला और कन्ज्यूमर को इतना ज्यादा पैसा देना पड़ा । और इस में उन्होंने को-आपरेटिव सोसायटियों को भी रगड़ा दिया, जैसे कि वह सब को दिया करते हैं । जैसा कि मैं ने अभी कहा है, किसानों को ठीक कीमत मिले और आख़िर में कन्ज्यूमर तक भी चीजें ठीक कीमत पर पहुंचें, इस का मुझे कोई दूसरा जरिया नज़र नहीं आता सिवाये इस के कि हमारे यहां स्ट्रांग मार्केटिंग सोसायटियों, कन्ज्यूमर होल सेल स्टोर्ज, चैन स्टोर्ज और कन्ज्यूमर स्टोर्ज का जाल हो । इस के अलावा और कोई दूसरा जरिया नहीं है, जिस से सरकार किसान को ठीक कीमत दे सके और कन्ज्यूमर को भी ठीक कीमत पर चीजें मिल सकें । यह मेरा मत है और मैं फूड एंड एग्रीकल्चर मिनिस्टर से कहूंगा कि वह इस तरफ बहुत ज्यादा ध्यान दें और इस को अपनी पहली पालिसी मान लें ।

और बातों को मैं इस वक्त नहीं लाऊंगा, क्योंकि और बातों को लाने से मेरा मकसद दूर चला जायेगा । और भी बहुत सी बातें हैं, जो कि हमारी खेती के सिलसिले में और कीमतों और फूड के सिलसिले में कही जा सकती हैं और मोका आयगा तो मैं उनको बहूंगा ।

मैं अब यहां को-आपरेटिव स्टोर की बात थोड़ी सी ले लेता हूं । बात यह है कि गुड़ की बहुत विस्में हैं । लेकिन जो एवरेज वैरायटी कही जाती है, यू० पी० की मंडियों में वह इस वक्त ५० और ६० रुपये फी क्विंटल मिलती है । बेचारे किसानों को क्या मिलता है, इस के आंकड़े मेरे पास नहीं हैं, लेकिन मंडियों में उस की आम कीमत ५० रुपये और ६० रुपये है । वहां से दिल्ली के गोदाम तक पहुंचने में ७ और ८ रुपये फी क्विंटल खर्च लगता है । उस में वह खर्जा फी शामिल है, जो कि माल सप्लाई करने वाले को गाडी में माल लदवाने के लिए देना पड़ता है, क्योंकि रेलवे वाला माल को बैगन

में डालने के लिए तैयार ही नहीं होता है, जब तक कि माल मण्डाई करने वाला उस को खुश न कर दे। इस बात को जो देखना चाहें, उन को मैं दिखा सकता हूँ। उसमें वह खर्चा भी शामिल हो जाता है किसी न किसी ढंग से। रेलवे मिनिस्टर साहब से भी मैं ने कहा, लेकिन वह बेचारे भी इसमें कुछ कर नहीं सकेंगे, क्योंकि मैं चैलेंज करता हूँ कि अगर कोई आदमी हिन्दुस्तान में किसी भी जगह पर, किसी भी स्टेशन पर, किसी भी चीज को वैगन में डायरेक्टली या इन्डायरेक्टली कुछ दिये बगैर लदवा दे, तो मैं उसको इनाम दूंगा—चाहे वह मिनिस्टर साहब ही क्यों न हों, अगर रेलवे वाले को उनका नाम मालूम न हो।

डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया (फरुखाबाद): रेलवे मिनिस्ट्री बिल्कुल बेईमान है क्या?

श्री ब्रह्म प्रकाश : यहां के बाजार की हालत क्या है? मैं यह और बतला दूँ कि गुड़ पर कीमत का कंट्रोल नहीं है। जिस वक्त यहां पर परमिट इश्यू नहीं हुआ था यहां से, उस वक्त दिल्ली के बाजार में गुड़ का भाव ४५ रुपये मन था। जिस वक्त परमिट इश्यू हो गया, उस वक्त फौरन वह ४० रुपये मन हो गया। जिस वक्त गुड़ मंडियों से गाड़ी में लद कर चल दिया, तो ३५, ३६, ३७ रुपये पर वह यहां बिकना शुरू हुआ। जिस वक्त यहां पहुंचा गुड़ गोदाम में, तो उस वक्त बाजार में ३५, ३६ रुपये पर बिक रहा था। अभी कुल चार वैगन माल यहां पर पहुंचा था—चार वैगन का मतलब यह है कि कुल दो, ढाई हजार मन माल यहां पर पहुंचा। अब सवाल यह सामने आया कि यह टैक्नीक अख्तियार की जाय कि उसको कास्ट प्राइस पर बेचा जाय। एवरेज कास्ट प्राइस दिल्ली गोडाउन पर ६६, ६८ रुपये की क्विंटल पड़ती है। अब सवाल यह है कि क्या उसको ६८ रुपये पर, या दो रुपये और लगा कर होलसेल में ७० रुपये और रीटेल में ७२ रुपये पर, बेचा जाये, जब कि बाजार में वह ६५ रुपये और १०० रुपये पर बिक रहा है, जो खुला आपके सामने बिक रहा है, जिस

पर कोई कानूनी रोक नहीं है, इस का नतीजा यह होगा कि ७० रुपये, ७२ रुपये पर बेचने से लोग भीड़ लगा कर पांच पांच सेर ले जायेंगे और वह सारा गुड़ इकट्ठा हो कर एक जगह पहुंच जायेगा और वह सारा ६०-१०० रुपये पर बिकेगा।

डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया : माननीय सदस्य की सहकारी समिति ने किस भाव पर बेचा ?

श्री ब्रह्म प्रकाश : एक टैक्नीक हम ने अख्तियार करने की कोशिश की और इस बारे में मेरी राय तब भी थी और अब भी यह है कि यह टैक्नीक ठीक है जब कि कंट्रोल न हो, कि जो बाजार में भाव है, उस का खयाल रखा जाये। अगर बाजार में उस वक्त ३६, ३७ रुपये का भाव था, तो हमने उस को फौरन ३०, ३२ रुपये किया, ताकि बाजार का भाव एक दम डाउन हो। और जब वे ३०, ३२ पर आयें, तो हम भाव को २७, २८, २९ पर ले जायें और आधिर में कास्ट प्राइस पर ले जायें। मैं यह भी बता दूँ कि को-ऑपरेटिव सोसायटीज किसी की जाती दुकान नहीं है। वे रजिस्टर्ड सोसायटीज हैं। उनमें बहुत मेम्बर हैं। वहां पर सवा छः परसेंट से ज्यादा मुनाफा किसी को नहीं दे सकते। वहां पर यह नहीं किया जा सकता है कि बाजार में एक जगह पर कंट्रोल के नाम पर वह किसी घटिया माल को ठप्पा लगा कर एक दुकान पर ६७ रुपये पर बेच दे, लेकिन रात को ६७ रुपये की पर्ची काट कर ट्रक से दूसरी जगह १०० रुपये पर बेच दे वह जो बीच का रुपया है, वह न किसी रसाद में है, न हिसाब में है, न किताब में है। आरिंसर्ज को खुश करने के लिए, मुझे खुश करने के लिए, किन्हीं चन्द आदमियों को खुश करने के लिए कह दिया कि हम तो कंट्रोल रेट पर बेच रहे हैं। ट्रेड का यह जो तरीका है कि बोस, पच्चीस रुपये बीच में बगैर रसीदों के काट कर ले लिया जाये, इसको फेस करने के दो टैक्नीक हैं। एक तो

[श्री ब्रह्म प्रकाश]

यह है कि कास्ट प्राइस जो आई है, आप इस पर माल बेच दीजिए। यह भी एक तरीका है। उसका नतीजा यह होगा कि जो मुनाफा न तो कन्ज्यूमर को जाने वाला है और न किसी और के पास, उस मुनाफे को बीच में कुछ आदमी लपेट कर अपनी जेब में रख लेंगे। वह मुनाफा न तो इन्कम-टैक्स में आयेगा, न हिसाब-किताब में आयेगा, न देने में आयेगा, न लेने में आयेगा।

दूसरा तरीका यह है कि बाजार में एकदम माल लाया जाय और को-ऑपरेटिव सोसायटी को बाजार से मुकाबला करने के लिए, कम्पिट करने के लिए खड़ा किया जाय। वह बाजार से कम्पिट करती जाय और आखिर में कास्ट प्राइस पर ले जाए। हमने यह टैक्नीक अख्तियार करने की कोशिश की और इस टैक्नीक पर हमने १७०० मन गुड़ बेचा, ३०, ३२ रुपये मन पर बेचा।

लेकिन अब यह सलाह ठहरी कि यह टैक्नीक ठीक नहीं है। ठीक है और अब हम उस टैक्नीक पर आ रहे हैं कि जो कास्ट प्राइस है, जो यहां पर पड़ती है, उस पर दो रुपया होलसेल के लिए और दो रुपया रिटेल के लिए लगा कर बेचा जाए। वहरहाल, मैं पर्सनली, जाती तीर पर, इस टैक्नीक से एग्री नहीं करता हूं। लेकिन जो फ्रैंसला हमने आपस में किया है, उस को ले कर हम चलेंगे। अब इलाज क्या है इस का? मैं मिनिस्टर साहब से कहना चाहता हूं कि इलाज इस का यह है कि

श्री लहरी सिंह (रोहतक) : कंट्रोल हटा दो।

श्री ब्रह्म प्रकाश : उस का इलाज कंट्रोल है, लेकिन शूगर पर कंट्रोल था और वह पचास रुपये फ्री बोरी ब्लैक में विकी दिल्ली में। अगर सब से ज्यादा चीनी दिल्ली में आये तो

भी आप देखें कि दिल्ली के साथ राजस्थान की सरहद है, पंजाब की है, उत्तर प्रदेश की है और कहां कहां पर आप बैठेंगे? इसलिए इसका एक ही तरीका है कि आप चीनी को ऑप्रेटिव स्टोर्स को दिलाते चले जायें और इन स्टोर्स को आप मजबूत करते जायें। इसके अलावा और कोई दूसरा तरीका नहीं है। हमने इस तरीके से पिछले तीन सालों में दिल्ली के अन्दर कोल की ब्लैक मार्किट खत्म कर दी है। आपको दिल्ली में पिछले तीन सालों से आज तक कोल की ब्लैक मार्किट हुई हो, ऐसा नहीं मिलेगा। इसकी वजह क्या है? इसकी वजह यह है कि कोऑपरेटिव सोसाइटी के पास आज पांच लाख का एक दम स्टॉक पड़ा है और जिस वक्त भी जरूरत महसूस हो, उसको बाजार में फेंका जा सकता है। हर व्यापारी को इसका डर है। हमने ईंट के अन्दर ब्लैक-मार्किट को खत्म किया। ईंट का भाव ४५ से घटा कर ३१ रुपये दिल्ली में किया और ब्रिक क्लिन ओनर्स को मजबूर कर दिया कि इससे अधिक कीमत वे न कर सकें। दिल्ली में अगर गवर्नमेंट की और दूसरे सब लोगों की हैल्प हमको मिले तो अगले तीन महीनों के अन्दर अन्दर गुड़ और शक्कर के अन्दर जो ब्लैक-मार्किट होती है, उसको हम खत्म कर देंगे। इसको आप मुनाफाखोरी चाहें तो कहें लेकिन आप साथ साथ यह भी देखें कि वह मुनाफा-खोरी किसी की जेब में नहीं जाती है, वह हिसाब में है, किताब में है और आखिर में डिसकाउंट के रूप में खरीददार को जाती है, कई तरह से उसके पास जाती है और जो बचता है, वह इनकम टैक्स में जाता है।

यह एक सफाई थी जो मैं देना चाहता था और इम्प्रेस करना चाहता था कि कोई दूसरा तरीका भावों को कंट्रोल करने का नहीं है किसी भी चीज के। चैन आफ कोऑपरेटिव मार्किटिंग सोसाइटीज हो और चैन आफ कोऑपरेटिव स्टोर्स हो और उनके बीच लिंक हो।

डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, अगर अन्न मंत्री गुड़ वाले मामले पर बोलें तो मुझे सफाई देना है। अगर अन्न मंत्री बोलें तो उसके बाद मुझे सफाई का मौका दें, नहीं तो पहले दें।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : आप ऐसे नहीं बोल सकते हैं।

डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया : परसनल एक्सप्लेनेशन-----

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : आप बैठ जाइये। प्लीज सिट डाउन।

डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया : अन्न मंत्री अगर बोलें, इस पर तो . . .

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : श्री उमानाथ।

Shri Tyagi (Dehra Dun): I want to have a clarification about the procedure with regard to speeches. The recognised procedure was that we waited for your eye. Now are the slips current or does the eye still hold?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: They are catching my eye.

Shri Umanath (Pudukkottai): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, while on the one hand people are facing scarcity of sugar, the country on the other is facing interruption in the production of sugar. Interruption in the production of sugar in factories is taking place, of course, on the question of fixation of price. The matter of fixation of prices is entirely in the hands of the Government. In respect of interruption of production on grounds other than fixation of cane price there is no adequate machinery to settle. There is one sphere in this industry where Government have not yet ensured any machinery for settlement of disputes avoiding suspension of production. I mean, the relationship between the cane-grower and the sugar factory owner. If disputes arise between the labour and the sugar

factory owners, there is the Industrial Disputes Act regulating the relationship; there are the labour officers, the labour commissioners, the industrial court or the industrial tribunal which try to settle disputes between the labour and the management while at the same time avoiding suspension of production. But if disputes arise between the cane-growers and the factory management, there is absolutely no machinery today; that is, apart from the question of price fixation, if other disputes arise, there is absolutely no machinery that will settle those disputes between the canegrowers and the factory management while avoiding suspension of production. That is what is happening in the State of Madras today.

