

[Mr. Deputy Speaker]

and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in its application to the motions for taking into consideration and passing the Sugar Cess (Amendment) Bill 1982, and the Sugar Development Fund (Amendment) Bill, 1982."

The motion was adopted.

16.11 hrs.

SUGAR CESS (AMENDMENT) BILL
AND
SUGAR DEVELOPMENT FUND
(AMENDMENT) BILL

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH):
I beg to move: *

"That the Bill to amend the Sugar Cess Act, 1932, be taken into consideration."

I beg to move: *

"That the Bill to amend the Sugar Development Fund Act, 1982, be taken into consideration."

These are very simple amendments to the Acts which Parliament passed only in the month of March this year. We have since created a buffer stock of sugar of five lakh tonnes and with a view to pay for the holding charges of this buffer stock, we thought it necessary to increase the rate of duty realised as cess from Rs. 5/- to Rs. 14/- per quintal. We have also provided that the proceeds of the additional cess collected should be utilised towards the payment of charges for holding this buffer stock. These are simple amendments and I hope, the House will accept them.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Motions moved :

"That the Bill to amend the Sugar Cess Act, 1932, be taken into consideration."

"That the Bill to amend the Sugar Development Fund Act, 1982, be taken into consideration."

*SHRI ZAINAL ABEDIN (Jangipur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the Bill under discussion viz., The Sugar Cess (Amendment) Bill, 1982, provision has been made to create a buffer stock of sugar and an additional cess is sought to be levied for that purpose. Now, a buffer stock of sugar is necessary and

there cannot be two opinions on that. Sir, at the very outset I would like to quote a portion from the inaugural address delivered by the hon. Minister of Agriculture at the 48th Annual General Meeting of the Indian Sugar Mills Association held on the 3rd February, 1982. This will prove that the idea of a buffer stock did not strike the Government just overnight, the idea had taken root a long time back. This will also prove what is the attitude of the Government towards the sugar mills and the sugar mill owners. The hon. Minister in his address had said, I quote :

"We have also taken a decision to maintain buffer stock and that should help us to keep your free sale sugar prices at a level which will be in the interest of mills as well as the farmers as also the consumers. We could have raised the level percentage from 65 to 70 per cent but we have not done it : but you have not appreciated that point at all. There is a demand for larger quantity of ration from our Fair Price Shops. The population has increased tremendously. At present sugar quota per head is 425 grams. At the present level of population to maintain that 425 grams, we need at least 70 per cent of your sugar to be taken over. If you allow us we shall thank you but because we knew that you would not like it, without your asking for it we have not done it. We shall try and make both ends meet somehow because we always keep in mind your good response when we needed sugar from your free sale stock."

Sir, the original Act which is sought to be amended through this Bill, was passed by this House on the 4th March, 1982 and the same was passed by Rajya Sabha on the 9th March, 1982. But only a month prior to that i.e. in February 1982, the hon. Minister had delivered the above address. My question is that when a thinking about creating a buffer stock was already there, then why a provision was not made to that effect in the original Act itself which we are now amending? Within seven months of the original Act, we are making this amendment. This provision was not kept in that Bill because at that time you were imposing a cess in the name of rehabilitation and modernisation of the sugar industry. If an additional cess for buffer stock was also imposed at that time, then the price of sugar would have gone up considerably and that would have created an adverse effect in the minds of the people

was that the fear in your mind? Your effort is to levy the cess in instalments so that the people may get used to it gradually and this may not result in any adverse effect. Will the hon. Ministry kindly explain the position?

Sir, today sugar is no longer a luxury item for the rich people only. It is an essential commodity of daily use for the common man also. Therefore even a slight rise in its price cannot be approved. The hon. Minister has stated in the "statement of objects and reasons" of this Bill that :

"The additional cess which will be levied as a result of these amendments will have a marginal effect on the consumer who will be more than compensated by the protection he will get, as a result of the maintenance of buffer stocks of sugar, from repeated price fluctuations."

The same thing was said in the original Bill which was passed in March '82. Therein also it was said "The cess will have a marginal effect on the Consumers."

Sir, what I want to say is that in this way by successive marginal doses of increase in prices, the prices are going beyond the purchasing capacity of the common man. We all know that tiny drops of water make the mighty ocean. For this reason I cannot support it.

Sir, in the 'statement of objects and reasons' of this Bill it has been stated at another that :

"For the quantity of buffer stock, hundred per cent bank credit would be provided. In addition, the mills would be compensated for holding the buffer stocks by providing to them more holding costs and interest charges"

That is the reason for levying this fresh cess through this Bill. In this way the mill owners are being bestowed with many benefits. In this context I will like to quote from the answer given to Unstarred Question No. 517 dated 12-7-82 by hon. Minister Kumari Kamla Kumari. In her reply she had stated :

".....adequate incentives have been given to this industry in the form of rebate in excise duty, remission of cane purchase tax and additional credit facility to enable them to crush maximum quantity of cane available and make expeditious payment of cane price dues to the cane growers."

Sir, on the same date in reply to part (b) of Question No. 425 it had been stated side by side that :

"The scheme does not envisage any direct incentive to the farmers. They benefit indirectly, in as much as, but for the incentive to the factories, the latter would not continue crushing in the summer months of the season, and thereby absorb the record production of sugarcane during the current season."

This means that the sugar mills should be given incentives because they will not undertake crushing during the summer months. Now, we should consider what will happen if the sugarcane growers also decide that they would not grow sugarcane any longer if they do not get incentives and right treatment from the sugar mills! They decide to grow other crop on their fields.

