

[श्री सिद्धेश्वर प्रसाद]

कदम उठाने की जरूरत है उस के लिये प्रयत्नशील है।] इस लिये जब कि माननीय शिक्षा मंत्री ने मेरे इस सेकल्प की बुनियादी बातों को न केवल स्वीकार कर लिया है बल्कि वह आवश्यक कदम उठाने के लिये तत्पर भी है तो मैं ऐसी स्थिति में यह उचित मानता हूँ इस प्रस्ताव को वापस ले लूँ। जिन वक्ताओं ने इस प्रस्ताव पर अपने अमूल्य सुझावों से हमें लाभान्वित करने का प्रयत्न किया है मैं उन सभी का धन्यवाद करता हूँ।

चूँकि इस प्रस्ताव का सभी वक्ताओं ने एकमत से समर्थन किया है वे चाहे सदन के इस ओर के हों अथवा उस ओर के हों इसलिये मैं यह अनुभव करता हूँ कि सरकार इस राष्ट्रीय शिक्षा नीति के निर्धारण के प्रश्न को पूरी गम्भीरता के साथ ग्रहण करेगी और इस के लिये जो भी कदम उठाने की आवश्यकता होगी उसे पूरी तडपरता के साथ उठायेगी। इसलिये मैं अपने प्रस्ताव को वापिस लेते हुए और आप को धन्यवाद करते हुए अपना स्थान ग्रहण करता हूँ।

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I take it that he has the leave of the House to withdraw his Resolution.

Some Hon. Members: Yes.

The Resolution was, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Shri B. K. Das . . . absent. Shri S. M. Banerjee:

16.31 hrs.

**RESOLUTION RE: RISE IN PRICES
OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES**

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): Sir, I beg to move:

"In view of the growing discontent among the people of this country against Government's

failure to check abnormal rise in prices of all essential commodities, this House recommends to Government the following for immediate adoption and implementation:—

- (i) State Trading in foodgrains;
- (ii) ban on speculation in foodgrains;
- (iii) exemplary punishment to hoarders and black-marketeers; and
- (iv) formation of a Price Stabilisation Committee."

Sir, yesterday, the hon. Finance Minister, Shri T. T. Krishnamachari in reply to a question said this. Before I read it, I must congratulate Shri T. T. Krishnamachari for his bold and firm stand which he took during the Question Hour. He said:

"The mere existence of a Price Stabilisation Board—there is one which does exist in my Ministry today, the Price Committee of the Secretaries—does not seem to do any good. It is a matter which has to be considered in conjunction with the Chief Ministers, and it seems to my mind—it does not bind either the Government or the Chief Ministers at the moment—that it is almost inescapable that there will have to be a rigorous system of State trading and rigorous control over retail distribution, but this cannot be done by the Central Government because the Central Government has neither the agency nor the competence for the purpose, without the collaboration of the States."

He made a definite statement and I hope he came to the conclusion that State trading was the only solution now in the present situation of the country. I hope our Finance Minister, in consultation with the Food Minister and his Cabinet colleagues,

has come to this conclusion and I hope the State trading in foodgrains is likely to be introduced or will be introduced very soon to arrest the rising prices.

Sir, I am not a supporter of any control. We do not want any control unless it becomes absolutely essential. When sugar was controlled and decontrolled many times, we know that when it was under control the situation was the same and even after decontrol the situation did not improve because of the corrupt distribution machinery. It was admitted by my friend, Shri Thomas and also by the Finance Minister that the distribution machinery—they did not use the word 'corrupt' but they did use these words—has not adequately worked or efficiently worked. So, my suggestion is that they should have State trading in foodgrains immediately.

The Prime Minister-designate of this country, Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri, for whom I have great regard has said this on economic issues. This is what has appeared in the press:

"While outlining his approach to economic questions, Mr. Shastri laid stress on the urgent need to arrest the soaring prices. In a few days he would discuss with the Ministers for Food and Agriculture and Finance as well as the Planning Commission what 'practical' measures should be taken in that regard."