In the State of Madras Parry and Company is the leading individual sugar producer, specially in the south. They are owning a factory called the Cauvery Sugars and Chemicals Limited in Pettavaithalai. Now, the price of sugarcane was fixed for sugarcane to be supplied in the sugar year ending October 1961. The cane growers supplied the cane but even after the sugar year was over the canegrowers were not paid the full statutory price. They were paid the minimum but the full statutory price was not paid to them. They were entitled to stop the supply of cane to the factory—as a seller if I am not paid the full price, I am entitled to stop supply—yet, in the interest of the country they continued to supply cane for the sugar year ending October 1962. Even during the second year they were not paid the full statutory price. Again, in the interest of the country, they did not stop the supply of cane. In the sugar year ending October 1963 also they supplied the cane. Even then they were not paid the full arrears. For the 1964 season also, which has started, they supplied. But, when they found that the management was taking advantage of their cooperation to deny them arrears, they gave 15 days' notice. Here was the time for the management, seeing the danger

[Shri Umanath]

of interruption in production, to come forward and take the path of negotiations and settlement for avoiding the interruption in production. But, unfortunately, the management resorted to the other method, that is, of allowing suspension of production, of taking advantage of the absence of machinery to settle disputes, of tiring out and disrupting the peasants and of bringing them down to heels. The result was that from the 9th November, 1963, the factory stopped crushing in the midst of the season. Because of this 800 bags of sugar production every day was being lost, about 400 workers were thrown into the streets for no fault of their own and another 300 were threatened to be thrown out.

Again the peasants came forward and said that they would defer their demand for full settlement and would supply cane provided the management would make them some interim payment which could be adjusted later. Even then the management refused. Is it not tantamount to Parry and Company holding the interest of the nation to ransom to gain their unfair objective? Should the country pay for the intransigence of the management? Should the labour pay by their starvation and unemployment for the intransigence of the management?

Now, one may ask whether the State Government did not intervene. But unfortunately the Industries Minister of the State Government took a queer stand. He said that this is a dispute concerning a contract between the two parties and they have nothing to intervene in it. The loss in production continued. Then, it may be asked as to what the Central Government was doing. Myself, Shri Ananda Nambiar and Shri Kalyansundaram, an MLA from that State, three of us, sent telegrams to the Food Ministry saying "Loss of production continuing; please intervene." To this day there is no response to those telegrams. There is not even

an acknowledgment. If this is the fate of correspondence and telegrams from Members of Parliament, one can understand what will happen to the ordinary citizen who is approaching the Ministers and the Ministries. Ultimately, knowingly or unknowingly, Government were also becoming a party to the callousness of the management. The management is while doing all this blaming the Centre. They say:—

"The Company's position regarding additional price for cane supplied in the sugar year ending 31 October 1961 and 31 October 1962, has been fully explained to the growers. The Company wishes to reiterate that only the Authority appointed by the Government of India can make any pronouncement regarding additional price."

I want to know from the Central Government's Minister concerned whether these arrears to the peasants accrued due to the delay on the part of the Central Government in taking any decision. I also want to know, what is pending before the Central Government when the statutory prices have already been announced from 1961 onwards. I want to know whether the Central Government fettered the management from paying the full statutory price when some matter, they say, was pending before the Committee. I also want to know from the hon. Minister whether the Central Government fettered the Company from making any interim payments pending final decision from the Government here. Neither the growers know about it nor do the public at large know it. That is why I want to know what steps are being taken by the Government in this regard.

Similarly, in Pugalur also, another cane growing area, a similar situation is approaching. For the present main season the Government have announced the price. What I understand from the growers is that for

the jaggery area it is increased from Rs. 1/75 to Rs. 2/- or so a maund, and for the non-jaggery area it is increased from Rs. 1/52 to Rs. 1/65 or so. Then, there is the recovery area and the Pugalur factory is classified as being in the recovery area. They have also announced price increase for that. After the classification of the Pugalur factory as being the recovery area, suddenly the management paid for this season only Rs. 1/88 a maund. When they are asked about it, they say that they do not yet have the staff to calculate it on the recovery basis. So, the canegrowers asked whether this payment was provisional and they said that it was not provisional but that it was final. What right has the management got, after this area has been classified as the recovery basis area, to arbitrarily fix the price of Rs. 1/88 a maund as final and settle the entire thing? Moreover, this price of Rs. 1/88 a maund does not come in any of the three categories announced by the Government.

These are the problems that have arisen and there is no machinery to settle them. If there are some responsible officers of Government appointed in the cane growing areas, or if there is some machinery there, these canegrowers, whether members of associations or individuals, can go to that officer, get enlightened on the various notifications that are coming from the Government and also use the good offices of those officers and machinery to settle such sort of disputes. My submission must be seriously considered by the Food Ministry and I would like to have a specific reply as to what the Government has done with regard to the Pattavaithali sugar factory.

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Swaran Singh): You have got the Cane Commissioner in your State. The Cane Commissioner looks after this.

Shri Shivaji Rao S. Deshmukh: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I rise to thank

you and to congratulate the hon. Minister for active interest that he has been taking in the food problem in general and the sugar situation in particular. We have before this House a couple of statements which the hon. Minister of State has been pleased to make. The consensus of the debate has been that the food policies of the Government of India are neither farmer-oriented, but they are consumer-oriented, but they are trader-oriented. My own appreciation of the policies happens to be this that they are not even trader-oriented. They only just happen to be situation-oriented because the Government proceeds from *ad hoc* solutions to *ad hoc* solutions as and when the contingencies of the situation demand and since the traders in this country happen to be extra-sensitive people, happen to be experts in creating situation which is to their liking, ultimately the class which happens to profit by the policies of this Government, *ad hoc* as they are, happens to be the traders. Because of this, an impression is being created that the policies of the Government of India are trader-oriented. I wish the hon. Minister with the courage which he has, with the talent and competency which he can command, will boldly face the situation on the basis of a permanent solution and would proceed further and I think with the support of this House—I have every hope of success—he can succeed if instead of dealing with the situation on an *ad hoc* basis, he decides to deal with the situation on a permanent basis. With this I wish to lay stress upon this particular fact that the Government has so far invariably bent before the situation. I want Government which will neither break nor bend and will meet the situation squarely and will see to it that the permanent solutions which they have in mind are enforced strictly.

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Swaran Singh): That will be situation-oriented, as the hon. Member pointed out.

Shri Shivaji Rao S. Deshmukh: It cannot be situation-oriented.

Shri Swaran Singh: If you want the Government to meet the situation, then it will be situation-oriented.

Shri Shivaji Rao S. Deshmukh: It cannot be situation-oriented because it will be the situation of the creation of the Government, not the situation of the creation of the consumer or the trader or the farmer. In that case, I think, it will not be situation-oriented.

Shri Swaran Singh: It is not wrong to be situation-oriented.

Shri Shivaji Rao S. Deshmukh: It has been a uniform and consistent demand in this House time and again that the minimum price payable to cane growers will be Rs. 2 a maund. The hon. Minister has been pleased to give the minimum of Rs. 2 a maund in certain areas and has been pleased to discriminate certain other areas as not being necessary to attract this provision of Rs. 2 as the basic minimum. I wish the hon. Minister should boldly assert that Rs 2, the basic minimum, shall be the accepted criterion without any regional or territorial discriminations whatsoever and that Rs 2 shall be the basic minimum at 9 per cent recovery and subsequent recoveries and increase in recoveries would be adequately paid for. So far, there has been no satisfactory formula other than $1\frac{1}{2}$ nP. per 1 per cent increase in percentage recovery. When we say that the recovery should be the basis for payment of sugarcane prices, we cannot depart, as has been stated by the hon. Minister, from this formula. I happen to spring from that area where because of this discriminatory policy the sugarcane cultivation has suffered most. Our Minister has told, and very confidently told, that the situation is very hopeful. He said that new factories have started production and new licensing capacity is going to increase the sugar pro-

duction. Wherefrom the sugar production would increase if there is no cane supply? Already, on the horizon of cane supply, there have been signs of storm. Just now the hon. Member referred that the two cane suppliers have served notices of termination of their contract. Even the co-operative sugar factories in Maharashtra which are bound statutorily to be supplied with cane by cane suppliers have received similar notices. There has been litigation in the High Courts. For instance, in the case of your D. I. R. notification by which you bound over the sugar-cane suppliers to supply the cane to the factories, the High Court of Maharashtra has held that the breach of such notification or any such rule would be amounting to financial payment for breach, not amounting to an offence. Even the breach of any such rule or notification would not be legally enforceable according to the judgement of the Maharashtra High Court. There have been several litigations in other High Courts on this issue and the source of this litigation is that the Government has denied to cane growers what under the law is their right and, I think, if this notification of the hon. Minister, discriminatory as it is, is challenged before any court of law, it would be equally mooted out and voted out as being discriminatory and *ultra vires*. Therefore, I think, even to escape these legal consequences, the hon. Minister should firmly declare that Rs. 2 shall be the minimum cane price at 9 per cent recovery and subsequent recovery shall be paid at the rate of $1\frac{1}{2}$ nP per 1 per cent increase in the sugarcane percentage.

Now, the minimum price that has been agreed to is Rs. 2 a maund. It has been stated that it should be in the consumers' interest. We have no quarrel with the consumers' interests. Consumers' interests in this nation deserve most sympathetic consideration and strong protection, but consumers' interests as we the elected Members of the consumers feel and not the consumers' interests as the Director of Sugar feels because the Directorate of Sugar happens to be

an intriguing place wherein the private sugar industry in this country always misguides the Government and takes an undue advantage and it is this situation which, I think, the Government has also to meet if the Government has not to be situation-oriented, as I said. The Government should look into the recommendations of the Directorate of Sugar and see to it that the recommendations and observations of the Sugar Directorate spring from the genuine needs of the consumers and cane growers and the sugar industry as well, but are not limited to the limited requirements of private sugar industry in this country.

My hon. friend Mr. Puri—I am sorry he is not here—has been very pleased to say that the cost of the manufacture of sugar should be from time to time looked into under the gaze of public eyes and I wish for the consideration of Mr. Puri to quote the economics of sugar manufacture in my own area. According to the percentage basis, one ton of cane with 12 per cent recovery, which is the average recovery in Maharashtra, will give 1.20 quintals of sugar. So, one ton of sugar-cane which gives 1.20 quintals of sugar, with 12 per cent recovery, at the statutory price of Rs. 115 per quintal, would in all, fetch Rs. 138. Out of these Rs. 138, the excise duty would amount to Rs. 35 and the cane cess would amount to Rs. 5. If these Rs. 40 are deducted, then Rs. 98 would be the absolute cost of sugar and out of these Rs. 98, if the manufacturing cost at an all-India average is allowed—even if we allow them at the rate of Rs. 15 per quintal, it will come to Rs. 18—the net cost of sugar would be Rs. 80 per quintal. This manufacturing cost includes the profit also. Even if you deduct Rs. 3 as profit from Rs. 80, it could come to Rs. 77 per ton of sugarcane as the cost to be paid to the cane growers. Are we able to pay that? I think, the hon. Minister owes this explanation to the House. On the basis of Rs. 1.62 at 9.8 per cent recovery or Rs. 1.56 at 9 per cent re-

covery, the total cost of cane payable under the minimum price formula which has been given by the hon. Minister, in Maharashtra works out to Rs. 2.12 per maund at 12 per cent recovery. The the cost of sugarcane sugarcane per ton roughly works out to Rs. 59. Are we in this nation going to allow only Rs. 59 per ton to be paid to the sugar-cane cultivators when the factory would make a net profit of Rs. 80, that is, the difference of Rs. 20. So, a sugar factory having 1000 capacity would be earning Rs. 20,000 a day for hundred working days. Rs. 20 lakhs of profit per annum on a total investment of Rs. 2 crores is something which is unheard of. Therefore, let the Food Ministry take firm action and see to it that the sugar factories do not profit either at the cost of the cultivators or at the cost of the consumers.

If Rs. 2 per maund is accepted as the firm minimum price at 9 per cent recovery, then the price payable at 12 per cent recovery works out to Rs. 2.45 per maund. Even if this price of Rs. 2.45 per maund at 12 per cent recovery is paid, the cost of one ton of sugarcane works out to Rs. 70. Even then, the same factory will be making Rs. 7000 profit per day, for one hundred working days. Therefore, I think that reasonable restriction on the profits of the sugar factories is essential.

13 hrs.

I may point out that this works out in another direction in the case of co-operative societies. In the case of the co-operative societies, the minimum price that is payable is taken into account while calculating their profits. And if the cooperative sugar factories pay more to the cane-growers by way of a reasonable price for the sugarcane, then the income-tax authorities and the Government of India authorities sit on their chest and say that they will take into account this also as their profit liable

[Shri Shivaji Rao S. Deshmukh]

to taxation. Under the co-operative societies law, a co-operative society cannot distribute dividend at the rate of more than 6½ per cent per annum. So, we find that while on the one hand the co-operative societies are forbidden from paying more than 6½ per cent dividend, and are also forbidden by the operation of this policy to pay adequate prices to the cane-growers, on the other hand, we find that the private interests are paid at the rate of Rs. 20 lakhs per factory on the basis of the sugarcane price which has been worked out by the Ministry of Agriculture.

Therefore, I hope that these points which I have made will be taken into consideration, and Government will firmly lay down Rs. 2 as the minimum with 9 per cent recovery and allow subsequent increases as has been pleaded for without any regional discriminations whatsoever.