Sir, the sugar industry does not consist of sugar mill owners only. We have to protect the interests of mill owners as well as the interests of the sugarcane growers and the workers in the sugar mills also. Only then the sugar industry will improve as a whole. But we find that the mill owners are being given all sorts of incentives and when we talk about the farmers, it is said that "the scheme does not envisage any direct incentive to the farmers". From this it is quite clear what is the attitude of the Government towards the mill owners as well as what is their attitude towards the farmers.

Sir, the cultivator is not getting just and remunerative price for his produce. On the other hand his cost of production is going up year after year. The cost of fertilizers are going up, the cost of other inputs are also going up. Naturally the price of sugarcane should also be increased to keep parity with his rising cost of production. But this is not being done.

I am here quoting from the reply to part (d) of Unstarred question No. 2608 dated 26th July, 1982. It reads :

"The Agricultural Prices Commission have recommended fixation of minimum cane prices on the basis of Rs. 15.50 per quintal, for basic recovery of 8.5 per cent of below subject to a proportional premium for every 0.1 per cent increase in recovery above that level..... This includes the cost incurred by the canegrowers in transporting the cane from his field to the factory gate within a radius of 16 KM."

Sir, even the price recommended by the Agricultural Prices Commission was denied to the cane growers. The APC recommended a price of Rs. 15.50 per

[Shri Zainal Abedin]

quintal but they were paid the price that was paid to them last year viz., Rs. 13/- per quintal only. The recommendations of the APC was also ignored. In this way the farmer are being cheated every time. He is not getting just price for his produce. When the original Bill was under discussion in the Rajya Sabha on 9th March, 1982, one hon. Member had stated in that House that :

"In Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, sugar cane growers had to burn their standing crops because they thought that they would not get back what they had to spend on the cartage for carrying sugarcane to the mills."

When this is the situation, then showing more concern for the mill owners and ignoring the farmers is wholly improper. Also putting more and more burden on the common consumers can never be supported. I do not deny that there is need for giving incentives to the mills, but at the same time I fail to understand why the poor farmer cannot expect the same sympathetic attitude from the Government. In the "Statement of Objects and Reasons" of this Bill it has been stated that the fluctuations in prices will be checked through this buffer stock and the loss that they have suffered will get compensated.

Sir, we have buffer stocks of rice, we have buffer stocks of wheat, but has that been able to check fluctuations in prices? In every State the price of food grains are skyrocketing and have gone beyond the reach of the common man. Therefore, it will be wrong to hope that fluctuations will disappear and people will get sugar at a reasonable price.

Sir, the farmers are not getting their arrears of cane prices for a long time and they are being variously harassed. On 2nd August, 1982 in reply to Unstarred Question No. 3778, the hon. Minister had said :

"As on 15th June, 1982, the arrears of cane price in respect of Government and Cooperative sugar Mills excluding the dues on account of cane purchased in the preceding 14 days."

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : Yesterday this question of arrears was discussed for a long time. Why do you take it up again? You did not listen to the special discussion on sugarcane.....

*SHRI ZAINAL ABEDIN : There are arrears with the cooperatives, there are arrears with the Government. Why should these not be considered with sympathy?

Their arrears are mounting year after year. The poor cultivators grow sugarcane with great hardship. But they do not get the price in time. On the other hand the Government constantly thinks about the good of the mill owners, how they can maximise their profits, this is certainly not desirable.

Sir, buffer stock is necessary. But why burden the poor consumers? The cess can be recovered from other sources also. An important by-product of sugar is molasses from which alcohol is produced. The producers of alcohol purchase molasses at a nominal price and then earn a profit of crores of rupees from alcohol. Cess can be recovered from them for creating the buffer stock. But the Government will not do that. They will not do that in class interest. Sir, the sugar policy of the Government is dictated by the sugar lobby and the sugar barons. It is they who provide the ruling party with election funds. The whole sugar policy has been formulated keeping their interest uppermost in mind. On the one side Government is going to create a buffer stock, on the other side, with a view that the poor common man may get this item of daily need at a reasonable price and with ease, there is a long standing demand for the nationalisation of the sugar mills. The common people are putting forth this demand, the farmers are demanding and many people's organisations are also making this demand. Why is the Government not nationalising them? Where is the obstacle? The only obstacle is that these mill owners provide the Government with funds and help them in various ways, Sir, while conceding that there is need for this buffer stock, I am opposing this levy of cess.

With that Sir, I conclude.

श्री बाला साहिब विखे पाटिल (कोपरगांव) :
उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, आपने मुझे रामयण दिया
इसके लिए धन्यवाद देता हूँ ।

मैं यही चाहता हूँ कि किसानों के लिये
हमारी चीनी उत्पादन और गन्ने की कीमतों की
नीति कम-से-कम 15 साल के लिए दीर्घ-
कालीन नीति होनी जरूरी है । हर 5 साल
में जो साईकल आता है, कभी गन्ना ज्यादा
होता है और चीनी ज्यादा तैयार हो जाती
है, इसलिये उसके दाम गिर जाते हैं । तो
बाद में गन्ना कम हो जाता है—उपभोक्ताओं
को ज्यादा दाम देने पड़ते हैं ।