I know Shastriji has many qualities of our late Prime Minister Shri Nehru. The biggest compliment I can pay him today is by saying that he is the 'pocket edition Nehru'. He must rise to this occasion and take a firm decision for bringing the prices down. When we talk of State trading, my other friends in the Swatantra Party and other parties may object to it. They may say that de-control is the only solution and that free market is the only solution. But if State trad-

ing cannot solve the problem, let them give another alternative. What is the other alternative? What is the other programme? They must come out with this before objecting to State trading.

Sir, the Bengal Cabinet also discussed this food situation because you know the condition in Calcutta and other places in West Bengal excite horror than pity. I was recently there from 17th May to 24th May and I saw that there was no rice available—no rice available anywhere. The price of fish was ranging from Rs. 5 to Rs. 8 per kilo and still it was not available. The price of mustard oil went up from Rs. 3 to Rs. 3.50 nP. and in certain places to Rs 4. And still the sense of complacency is going on.

This is what the papers say:

"The West Bengal Cabinet discussed the serious food situation in the State for over two hours today.

"The Cabinet is understood to feel that the price line for rice can be held if the State obtains 400,000 tons of rice from Orissa. So far only 50,000 tons of rice has come to West Bengal from Orissa.

But some anxiety has been caused by reports that the price of rice in Orissa and Bihar is higher than that fixed by the West Bengal Government.

After the meeting, Mr. P. C. Sen, the Chief Minister told reporters that West Bengal was the only State which had fixed the price of paddy and rice.

While claiming that partial state trading had been undertaken in the State, he said that "full control" of rice and other essential commodities would be ineffective and would create more problems than it would solve unless rationing was enforced in all States."

[Shri S. M. Banerjee]

I do not know whether all the Chief Ministers of the States will subscribe to the ideology of Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari. I wish him all the good luck. But I do not know whether he will really be able to rally round all the Chief Ministers of the States, his own colleagues in the Cabinet and even the Members in this House because I see an amendment to my Resolution. It reads:

"That in the resolution,—

(i) after "commodities" insert—

"and ensuring adequate remunerative prices to the growers of agricultural produce";—

I agree with this; I accept this amendment. And then further it says:

(ii) for "State Trading in foodgrains" substitute—

"effective functioning of co-operative marketing societies".

Sir, it clearly reveals the mind. It really takes us to the situation where it is said: Do not accept State trading because some Leftists lead in this country for State trading. What is the solution? People are not going to die like this. What happened in Bengal happened in Rajasthan. More than one lakh people were just facing starvation. My hon. friend, Maharaja Karni Singhji perhaps submitted the report. He toured the entire Rajasthan area. He is neither a Communist nor a Socialist. He said that more than one lakh people were facing starvation in Rajasthan. What happened in U.P.? Whenever our Food Minister had a press conference about the price of wheat, the price used to go up. Ultimately, we had to request our Food Minister not to deliver speeches because every speech pushed up the price. Ultimately, we find that the main food of U.P., namely wheat is being sold at a high

price. Similarly, arhar dal is being sold at one rupee per kg.

Shri U. M. Trivedi (Mandsaur): Where do we get it so cheap? I am paying Rs. 1.30 per kg.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: That is very good. They may charge more from my hon. friend, because he is a Member of Parliament and his salary is going to be increased. But the common man is paying at least one rupee per k.g. The price of wheat in the open market is 1 seer and 6 chattaaks per rupee. That is the price in the wheat-producing area.

Then, what is happening to other articles like vegetable in the market? The position is as follows. The hon. Minister Shri B. R. Bhagat did not give us the retail price, but he did admit that the rise was 8½ per cent. He said yesterday:

"As for the extent of rise, the wholesale price index was 138.9 at the end of February, 1964 as against 143 by 16th May."

Then I put another question:

"Why don't you say something about retail prices?"

Shri B. R. Bhagat replied:

"It is 8½ per cent higher."

Then hon. Minister was referring to the wholesale price. When my hon. friend Shri A. P. Jain wanted to pinpoint him by saying that he must know the retail prices, Shri B. R. Bhagat replied:

"We do not have the figures."

This was what he said yesterday. I doubt very much whether Shri Swaran Singh or Shri A. M. Thomas has got any figures in this regard. No figures and no statistics can convince the people of this country that there has not been any rise. My hats off to the people of this country for their patience! Had it been any other

country, they would have thrown this Government out.