श्री प्रकाशबीर शास्त्री (बिजनौर):

उपाध्यक्ष जी, भारत की खाद्य समस्या भारत के स्वतंत्र होने के बाद से एक अथाह सागर की तरह रही है। डा० राजेन्द्र प्रसाद से ले कर श्री एम० के० पाटिल तक ने इसकी धाह लेने के प्रयत्न किए लेकिन उनको इसकी धाह नहीं मिल सकी और उपनिषदों के ऋषियों की तरह वह नेति नेति कह कर अपने अपने पदों से हट गए। कुछ थोड़ी बहुत सफलता स्वर्गीय रफी अहमद किदवई को मिली और कुछ सफलता श्री एम० के० पाटिल को भी मिली। मेरी इच्छा है कि सरदार स्वर्ण सिंह सफल हों और देश की खाद्य समस्या का समाधान उचित रीति से कर सकें।

इसके लिए मेरे दो मुझाव हैं। पहला यह कि आप थोड़ा इस बात को देखें कि कहीं ऐसी स्थिति न आ जाए, जिस तरह से सरकार ने चीनी आक्रमण के बाद में रक्षा व्यवस्था पर विशेष रूप से ध्यान दिया और उसके बाद ही रक्षा साधनों को प्राथमिकता दी। मैं चाहता हूँ कि देश की खाद्य समस्या को भी संकटकालीन

समस्या की तरह हल किया जाए। देश में ऐसी स्थिति न आने पावे कि लोग दुकानों और गोदामों को लूटने लग जाएं और तब सरकार इस प्रश्न पर ध्यान दे। ऐसी स्थिति आने से पहले अभी समय है कि इस समस्या को संकटकालीन स्थिति की तरह हल किया जाए और इसको भी रक्षा साधनों की तरह प्राथमिकता दी जाय।

दूसरी बात जो मैं विशेष रूप से कहना चाहता हूँ वह यह है कि हमारे खाद्य मंत्री और सब बातों पर विचार करने से पूर्व यह भी देखें कि खाद्य नीति में जो पिछले १५ वर्षों से असफलता मिल रही है उसका सबसे बड़ा कारण यह तो नहीं रहा है कि सरकारी मशीनरी ही सरकारी नीतियों का साथ नहीं दे रही है? कहीं ऐसा तो नहीं है कि जिस नीति को सरकार चाहती है सरकारी मशीनरी के कारण ही बँसा नहीं हो पा रहा है। मैं सम्झता हूँ कि यह एक बड़ा कारण है। जिससे इन १५ वर्षों के निरंतर प्रयत्नों के बाद भी अभी तक यह समस्या हल नहीं हो पाई है। मेरे अपने विचार में जो खाद्य समस्या हल नहीं हो सकी है उसका एक बहुत बड़ा कारण यह है कि सरकारी मशीनरी ने उचित सहयोग नहीं दिया और दूसरे सरकार की अस्थिर नीति।

सरकारी मशीनरी के सम्बन्ध में शायद मैं उतने विस्तार में न जा सकूँ। केवल इतना ही कहूँगा कि सरकार जो नीति चलाना चाहती है वह सरकारी मशीनरी के ही कारण नीचे तक जाते जाते उल्टा रूप ले लेती है। हमें तो देहातों में छोटे छोटे सरकारी कर्मचारियों का भी काम देखने का अवसर मिलता है। जिन कर्मचारियों के हाथ में सिंचाई, खाद, और बीज आदि के वितरण का काम है उनका व्यवहार किसानों के साथ कैसा है यह भी हम देखते हैं। तो जहाँ देश की खाद्य समस्या के हल न होने में सरकारी मशीनरी बढ़ा

कारण रही है, वहां दूसरा बड़ा कारण सरकार का डांवाडोल दिमाग भी रहा है। अब तक जो खाद्य मंत्री आए, उनमें से एक दो तो ऐसे मंत्री थे जो कि नाम से कृषि मंत्री थे, असल में वह व्यापार मंत्री थे, उनको कृषि की उन्नति की उतनी नहीं जितनी व्यापारियों को सुविधाएं देने की अधिक चिन्ता थी। उन्होंने इस पर विचार नहीं किया कि उनकी नीतियों से किसान को लाभ पहुंचता है या नहीं या देश की खाद्य समस्या का हल होता है या नहीं। मैं नहीं चाहता कि उस दुखद प्रसंग में जाऊं। मैंने आपको केवल एक उदाहरण के तौर पर यह बताया।

सरकार की अस्थिर नीति के सम्बन्ध में भी मैं इतना कहना चाहता हूँ कि इससे आए दिन देश में खाद्य संकट आता रहता है। सन् १९६०-६१ में जब चीनी की पैदावार ज्यादा हुई तो सरकार ने आदेश दिया कि चीनी का उत्पादन दस प्रतिशत कम कर दिया जाए। श्री रफी अहमद किदवाई के समय में गन्ने का भाव दो रुपये मन था, लेकिन उसके बाद जो सरकारी नीतियों में परिवर्तन हुआ उसके फलस्वरूप वह घटते घटते १ रुपया पांच आने मन तक आ गया। अब जब गन्ना मिलों को नहीं मिलने लगा तो सरकार ने मजबूरी के तौर पर फिर दो रुपया मन का भाव कर दिया। मेरी अपनी इच्छा है, जैसा कि कल हमारे एक माननीय मित्र ने जिनका चीनी उद्योग से सीधा सम्बन्ध है कहा था कि देश के किसी भी भाग में, चाहे वह पूर्वी उत्तर प्रदेश हो या पश्चिमी उत्तर प्रदेश हो अथवा बिहार हो, यदि सरकार चीनी उद्योग को प्रोत्साहन देना चाहती है और चाहती है कि देश में लोगों को भी खाने के लिए चीनी पूरी मिले और उससे विदेशी मूद्रा भी अर्जित की जा सके, तो सरकार को नीति के रूप में इस बात की दृढ़ता से घोषणा कर देनी चाहिए कि दो रुपये मन से कम गन्ने का दाम कहीं नहीं दिया जाएगा। इससे ज्यादा

चाहे दिया जाए लेकिन इससे कम न दिया जाए।

दूसरी एक बात मैं सरकार से यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि किसी भी व्यापार में यह नहीं होता कि जब किसी से सामान खरीदा जाए तो उसका किराया भी उसीसे लिया जाए। लेकिन इस देश के अभागे किसान के साथ यही होता है। जब वह मिल के गेट पर गन्ना देता है तो उसको दो रुपया मन मिलता है और यदि कांटे से गन्ना खरीदा जाता है तो उसको १ रुपया १४ आना मन दिया जाता है, दो आना मन उससे किराया का काट लिया जाता है।

एक माननीय सदस्य : चार आना काटा जाता है, एक रुपया १२ आना दिया जाता है।

श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री : तो ऐसा होगा। लेकिन यह किराया तो लेने वाले को देना चाहिये, पर यह किसान पर पड़ता है। इस लिये इस नीति में भी कुछ परिवर्तन करना होगा। सरकार को इस पर गम्भीरता से विचार करना चाहिए।

जहां तक गुड़ पर प्रतिबन्ध लगाने का सवाल है, उसके पक्ष में जो दलों और थामस ने दी हैं वे बड़ी लचर हैं। लेकिन मैं उनमें से हर एक की अलग अलग चर्चा नहीं करना चाहता। मैं केवल एक ही दलील की चर्चा करना चाहता हूँ। श्री थामस ने

13.07 hrs. [SHRI KHADILKAR in the Chair]

अपने वक्तव्य में कहा कि उन्होंने गुड़ पर इसलिये प्रतिबन्ध लगाया है कि उपभोक्ता राज्यों की अपेक्षा जो उत्पादक राज्य हैं वह गुड़ का अधिक संग्रह कर सकें। मैं श्री थामस से पूछना चाहता हूँ कि क्या भारत के किसान के पास इतना पैसा है कि गुड़ का उत्पादन करके वह अधिक समय तक उसको अपने घर में रख सके। उसको एकदम पैसे

[श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री]

की जरूरत के कारण वह तुरन्त व्यापारी को देना पड़ता है। तो अगर कोई गुड़ का संग्रह कर सकता है तो वह व्यापारी ही कर सकता है न कि किसान। सरकार की इस नीति से केवल मुठ्ठी भर व्यापारियों को लाभ पहुंचेगा। लेकिन जो दलीलें सरकार की तरफ से दी गयी हैं उनमें यह दिखाने का प्रयत्न किया गया है कि यह नीति किसान के हित में है जो सरकार की ओर से दी गयी है।

दूसरी बात व्यापारी को लाभ पहुंचाने का सवाल है। मेरे ख्याल में अब सरकार की निगाह में व्यापारी की परिभाषा भी बदल गयी है। पहले तो व्यापारी उसको समझा जाता था जो सुबह से शाम तक अपनी दुकान पर बैठ कर कुछ कमाता था। लेकिन आज तो राजनीतिज्ञों ने व्यापार करना शुरू कर दिया है। इसका एक बहुत बड़ा उदाहरण इस सदन में ही अभी मेरे सामने आया। माननीय सदस्य डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया ने सरकार की गुड़ नीति की चर्चा करते हुए एक उदाहरण दिया था कि किस प्रकार सेंट्रल कोऑपरेटिव स्टोर दिल्ली में गुड़ ऊंचे भाव पर बेच कर मुनाफा कमा रहा है। उसका उत्तर माननीय सदस्य श्री ब्रह्म प्रकाश जी ने दिया। मैं चाहता हूँ कि सरदार स्वर्ण सिंह जी डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया के जवाब और चौधरी ब्रह्म प्रकाश के उत्तर का एक टैस्ट केस बना कर गृह मंत्री श्री नन्दा के पास भेज दें जो दो साल में भारत से भ्रष्टाचार को दूर करना चाहते हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि गुड़ का भाव ६० रुपये प्रति क्विंटल है। लेकिन मैं चाहता हूँ कि सरकार इसका पता चलाए कि जिस तारीख में सेंट्रल कोऑपरेटिव स्टोर ने उत्तर प्रदेश से या जहां से भी गुड़ खरीदा, उस तारीख को उस स्थान पर ५० या ५५ रुपए क्विंटल का भाव था या यह जो अब कह रहे हैं। आप उस तारीख के अखबार भी उठा कर देख सकते

हैं। हां, एक बात यह हो सकती है कि खरीदने वाला अच्छे किस्म के गुड़ का भाव बता कर खराब किस्म का गुड़ खरीद ले और व्यापारी से जैसी चाहे रसीद बनवा ले। लेकिन अगर ऐसा है तो सरकार के पास ऐसे यंत्र है जिस के द्वारा उस गुड़ को टैस्ट किया जा सकता है कि वह उतने ही अच्छे किस्म का है या नहीं।

दूसरी सबसे बड़ी बात मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि जिस समय सेंट्रल कोऑपरेटिव स्टोर को दिल्ली में गुड़ लाने की अनुमति दी गयी उसी समय दूसरी संस्था, दिल्ली गुड़ डीलर्स सिंडिकेट को भी दिल्ली में कुछ टन गुड़ लाने की अनुमति दी गयी। लेकिन अब चौधरी ब्रह्म प्रकाश के कहने के अनुसार कोऑपरेटिव स्टोर ३२ रुपये मन गुड़ बेच रहा था उसी समय गुड़ डीलर्स सिंडिकेट साढ़े २४ और २५ रुपये बेच रहा था। सरकार पता लगाए कि क्या यह स्थिति थी। मैं चाहता हूँ कि इसकी एनक्वारी सेंट्रल इंटेन्सिजेंस द्वारा कराई जाए। और इसमें सिर्फ कोऑपरेटिव स्टोर और उक्त सिंडिकेट ही शामिल नहीं हैं, इसमें सरकारी मशीनरी के कर्मचारी भी सम्मिलित हैं। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि जब दिल्ली के सिविल सप्लाइज़ के डाइरेक्टर ने उत्तर प्रदेश से या कहीं से गुड़ लाने का परमिट दिया तो क्या दिल्ली की कुछ एसोसिएशन्स ने और व्यापारियों ने भी उसका अनुमति मांगी थी और कहा था कि यदि उनका दिल्ली में गुड़ लाने की अनुमति दी जाए तो वे साढ़े २१ रुपए मन दिल्ली में गुड़ बेच सकेंगे। मैं चाहता हूँ कि सरकार इस की जांच करे।

अगर हिन्दुस्तान से भ्रष्टाचार को खत्म करना है तो छोटी छोटी मछलियों को पकड़ने के बजाए बड़े बड़े मगर मछलों को पकड़िए जिससे दिल्ली में और देश के दूसरे भागों में भ्रष्टाचार समाप्त हो।

कहीं ऐसा न हो जाय कि जिस तरीके से श्री प्रताप सिंह कैरों की जांच ही जा रही है कि प्रधान मंत्री ने अपने एक पत्र में जिसमें उन्होंने राष्ट्रपति को श्री कैरों के विरुद्ध जांच कराने का सुझाव दिया, वही साथ ही में उममें उन्होंने उन की तारफ़ भी कर डाली और उनको एक अच्छा सर्टिफिकेट भी दे दिया। अब ऐसी हालत में उनके विरुद्ध क्या जांच हो सकेगी? वह तो उलटा ही काम होगा। इसलिए आप यदि कोई व्यवस्था बनायें तो उसके लिए एक अच्छा रास्ता तो स्वीकार करें।

सभापति महोदय, अपने वक्तव्य की समाप्ति की ओर ले जाते हुए मैं दो, तीन बातें और कह देना चाहता हूँ। एक तो यह कि जहाँ तक चीनी के उत्पादन का सम्बन्ध है उसमें एक काम खाद्य मंत्री अवश्य करें और वह यह कि जो गन्ने पर केन सेस लगाया जाता है और राज्य सरकारें सब मिल कर करीब १५ करोड़ रुपये इससे प्राप्त करती हैं लेकिन इस १५ करोड़ रुपये में से गन्ने के विकास पर कितना व्यय किया जाता है? वह तो कुछ लाखों में ही आकर बैठता है। राज्य सरकारों ने उसको अपनी निजी आय मान लिया है जोकि केवल गन्ने के विकास के लिए नियत की गई थी। अगर राज्य सरकारें इस विषय में इतनी शुद्ध नहीं हैं तो केन्द्रीय सरकार को यह पैसा अपने हाथ में ले लेना चाहिए और वह गन्ने के विकास पर खर्च करें ताकि यह शिकायत जो कि उत्तर प्रदेश या दूसरे उत्तर भारत के राज्यों के बारे में है कि केन में रिकवरी कम है उसका भी सही प्रता लग सके। हम भी महाराष्ट्र के बराबर उनकी तरह से रिकवरी कर सकते हैं लेकिन उसको मुविधा तो मिलनी चाहिए, जिससे कि उस आधार पर वह कर सकें।

दूसरी एक बड़ी बात यह है कि चीनी की रिकवरी के बढ़ाने का एक तरीका यह है कि नवम्बर से आप गन्ने को पेरना शुरू न करें क्योंकि नवम्बर में गन्ना कच्चा होता है

और उससे चीनी उतनी नहीं निकलती जितनी कि निकलनी चाहिए। गन्ने के पेरने की जो अवधि होनी चाहिए वह दिसम्बर के अन्त से या पहली जनवरी से वह शुरू हो और अप्रैल के अन्त तक रहनी चाहिए जबकि गन्ने में रस पूरा होता है। इसके लिए अगर मिलों की पेरने की क्षमता बढ़ानी पड़े तो उसको भी बढ़ाना चाहिए।

अन्त में मैं एक बात और कहना चाहता हूँ और वह चीनी मिलों का राष्ट्रीयकरण करने के बारे में है। राष्ट्रीयकरण को बहुत से लोगों ने एक तरह का रामबाण सा समझ लिया है कि कोई भी समस्या सामने आये, अट उस के लिए कह दो कि उस का राष्ट्रीयकरण कर दिया जाय। पहले तो यह शब्द "राष्ट्रीयकरण" ही गलत है। राष्ट्रीयकरण का क्या अभिप्राय है? क्या किसी विदेशी संस्था के हाथ में वह चीज है जिसका कि राष्ट्रीयकरण होना चाहिए? अथवा किसी विदेशी शक्ति के हाथ में वह संगठन है जिस के लिए राष्ट्रीयकरण की मांग की जाय?