5 लाख टन का जो बफर स्टॉक है, इसका हम स्वागत करते हैं। मैं इसके लिये राव साहब का आभारी हूँ कि उन्होंने इसकी कॉन्शंस की है, लेकिन कम-से-कम 3 महीने का स्टॉक यानी 15 लाख टन का बफर स्टॉक करना जरूरी है। लेकिन सरकार ने चीनी पर टैक्स लगाया है और वही बफर स्टॉक के लिए दिया है। हम चाहते हैं कि जब 15 लाख टन चीनी का बफर स्टॉक हो जाए तो टैक्स और न बढ़ाया जाये, क्योंकि इसके अलावा कज्यूर की चीनी के दाम बढ़ जाते हैं लेकिन किसान को इसमें फायदा नहीं होता है।

आज चीनी के दाम इतने गिर गये हैं कि किसान को आगले साल मुश्किल से कितना-कितना मिलेगा? किसान को कम से कम 18 रुपये या 8.5 रिक्वरी पर मिलना जरूरी है, यह हम मानते हैं। लेकिन मैं मंत्री जी से दरखास्त करूंगा कि लैवी शुगर या फ्री सेल शुगर का रेशियो विल्कूल न बढ़ा जाये क्योंकि अगर यह बदल जायेगा तो किसान को और भी दाम नहीं मिलेंगे और अभी भी भारी बकाया है पिछले साल का मिल मालिक इस तरह से कहेंगे कि हमें दाम मिलता नहीं, इसलिए किसान को ज्यादा पैसा नहीं दे सकते। इसलिए मैं चाहता हूँ कि लैवी और फ्री सेल की रेशियो कायम रखनी चाहिये।

चीनी का निर्यात विल्कूल सन्तोषजनक नहीं है। सरकार ने साढ़े 6 लाख टन का निर्यात तय किया था। यह ठीक है कि यह इस मंत्रालय का काम नहीं है, लेकिन सब कुछ चीनी और गन्ने के काम को आप ठीक से देखते हैं, चीनी का निर्यात साढ़े 4 लाख टन का हुआ है जो कि साढ़े 6 लाख टन होना चाहिये था।

मौलेसेस के निर्यात की भी हम मांग कर रहे थे। मंत्री जी ने एक साल के पहिले से इसकी इजाजत दी नहीं, अभी वह खूब होता है। हम महाराष्ट्र के लोग मौलेसेस मुफ्त देने के लिये राजी हैं, सरकार उसका निर्यात करे और कितना फारने एक्सचेंज सरकार उससे ले सकती है, वह लें ले, ऐसा मैं सरकार से निबंदन करना चाहता हूँ।

एक बात और है आप 15 लाख टन चीनी का बफर स्टॉक बढ़ाइये और एलान कीजिये कि गन्ने का दाग इस मौसम में कम से कम 22 रु. होगा। इससे कम में किसान को नुकसान होता है। बफर स्टॉक बढ़ायेंगे तो 10 लाख का जो इन्टरस्ट सेव होगा उससे किसान को कुछ न कुछ दाग दे सकेंगे। गही मुझे कहना है।

श्री कमला मिश्र मधुकर (मोतीहीरी): उप-ध्यक्ष जी, यह दो बिल आये हैं और सरकार की ओर से उसमें जो उद्देश्य की धोपणा की गई है उसको मैंने ध्यान से पढ़ा है। लेकिन लगता है कि भारत सरकार अभी जिस चीनी नीति पर चल रही है वह विल्कूल मिल मालिकों के सामने साष्टांग दण्डवत है और उनका मुंह ताक रही है कि मिल मालिक लोग क्या कहते हैं, उनकी कृपा रहती है कि नहीं, दया हम पर है कि नहीं। सही माने में यह नीति किसान विरोधी है और मिल मालिकों को छूट पर छूट देने की है। बफर स्टॉक बनाया जाय ठीक है। लेकिन क्या स्थिति है किसानों की? आप किसान परिवार से आते हैं, बिहार, यू. पी., महाराष्ट्र में गन्ना होता है तो पिछले साल 15 लाख टन से भी अधिक गन्ना खेतों में सूख गया, जला दिया गया और आपने मिल मालिकों को सुविधाओं पर सुविधायें दी, इंसीन्टिव दिये, टैक्सों में छूट दी गई, फिर मोडर्नाइजेशन के नाग पा छूट दी गई। लेकिन किसानों का गन्ना सूख गया उसके लिए दर्द आपको हुआ कि नहीं? नहीं हुआ।

कल माननीय पासवान जी ने कहा था कि पिछले साल गन्ना उत्पादकों का करोड़ों रु. मिल मालिकों पर बाकी है। बसूली के लिए क्या हो रहा है? आप क्या पंगू हो गये हैं? पीस मार्च करने वालों पर, हड़ताल करने वालों पर तो आप डी. आई. आर. लगाते हैं लेकिन गन्ना किसानों का जो पैसा मिल मालिकों पर बाकी है उसकी बसूली के लिए आप क्यों नहीं सख्ती करते? हमारे यहां मोतिहारी में, मधौलिया में, बारा बकिया में किसान दुखी है, उनको नहीं लगता कि गन्ने की खेती से उनका काम चलेगा। इस साल राज्य सरकारों ने मांग की है कि गन्ने की कीमत 30 रु. की जाय। आप एलान कीजिए कि किसानों को गन्ने की कीमत 30 रु. किंवदंतल देने जा रहे हैं। किसान जो

[श्री कमला मिश्र मधुकर]

गन्ना पैदा करते हैं उसमें लगी खाद, सिंचाई, विजली, उर्वरक, कीटनाशक दवाओं की कीमतें, श्रम की कीमत में कोई कमी नहीं है, फिर क्यों किसान को उसके गन्ने की कीमत कम मिले इस साल? इसका कोई कारण नहीं है। इसलिये आज ही ऐलान कीजिये उससे किसानों में विश्वास पैदा होगा कि अच्छी कीमत गन्ने की मिलेगी।

