

श्री अब्दुल क़ारी बरार : सिवा बिड़मा जी के, उन की नहीं ली ।

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order Please resume your seat. The Minister has replied to all the points that were raised in this discussion. Shri Esthose.

Shri F. F. Esthose: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am very thankful to all the hon. Members who have supported my Resolution and given valuable suggestions on that. I am also thankful to the hon. Minister who has agreed to take over the closed mills by having a corporation. As to how the corporation will work will be gone into detail later. But about the handloom industry which gives employment to millions of workers, the hon. Minister should see that there is an improvement in that industry and we hope that he will take immediate steps in this direction.

With these words, I commend the Resolution to the acceptance of the House through a voice vote.

Shri Nambiar: Any how, the hon. Minister has accepted the Resolution. in effect, and let us have a voice vote and pass the Resolution.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Now, there are some amendments.

श्री सुबशी दास जाधव (बारामती) :
उपाध्यक्ष महोदय,

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: No, no. I will have to put the amendments to the vote of the House now.

Now I put the amendments of Sarvashri R. Umanath, Yashpal Singh and K. Ramani, to the vote of the House.

Amendments Nos. 2 and 3 were put and negatived.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Now we come to the main Resolution.

Shri Nambiar: This is....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He will get the time to move his Resolution.

Shri Nambiar: I am not saying anything about that, Sir.

This being the Fourth Lok Sabha, I suggest this: let there be one Resolution on which there may be a unanimous acceptance. Let them accept it. After all, it has been accepted.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Shall I put the main Resolution to the vote of the House?

The question is:

"That in view of the crisis in textile industry resulting in continued closure of mills and large scale unemployment of weavers, this House recommends to the Government to take over all the closed mills immediately."

The motion was negatived.

17.52 hrs.

RESOLUTION RE. DECONTROL OF STEEL

Shri Nambiar (Tiruchirappalli): I beg to move that:

"This House disapproves the action taken by the Government in decontrolling steel and thereby causing steep rise in the price of steel."

I am grateful to you, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, for giving me an opportunity to move this Resolution. In doing so, I am sorry to say that the Government has hurriedly come forward with a decision to decontrol steel. The next day—within 24 hours—the prices have gone up. The prices

have gone up so much that the consumer and the common man suffer very much. I can give you the increase in prices with details.

श्री हुकम चन्द कच्छवाय (उज्जैन) :
उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, सदन में कोई भी कैबिनेट मंत्री उपस्थित नहीं है ।

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The Minister of State is here. He is in charge of it.

श्री हुकम चन्द कच्छवाय : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरा निवेदन सुन लीजिये । पिछली लोकसभा में जब सरकार हुकम सिंह जी अध्यक्ष थे, उन्होंने निर्णय दिया था कि सदन में कैबिनेट स्तर का मंत्री अवश्य उपस्थित रहे, जब तक वे नहीं रहेंगे तब तक कार्यवाही नहीं चलेगी । मैं मानता हूँ कि स्टेट मिनिस्टर हैं, लेकिन कैबिनेट मंत्री नहीं हैं, कैबिनेट मंत्री अवश्य उपस्थित रहना चाहिये ।

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I was a member of the last Lok Sabha and I think that on such occasions the Minister of State who is responsible or who is handling the affairs in that portfolio used to be present. I do not know what is the exact ruling.

श्री हुकम चन्द कच्छवाय : आप रिकार्ड निकलवा कर देखेंगे तो आपको मालूम होगा या आप सेक्रेटरी साइब्र से पूछिये तो आपको पता चलेगा कि यह फैसला है या नहीं कि यहाँ पर कोई कैबिनेट मंत्री रहना चाहिये या नहीं ।