सभापति महोदय : माननीय सदस्य का समय समाप्त हो चुका है। अब वह समाप्त करें।

श्री प्रकाशशेखर शास्त्री : बस एक मिनट में मैं अपनी बात समाप्त कर दूंगा। मेरे विचार में "राष्ट्रीयकरण" शब्द के स्थान पर "सरकारीकरण" शब्द का प्रयोग चालू होना चाहिए। उसको राष्ट्रीयकरण कह कर राष्ट्रीयकरण का अपमान करना है। अभी तक जिन चीजों का राष्ट्रीयकरण किया गया है उनमें ही सफलता नहीं मिली है। इसलिए मैं यह चाहता हूँ कि यह राष्ट्रीयकरण का नारा लगा कर इस प्रमुख उद्योग को हानि न पहुंचाई जाय। मैं समझता हूँ कि चीनी उद्योग भारतवर्ष का एक प्रमुख उद्योग बन गया है जिससे कि विदेशी मुद्रा की प्राप्ति की भी अच्छी सम्भावना है। अब इस चीनी उद्योग में यदि कहीं कोई कठिनाई है भी तो उसको हल करने के लिए एक उच्च स्तरीय

[श्री प्रकाशबोर शास्त्री]

कमिशन बिठाइये जिसमें संसद् के सदस्य भी हों उस उद्योग के जानने वाले अनुभवी व्यक्ति भी हों और सरकार के प्रतिनिधि भी हों और तब फिर किसी निर्णय पर यदि पहुंचा जायगा तो अधिक अच्छा रहेगा ऐसा मेरा विचार है ।

Shri Heda (Nizamabad): Mr. Chairman, let me first state one glaring fact about my own constituency. I come from an area which has got a sugar mill which is the largest in the country. There the recovery is 10-12 per cent, generally between 11-12 per cent. The yield per acre is good. In spite of this there the factory has decided to give only Rs. 1-15-0 per maund for cane. In the same area the Khand-sari units which are working, which have grown from 1 to 8—only two years ago, it was only one, last year there were 2 and this year there are about 8—are paying Rs. 2 per maund, in certain cases they are paying Rs. 2-4-0, with the recovery between 6-7 per cent. This is a very glaring fact.

In spite of the fact that the factory is in the south, the SISMA formula is not being applied to it. What is worse, the factory is in the public sector. It is owned by the Andhra Pradesh Government. Even then, Justice or fairplay is not meted out to the cane growers.

When we are so short of sugar, the only remedy lies in our having a long range plan, for five years, ten years or fifteen years. So far as sugarcane is concerned, the vagaries of weather do not matter, because there is perennial supply of water, however small or large the rainfall may be. The sugarcane fields are assured of water. Therefore, I think here is a case where perfect planning can take place. I am certain that in my own area we can produce 3-4 times more than we have been doing all these years.

In the factory area, if khand-sari is there, it should get cane only after the

factory is fed and not earlier. So far as *gur* is concerned, it is very difficult to stop *gur* manufacture because prices of *gur* have risen. An hon. friend of mine had refuted the charge that *gur* is being sold or bought for the manufacture of illicit liquor. But all of us know very well what the fact is. Otherwise why should any farmer, if he can purchase sugar cheaper, go in for *gur* which is costlier? There are very few farmers who are purchasing *gur* for consumption of *gur* as such. Otherwise, generally it is being purchased for some other purpose, and that is why its price is so high.

The price of sugarcane should be linked with recovery. I do not agree with Shri A. P. Jain; his is a limited case for the limited area of UP. I do believe that we must link the price of sugarcane with the recovery, and thereby induce the farmer to take to better seeds, better manure and better agriculture and get more production of cane.

Similarly, I do not think we should stop export of sugar. We should export more and more of this. This is the time to do it. We have been saying that exports should be encouraged even at the cost of the home market. I think here is a fit case for implementing that proposition. England is a good pointer; when she was short of many articles, she was encouraging their export and thereby she sustained her economy. The time has come when we must learn a lesson from that ourselves.

I would therefore make this plea to the Food Minister; let him not think of a year or two ahead which are going to be a little difficult; we should think in terms of 10, 15 and 25 years ahead, produce more and more and export more and more. Then the problem will be solved.

Mr. Chairman: The hon. Minister.

Shri Tyagi: I tried to catch your eye. Could you kindly spare me five minutes only to make a suggestion and not a speech?

Shri Radhelal Vyas (Ujjain): I would also request you to give me five minutes.

Shri Ranga: Shri Tyagi is a front-Bencher. He should be given a chance.

Mr. Chairman: I have promised that he will be accommodated. After him, the hon. Minister will reply to the debate.

Shri Radhelal Vyas: I have also been taking interest always in the subject.

Shri Tyagi: I know how hard up you are for time, I think, as much hard up as people are for sugar.

I would just highlight one point. Let us understand that we in Parliament have been claiming to be a sovereign body, representative of the people. We have our majority here, of course, which forms the Government. I feel so thick with my hon. friends on this side of the House. But voters are dearer. In the House, we are not to go by emotions; we are to go by the logic of the responsibilities that people have vested in us. We cannot be untrue to those responsibilities.

I therefore want to make an appeal to the Minister concerned. May I just interpret it and say that despite your policies, the House is practically unanimous. The price must be uniform, Rs. 2 minimum, for sugarcane. Where you oppose the House, I want to pose a question. Whatever your Sugar Syndicate or your Sugar Board has advised you, we are also advisers, this Parliament has also some rights, we the representatives of the farmers have some rights, and we have to emphasize them. Therefore, my demand is—it is not my demand alone, it is the mandate of this House—that the price of sugarcane should be Rs. 2 minimum. You can reduce it whenever you like, but it must be uniform.

Some Hon. Members: No reduction.

Shri Tyagi: What is happening at present? There is a sugar mill on my side in East U.P. Seven or eight miles away there is another sugar mill. Sugarcane cultivators in that area are permitted to receive from that mill Rs. 2 per maund, whereas in this mill it is Rs. 1-12-0 per maund or something like that. The sugarcane of this area naturally, either openly or stealthily, is passing on to the mill where the cultivator can get Rs. 2. And why should he not pass it on, I want to know.

I can very well understand that our plan for food production has failed, as was stated quite rightly, due to the vagaries of nature. But our policy should not be as "vagarious", if I may use the word, as nature is. I speak my own English, I do not speak King's English. If my meaning has been understood, the word is right. We cannot afford to be vagarious in our policies and we must therefore be realistic, and therefore I make this demand, this plea. I feel that constitutionally also we should start a practice. Let Parliament Members have the honour and sort of pride of being real representatives of the people. Our views are given not only just to have your comments. This we could do in the Central Assembly days and in the British days when there used to be a Viceroy. Our meetings used to be held in this very chamber. We expressed our views, sometimes they would react to our views, sometimes they would not. That is not so today. Today, even without a vote if a view has been expressed, morally it becomes a mandate on the Ministry.

I must tell you that it is all credit to the Prime Minister, because he is so universally loved all over the country, that Parliament does not go beyond an extent, and therefore everything is being permitted. Otherwise, this is such an important question that if governments have to go, tens of them can go, but peasants' rights cannot go. And that is the feeling of the House, which is very strong.

[Shri Tyagi]

One word more. Your plan of agricultural production cannot succeed by your slogans or speeches or press statements. They do not go into the soil as fertilisers, and it does not go as a mandate or as a *fatwa*. People want something substantial. You have not been able to approach the farmer, and so many cooks spoil the broth. So many Ministries are working, it is chaotic. I would appeal to the Minister that it is a sensational matter. I tell you the country is passing through a crisis, and in this crisis a judicious view should be taken of the circumstances. And please put your own house in order. There must be some order in the Ministry, there must be unity between the Ministries. One man must control these departments, not so many. And the States also come in. I suggest the Minister take power in his own hands and do the things. Thank you.

Shri Swaran Singh: We have had a long debate, but a useful one, about important matters that exercise the minds of the hon. Members and that are important from the country's point of view.

Several points of criticism have been voiced, several suggestions in the nature of long-term rectifications or short-term proposals have been made. I entirely agree with Tyagiji that we cannot grow more food by more words or more speeches. Therefore, I will try to be as brief as possible, and try to confine myself to meeting some of the important points that have been raised.

I would first venture to place before the House my assessment of the sugar position. I am sure that the House will be glad to know that production up to 30th November—that is the latest figure that is available—does show an encouraging trend. Production as compared to 1962-63 is as much as 75,000 tons more; and even as compared to the best year in recent history, namely 1960-61, it is 15,000/16,000 tons more.

Shri Heda: What is the total estimate now?

Shri Sawaran Singh: I am coming to that. If anything is left after I have finished, you are most welcome to ask questions.

This shows that we have started well. I do not want to be over-optimistic, but I think a good start does mean something, and we should not ignore it.

What are the factors which we have to take into consideration in assessing the expected production? So far as sugarcane crop is concerned, it is about 77,000 acres more as compared to last year, that is in sheer acreage, and this increase is in the two States of U.P. and Maharashtra. These are important States because there are higher targets of production in both these States, and therefore larger acreage in these two States is a factor which we will have to take into consideration. On sheer acreage alone this should produce about a lakh of tons more of sugar.

So far as the crop condition is concerned, according to the assessment made by experts, by reports—and I think in this I will be supported by many hon. Members who come from sugarcane growing areas—the crop condition is distinctly better as compared to last year. Our estimate is that on quality it is about 15 per cent better as compared to last year.

Licensed capacity which is being pressed into action this year is 28.6 lakh tons, as compared to 25.2 lakh tons in 1961-62, which I would recall was the year in which we produced 27.14 lakh tons. In 1962-63 it was 26.8 lakh tons. I do concede that mere capacity itself is not a factor which is conclusive in producing additional sugar, because in our best year of performance with less capacity we were able to produce more, but it is a factor which should be taken into consideration. At any rate, if the sugarcane supply is assured to the mills with this additional capacity that

has been licensed, and it can be pressed, and has been pressed, into action, there is this physical capacity to produce more sugar. These are factors which we have to take into consideration.

Taking these factors into consideration, it was necessary that we take certain steps to ensure that the supply of sugarcane to the mills is maintained at a reasonable level. We took concrete steps to increase the price of cane in an effort to give as fair a deal to the cultivators as we thought would meet the exigencies of the situation. There are three distinct factors. There has been, in the first instance, an increase in general cane price applicable to all factories. An atmosphere was sought to be created here as if there had not been any general increase and there were even insinuations that the increases were confined only to particular areas. That is not correct. Certain increases of a special nature have been granted to certain areas in view of local factors but we cannot ignore this basic fact that there has been a general increase of 6 plus 12 nP, which is 18 nP. It is reflected in all the slabs even for the purpose of calculating higher price for better recovery. Secondly, there has been freight concession, pegging freight cost at 12 nP; any additional freight charges would be borne by the factory and would go into their costs. These two factors are applicable all over. Then, they will earn rebate on excise duty on additional production as compared to the base year, which is neither the best year nor the worst year but an intermediate year. All these factors have produced results with which I started my comments—75,000 tons more sugar as compared to last year. These are solid facts which could not be brushed aside by arguments; just as I cannot produce more by speeches alone, more quantities that were produced could not be washed away by criticism and speeches. I claim that various steps taken have resulted in higher production and I have every reason to hope that production trend will continue to be hopeful.

I wish to share with the hon. Members our sugar budget for the next year. We are at the commencement of our sugar season and so this is a sort of a budget debate for sugar. Our sugar season starts from 1st November and lasts till 31st October. We had at our disposal 31.86 lakh tons in 1962-63, which consisted of a carry over of 10.26 lakh tons and our production of 21.6 lakh tons; our production stood at a low level last year. Out of this 5.1 lakh tons had been utilised for exports and according to latest calculations our internal consumption throughout the 12 months stands at 25 lakh tons. I am happy to report that with very bleak prospects during the last sugar year we have succeeded in starting the current year with a carry over of 1.5 lakh tons on 1st November. Keeping the 1.5 lakh tons as a reserve for replacements or as carry over at the end of the current season, what is the position in 1963-64? I have said that I have decided not to undertake any new export commitments but we should not try to get out—it is my intention and I hope this House will also agree with me—of our international commitments because that is bad for a variety of reasons. There is the dire necessity of foreign exchange and even more important is our determination to honour international commitments. They are contractual in nature and we could not and should not get out of those commitments. Even without incurring any additional export responsibilities, I have to honour the export commitment of 3 lakh tons and we have to make a provision of at least 25 lakh tons for internal consumption at the same level as in the last year.

Shri Heda: 30 lakh tons.

Shri Swaran Singh: It is interesting that Mr. Heda wants to make a provision of 30 lakh tons. But he was citing the example of England when they cut out their ration allocations. You will agree with me that 30 lakh tons is not consistent with cutting down the rations. You cannot have it both ways. On the one hand he was

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trying to impress upon me the necessity of stepping up exports and urged that we should try to reproduce in our country the spirit of sacrifice and self-denial shown by Britishers at the time of war. Still he is asking me to provide 30 lakh tons instead of 25 lakh tons. These things do not go together. But I may say that I am not influenced this way or that way; I have to take a realistic view.

Shri A. P. Jain (Tumkur): You must provide for increase in population.

Shri Swaran Singh: Yes. I was saying that at last year's consumption rate of 25 lakh tons, there should be a production of 28 lakh tons. The target of 33 lakh tons is, even to take the most optimistic view of the situation, something which I have no doubt we will be able to achieve. The trends of production which I have indicated at the commencement of my observations do create in us hope and confidence that we will be able to produce at least this much. It is true that we should make additional provision of about a lakh of tons for increasing trends in consumption. That takes us to 29 and thus I have still a cushion of about 4 lakh tons with regard to the target of 33 lakh tons.

I am giving these figures in a most conservative manner. This does not mean that I have given up all hope of reaching a target of 33 lakh tons. My own assessment of the situation is that with the production trends that have unfolded themselves, with the availability of cane even in difficult areas—if I may appeal to the hon. Members belonging to various parties in this House—if they were gracious enough not to make a political issue of these matters and if they examine it on the facts of the situation and not raise the types of stresses and strains which have been unfortunately raised in certain parts of the country, I have no reason to doubt that we can definitely cross the 30 to 31 mark. In that position, the sugar availability

can be of an order which will enable us to tide over rather a very difficult situation which we faced during the last sugar year.

