

**SHRI BHAJAN LAL:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I told you that the price of milk had not been increased since 1985. It has been increased after thorough consideration since D.M.S. and Mother Dairy were incurring a loss of Rs. 50 crores per annum. In order to offset that loss and to provide quality milk to the consumers besides paying fair price to the dairy owners, this step has been taken. You know that during lean season, milk has to be purchased at a price of Rs 6.00 per litre but it has to be sold at a price of Rs 5.00 or Rs 4.50 per litre. As I submitted just now, still D.M.S. alone will be incurring a loss of Rs. 22 crore and the Mother Dairy which functions at a no-profit-no-loss basis, too will be incurring loss during lean season. Therefore, a fair price has been fixed and it does not aim at earning profit, but to provide quality milk to the consumers in time. As I have just submitted, in no other state is the price of milk less than that in Delhi. It is not proper if someone makes a political issue out of it. This step is in the benefit of the consumer as well as dairy owners. The price of milk has been fixed only after keeping the interests of both in view.

**KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not fair to raise the price of milk because it is an essential commodity. The price of milk has increased considerably in Calcutta as well you can buy blood there but you can't get milk for children. It is very unfortunate. (*Interruptions*) Please, pay attention to my submission. Dandavate ji, kindly listen to me because we want your opinion in this regard. A conference of the students organisation of the CPI (M) is going on in my State since yesterday and in this connection, the State Government has instructed the Government dairies to divert their milk supply to the conference as it has to be served to the members of the party cadre. What I have submitted is true and in case it is not so, you may move a privilege motion against me. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether an enquiry will be conducted in this regard or not?

**SHRI BHAJAN LAL:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, as regards Kumari Mamata Banerjee's sub-

mission that the milk supply in Calcutta is being diverted for the consumption of the party cadre, I want to state that she has never filed such a complaint before and that we shall enquire into this matter and in case if it is correct we shall convey it to the respective State Government.

[*English*]

### **Mining of Diamonds with the help of France**

\*32. **SHRI V. TULSIRAM†:**  
**SHRI RADHAKANTA DIGAL:**

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether an agreement between Indian and France has been reached in the field of mining of diamonds in the country;

(b) if so, the details of technical know-how and financial help to be provided by France; and

(c) the States where diamond mining and the development of diamond mines will be undertaken and when?

**THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M.L.FOTEDAR):** (a) to (c). A statement is given below.

### **STATEMENT**

(a) to (c). An Agreement has been signed between Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL), under the Department of Mines and the Bureau de Recherches Geologiques et Miniers (BRGM) of France for transfer of technology from BRGM to MECL in diamond exploration which envisages association of Geological Survey of India and National Mineral Development Corporation.

The agreement covers evaluation of all existing geo-scientific, remote sensing and economic data through state of the art

computer assisted data processing techniques leading to selection of techno-economically viable diamond mining prospects. The agreement does not cover actual mining of diamonds. The project costs about Rs 85 lakhs out of which 2 million French Francs will be financed out of French Government grants.

The agreement envisages a detailed review of the data on diamond bearing areas of Andhra Pradesh (Krishna Gravels and Wajrakarur) and Madhya Pradesh (Panna area).

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Tulsiji's Job is to write poetry, why should he be concerned with stones?

SHRI V. TULSIRAM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Shri Pant was in charge of this Ministry earlier. At that time in his reply to one of my questions, he had stated that the diamonds available in Andhra Pradesh are of a very superior quality. My question relates to the agreement between India and France in the field of diamond mining. You have stated that Andhra Pradesh is one of the States where this work will be carried out. I want to know from the hon. Minister as to what allocations have been made for Andhra Pradesh in particular under this joint scheme and what will be the extent of profits earned by the Government with the adoption of the French technology for the mining and development of superior quality diamonds and what will be the extent of employment opportunity generated by this project? The hon. Minister may clarify this matter. I can see the hon. Minister smiling at my referring to diamond but I want to inform him that diamonds are available in plenty in Andhra Pradesh and everything is like diamond out there.

MR. SPEAKER: What can be a better quality diamond than Shri Tulsiram?

SHRI M.L.FOTEDAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not know whether diamonds are available in Andhra Pradesh, but heroes are definitely available there. I do not know where these diamonds have disappeared? The diamonds are found underground and efforts are being made for their exploration. It is on this account that we have entered into an agreement with France. The work is still at the exploration stage and it is only at the mining stage that we can tell the exact location of the site where diamonds can be found. Diamonds are hidden underground and cannot be found overground.

SHRI V. TULSIRAM: The hon. Minister was stating that the hidden diamond...

MR. SPEAKER: A diamond in rags.

SHRI V. TULSIRAM : When they emerge, their brightness will force you to shut your eyes. We have many diamonds in store for you and they are preparing themselves. You should neither retreat nor be afraid. Similarly, Rs. 85 lakhs have been earmarked but I want to know whether this amount is adequate? Will the Government enhance this amount and accelerate the pace of the exploration work so that diamonds of superior quality could be found. It will not matter if you keep some of these diamonds for yourself but the exploration work should make progress. I also want to know whether there is any proposal for exporting diamonds and if so what will be the amount of foreign exchange earned and what will be the extent of profit to the Government?

SHRI M.L.FOTEDAR: We will not only make efforts to recover superior quality diamonds but we will also ensure that they are real diamonds. This project is at an initial stage and that is why only Rs 85 lakhs have been allocated for the time being. When this amount is spent, we will consider as to what to do next. After the exploration stage mining will be taken up only when a decision in this regard is taken on the relevant reports.