दूसरी बात यह है कि मिल मालिक कंट्रो पर तोले में गड़बड़ करते हैं। किसान बैल-गाड़ी पर गन्ना लाता है, दो, दो दिन उनको तोले के लिए इन्तजार करना पड़ता है, उनके लिए कोई शैंड की व्यवस्था नहीं होती, तौल में, रिकवरी में गड़बड़ी होती है। आप चीनी उद्योग का विकास चाहते हैं तो अगर आप सोचते हैं कि मिल मालिकों को केवल सुविधायें दे कर काम हों जाएगा, इससे काम नहीं चलेगा। आप बफर स्टक बना रहे हैं तो उसको भी मिल मालिकों के पास ही रखा जायगा इसके लिये भी उनको और सुविधायें दी जायेंगी।

राष्ट्रीय कांग्रेस ने मांग की थी कि हमारी सरकार आयेगी तो चीनी उद्योग का राष्ट्रीयकरण हमारी सरकार करेगी। उस मांग को क्यों नहीं मानते हैं? आगे स्पष्ट कीजिये कि चीनी उद्योग का राष्ट्रीकरण आप चाहते हैं कि नहीं? देश की मांग है कि चीनी उद्योग आज ऐसी हालत में पहुँच गया है कि उसका राष्ट्रीकरण किया जाय। सरकार गन्ने को नई बेहतर वैरायटीज विकसित करने के लिए क्या कर रही है? बिहार में इस सम्बन्ध में कोई तरक्की नहीं हुई है। हमारी मांग है कि हर एक चीनी मिल के परिसर में एक शोध संस्थान खोला जाए। यह देखा जाए कि उस क्षेत्र विशेष में मिट्टी, पानी और जल-वायु की क्या विशेषता है, जिसमें वहाँ पर गन्ने की बेहतर किस्मों का उत्पादन किया जा सके। आज ऐसा नहीं किया जा रहा है। गन्ने की खेती के विकास और किसानों के हितों के संरक्षण के बिना चीनी उद्योग प्रगति नहीं कर सकता है। किसानों के बकाया का भुगतान किया जाए। आज उन्हें पंगू बना दिया गया है। अगर मिल-मालिकों के पास किसानों का

बकाया रह जाए, तो उसका सूद देना चाहिये। मंत्री महोदय बताएं कि किस मिल-मालिक ने सूद के साथ किसानों का बकाया दिया है।

राव बीरेन्द्र सिंह: इस बारे में कई घंटों तक बहस हो चुकी है।

श्री कमला मिश्र मधुकर: लेकिन उस बहस से फायदा क्या हुआ? शोदा पहाड़ और निकली चूहिया। ऐसा नहीं होना चाहिए। उनका कुछ परिणाम निकलना चाहिये।

किसानों को सब प्रकार की सुविधाएँ देनी चाहिए। उन्हें खाद, उर्वरक, उन्नत बीज और कीटनाशक दवाएँ नहीं मिलती हैं। गन्ने के तौल में गड़बड़ी होती है। केन डेवेलपमेंट डिपार्टमेंट में केन डेवेलपमेंट आफिसर और केन डेवेलपमेंट इंस्पेक्टर बैठे हुए हैं, लेकिन वे तमाम लोग मिल-मालिकों की सेवा करते हैं और उनसे पैसा पाते हैं। मंत्री महोदय किसानों की सब समस्याओं का हल करें और यह ऐलान करें कि हम गन्ना-उत्पादकों को इनाम दाम देने जा रहे हैं। गन्ने के दाम में वृद्धि होने पर ही चीनी उद्योग का विकास हो सकता है। पिछले साल का अनुभव है कि गन्ना किसानों के खेतों में पड़ा रह गया, उसकी कटाई नहीं हुई और उसको जलाना पड़ा। इस तरह आगे चल कर गन्ने की खेती करने में किसानों को कठिनाई होगी।

राव बीरेन्द्र सिंह: अब की बार तो कठिनाई नहीं हुई?

श्री कमला मिश्र मधुकर: कठिनाई यह है कि दाम का ऐलान नहीं हुआ है। मंत्री महोदय दाम का ऐलान करें, तभी यह उद्देश्य पूरा हो सकता है। चीनी मिलों का राष्ट्रीकरण किया जाए और गन्ने का भाव 35 रुपये प्रति-क्विंटल घोषित किया जाए। आज किसानों के लिए फंडियाली आंसू बहाने से काम नहीं चलेगा। हमें आशा है कि मंत्री महोदय ये सब काम करेंगे।

मैं बफर स्टक बनाने का विरोध नहीं करता, लेकिन इस विषय के लिये चीनी मिल-मालिकों को जो बहुत सुविधाएँ दी गई हैं, उनका मैं विरोध करता हूँ।

श्री राम विलास पासवान (हाजीपुर) :
उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, कल इस विषय पर काफी चर्चा हो चुकी है। कल यहाँ पर जो मामला उठाया गया था, मैं उसको टच नहीं करूंगा। 4 मार्च को यहाँ पर जो डीबेट हुई थी, उसमें मंत्री महोदय ने सदन को आश्वासन दिया था कि यह सेस क्यों लगाया जा रहा है और उससे किसानों को फायदा होगा। पिछले छः सात गहीनों के अनुभव से पता चलता है कि इस सेस का फायदा अगर किसी ने लिया है, तो मिल-मालिकों ने लिया है। कल मंत्री महोदय ने बताया कि किसानों का वकाया 6 करोड़ रुपये से बढ़ कर 33 करोड़ रुपये पर पहुँच गया है।

15.00 hrs.