I will give another figure which will be of interest to hon. Members of this House. When my predecessor decided to impose controlled distribution of sugar in April, this year, from that time, we are making a release of 1.9 lakh tons monthly; that is the average rate of release now. If we continue our release at this rate, then in twelve months, the total releases will come to about 23 lakh tons. I am making a provision of another lakh of tons to meet the requirements of festivals, in which case it could go up to 24; even with 25, there would be a cushion of a lakh of tons. So, if the total availability for distribution is 26 lakh tons, I think it will make a significant impact upon the availability. Let us not forget that these marginal shortfalls and shortages are mainly responsible for pushing up prices. If the country develops this atmosphere of confidence which is based not on words but on actual figures and the expectations which I have tried to place in a very realistic manner, I have no doubt that these tendencies to get an additional kilo or so to meet some difficulty—that temptation—should disappear and we can therefore easily meet the situation. This is the position so far as the sugar budget for the current year is concerned.

There is an important aspect about which the House has thrown up several suggestions, namely, the curb that has been imposed on the movement of gur. I have gone into this matter with some care, and I would like to share with the House my assessment of the situation. Some very interesting aspects have come to light, and I would like to place them before the House. The total quantity of sugarcane that is grown is divided on the ratio of 1:3 to 2:3 between sugar manufacture and gur-making. I gur I include khandsari and other means where the sugarcane does not go to

the sugar factories. Two-third goes for gur and khandsari and other small-scale units by whatever name you may describe them. That is the rough figure. About one-third goes to sugar which is about 30 to 35 per cent. I am giving the order of the figure rather than the exact figure. I have made some calculations. The total production of gur and other allied products is about 58 lakh tons; the order is between 58 and 62 lakh tons; roughly it is twice the quantity that goes into sugar manufacture. What quantity out of this total production of gur goes for inter-state movement is an important factor. My thesis on this is that this small quantity which is the subject-matter of inter-State movement should not be permitted to push up the price in the main sugar growing areas, and that is the objective that should be before us. Let us not forget Uttar Pradesh with a population of over seven crores, Maharashtra which is a surplus gur-making area with a huge population. Andhra Pradesh and Madras also, are States where a large percentage of gur is consumed by the people in those very States. You will kindly appreciate that it is not only the cultivator who consumes gur. There are other people, landless labour, Harijans, the non-peasant classes of various types in those localities—all those who belong to those areas know—who consume gur, and the gur-producing areas are quite considerable.

I have carefully calculated the figures of inter-State movement of gur. The total for the last year works out to 5.3 lakh tons. This is in relation to the total production of 58 lakh tons, and even if to this you add some more movement by trucks which from the very nature of circumstances cannot be very large, the total that is the subject-matter of inter-State trade is not more than 10 per cent by any stretch of imagination. It is a matter for serious consideration as to whether to ensure a price which definitely reaches much higher levels than the ruling price which now obtains in Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madras,

Andhra—those areas which are surplus in gur—there is any justification for pushing up the overall price for gur everyone, merely to ensure that these five lakh tons of inter-State movement moves at a price which is much higher than the one which now obtains in all these gur-making areas. There is something due to the consumer in the predominantly gur-manufacturing States; gur should be available to them at reasonable prices. When I say that, I do not underestimate the difficulties my hon. friends from Gujarat or Rajasthan expressed. West Bengal is another State where some gur every year is sent from Uttar Pradesh and, strangely enough, even from Punjab. Therefore, that is a separate problem and I will come to that, as to how we deal with it. But let us not forget that it is only 10 per cent of the total gur that is produced in the country which is the subject of this inter-State movement. This inter-State movement of just 10 per cent should not, you will agree, be permitted to push up the prices for consumers all over the country. That is the basic thing which we must remember.

Besides this, let us consider the main shortfall of production of sugar in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. It is quite interesting that in Uttar Pradesh, in 1960-61, there was a production of 14.3 lakh tons. It fell to 8.52 lakh tons in 1962-63. In two years, there has been a fall of about 5½ lakh tons. It is a very staggering fall. In Bihar, from 3.85 lakh tons, it fell to 1.71 lakh tons, practically 50 per cent. In Punjab also, it fell from 1.22 lakh tons to 62,000 tons. So, if you take these three States alone, there has been this fall of roughly eight lakh tons. It is a very serious position. We should, therefore, try to understand the problem. We must ensure adequate supplies of sugarcane to the factories that are there, so that they may make up the short-fall, which to my mind is mainly responsible for creating sugar shortages in the country. It was, therefore, necessary for both these reasons namely, to ensure larger supplies of sugarcane to the factories in areas where there has been significant

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short-fall] in production and to ensure that the 90 per cent of *gur* which is not the subject-matter of inter-State movement is available to the large body of consumers in the principal producing States at prices which are reasonable.

Shri Tyagi: What about the 10 per cent which is the inter-State movement?

Shri Swaran Singh: Even for inter-State movement, it will be appreciated that if procurement at a lower price can be utilised for taking *gur* to those States and distribution arrangements there are reasonably good, they will definitely get it at a price lower than the price at which they will get if there was free movement. Are we going to throw up our hands in despair and despondency merely because we are unable to cope successfully with a situation where *gur* is available in the surplus areas at prices which are definitely lower than the prices which would obtain if they were to move on a free movement basis? If the distribution arrangements at the other end can be made reasonably good—I am not saying they may be made cent per cent good; I take a practical view and not a Utopian view—then the problem, which is a highly localised problem can easily be tackled. What are the States involved? The consuming States—the deficit States—will be Gujarat, Rajasthan and to a very marginal extent, West Bengal. If, for instance, *gur* can easily be made available from surplus areas in the various States at prices which are much lower than the prices which would obtain if there was free movement and if they are handled at the other end either in fair-price shops or cooperatives or whatever may be the mechanism that might be devised, it will be definitely in the interests of even the deficit States. It is quite normal for any reasonable trade practice to imagine that if the availability is at a lower price, distribution can definitely be arranged at a more reasonable price than if the procurement itself is at a higher price.

Dr. M. S. Aney (Nagpur): It is a question of supply of transport at the proper time, for taking it.

Shri Swaran Singh: I entirely agree with the hon. Member. Luckily for us, the transport facility provided by the railways, with which I was connected for some time, is quite easy. It is quite interesting that part of the scarcity in the surplus areas of Muzaffarnagar, Saharanpur, Meerut, and Hapur was created because of the efficiency of transport. I looked into it, about six months back. Whereas formerly traders used to have their demands for wagons pending for long, we were able to move them quickly and that created certain temporary shortages.

Therefore, my point is, I am not closing my eyes to the difficulties that are today being faced by my friends from Gujarat. But let Gujarat also remember that they depend for supply of sugar to them, which annually works out to a figure of about 2 lakh tons. One hon. Member was trying to wax eloquent saying, "Why are you trying to step up sugar production? *Gur* is enough for us." He forgot that his own State was getting supply of sugar alone, which is of the order of about 2.5 lakh tons a year. Where from will he get it if enough sugar is not produced?

Let us also remember that the prices of *gur* are very much linked maybe sympathetically with the prices that obtain with regard to sugar and any large-scale higher price which prevails in these surreptitious transactions does have a significant effect on the prices of *gur*. It is, therefore, necessary to set up production of sugar and this step has been taken with that end in view.

श्री यशपाल सिंह (कैराना) : रिकवरी सिस्टम पर भी तो कुछ कहिए ।

श्री स्वर्ण सिंह : अभी खत्म नहीं किया है ठाकुर साहब ।

The point was raised that sugarcane prices should not be linked with recovery. I must admit that I am rather new to this job. So, I tried to look up some of the older thinking on this issue. Now, as Mr. Ajit Prasad Jain has to go for lunch and I do not want to detain him, I would like to make a reference to one of his speeches in this connection.

श्री रामेश्वरानन्द (करनाल) : लकड़ी चार पांच रुपये मन बिकती है, गन्ने का भाव

श्री स्वर्ण सिंह : वह मैं आप के बोटरों तक पहुंचा दूंगा कि आप की भी यही राय थी।

The principle of linking the price of sugarcane with recovery is not new. In most of the progressive countries of the world, the price of cane is determined with reference to its quality, i.e. the sugar recovery factor. In fact, a reputed Dutch Sugarcane Expert, Dr. C. Van Dellewijn, who visited India in the early fifties remarked in one of his articles published in November, 1952:

"Sugarcane in India is paid on the basis of weight irrespective of quality. In a crop containing 10 per cent recoverable sugar, the remaining 90 per cent is made up of water and fibre, plus a negligible amount of other organic and inorganic compounds. Under the system in force, a uniform price is paid for cane whether it contains 6 or 12 per cent of recoverable sugar. Thus, the same price is paid for water and bagasse as for sucrose. This system explains the attitude of cane-growers. He is expected to grow more cane regardless of quality and consequently he grows more cane. He prefers for instance high cane yielding varieties even if canes with lower tonnage, but better quality would yield more sugar to an acre."

"Payment on the basis of cane weight is a primitive system, which has been gradually abandoned by all progressive cane countries. Even in India, it is agreed that payment on the basis of quality would mean a greater improvement.

"There is, however, a general feeling that the introduction of this system in a country with so many small cultivators would require rather extensive organisation for sampling and analysing the numerous individual cane loads. But the success obtained with this system in other countries indicates that a trial in India would be worthwhile. If the holdings in India are smaller than in other countries, this is only a difference in degree; it means more cane loads have to be sampled and analysed. But this is a matter of personnel and of laboratory capacity. Essentially, the problem in India does not differ from that in other countries and there is no reason why the system should not prove beneficial to the Indian sugar industry as it has been elsewhere."

The late Shri Rafi Ahmed Kidwai, while inaugurating the 10th Convention of the Deccan Sugar Technologists Association held in October, 1953, invited the sugar technologists to put up proposals for payment of cane price on the basis of recoverable sugar. Shri A. P. Jain, the then Minister for Food and Agriculture, while inaugurating the 24th Annual Convention of the Sugar Technologists' Association of India in October, 1956, said:

"I have no doubt in my mind that if the quality of sugarcane upon which the prosperity of the industry depends has to improve, then the price of sugarcane must be linked with the quality of sugarcane and the recovery from sugarcane. . . . I can say without the fear of contradiction that if the sugar industry in that part of the region or in the rest of the North has to survive, then the quality of

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sugarcane must be improved and what incentive has a sugarcane grower to improve the quality unless he feels that for the better quality he will get more and he also feels that for the inferior quality, he will be penalised and will get less?"

The Tariff Commission in its report on price linking formula (1961) observed:

"The guarantee of payment by mere weight has blasted all incentives to improvement in the quality of the raw material. We have no doubt that the only way out of this stalemate would be to institute a system of payment which combines a floor price for cane of average or minimum quality with the proportionate or progressive scale for quality differentials. Pending establishment of arrangements for payment by quality of sugarcane brought by individual sugarcane growers or groups of sugarcane growers, arrangement should be made to offer a collective incentive as in Maharashtra to all cane growers attached to a factory in the form of a premium element in the price of sugarcane depending on the extent to which the average recovery of the preceding season is an improvement on the previous average."

Shri A. P. Jain: Sir, if you will permit me, I want to point out one thing. He has read out extracts from my speeches. There I have suggested certain arrangements about correct assessment of recovery. I have suggested that certain administrative arrangements have been made if this experiment is to be tried. Have you made those arrangements? I have no objection to linking the price of sugarcane with recovery, but it requires many administrative arrangements. For instance, there must be a machinery to find out whether the recovery is correct. Also, there must be modernisation of machinery. Have you done those things?

14 hrs.

Shri Swaran Singh: I am particularly grateful to Shri Jain for a very nice and very well considered speech that he made. He has made very valuable suggestions not only with regard to sugarcane production and prices but about the agricultural policy as a whole.

So far as this aspect is concerned, my intention was not really to build up an argument but only to acquaint the House with the thinking that had gone before this price linking formula was evolved. If in actual implementation there have been any defects either in the matter of working out an average or some other things, we should look into it. I am prepared to look into it, and we should look into it. I have no doubt in my mind that we will have to push this a little further and make it applicable, as Shri Jain himself pointed out, to group of growers or even in the case of individual growers if they have all the machinery. That perhaps may be the ultimate objective, but in the short view we will have to undertake various arrangements which will help us in trying to implement this formula.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty (Barackpore): The actual recovery which is shown by the mills is done in such a way that the illiterate peasant does not know whether it is correct or not. What is the machinery that you have which guarantees that the recovery shown is correct?

Shri Swaran Singh: Cheating can be circumvented by making the necessary arrangements. In Maharashtra, for instance, the recovery is above a certain level. There can be marginal errors in the recovery. Even in that I am perfectly prepared to introduce some method by which the actual advantage should not disappear by any inefficient working of the mills.

Let us try to understand the formula. Without linking it to recovery,

if we have a sort of a uniform price, nobody gets the benefit. It may be that when you apply the formula on account of inefficient working of a mill or, may be, capricious working of a particular industry, somebody might suffer. One way of approaching the problem is that because there are this type of defects, therefore, we should have a uniform formula. The other way is to have a formula where we link the recovery with the price. Then we can examine as to what is the minimum recovery at which a certain minimum price should be assured. Because that is again a matter about which I think there should definitely be a cushion, we can think about that and we should make the arrangements more perfect. But, I think, in principle this formula, on the whole, has helped the growers in various parts of the country to get prices which are definitely higher than the minimum.

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): What about U.P. and Bihar?

Shri Swaran Singh: In U.P. and Bihar also they have got higher prices.

Shri A. P. Jain: It is not for the first time that this principle is being supported. There was the bonus formula. There were some defects found out in it. Then we thought of this formula. But you have not answered my question. If a factory is an outmoded imbalanced factory and recovery is low because of the defects in the factory, why should the farmer suffer?

Shri Swaran Singh: He should not suffer and we should find some answer to that. If the hon. Member has any suggestion to offer I am prepared to examine it. One suggestion that occurs to me is that there can be some sort of a laboratory test in the case of a particularly bad factory. But that will require the establishment of some mechanism. My point is, the linking formula as such, I would reiterate, is sound in principle. What should be

the minimum recovery or a level of recovery which should ensure a certain minimum price is a matter in which there is some cushion. Also, in actually implementing this formula that price be based on recovery, if there are any defects they should be removed and we should take steps to remove them.

Shri Tyagi: Past bonus has not been paid.

Shri Swaran Singh: There is no question about the principle. It should be paid. If any particular individual or mill has not paid it, it should be paid. But that does not really detract from the main principle. If there was no formula he would have got nothing, he would have got just the uniform price.