What is happening today? What is the position in regard to the index figures? I shall give the wholesale index figures for February, 1963 and February, 1964.

They were as follows:

Item	Index figure in	
	Feb. 1963	Feb. 1964
Cereals	102	122
Pulses	103	129
Fruits and vegetables	133	157
Milk and ghee	122	128
Edible oil	146	155
Fish, egg and meat	135	153
Sugar and gur	148	177
Others	178	180
Group Index	124.2	140.4
Fuel, power and light lubricants	123.4	139.5

I wish to point out also the difference in the wholesale prices between January, 1964 and February, 1964. The figures were as follows.

Item	Index figure in	
	Jan. 1964	Feb. 1964
Cereals	118	122
Pulses	124	129
Fruits and vegetables	147	157
Milk and ghee	127	128
Edible oils	150	155
Fish, egg and meat	155	158
Others	178	180
Group Index	137.8	140.4

I would also like to point out that the prices are increasing every week. I have before me figures indicating the wholesale prices week by week. I might mention the figures, for instance, in regard to cereals. On 9th May, 1964 it was 147.7 on 2nd May, 1964, it was 146. That shows that it has risen in one week from 146 to 147.7. On 11th April, 1964, it was 143. So, from 143 in April, it has risen to 147.7 on 9th May, 1964. The figure on 11th May, 1963 was 131.4. Similarly, in

regard to pulses and other things also, the prices have been going up week after week. Even during the period from the 2nd to the 9th May, 1964 the prices have registered an increase.

If this be the situation, I do not know what the fate is going to be of those 27 crores of people, who even according to the Planning Minister, are just getting 7½ annas per day. Are they not facing a starvation condition? According to the reports of various commissions, half of the population belonging to the entire working class is getting just above the starvation line and sometimes below the starvation line also. And what is the compensation that has been given to neutralise the price increase?

The Central Government employees wanted something more. They fulfilled all the conditions according to the Pay Commission's recommendations. But what were they actually given? The lowest-paid employees was given the smallest amount, namely Rs. 3.50, that is, three rupees and fifty paise. The term 'naya' has been removed now. That is the only consolation. This sum of Rs. 3.50 is given to those who are getting between Rs. 70 and Rs. 100. But Rs. 10 to 20 is given to those who are getting between Rs. 500 and 600. Is that socialism? I do not know this Congress Socialism. If that is the conception of socialism then the people will think that this socialism is much more dangerous than the Chinese aggression, because it goes into the houses. I must warn this Government. I do not want to impute any motive to any Member of the Cabinet, but my warning applies to all. If they want to move this country towards socialism, let them make up their minds about the prices. Let them make up their minds whether they are going to introduce State trading in foodgrains.

I am happy that forward trading on 14 items has been banned. That is good, but I must submit that this decision was also taken very late.

[Shri S. M. Banerjee]

Speculation going on, and banks are giving advances. And yet the banks could not be nationalised. Unless the banks are nationalised, these advances will go on, and everything will be purchased by a handful of persons, and the prices will not come down. Therefore, my submission is that a price stabilisation committee should be formed.

My second suggestion is that Government should immediately convene a conference of the representatives of various political parties, progressive and eminent economists, trade union representatives, and representatives of kisans, and immediately try to solve this matter by sitting across the table and getting their suggestions. Otherwise, I am afraid that a day will be fast approaching when all those who are unhappy over this may raise their mighty voice.

What happened in Calcutta on the 20th of last month? The Chief Minister of West Bengal said to the press very proudly that the strike was partial and it could not materialise, because of the efficiency and effectiveness of the West Bengal Government. I was there on the 20th and I know that each tram and bus was escorted by six or seven police constables. But I may tell you that if the people get rice at Rs. 55, fish at Rs. 8, wheat at Re. 1 per kilo and they will get also one k.g. or less, no police or army can control the situation.

I would have liked had the Finance Minister been here. He made a statement yesterday, and I think he must be in a soup today. They must have said: "Why do you make such statements? We have not consulted Birlas, we have not consulted many other people. Why should you make such statements which smell of socialism. Talk of socialism, but do not believe in socialism. That is the whole thing."