Shri Nambiar: I shall give the figures in respect of certain varieties of steel, the prices of which have gone up very much. These are the items which the Government are using. Therefore, the main loser is the Government and I do not know why the Government is a party to this sort of decontrol, and the Government representative on the Joint Plant Committee agrees to the increase suddenly. The Government says that they are against spiralling of prices. If that is so, why should they adopt this dubious method of winding up the

steel controller's job and handing over the whole work to the Joint Plant Committee which consists of Tatas and big magnates, the monopolies, who have got the power now to dictate the terms of price of steel which is one of the important commodities that are required for the benefit and progress of the country. I shall give you certain telling figures which will reveal the actual conditions. The figures are as follows:

Item	Price before decontrol	Price after decontrol
HR strips	Rs. 821	Rs. 876
CR strips	Rs. 1235	Rs. 1250
CR strips	Rs. 1018	Rs. 1073
CC strips	Rs. 1545	Rs. 1565

These are the items which are very much needed by the small-scale industries and the small-scale industrialists are suffering because of decontrol. Moreover, there is no quota fixed for them hereafter. They have to go to the joint plant committee and the latter will distribute it or in other words, the joint plant committee will have the right to decide the fate of these small-scale industries. Of course, Government have got some representative on the joint plant committee, but that is different from having a Steel Controller appointed by Government who would have the absolute right. That absolute right has now been given up and it is being shared by the monopolists. Where was the necessity to bring in the individual monopolists into the picture?

There have been price increase in respect of certain other items also of which Government are the main purchasers. For instance, take the case of items required by the railways. Here, we find the Railway Minister coming up and saying 'The price of steel has gone up; therefore, the cost has gone up; the expenditure is on the increase; I have got a deficit; give me more money by way of increased fares and freights. But why was he a party to increase in prices of steel? A representative of the Railway Board

[Shri Nambiar]

is also there on the joint plant committee and he had agreed to these price increases. In the case of sleeper bars, the price was Rs. 613 before and now it is Rs. 650; in the case of crowbars, the price of sleepers ex-works which was Rs. 711 is now Rs. 770. These are all items used by the railways. Again, in the case of axles, the price which was Rs. 1109 has now gone up to Rs. 1342. The monopoly user of axles is the railways and we find that per tonne, an increased amount of Rs. 200 or so goes to the producer from the railways. The major share of it goes to the Tatas and other producers. My hon. friend Shri Virendrakumar Shah may differ from me because he may not agree with me when I say that Tatas are a monopoly concern.

Shri Virendrakumar Shah (Junagadh): HSL is the monopoly. That is the biggest brother.

Shri Nambiar: Wheels and tyres are not used by others; they are used mostly by the railways. There, the price increase is very much; the price has gone up from Rs. 1286 to Rs. 1356. In the case of another variety of wheels and tyres of an ordinary type, the price has gone up from Rs. 1140 to Rs. 1373. There must be some explanation for this. I have gone through the report of the Khadikar Committee in this connection. You, Sir, were the chairman of a committee in this regard. I am glad I have a copy of that report with me. I am glad that you were on that committee, but I am also sorry that 'you' who were the chairman of that committee is different from the 'you' who are the Deputy-Speaker of the House now. The two 'yous' are different. Even then, the Khadikar Committee also recommended decontrol. That was then. But they have their reasons for decontrol. I am not here to

agree with that. I am prepared to go into the details of the report and the reasons they have given and state the present position where those reasons do not apply. Compare these things. In the given conditions, I think this report was wrong in recommending it. This report is dated—perhaps it is not dated.

18 hrs.

An hon. Member: Last year.

Shri Nambiar: Last year. Conditions are completely different today. Perhaps when the report was submitted, there might be justification for decontrol, but today that is not so. Granting careful consideration to the report, even then I would suggest that the situation today is different because we are in the midst of an economic crisis. Spiralling prices are the kingpin of that crisis. If you do want to keep that kingpin intact and allow that to grow in wider dimensions, the situation will be terrible.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He has already taken 10 minutes. Let him conclude in another five minutes. We have only one hour for this Resolution.

Shri Nambiar: I require 20 minutes. It is an important issue on which you yourself as Chairman of a Committee produced such an important report.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Then he may resume the next day. We adjourn now.

18.02 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, June 5, 1967/Jyaishta 15, 1869 (Saka).