Shri A. P. Jain: Nobody denies that.

Shri Swaran Singh: I am glad there is general agreement that the price should have some relation to recovery.

Shri Tyagi: The basic price must be there.

Shri Swaran Singh: I would like to mention . . .

Shri K. C. Sharma (Sardhana): May I ask the hon. Minister, how is it possible to put a round peg in a square hole? How can you have a cent per cent rational formula worked out with dishonest millowners and uneducated and dumb cultivators?

Shri Swaran Singh: The only way for a round peg to go into a square hole is that the diameter should be properly adjusted (*Interruption*). The point is, in this case the matter is not so complicated. I agree with the philosophy of Shri Sharma. All these measures about fixation of a minimum price and ensuring that no difficulties are placed in the way of the growers and also other measures that have been undertaken are for the protection of the cane growers. That is the entire history of the fixation of minimum prices for sugar cane.

Shri A. P. Jain: I would like the hon. Minister to answer my main argument. Why are you making the farmer pay for the fault of the mill-owner? Sugar industry is one of those industries which are completely outmoded and where very little renovation has taken place.

Shri Swaran Singh: It is not my intention to argue this matter with my esteemed colleague of the stature of Shri A. P. Jain—I am the farthest to argue. So far as the outmoded state of the industry is concerned, we have taken every step to modernise the machinery, to improve the methods of crushing and the like. It is one thing to suggest that whatever practices which are undesirable are there we should try to find a solution for them, and it is quite another thing to say that we should do away with the formula. I have ventured to say this, Sir, because some opinion was voiced here about it.

Shri J. P. Jyotishi (Sagar): If the Government evolves a machinery to find out the sugar content we might agree, but if it is left to the mill-owners to find that out we cannot agree.

Shri Swaran Singh: So far as the present position is concerned, I will merely state the factual position and if there are any methods which, according to the hon. Members, are improved methods, I will certainly have them examined. They can pass on the suggestions to me even later on. Now, for working out the recovery, we do not take the average for the whole year. We take the optimum period, that is, the period when there is maximum of crushing and when the sucrose content is pretty high. We eliminate the earlier crushing period and also the later crushing period. That is the best and more scientific method we could think of. Then, in the matter of rounding off in the case of decimals, we always do it in favour of the grower. For instance, if a strict calculation gives the recovery as 9.02, we take it as 9.1. These are

the two methods which we have adopted and which, we feel do give a certain measure of concession to the grower. I do not claim they are perfect and I am the last man to defend any factory owner if he is showing false figures with regard to recovery. We should deal with it, and I will be the first person to adopt methods which might really ensure that this is implemented on a reasonable basis. Ultimately, the development of sugarcane is very essential in this respect and it will have to be attended to.

A point had been made by Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia that the local co-operative society had sold gur at an unreasonably high price. I have made some enquiries and my tentative information is that out of a quota of 1,000 tons allotted to the Union Territory of Delhi for November, 300 tons of gur were allotted to the Delhi State Central Co-operative Store of which they have imported about 100 tons. The price at which gur was purchased from Muzaffarnagar was Rs. 59 per quintal and a portion is reported to have been sold in Delhi at a price range of Rs. 80 to 85 per quintal. The Delhi Administration is looking into the matter and I will acquaint the House the result of their examination.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Why leave it to the Delhi Administration? Why do you not do it yourself?

Shri Swaran Singh: Delhi Administration is also our own. Let us not anticipate their decision or . . .

डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया : सभापति महोदय मंत्री जी भ्रगर प्रश्न के साथ उस का उत्तर भी बता दें तो ठीक हो क्योंकि श्री ब्रह्मप्रकाश ने कहा है कि ८५ रुपये क्विंटल पर बेचा । जो उन्होंने ने खरीद यानी लागत का दाम बताया करीब ७० रुपये क्विंटल मेरी समझ में वह हालत पड़ता है—कोई ६०, ६५ रुपये होता है । लेकिन हर हालत में उन्होंने ने यहाँ पर मन्जूर किया है कि २२

सैंकड़ा नफ़ा उन्होंने ने किया है। मेरे हिसाब से ४० सैंकड़ा किया है। इतना नफ़ा अगर किसी साधारण व्यापारी ने किया होता तो अब तक उस को जेल हो गई होती। चूंकि यह कांग्रेस समाजवाद ने किया है इसलिए मंत्री जी ने अभी तक कोई कार्यवाही नहीं की है। फिर भी मैं अपनी सफ़ाई के तौर पर कह देना चाहता हूँ कि मैंने कभी नहीं कहा कि श्री ब्रह्मप्रकाश के घर में यह पैसा गया है। कहा गया, मुझे इससे मतलब नहीं है। वह पैसा उन के घर गया, कांग्रेस दफ़तर में गया, चुनाव जीतने के लिये गया, इससे मुझे कोई मतलब नहीं है, इसका नुकसान हिन्दुस्तान को हुआ और इस लिये मैंने मंत्री जी को सलाह भी दी थी कि जो भी जरूरी चीज कारख़ाने में या कहीं किसी कारीगरी से बनती है, उसका बिजली का दाम लागत-खर्च से डेढ़ गुने के अन्दर होकर और भी तरह के मुनाफ़े लेते हुए। यह डेढ़ गुने वाली बात अगर सरकार मान ले, तो यह सारी समस्या हल हो जायेगी।

श्री प्रकाशबौर शास्त्री : ८५ रुपये क्विंटल भी होलसेल डीलर को दिया गया। कन्ज्यूमर को वह भी नहीं दिया गया। कन्ज्यूमर को और भी महंगा पड़ा।

Shri Swaran Singh: Sir, I will not go into the details of the various prices that have been mentioned here. As I have already said, the Delhi Administration is looking into the matter. It is enquiring into it and it is a composite . . .

श्री प्रकाशबौर शास्त्री : इन्टेलिजेंस विभाग को इन्क्वायर करने के लिये दे दिया जाये।

Shri Swaran Singh: When a matter is being looked into by the Delhi Administration . . .

डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया : सरकार इस की जांच क्यों नहीं करती ? चार दिन हो गये हैं ?

Shri Swaran Singh: I do not think it is very fair for us always to take the view that whatever the Delhi Administration does is not quite correct. That is not fair at all.

Shri Tyagi: I suggest that whenever an inquiry is being held, no word must be said either in favour of it or against it until the inquiry is complete.

डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया : यह कानूनी चीज नहीं है। यह प्रशासन की चीज है। त्यागी जी जानते नहीं हैं और बीच में बोल पड़ते हैं।

Mr. Chairman: Order, order. Let the hon. Minister have his say.

Shri Swaran Singh: I think the action that is taken is in line with the general approach that the House has voiced on problems of this type. There are two methods to deal with this. Either the House itself should take upon it this matter and decide it which is not necessary . . .

Shri S. M. Banerjee: My suggestion is that you can appoint a committee of the House to go into this.

Mr. Chairman: Order, order. Let the Minister continue his speech. Questions can be asked at the end.

Shri Swaran Singh: Have I the permission of Shri Banerjee to proceed now? Thank you.

I know that in a matter like this some catchy phrases or catchy words can always be uttered. So far as this transaction is concerned, as I have said, the Delhi Administration is inquiring into it, and that should satisfy the House. I have no doubt that the Delhi Administration will take whatever legal or administrative step that

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is called for after the enquiry is over. So, why should we start with this initial suspicion against all those arrangements that are being made?

डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया : सभापति महोदय, डेढ़ गूना वाले सूत्राव के बारे में मंत्री जी कुछ बतायें ।

Shri Swaran Singh: Another suggestion made by Shri K. C. Pant and Shri Puri is that we should entrust the work of handling sugar to a marketing board. I myself said something in this connection when I had the privilege of addressing the House on an earlier occasion. Considerable progress has been made since then and the proposals are in a fairly advanced stage and I think it will be possible for me to acquaint the House with the final decision that is being taken in that connection very soon.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: Who will be in the Board? Will the sugar mill owners be there?

Shri Swaran Singh: If I had finalised it, I would have given the complete information. I will certainly let the hon. Member know what the constitution of this board is going to be.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: What is in your mind?

Shri Swaran Singh: What is in my mind is not what is in his mind. Further, he cannot know what is in my mind unless I want him to know it.

Anyhow, this marketing board is an attractive idea, and its urgency is all the more because it will be handling 3 lakh tons by way of exports. In this connection, a final decision will be taken before long.

So far as the distribution of sugar is concerned, the States are doing the best they can under the circumstances and the quotas that are being given to

them are on the basis of the off-take for April-September 1961. The House will be interested to know that as many as 722 cases of prosecution have been instituted under the Defence of India Rules. So, it is wrong to say that no action is taken under any of these penal provisions.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: How many have been punished?

Shri Swaran Singh: Having dealt with this matter, I will come to another important matter, which has been mentioned by two or three hon. Members, and that is about the scarcity conditions in certain parts of Rajasthan and Gujarat, on which I would like to make a brief statement. Scarcity of fodder has been experienced by the States of Gujarat, Rajasthan and Punjab in certain areas. The position in respect of each of these States is as follows.

In Gujarat the scarcity of fodder has been felt in Saurashtra and Kutch area. The State has been encouraging the migration of cattle to the other areas of the State where some grazing land and water for the cattle is available. The State Government also proposes to give help to the cattle owners in kind and cash to tide over the present difficulties. As a long range measure, the State Government are also contemplating to provide more wells in the drought-affected parts and to develop fodder resources through distribution of seeds and planting material and by popularising grass conservation practices. The Central Council of Gosamvardhan has sanctioned a grant of Rs. 20,000 to the Government of Gujarat for assisting in the purchase and supply of fodder to the livestock owners in the draught affected areas.

डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया : बीस हजार रुपये केवल इतने बड़े अकाल के लिये

श्री स्वर्ण सिंह : बीस हजार सिर्फ एक संस्था ने दिये हैं

डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया : सरकार की तरफ से क्या देंगे, यह तो बताइये ।

श्री स्वर्ण सिंह : गुजरात सरकार . . .

डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया : सब से पहले आप अकाल की घोषणा कीजिये ।

श्री स्वर्ण सिंह : अगर एहतियात से मुनते तो लोहिया साहब जो कि बहुत लायक आदमी हैं, यह सवाल न पूछते ।

डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया : लायक हैं या नहीं, यह बात मंत्री न बोला करें । इस से कोई फायदा नहीं है ।

श्री स्वर्ण सिंह : बहुत अच्छा । मैं उन की लियाकत की बिल्कुल चर्चा नहीं करूंगा ।

So far as Rajasthan is concerned, on receipt of the report in July 1963 about the shortage of feeds and fodder in the drought-affected areas of Rajasthan the Union Minister of Agriculture requested the Chief Ministers of Punjab, U.P., Madhya Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh to spare as much *bhusa*, *kadabi*, *khali* etc., as possible for supply to the affected areas. In response to this request the Government of Madhya Pradesh offered to supply 1,26,780 maunds of *bhusa*, 500 maunds and 16,000 *pulas* of grass 2,000 *pindis* of *kadabi*, 7,740 maunds of *khali* and 1,740 maunds of rice bran for Rajasthan. The Government of UP offered 30,000 maunds of *bhusa* while the Himachal Pradesh Administration also intimated availability of 1,000 maunds of fodder. These offers were immediately conveyed to the Government of Rajasthan. An *Ad hoc* grant of Rs. 1 lakh was paid to the Government of Rajasthan through their Chief Minister from the funds of the Central Council of Gosamvardhan for assisting in the purchase and supply of fodder to the livestock owners in the drought affected areas.

Meanwhile the situation had eased to some extent due to rains in the

drought-affected areas. Due to lack of rains in the month of September and blowing of northerly wind, scarcity of fodder has again been experienced in the drought-affected parts of the State of Rajasthan. On receipt of a report from the Government of Rajasthan on the 22nd October in this regard, the Governments of Maharashtra and UP were again requested to supply the maximum quantity of fodder and grass to Rajasthan State to enable them to tide over their present difficulties. The Government of Maharashtra has offered to supply 2 lakh kilogramme of hay from Dhulia and the Government of UP has offered 50,000 maunds of hay from Banda District. The Government of Maharashtra were requested to supply larger quantities of fodder and hay from Dhulia. We have also moved the Railways to provide wagons on priority basis for transporting fodder or hay from UP to stations in Rajasthan.

In the course of discussions on the annual State plan the Rajasthan Government officials said that they will collect the latest information. They also said that the report which had recently appeared in certain newspapers about the large-scale death of sheep and extreme scarcity conditions in Rajasthan was not quite correct.

श्री रामेश्वरानन्द : क्या पूर्वी पंजाब में अकाल नहीं है ? पंजाब सरकार के चीफ मिनिस्टर ने खुद खली और भूसा भेजा है । मैं आप को बतलाऊँ कि करनाल, महेंद्रगढ़, सफीदों, जींद वगैरह के इलाकों में अकाल है । वहाँ पर पशु खली, भूसे आदि की कमी के कारण भूखें मर रहे हैं । पंडित नेहरू का यह लिखना तो बहुत अच्छा है कि बहुत बढ़िया चीफ मिनिस्टर पंजाब के हैं । लेकिन पंजाब का तो कोई ख्याल नहीं है ।

श्री स्वर्ण सिंह : मुझे खुशी है कि स्वामी जी को भी अंग्रेजी समझ में आती है । अभी मैं पंजाब तक पहुँचा नहीं हूँ । मैं अभी पंजाब के मुत्तलिक भी अर्ज करूँगा ।

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A provision of Rs. 15 lakhs exists for construction and installation of wells and kunds under the Centrally sponsored scheme for the development of Rathi, Tharparkar and Sanchores breeds of cattle and for the rehabilitation of nomadic cattle breeders in Rajasthan. The State Government have been informed that though there is no provision for this scheme in the Central Budget during 1963-64, all efforts will be made to meet the expenditure from savings to the extent of the State Government capacity to utilise funds during the current financial year for improving watering facilities.

As regards the Punjab, enquiries made from the Government of Punjab indicate that scarcity of fodder exists in Bhiwani and Hansi Tehsils of Hissar District due to drought and floods.