[DR. RAJINDRA KUMAR BAJPAI in the
chair]

उससे फायदा हुआ मिल मालिक को, किसान को कोई फायदा नहीं हुआ है।

मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से दो बातें जानना चाहता हूँ। पहली बात तो यह है कि जो आप सेस बढ़ाने जा रहे हैं उसका कोई इम्पैक्ट प्राइसेंस पर पड़ेगा या नहीं और उप-भोक्ता को तो कोई परेशानी नहीं आयेगी?

दूसरे, जैसा कि आपने कल भी कहा था कि किसानों की वकाया राशि दिलाने में आप अक्षम हो जाते हैं, आप सूद का पैसा भी नहीं दिला पाते हैं तब फिर यह राशि काय करने में कैसे सक्षम हो जाते हैं? आप लेंदी लगाते हैं और मजदूरों के वेलफेयर की बात भी सोचते हैं, आप यह भी चाहते हैं कि चीनी उद्योग का विकास हो, अधिक चीनी का प्रोडक्शन हो—इसमें कोई दो मत नहीं हैं कि यह सब होना चाहिए—लेकिन चीनी उद्योग के विकास का मतलब यह नहीं है कि चीनी मिल-मालिकों को विकास किया जाए और दूसरी तरफ मजदूरों का विकास न हो, गन्ना पैदा करने वाले किसानों का विकास न हो और उपभोक्ताओं को भी परेशानी हो। यदि ऐसा होता है तो इसका कोई अर्थ नहीं होगा। इस दृष्टिकोण से इस मामले में अगर आप किसानों और मजदूरों को लाभ दिलाने में सक्षम हैं तो आपको यह भी सोचना चाहिये कि मिल-मालिक किसानों को जो पैसा नहीं देते हैं, जो ब्याज नहीं देते हैं जिसमें आपने लाचारी दिखाई

है, आप राज्य सरकारों पर निर्भर करते हैं और आपके लिखने के दबजूद वे उत्तर नहीं देते हैं, उसके लिये भी आपको विचार करके कदम उठाने चाहिये।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Chitta Basu.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: You learn something from Mr. Paswan.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: I will not.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: Even at this age you can.

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat) :
Madam, the Bill which we are discussing now leads to two aspects. One is the creation of bufferstock of sugar in our country and another aspect of the Bill is to increase the rate of cess from Rs. 5 per quintal to Rs. 14 per quintal. These are the two major aspects of the Bill.

Before I go into the merits and demerits of the Bill it is necessary for the House to understand the sugar situation and the attendant economics of sugar. So far as my figures go, the production of sugar for the current year is somewhere near 86 lakhs of tonnes.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: Over 84 lakh tonnes.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: Madam, the opening stock of the sugar produced last year was something like 9.93 lakh tonnes. Therefore, the availability of sugar was about 94 lakhs of tonnes. Against this availability we have to consider the consumption figure of sugar. Having regard to the internal consumption and export commitments of sugar, the consumption figure comes to about 62 lakh of tonnes. Naturally, you would be able to calculate that the outstanding reserve of sugar today is something like 32 lakh tonnes. Assuming for the time being that there may be greater or larger consumption internally, assuming for the time being that there may be larger export, the consumption figure in no way can exceed 70 lakh tonnes. Naturally, the question of over-production comes in more than what we can consume. In this context the very concept of bufferstock is a progressive move and I welcome the move. As a matter of fact, from this side I have all along been demanding that the Government of India should create a bufferstock to stabilise sugar economy to meet the exigencies arising out of the fluctuations of price and rising cut of the fluctuations of export. Therefore, the conception of buffer stock is a welcome move. I welcome it. But the question

[Shri Chitta Basu]

arises as to what would be the quantum of buffer stock. Here I have got a very serious grouse. You have got a reserve of more than 32 lakh tonnes after the consumption figure. As the situation exists today, everybody expects that there will be still another bumper crop this time. Naturally the production figure may go higher than that of this year..

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: Not necessary.

SHRI CHITTA BASSU: This is the forecast I have said. If it is not expected, that is another thing. Even then we have got 32 lakh tonnes of sugar. If there is a forecast that there will be larger production in the coming year, the reserve will be much more higher. That causes an apprehension in the mind of the cane growers—that they have never been given remunerative price and whatever price they used to get is likely to get reduced. Madam Chairman, you are coming from the State which produces sugar cane, I know. He also comes from the State which produces sugar cane. With this buffer stock the fate of the growers is connected. This aspect should be taken note of. Therefore, my suggestion is that the buffer stock should be increased. In order to stabilise the sugar cane economy, in order to ensure remunerative price to the cane growers. It should not be limited only to five lakh tonnes.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: A sensible thing.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: There was a Committee, called the Sen Committee. It was appointed in 1965. That Committee dealt with the subject of buffer stock of sugar. As far as I remember Sen Committee recommended that 33% of the total production should be kept as a buffer stock. Sen Committee's recommendation was very explicit and clear—that 1/3rd i.e. 33% of the total production of sugar should be kept as a buffer in order to stabilise sugar economy, in order to guard against the fluctuations of sugar price. 1/3rd of 94 lakh tonnes of sugar stock comes to about 30 lakh tonnes. But the Government now wants to have a buffer stock of only 5 lakh tonnes. It comes hardly to 1/6th of 30 lakh tonnes. This is my grouse. This is my objection. I implore, if the Government is really serious to bring about stability in the sugar economy, if the Government has got the slightest sympathy with the growers of our country, there is no alternative but to have a larger kitty of bufferstock. This is one part of my argument today.