Not only the prices of foodgrains, but the prices of soap, of vegetables,

of everything have increased in this country. In Kanpur I purchase my monthly rations. I take about five units. The whole month's ration I used to purchase at Rs. 52, and now I have to pay Rs. 66 or Rs. 67 for the same thing. Where should the common man get this Rs. 13 or Rs. 14 more, whether a Government employee or a non-Government employee? I know that the pay of Members of Parliament will be increased. The Bill is there in the other House. Within 1½ hours people started such a mad rush to increase their salary by 40 per cent, while giving only three rupees and fifty naya paisa, sorry paisa, to the Government servants after two years of struggle. That is the story of socialism.

That is why I give a warning that if within six months Government fails to bring down the prices, there will be an agitation throughout the country, whether people are put behind the bars under DIR or not, because that will not solve the problem. Blackmarketing must come to an end, hoarding must come to an end, and that can only be done by Government not by producing statistics here, but by taking stern measures. When they talk of statistics, it reminds me of a story.

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Swaran Singh): Today you have given a lot of statistics.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: That is from the books that you produce. I never quote my statistics because I have no machinery for producing statistics.

Shri Swaran Singh: You rely on them?

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I do rely on them as long as I believe them. I have great faith in this Government, I have faith in you also, I have faith in human nature.

But the story is very interesting, and because it comes from the villages of U.P. I will tell it in Hindi.

एक पी० बन्धू० डी० के भ्रोवरसियर थे। उन का काम एक ही था। वह सारी उम्र औसत निकालते रहे। कोई भी बिल्डिंग बनानी हो, उस की ऊंचाई, उस की गोलाई, उस की बीवार की मोटाई आदि सब को देख कर वह औसत ही निकाला करते थे। हमारी सरकार भी स्टैटिस्टिक्स निकालती है और उन के बल पर ही निष्कर्ष पर पहुंचती है कि कमी नहीं है, पी० एल० ४८० में इतना आ रहा है, यहां इतना पैदा हो रहा है। उस के अनुसार इस तरह से यहां पर गेहूं की बालियां ही बालियां होनी चाहिये यहां पर गेहूं की कोई कमी नहीं होनी चाहिये। उस भ्रोवरसियर को एब्रेज में बड़ा विश्वास हो गया था। जब वह रिटायर हुआ तो अपने बीवी बच्चों को साथ ले कर गांव जाने लगा। बीच में एक छोटी सी नदी पड़ती थी। जब वह अपनी बीवी बच्चों के साथ नदी के किनारे पहुंचा तो उस ने कहा कि ठहरो मुझे पानी की गहराई का एब्रेज निकाल लेने दो तब इस को बारी बारी से पार करना। वह गहराई का एब्रेज साढ़े तीन फुट निकाल कर बाहर आ गया। तब उस ने अपने बेटे को जो चार फुट का था कहा कि चला जा। थोड़ी देर के बाद वह डूबने लगा और जब उस की मां चिल्लाई तो कहने लगा कि यह डूब नहीं सकता है, पानी का एब्रेज साढ़े तीन फुट है। बच्चा डूब गया। तब उस की बीवी गई। वह पांच फुट की थी। वह भी जब कुछ दूर गई तो डूबने लगी। वह चिल्लाई, उस ने कहा घबराओ मत, तुम डूब नहीं सकती हो, पानी का एब्रेज सिर्फ साढ़े तीन फुट है। जब बीवी भी डूब गई, बच्चे भी डूब गये तो हाथ जोड़ कर वह बैठ गया और भगवान से प्रार्थना करने लगा, "हे भगवान, औसत ज्यों का त्यों, मेरा कुनबा डूबा क्यों।" इसी तरह से मैं कहूंगा "तुम्हारे आंकड़े ज्यों के त्यों, फिर देश डूबा क्यों।" आंकड़ों के हिसाब से देश में गेहूं भी है

798(A) LSD—8.

दाल भी है, सब कुछ है तो फिर कमी क्यों पड़ती है? आखिर यह हो क्या रहा है?