श्री रामेश्वरानन्द : करनाल में नहीं है क्या? करनाल में मैं आप को दिखा दूँ? मैंने खुद देखा है और आप भी वहाँ देख सकते हैं।

श्री स्वर्ण सिंह : जहाँ इतने बड़े बड़े घर्मात्मा हैं करनाल में, वहाँ कैसे अकाल हो सकता है।

श्री रामेश्वरानन्द : आप जैसे वृक मंत्री हैं, इसलिये पड़ा करता है।

Shri Swaran Singh: It has been pointed out that although the condition is very tight some stocks of fodder are available with the people and they have been pulling on though with difficulty. No deaths of cattle have however been reported so far. The Deputy Commissioner of Hissar has constituted a committee of officials and non-officials of the area to review the whole position and for consideration of measures to meet this emergency. The State Government propose to obtain fodder from neighbouring areas and distribute it to the peo-

ple. It is understood that the State Government have sanctioned a grant of Rs. 3 lakhs for providing relief in the scarcity affected areas.

For meeting the shortage of fodder created by drought and floods in the areas usually affected, it is proposed to establish five Fodder Banks under the Third Five Year Plan at an estimated cost of Rs. 15 lakhs. The proposal is under active consideration.

This is the factual information. Farthest from me if I have given the impression.....

श्री रामेश्वरानन्द : मैं निवेदन करता हूँ कि अगर आपको सूचना नहीं है तो मेरे निवेदन पर ही आप जानने का यत्न करें। पानीपत तहसील और करनाल तहसील के जो यमुना से लगे हुए क्षेत्र हैं, वहाँ पशु भूखों मर रहे हैं घास के बिना।

Shri Swaran Singh: I was trying to say that this is the factual information in my possession. I am not here to contradict an hon. Member who, with his personal experience, is, I grant, better able to say as to what are the conditions prevailing in any particular area.

स्वामी जी की वाकफियत के लिये मैं हिन्दी में कह दूँ कि अगर उन्होंने मुझे लिख दिया होता कि करनाल में चारे की दिक्कत है या वहाँ कुल्लू, तकलीफ है तो जरूर मैं इस के मुताल्लिक पंजाब सरकार से दरियाफत करता और जो मदद हो सकती थी जरूर करता। लेकिन अब भी जरूर करेंगे

श्री रामेश्वरानन्द : मैं आप की जानकारी के लिये कह दूँ कि कृषि मंत्री को लिख कर दिया है।

खाद्य तथा कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (डा० राम सुभग सिंह): हाँ लिखा है और उस को जवाब के लिये पंजाब गवर्नमेंट के पास भेज दिया गया है।

श्री स्वर्ण सिंह : आप ने लिखा है और
डा० राम मुभग सिंह उस को देख रहे हैं ।

I think, it is not a matter really on which there need be any controversy or difference of opinion. The heart of every hon. Member in this House, belonging to whatever party he may be, goes out in sympathy to those who might be in the grip of scarcity conditions and it will be the earnest endeavour of the Central Government and of the State Governments, I assure you, to do their best to relieve the scarcity condition. I am requesting my hon. colleague, Dr. Ram Subhag Singh, to look into this personally and, if necessary, he will then go to some of the areas where there is difficulty so that he might see the position for himself and take proper remedial action either at the State level or at the Central level.

I have no reason to doubt that the State Governments are fully conscious of their responsibilities in this connection and I need hardly assure this hon. House that the Central Government will not fail to meet their responsibilities in this respect. With that, I think, we should leave this issue.

Shri Jashvant Mehta (Bhavnagar):
rose—

Mr. Chairman: Order, order, Let him finish and then, if necessary, I will permit a few questions later on. Let him now have his full say.

Shri Swaran Singh: I know that I have already drawn very heavily on the indulgence of the House and on you, Mr. Chairman, in taking so much time and I will now like to wind up my remarks by making reference to the important question of foodgrains that has been raised by many hon. Members of the House.

One matter which has been referred to relates to the recent trend of hardening of prices of wheat in UP and the Punjab. As is well known there is a certain consumer preference for Punjab wheat, for which I am perso-

nally a little happy, because people feel that that wheat is better. That also means that sometimes the actual movement from the Punjab takes place at a rate which causes temporary shortages. I have no doubt in my mind that so far as the wheat situation is concerned, it is quite easy of rectification. We have, as my hon. colleague pointed out, a considerable reserve of wheat stocks. We have about 18 lakh tons or so. According to our import programme more wheat is coming in. We have already allocated several thousand tons of wheat to the Punjab and there is already a downward trend of prices there. And more will be supplied for distribution through fair price shops in Punjab and U. P. and I have every reason to hope that this is of a wholly temporary nature and things will definitely improve.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: Are we to believe that this rise in prices is only because of consumer preference and has nothing to do with any traders or anything? Is it only because of consumer preference?

Shri Swaran Singh: Certainly when the trader charges higher prices he takes advantage of those temporary shortages, which I do not defend. But that is the cause for it. And, as you know, wheat is not a commodity about which there are any statutory prices for distribution. So the trade, which is not unusual with them—I do not defend it, I personally do not accept this theory of prices being pushed up merely because there is greater demand—but still that is the way that the trade functions. Luckily for the country this is a position which is capable of rectification and handling because of the wheat stocks that we have got, and steps have already been taken to ensure movement of wheat both to U.P. and Punjab, and the prices will, I have every reason to hope, be kept in check.

Now, Sir, so far as rice position is concerned, luckily we are having this debate at a time when the trends in

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the prevailing prices all over the country are definitely showing a favourable turn.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: That is because of the harvest.

Shrimati Renuka Ray: How is that an answer?

Shri Indrajit Gupta: Lucky for whom?

Shri Swaran Singh: I thought it was lucky for the opposition also, because they are interested in seeing and ensuring that the trend in the price level is favourable—unless, of course, they want to make political capital out of everything.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: No, no.

Shri Swaran Singh: I am glad. So let us tackle this problem.

Shri Umanath: Every year it takes place. It is seasonal.

Shri Swaran Singh: So the criticism is also seasonal. At any rate, let the seasonal factor operate now and put some sort of a subduing effect on the criticism!

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: Not at all, because we know what is going to happen in November again next year.

Shri Swaran Singh: I am glad that the hon. lady Member has given about a year or about ten months, because she is worried about November next, October and November next year.

श्री गहमरी (गाजीपुर) : मंत्री जी सिर्फ अपोजीशन की बातों की तरफ ध्यान देते हैं। जब काश्तकार के घर में गल्ला होता है तो लकिली सस्ता हो जाता है और जब वहाँ काश्तकार के घर से निकल कर बाजार में जाता है तो किसान को उस के तीनगुने दाम देने होते हैं।

श्री स्वर्ण सिंह : आप के जज्बे से तो मुन्नालिक पाटियों को भी हमदर्दी है। मैं तो उस का मुद्दे हूँ, इसलिये कोई झगड़ा नहीं है।

Shri Umanath: Are we to depend upon luck or on the question of prices?

Shri Swaran Singh: Do not place too much reliance on words, because you yourself said that words do not produce food. Words will not detract me, I assure the hon. Member. Let us try to understand the problem.

Sir, the year that we have now passed was a difficult year. There was that considerable shortfall in the production of rice. I will not give the figures; they have been given here on more than one occasion. I am not going into the causes thereof. They are fully known to the House. Even with that considerable shortfall in the production of rice, still I think that it was possible to localise the problem. I do accept that West Bengal did face a difficult position. But I do not at all agree with the comments that have been made by some hon. Members that the West Bengal Government or the Chief Minister of West Bengal had anything to do with the difficulties that were faced by the State of West Bengal. I feel that the Chief Minister of West Bengal has been taking a great deal of personal interest in this matter, and it was his intervention which brought down the level of prices at a time when he was facing a really difficult position, particularly on account of the stoppage of movement of rice from the State of Orissa. Therefore, it is not quite fair to unnecessarily criticise the State administration for the difficulties which faced them.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: How did it come down?

Shrimati Renuka Ray: Because the Central stocks arrived.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: Rubbish. We know . . . (*Interruptions*).

डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया (फर्रुखाबाद):
जनता ने यह दाम गिरवाये, मंत्री जी ने
नहीं ।

श्री स्वर्ण सिंह : अगर डा० राम मनोहर
लोहिया को इस बात से खुशी होती है तो
मैं उन से क्या झगड़ा कर सकता हूँ ।

डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया : यह जनता
ही दाम गिरवायेगी ।

Shri Ramanathan Chettiar (Karur): Sir, on a point of order. Can an hon. Member point out another hon. Member and say 'rubbish'? Is it parliamentary? (*Interruptions*).

Mr Chairman: Order order.

An Hon. Member: 'Rubbish' is not parliamentary.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: I withdraw it and I say it is absolute nonsense. (*Interruptions*).

Mr. Chairman: Order, order. I would request hon. Members . . .

Shrimati Renuka Ray: Sir, please allow me, because she has said 'rubbish', 'nonsense' and all these things . . .

Mr. Chairman: Please resume your seat.

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy (Kendrapara): Sir, since the matter has been raised, I do not think the word 'rubbish' is unparliamentary. She has withdrawn it. But that does not matter. I think the word 'rubbish' is parliamentary and there is no question of her withdrawal. (*Interruptions*).

Shri Tyagi: Sir, may I say one word? The hon. lady Member said 'rubbish'. Then she was clever enough

to say, "I withdraw the word, it is all nonsense". And if "nonsense" is objected to, she might say "I withdraw the word, but it is all crafty" or something and go on abusing like that.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: I do not know whether it is parliamentary or not. Otherwise I will use another word; I know English quite well.

Shri Tyagi: Let her not use a third word.

Shri Ramanathan Chettiar: Sir, I have raised a point of order.

Mr. Chairman: So far as the word 'rubbish' or 'nonsense' is concerned, it depends upon the context. What I would plead is, this subject has agitated the minds of most of the Members here. I will give them an opportunity to have their say or put a question, if necessary, if certain points are not made clear. But continued interruptions like this should be avoided.

Let the hon. Minister finish . . .

Shri Ramanathan Chettiar: I have raised this point. Is this word 'rubbish' parliamentary or not?

Mr. Chairman: I have given my ruling. Let the hon. Minister finish.

Shri Ramanathan Chettiar: I wanted to know whether it is parliamentary or not. What is your ruling? I seek the protection of the Chair.

Mr. Chairman: I have already given my ruling that the word 'rubbish' or 'nonsense' by itself is not unparliamentary. But it depends upon the context.

Shri Ramanathan Chettiar: In this context?

Mr. Chairman: Order, order. Let the hon. Minister conclude. (*Interruptions*).

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: Instead of the lady Member getting agitated, she might just say on which date the stocks arrived—because she seems to know the exact dates on which they arrived—let her inform the House the date on which the stocks arrived and the date on which the prices went down. Then the whole thing will be clear. (*Interruptions*).

Shri Taygi: By that word she did not mean the person, she meant the information which she had.

Mr. Chairman: Order, order.

Shri Nambiar: Sir, both are lady Members.

Shri Swaran Singh: Sir, with great respect I entirely agree with your observation, because when there is some exchange of views, particularly between two lady Members, we should not grudge. If they want to say things to each other, we presume that they always say things in the best of taste. And it provides me an opportunity, Sir, to see if there is any point that remains uncovered. It is a blessing in disguise so far as I am concerned, and that will enable me to finish my observation more quickly.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: Don't get worried.

Shri Swaran Singh: I am here, so are you.

Sir, so far the rice position is concerned, this is a matter which is receiving very careful and very anxious consideration of the Government. Criticisms apart, speeches apart, this is a matter which has to be viewed both from the short-range point of view and also from the long-range point of view. For one thing, I agree there have been shortfalls in production on the agricultural front. The agricultural production has not come up to the levels which we hoped. This matter has been mentioned in the mid-term appraisal of the Plan and has been mentioned on other occasions also. Let us also try to under-

stand what is really the quantum of that shortfall so far as rice is concerned. If we look at our quantum of imports over several years, they have ranged from 3 to 5 lakh tons a year. The level of production is of the order of 32 to 34 million tons. If we look at it, the shortfall is only a very small percentage of our total production. With efforts for stepping up production and by maintaining a certain tempo of increase from year to year, this is not a problem which really is so dismal as it is made out by certain hon. Members.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: What is the shortfall according to you?

Shri Swaran Singh: After all, we have managed even a bad year with our internal production *plus* a little carry-over that we had *plus* a total import of four or five lakh tons—about 5 lakh tons is the maximum that we import in any year in a total production level of 33 or 34 million tons. Five lakh tons is not a very large percentage. In fact, our percentages of wheat imports are even more as compared to wheat production, when we compare this to our rice imports. Therefore, so far as the rice position is concerned, I know that last year was particularly a bad year. But let us also take into consideration the fact that with the shortfall of production of rice to the tune of 2.7 million tons or so and with an import of about 5 lakh tons only, we were able to scrape through the stresses and strains. I am not under-estimating or under-stating it. Let us try to understand the size of the problem and my feeling is that this is a problem where with a little added effort by us, by the hard working and very industrious peasants of our country, we can easily raise our production level upto a point which will meet not only our internal requirements but also will enable us to build the necessary stocks which will help us in times of difficulty.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: If the total all-India shortage is 2 million tons, is it not a fact that these shortages are being exaggerated in West Bengal?

Shri Swaran Singh: So far as production figures are concerned, they are well known and this production figure and the shortfall as compared to the last year is a figure which has been given here more than once. I would request the hon. lady Member to instruct her Party Members in West Bengal to put questions to the Chief Minister of West Bengal to explain what he said rather than ask me to explain what the Chief Minister said. I do not know precisely what the Chief Minister said and what figure he gave and what reasons he had. To tell me that the Chief Minister has said something and what is my explanation, to say the least, is not very fair.

Shri U. M. Trivedi: The Chief Minister always talks like that.

Shri Swaran Singh: Have the Jan Sangh also combined with the Communists in this?

Shri U. M. Trivedi: The Jan Sangh is as hungry as the Communists.

Shrimati Renuka Ray: On the subject of shortage of rice, I would request the Minister to at least give a reply to things that have been brought out. Is it not a fact that even if West Bengal has 50 lakh tons of foodgrains in this bumper year, she will still be short of 14 lakh tons? Has the West Bengal Government not informed the Central Government? This is a chronic feature coming up periodically every three years. Are we going to find a solution for it or not?

Shri Swaran Singh: I entirely agree with the observations made by the hon. lady Member that we have to satisfy the needs of West Bengal and other areas which depend upon the supply of food from other parts of the country. There are—all of us

know—three chronic deficit areas: Kerala, Maharashtra and West Bengal. These are the areas where supplies have to be moved from adjoining areas.

Shri U. M. Trivedi (Mandsaur): Maharashtra is no longer deficit.

Shri Shivaji Rao S. Deshmukh: Maharashtra is deficit in rice.