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN: They will increase the cess.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: The second aspect of the Bill is that the intention of the Government is to increase the rate at which cess may be levied from rupees five per quintal to rupees fourteen per quintal. This cess is being realised in order to meet the holding cost. Who is to bear the holding cost? It is the mill owner. The scheme provides that the bufferstock of sugar would be stored and kept in the sugar mills. And for that purpose, the bufferstock would not be at a central place. It will be scattered and remain with all the sugar mills and for holding the sugar stock, you want to give them some holding charges. And for maintaining the bufferstock, 100 per cent bank loan will be given to the mill-owners. No mill-owner is going to pay anything from his own pocket or fund for that bufferstock. It is the bank which is financing. The banks will finance the bufferstock and you are so gracious enough and generous enough that you are also paying the holding charges. Not only the holding charge, you are paying the interest charge also. Am I right? You also propose to give some interest charges. Here, again, you will be angry with me. I am always happy while he is angry.

Yesterday, Shri Kam Vilas Paswan was trying to drive home the fact that Rs. 83 crores of arrears are to be paid to the cane-growers. You cannot ensure the payment. You cannot force, you cannot compel the millowners to pay off the arrears. You cannot make the State Governments to move in the right direction. Even, you cannot ensure the payment of interest of the arrears. But, here, Madam, they have become extraordinarily generous to the mill-owners. The bufferstock will be financed by the banks—100 per cent. The interest charges will be paid by them.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: The sugar mills will be compensated for the interest paid by them to the Banks.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: You are paying the interest to the banks and not the mill-owners who pay the interest charge.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: Somebody has to pay.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: The Bill provides that the bank will finance. The bank will claim some interest charges and that interest charges will be paid by the Government and that too by increasing the Cess. The understanding is as clear as day-light. This is of the order of Rs. 50.50 crores—Rs. 51 crores. With 1 per cent being the cost of realisation, it comes to Rs. 50.50 crores. You are realising Rs. 50 crores from the consumers. By one stroke, there will be an additional cess of Rs. 50 crores and Rs. 50 crores

increase means, increase in the price of sugar. The consumers will have to bear. Madam, you will have to bear this Rs. 50 crores—a part of it or whatever you consume. Therefore, the increase in the price of sugar is inevitable. And that being the case, this measure deserves criticism and severe criticism and I do it. I oppose this Bill. Funds would be raised to pay the compensation to the sugar mills by providing for the levy of additional cess of sugar. It does not seem to be enough. Another fund is also to be created to compensate the mill-owners. Madam, having regard to this excess production, of course, I think, it is not excess production. We have got on purchasing power. Therefore, we cannot consume more sugar. Vast masses of our people are poor. They cannot consume sugar. Therefore, it cannot be called over-production. It is still under-production. It still requires to meet the material need of the people. Since people have got no purchasing power, even this low-production appears to be over-production. He cannot do away that. It is only socialism and socialist economy that can do away with this contradiction.

That is the basic contradiction in society.

The growers are apprehensive because of the fact that this over-production will lead to less quantity of sugarcane being produced. Therefore, I want a firm assurance from the Government that sugar growers who have been denied the remunerative price for ages together, who do not get even the price which meets the cost of cultivation even as per the recommendation of the A.P.C., should not be further deprived of their right to have the remunerative price. The A.P.C. has not yet declared the remunerative price and, I hope, the A.P.C. should declare it having regard to the increase in the cost of cultivation and in order to allay the apprehension of the cane growers.

Then, there should be compulsory purchase, monopoly purchase, of sugarcane. I am raising this question at this critical time. There should be monopoly purchase by the Government and they should get it crushed by the mills and sell it in the market in the form of sugar. I am not saying nationalisation—it is a red rag to the bull. Therefore, I do not want to make him more angry. I do not show a red rag to the bull. At least, there should be monopoly purchase of sugarcane as monopoly purchase of cotton in Maharashtra.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : Are cotton and sugar the same ?

SHRI GHITTA BASU : Again, I come to the remunerative price. I say this having regard to the view that he is extraordinarily soft to the mill-owners. I want to be enlightened by his erudition. I am told by the kisans that 1 quintal of sugarcane produces at least 10 kg. of sugar. The Uttar Pradesh Sugar Mill-owners' Association in a statement said, to crush one quintal of sugarcane, they require Rs. 4. In your State, the sugarcane price is Rs. 22 per quintal, although the A.P.C. rate was much lower. It comes to Rs. 22 for the cane growers and Rs. 4 for crushing the sugarcane. It comes to Rs. 26. What is the price of 10 Kg. of sugar ? Even according to the statement of the hon. Minister yesterday, it is Rs. 5.50 per Kg. It comes to Rs. 55.

Out of a quintal of sugarcane, the industrialist reaps a profit of Rs. 29. It is industrial exploitation. For 1 quintal of sugarcane, Rs. 22 you give to the grower; to crush 1 quintal of sugarcane, you require to spend Rs. 4. In all, it comes to Rs. 26. In the market, you sell sugar at a minimum price of Rs. 5.50 per kg. It comes to Rs. 55. So, the industrialist earn Rs. 55 on a quintal of sugarcane whereas the growers get only Rs. 22. Is it justice ? Is it socialism ? Is it democracy ? Is it something which can be called pro-peasant policy ? It is a pro-industrialist policy. On this occasion, I want that the Government should revise its pro-industrialist policy.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : I will advise you to put up a sugar mill. I will give you a licence. Then, you will know it.