मैं निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि मंत्री महोदय आंकड़ों का सहारा न लें, वस्तुस्थिति को देखें। एक दिन वह साधू का वेश धारण करके बाजार में चले जायें और देखें कि चीनी के लिये किस तरीके से और कितनी लम्बी लम्बी लाइनें लगती हैं.....

एक माननीय सदस्य : आप इन को साधू बनाना चाहते हैं ?

श्री हुकम चन्द कश्यप : गेहूँ आना है।

श्री स० मो० बनर्जी : इन को कोई नहीं पहचान सकेगा।

My request is only this. Let them have an open enquiry as to how things sell in the market, whether it is vegetable oil or mustard oil or soap or vegetable or anything, the thing which was available for 50 paise is sold at Re. 1/- today. But from statistics made available, prices had gone up, it appears, by 12½ per cent. It is not so, whether it is Punjab or Bengal or any other State. This is not the way to reach socialism. If people die of starvation today, who will enjoy socialism? Their grandsons? No it should not be so. The Finance Minister has said that State Trading should have to be done. I hope, therefore, that my Resolution will be accepted. If it is not accepted, people will say that they believe in one thing but say something else. With these words, I commend my motion to the House and I hope that my hon. friends would support it.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"In view of the growing discontent among the people of this country against Government's failure to check abnormal rise in prices of all essential commodities, this House recommends to Government the following for

[Mr. Deputy-Speaker]

immediate adoption and imple-
 mentation:—

- (i) State Trading in foodgrains;
- (ii) ban on speculation in food-
 grains;
- (iii) exemplary punishment to
 hoarders and black-market-
 eers; and
- (iv) formation of a Price Stabi-
 lisation Committee."

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There is an amendment. Is Mr. Malaichami mov-
 ing it?

Shri Malaichami (Periyakulam): I
 beg to move:

That in the resolution,—

- (i) after "commodities" insert—

"and ensuring adequate remun-
 erative prices to the grow-
 ers of agricultural produce";
 and

- (ii) for "State Trading in food-
 grains" substitute—

"effective functioning of co-
 operative marketing so-
 cieties".

I am happy that the Mover has
 said he would accept my amendment
 which ensures adequate remunerative
 price to the growers of agricultural
 products. From that we can under-
 stand that a very peculiar situation
 about prices prevails in the country.
 On the one hand consumers are not in
 a position to get things at reasonable
 prices. But at the same time, the
 producers also are denied a reason-
 able remuneration. It prevails not
 only in the agricultural sector—I
 mean this situation—but also in the
 industrial side also. Unless the price
 to the consumers is ensured at a
 reasonable level and the producers
 also are enabled to get a decent price
 for their production, it is not possible
 to maintain economic growth. The

price policy of the Government must
 be such that the producers who
 constitute the nation must get a rea-
 sonable price for their products and
 the consumers get things at a reason-
 able price.

Since my amendment is essentially
 about remunerative prices to the
 growers of agricultural produce, I
 will confine my remarks only to that
 section. The hon. Mover of the
 Resolution has said that the price of
 all commodities had gone up to such
 a level that there is much discontent
 among the people. In the same
 manner we have statistics to show
 what is the position at the other end.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Will he take
 some more time?

Shri Malaichami: Yes Sir.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He may con-
 tinue on the next non-official day.
 There is a calling attention motion by
 Mr. Kachhavaia now.

17hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTERS
 OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

- (ii) FIRE IN LOST PROPERTY OFFICE,
 NORTHERN RAILWAY

श्री हुकम चन्द्र कछवाय : (देवास) :
 उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं अविभाज्य लोक महत्व
 के निम्नलिखित विषय की ओर रेलवे मंत्री
 का ध्यान दिलाता हूँ और प्रार्थना करता हूँ
 कि वे इस बारे में एक वक्तव्य दें :

"दिल्ली में ४ जून १९६४ को उत्तर
 रेलवे के गोदाम में आग लगना।"

The Deputy Minister in the Minis-
 try of Railways (Shri S. V. Rama-
 swamy): At about 04-30 hours on
 4th June, 1964, Rakshaks Rajinder
 and Manmohan Singh of Railway