Shri Swaran Singh: In rice, not in foodgrains as a whole.

Shrimati Renuka Ray: Is it not a fact that West Bengal is deficit because $3\frac{1}{2}$ lakh tons of rice could have been produced where now jute is being produced to earn more foreign exchange?

Shri Swaran Singh: I did not contradict her; she made a very excellent speech saying that the diversion of certain paddy fields to jute growing is responsible for creating a deficit in the State of West Bengal. I would appeal to the hon. Members of this House that arguments of this nature need not be given because in the matter of food production and, in fact, in the matter of agricultural production as a whole and also in industrial production, we have been taking a view of the country as a whole—jute in one area, more rice in another, more wheat in another area, more steel in one area and more minerals in another area. We must always have an all-India picture before our mind and if there are shortages in any area, they may be shortages within their control or beyond their control. We have to meet the situation as we find. Whatever be the reasons, here we are faced with a problem where certain parts of our country do depend upon the supply of rice, the commodity which we are discussing at the moment. Therefore, we have to ensure that necessary steps are taken to see that the supplies are adequate.

Now, what are those steps that are proposed to be taken? For one

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thing, the important source of supplying rice to West Bengal is Orissa and the movement of rice from Orissa has already taken place and that has had a good effect upon the level of prices in West Bengal. The other point is, what are the regulatory measures that are sought to be taken—the regulation of margins charged by wholesalers and retailers over their costs? State Governments have been asked to issue orders under the Defence of India rules and Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal Governments have already taken action. The corollary of this is strengthening of administrative machinery for checking of stocks and accounts which we have asked the State Governments to strengthen particularly in West Bengal, and the West Bengal Government have promised to do so. The question of assisting the State Governments financially to meet the cost of such machinery is under consideration. The State Governments have also been asked to issue rules to prohibit fair price shops and approved retailers from charging any price higher than that prescribed by Government. Action on this has already been taken by Maharashtra, West Bengal and U.P. A scheme is under consideration for the setting up of a purchase organisation with a view to purchasing paddy and converting it into rice and then selling it in States during the period of high prices to check them from rising.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: About the last one, where is it being implemented?

Shri Swaran Singh: This will be obviously in surplus paddy areas of Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and even may be Andhra Pradesh.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: The marketable surplus will again go to the hoarders in our State.

Shri Swaran Singh: The West Bengal Government has agreed—this might be of some satisfaction to the

hon. lady Member—to procure rice and to hold it for such a situation. So, there will be some procurement even in West Bengal. The import of rice from Nepal and inter-zonal movement of rice in order to augment the supplies during the period of high prices is also one of the measures that has been resorted to. This could also be suitably introduced at the right moment. The intention is that both by regulating trade and by increasing the availability in a period of scarcity and of consequential high prices, the traders would be prevented from pushing up the prices in a manner they have been doing. It is one of the conditions of the licences issued to the wholesale licensees that they will not charge margins in excess of those prescribed by Government or agreed to with their association. For breach of this, their licences can be cancelled, or when securities are prescribed, they can be forfeited. So, I think that these regulatory measures on the wholesale trade will have a salutary effect, and I hope that the fears that some hon. Members entertain about October or November next year may be kept well in check. We are now at the commencement of the season when the rice crop has started coming in.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: What is the price that is going to be fixed? Will it be open market transactions? Or will it be a levy on the rice mills? What will be the actual price?

Shri Swaran Singh: I think that, that has been stated more than once. It is not our intention to interfere with the market operations or to introduce any statutory price for purchase, but the intention is to provide a support price so that paddy or rice price, when the crop arrivals take place, does not fall below a certain level.

When the stocks are there with the licensed holders and the margins are prescribed, and the stocks are also

known, then, it is quite possible to regulate it, and let us not try to read danger where I feel it does not exist, that is, in a type of situation which we can control. So, this is a new emphasis, and this is a new method of exercising effective control at the wholesale level, which, I hope, will have a salutary effect in keeping the prices under check.

Shrimati Renuka Ray: What about the Centre taking over the responsibility for feeding Calcutta, so that this continuous and chronic thing might end? And the rest of West Bengal could feed itself.

Shri Swaran Singh: I think that, that is a matter of detail. If the overall availability of rice in the State of West Bengal including Calcutta is there, then, it is a matter of detail as to who does it. Personally, I would leave it to the State Government to organise distribution, and I think the Centre should not come in.

Shrimati Renuka Ray: The Centre can supply and the State agencies can distribute.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: The fair price shops do not have rice. The distribution has also to be looked into. The fair price shops do not have rice. There is black marketing of rice. This is exactly our charge.

Shri Birendra Bahadur Singh (Raj-nandgaon): Is it only the privilege of the lady Members to interrupt the hon. Minister or can the other Members also put questions to the hon. Minister?

Mr. Chairman: I have already requested the lady Members to have a little patience with the hon. Minister when he is explaining the whole position, and they would get an opportunity later to put questions, if there are any points on which further clarification is needed.

Shri Swaran Singh: My own estimate is that for the Central reserve and also the State requirements, the

actual level of procurement this year is bound to be substantial, and helped by the import programme of the current year, I do anticipate that the buffer stock position will be much better. There is also the imposition of these regulatory measures at a strategic point. These are factors, the efficacy of which need not be underestimated. Let us watch the position, and we shall certainly be able to review the position and will not hesitate to take even more stringent measures if necessary. But let us not cause a scare at a time, at any rate, when there is little justification for a scare of this nature.

There are two substitute motions, one by Shri S. M. Banerjee and another by Shri Inder J. Malhotra.

Shri Shivaji Rao S. Deshmukh: Before the hon. Minister deals with the motion proper, I would like to ask one question . . .

Shri Swaran Singh: Let me finish what I was going to say.

I am sorry I cannot accept these motions for the reasons I have already given. It is not my intention to go into the various clauses or the various subparagraphs of these motions.

So far as the suggestion for the appointment of an agricultural commission is concerned, normally, it is quite attractive for any administration, when it is faced with a difficult situation, to appoint a commission, because then they can say that the commission will examine and all that, but I think that there has been enough examination, and we know most of the problems, and we are taking some concrete steps to grapple with the situation, in the matter of the organisational set-up both at the Centre and in the States, into the details of which I need not go. We have set up an Agricultural Production Board. The Agriculture Minister is also made responsible for the activities in the Ministry of Community Development and Co-operation and also the Minis-

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try of Irrigation and Power in so far as they relate to agricultural production. At the State level, Ministerial committees have been constituted to give special attention to agricultural production programmes, and even at the district level and the block level, the recommendations made by the Working Group have been accepted, and action has already been initiated. And I do not feel the necessity, as the situation stands today, of constituting any agricultural commission.

So, I oppose the two substitute motions which have been moved.

Shri Tyagi: The hon. Minister has said nothing about the cane prices. The subject was hotly discussed in this House.

Some Hon. Members rose—

Mr. Chairman: I shall permit one question to each Member.

Shri Tyagi: The hon. Minister has said nothing about raising the cane price to Rs. 2

Some Hon. Members rose—

Mr. Chairman: Only one Member should speak at a time. If any clarification is needed, then I shall give opportunities to hon. Members.

Shri Tyagi: The hon. Minister has avoided one question which is causing great anxiety in the minds of all of us. I want to know whether he is going to raise the price to Rs. 2 or he wants a formal motion to be brought forward before the House for that purpose.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: The motion is there already.

Shri Swaran Singh: I have taken note of the feeling that has been expressed in this connection. Without expressing any opinion at the present stage on this matter, because there are certain aspects which are very

intimately connected with this, namely the effect of this on the prices, either of sugar or of other related commodities, and there are a number of other factors which will have to be carefully examined, I would say this; I know the feelings that have been expressed, and I shall certainly give very great weight to the views that have been expressed, and it may be possible to finalise a decision in this respect before long, that is, in a matter of days.

Shri Tyagi: We thank the hon. Minister for this.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: May I know whether he is going to implement the recommendations regarding price stabilisation board, the price stabilisation organisation and the price intelligence division? These are three important recommendations of the Ashoka Mehta Committee. I want to know whether the price stabilisation board will be constituted not as an advisory body but as a statutory body.

Shri Swaran Singh: Shri Ashoka Mehta luckily is with us now as Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission. So far as his report is concerned, he made this report several years ago. I shall take the earliest opportunity of discussing these matters with him, and in view of all these other things that have happened in the interval, taking into account whatever may be the latest thinking in the light of our experience in the interval, we shall certainly take appropriate action with regard to various recommendations.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: It is a most unsatisfactory answer.

Shri P. R. Patel (Patan): May I know whether Government are going to constitute a board to fix the minimum prices for different agricultural commodities?

Shri Swaran Singh: I think that, that is the same idea as price stabilisation organisation.

Shri P. R. Patel: This is different. That was regarding price stabilisation. I want to know about minimum remunerative prices for agricultural commodities.

14.58 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

Shri Sawran Singh: I have no intention of constituting such a board.

Shri Karni Singhji (Bikaner): Do the Government of India propose to advise the Rajasthan Government to declare a famine officially in the scarcity areas of Rajasthan?

Shri Swaran Singh: I have no doubt that if it is necessary the Rajasthan Government will declare those areas as famine areas. There is no need for any advice from the Centre. I have already said that my colleague the Minister of Agriculture, Dr. Ram Subhag Singh will look into this matter personally, and if necessary, he will also go to the spot, and necessary steps will be taken.

Some Hon. Members rose—

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order. I cannot allow so many questions. This is not the Question Hour.

If I allow one question to each, it will take half an hour.

Shri Shivaji Rao S. Deshmukh: Not a single question has been allowed to be put on this side.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I will allow only those who have not spoken.

15 hrs.

Shri Shivaji Rao S. Deshmukh: Also those who have spoken, but have not been answered.

Shri Birendra Bahadur Singh: I have not spoken. I want to put two questions only concerning Madhya Pradesh. One is why are prices not declared before the crop has left the farmer? The position now is that prices are always declared when the crops have left the farmers. Government must declare the prices when they see that the crop is there with the farmer. The second question is this. Madhya Pradesh generally sends rice to Gujarat and Maharashtra. It is all right. We have no objection. But only surplus rice should be sent. Will the Government of India insist on Madhya Pradesh not to send all its rice to other States?

Shri Swaran Singh: The replies to both questions are simple. So far as the first is concerned, support prices are always declared much in advance of the time of the arrival of the crop, because there is no point in doing it afterwards.....

Some Hon. Members: No, no.

Shri Swaran Singh: Support prices for the next season are always declared and announced much in advance. I has already been declared..

Shri Birendra Bahadur Singh: If they are not declared earlier, what happens is that the crop leaves the farmer.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order. He should resume his seat.

Shri Swaran Singh: So far as the other question is concerned, how can all the rice from Madhya Pradesh be sent to any other place? Obviously, it is only the surplus rice that goes from there.

श्री गहमरी (शाजीपुर) : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि राईस का जो दाम लगाया जायेगा, इस बात की क्या गारण्टी है कि वह उसी दाम पर बेचा जायेगा ? अगर वह सस्ता लिया जायेगा और महंगा बेचा जायेगा, तो उस का फायदा किस को होगा ? कल्टी-वेटर्ज के इन्ट्रेस्ट की तरफ ध्यान नहीं दिया

[श्री गहमरी]

जाता है। जो चावल १६ रुपये मन लिया जाता है, वह ४५ रुपये मन के हिसाब से बेचा जाता है। वह किस के फायदे के लिए बेचा जाता है? गवर्नमेंट को खरीदने का क्या हक है?

श्री स्वर्ण सिंह : माननीय सदस्य का जज्बा बिल्कुल ठीक है। इसीलिए मैं ने रेगुलेटरी मेजरज का जिक्र किया। होलसेलज को कितना मुनाफा मिलना चाहिए, वह हम ने तय किया है और उस मार्जन से ज्यादा बे नहीं ले सकेंगे।

श्री गहमरी : बे लेते हैं। चावल १६ रुपये मन लिया जाता है और ४५ रुपये मन बेचा जाता है। इस के लिए कौन जिम्मेदार है?

श्री अ० प्र० शर्मा : माननीय मंत्री महोदय ने कहा है :

'Hard working peasants will definitely put more efforts and make up the shortage'.

मेरा प्रश्न यह है कि उन क्षेत्रों के हार्ड-वर्किंग पेजन्ट्स, जहाँ सिंचाई की व्यवस्था नहीं है,—जैसे कि बिहार के उस हिस्से में, जो गंगा के किनारे है और जिस के बारे में मैं ने कल पूछा था—चाहे कितना भी हार्ड वर्क करें, वहाँ पर गल्ला नहीं हो सकता है, इसलिए क्या वहाँ पर पैदावार बढ़ाने के लिए सिंचाई की व्यवस्था हो सकेगी?

श्री स्वर्ण सिंह : माननीय सदस्य ने एक कांस्टीट्यूएन्सी की बात कही है। जहाँ तक उसूल की बात का ताल्लुक है, जाहिर है कि अगर सिंचाई का इन्तजाम हो जाये, तो ज्यादा पैदावार होगी। लेकिन मेरी राय यह है कि कि अगर सिंचाई न भी हो और आदमी मेहनत ज्यादा करे, तो पैदावार बढ़ सकती है और

जहाँ सिंचाई है, वहाँ पैदाशी ज्यादा मेहनत करे, तब भी पैदावार ज्यादा बढ़ सकती है।

Some Hon. Members rose—

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy (Kendrapara): Shri Jashvant Mehta had got up earlier. The Chairman had promised to allow one question to him.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All right.

Shri Jashvant Mehta: Regarding the problem of drinking water in scarcity areas, the Gujarat Government had demanded from the Central Government a substantial amount for supply of drinking water. The hon. Minister has stated that they are going to tell the State Government to arrange for it in the next budget. But have any concrete steps been taken by the Centre?

Shri Swaran Singh: I do not think it is very relevant to the present debate. It is an important matter that he has raised. But I am not quite sure whether I am concerned with drinking water. But I can pass it on to the Ministry concerned.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: In view of the very unsatisfactory statement made by the Minister, specially with regard to price stabilisation and prices for the various food crops, we walk out. We do not participate in the debate.

15.05 hrs.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty and some other hon. Members then left the House.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Shri Inder J. Malhotra is not present in the House. I will put his substitute motion No. 1 to vote.

The motion was put and negatived.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Shri S. M. Banerjee is also not present in the House. I shall put his substitute motion No. 2 to vote.

The motion was put and negatived.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The discussion is over.