SHRI GHITTA BASU : I do not require anything other than my party's whole-time allowance. I only want in my life whole-time allowance from my party : nothing else.

श्री रशीद मसूद (सहारनपुर) : गोहतरमा, गोहतरम राव बीरेन्द्र सिंह साहब आज कुछ गुस्से में मालूम पड़ते हैं ।

श्री राव बीरेन्द्र सिंह : नहीं, ऐसी कोई बात नहीं है ।

श्री रशीद मसूद : ब्रजह पता नहीं क्या है, लेकिन मैं उनको ज्यादा गुस्से का मौका नहीं दूंगा, सिर्फ कुछ खार मद्दों की तरफ उनका ध्यान आकर्षित करूंगा ।

हम यहां नुमाइंदे हैं अबाम के, पब्लिक के और जब हम नुमाइंदगी करते हैं तो मिल ओगर्स की भी करते हैं, इसमें शक की

[श्री रशीद मसूद]

बात नहीं है। नुमाइंदगी गजदूर की भी करते हैं और किसान की भी करते हैं। जब भी हमारे सामने कोई चीज आती है तो उसको हम देखते हैं।

हमें यह देखना पड़ेगा कि उस कानून का फायदा किन लोगों का पहुँच रहा है। क्या ऐसा तो नहीं है कि उसका फायदा चन्द ऊंगली पर गिने जाने वाले लोगों को हो रहा है। क्या ऐसा तो नहीं है कि उसका फायदा उन लोगों को हो रहा है जिनके बारे में अमुमन यह कहा जाता है कि इलैक्शन के दिनों में वह बहुत काम की चीज है या उन लोगों को हो रहा है जो इस मुल्क की सियायत को बदलने में काम आते हैं तो हमें यकीनन तौर पर उस पर एतराज होगा।

मोहतरमा, इस बिल को देखने के बाद यह अन्दाज होता है कि सरकार मिल-ओनर्स को फायदा पहुँचाना चाहती है। लेकिन, उनकी भी कुछ परेशानियाँ हैं, दिक्कतें हैं, वे दूर होनी चाहिए। मस-लन इसमें जो माडर्नाइजेशन और रिहर्विल-लीटेशन मिल को बात कहीं गई है, मैं समझता हूँ मिलों को माडर्नाइज करना चाहिए, उनकी कंपेंसिटी को भी बढ़ाना चाहिए क्योंकि उसकी इन-डाइरेक्ट तरक्की से किसान की तरक्की होगी। जब आप मिल-ओनर्स को इतना रुपया देना चाहते हो, उनकी मदद करना चाहते हो तो हमारी सरकार को उग गरीब किसान और मजदूरों की तरफ भी देखना चाहिए। आपने बताया था कि 83 करोड़ रुपया एरियर्स में पड़ा हुआ है। सन् 1977 में भी मैंने यह मसला इस सदन में उठाया था और तब भी यह एड्योरेन्स दिया गया था कि आज के बाद जो किसान हैं उनका जो एरियर मिल-मालिकों या को-आपरैटिव की तरह है तो जब किसान को पैसा दिया जायेगा, उसके साथ सूद भी दिया जायेगा।

PROF. N. G. RANGA: No interest?

श्री रशीद मसूद: मैंने उग क्वत् भी कहा था और आज फिर कह रहा हूँ कि किसान इस मुल्क की बद्किस्मत कौम है। मैं

तो किसान को एक कौम कहता हूँ। जब उसके ऊपर सरकार या बैंक का पैसा होता है, उसके जानवर बेच दिये जाते हैं, उसको जेल में डाल दिया जाता है। जब उसका पैसा मिल-मालिक पर होता है तब उसका कोई हल नहीं होता है। जब वह अपना गन्ना डाल चुकता है तब उसे कोई इन्टरस्ट नहीं मिलता है और उग गरीब को बन्द कर देते हैं, उसकी सूनने वाला कोई नहीं है। मिल-ओनर्स आपके नोटिफिकेशन का खुल्लम-खुल्ला उल्लंघन करते हैं तब उन्हें कोई पूछने वाला नहीं है, तब दह-सील का कोई आदमी नोटिस लेकर जाने वाला नहीं है कि उन्हें भी लोक-अप वा मजा मिलना चाहिए।

मेरे कुछ साथियों ने जो मामला उठाया है, मैं समझता हूँ वह सही उठाया है। जहाँ माडर्नाइजेशन की जरूरत है मिल को वहाँ एक्सपेंशन की भी जरूरत है। आपने एक्सपेंशन बर्ड इस्तेमाल नहीं किया है। हमारा अपने यहाँ सहारनपुर का तजुंबा है कि जिन गिल्स की कंपेंसिटी 1250 लाख टन है, वे मिल कोई ज्यादा प्रॉफिटबल नहीं समझी जाती उनकी मिनिमम कंपेंसिटी दो हजार लाख टन तक पहुँचनी चाहिए। मैंने एक खत भी मिनिस्टर साहब को लिखा था, उम्मीद है उन्हें मिला होगा।

मेरे कहने का मतलब यह कि इस बिल से यह अन्दाज होता है कि कोई खास सैक्शन को फायदा पहुँचाने के लिये यह बिल लाया गया है। मैं माफी चाहता हूँ अगर मेरी यह बात बुरी लगी हो। इसके अन्दर जो किसानों को राहत पहुँचाने वाली बात हो सकती है, वह नहीं है। आपका यह नोटिफिकेशन है कि जिन गिल्स के ऊपर 10 फीसदी से ज्यादा किसानों का बकाया रह जाएगा, उन गिल्स का एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन गवर्नमेन्ट टूके-अप कर लेगी।

मैं समझता हूँ ज्यादातर मिलें आज ऐसी हैं जिन के ऊपर किसानों का दस परसेंट से ज्यादा बकाया है लेकिन उनके खिलाफ कोई एक्शन नहीं लिया गया है। आज भी किसानों को मामूली से कर्जे के

[श्री रशीद मसूद]

लिए तहसील के लोक आउट में बन्द कर दिया जाता है, कानून के मुताबिक अगर वह कर्ज अदा नहीं कर पाता है। लेकिन किसानों का पैसा आपके नॉटीफिकेशन के मुताबिक उस लिमिट से भी ज्यादा है जो आपने तय की है तो क्यों नहीं उनके खिलाफ एक्शन लिया जाता है। कोई न कोई उनके खिलाफ एक्शन जरूर होना चाहिए। उनको भी एहसास होना चाहिए कि किसानों का गरीबों का, कोई नाम लेने वाला है, उनका भला सोचने वाली सरकार है।

एक टैगिंग का सिलसिला होता है, एनुअल टैगिंग होता है। उस में मिल ओभर्ज के नुमाइंदे होते हैं, किसान यूनियनों के होते हैं, गवर्नमेंट के होते हैं, बकों के होते हैं। वही पर एक एग्जीमेन्ट हो जाता है कि इस साल में इतना रुपया बैंक एडवांस करंगे, मिलों को कुछ रुपया एडवांस करंगे, कुछ रुपया यूनियनों को भी उरा में से दिया जाएगा। हमारे यहाँ भी 6-7 मिलें हैं लेकिन आज तक कोई पैसा उनको नहीं मिला है, यूनियन को नहीं मिला है। इसके बरअक्स होता यह है कि यह जो आपका कानून है कि चौदह दिन के अन्दर किसान का पेमेंट हो जाना चाहिए इस चौदह दिन के अन्दर तो होता ही नहीं है और अब एक नया सिलसिला शुरू हो गया है। कानून किसान के लिए है, मिल ओभर्ज के लिए, बड़े आदमियों के लिए नहीं है। किसान युनाइटेड नहीं है, वह मजबूर है, वह कोई एफर्ट्स कर नहीं सकता है, हंगामा कर नहीं सकता है, पैसा दे कर इलेक्शन लड़वा नहीं सकता है क्योंकि उसके पास पैसा नहीं है। मिलों की तरफ से उनको बैंक काट दिए जाते हैं। किसान के नाम बैंक काट दिए जाते हैं ताकि पकड़ न जाएं और किसान बैंक लिए हुए धूमता फिरता रहता है लेकिन पेमेंट उराका नहीं होता है, वह भुनता नहीं है। चौदह दिन के अन्दर भुगतान हो जाना चाहिए यह आपका कानून कहता है। लेकिन किसान बेचार कौई-कौई महीने बैंक लिए हुए फिर रहा है पेमेंट नहीं होता है।

एक स्पेसिफिक मिसाल मैं आपको देता हूँ। हमारे यहाँ देवबन्द की मिल है। उस पर 99 लाख रुपया हमारे किसानों का बकाया है। उन्होंने दस जुलाई को बैंक काट दिया। नौ अगस्त तक सिर्फ 34 लाख का पेमेंट हुआ। आज भी किसान लोग अपने बैंक लिए हुए फिर रहे हैं, उनको पेमेंट नहीं हो रहा है। खुल्लम खुल्ला कानून का उल्लंघन हो रहा है लेकिन कोई एक्शन नहीं। कानून का उल्लंघन करने पर किसान को तो जेल हो सकती है लेकिन यहां मिल मालिकों को तो मज्जद मुराआत दी जा रही है। इसके बजाए उनको भी जेल का मुंह आपको दिखाना चाहिए ताकि उनको भी अंदाजा हो सके कि कानून का उल्लंघन करने पर क्या होता है। पूरे का पूरा आप देखेंगे तो पता चलेगा कि किसान को कोई फायदा नहीं मिल रहा है।

आपने स्टेटमेंट आफ आतजैक्ट्स एंड रीजंस में खुद माना है कि कीमतें कुछ बढ़ी हैं। मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ कि कीमतें बढ़ेंगी तो उसका असर किन लोगों पर पड़ेगा? हिन्दुस्तान की 95 परसेंट से भी ज्यादा आबादी पर पड़ेगा, किसानों को राहत न दिए जाने से, दोनों को मिला कर, किसानों को और कंज्यूमर्स को मिला कर। इसके बारे में भी आपको सोचना चाहिए। उसका पैसा किंग तरह से मिलों से निकलना चाहिए? सैंटर का इसके बारे में कानून नहीं हो सकता है तो आप स्टेट्स को कहें कि वे कानून बनाएं। जहां चीनी मिलें हैं वहां तो ज्यादातर आपकी पार्टियों की ही सरकारें हैं। उनको आप कह सकते हैं कि वे सैंट आफ का कानून बना सकती हैं, जिन के पास गन्ने के पैसे की परिचय मज्जद है और उनके ऊपर कर्ज भी है उनको तो कम से कम जेल न भेजा जाए, वे आकर अपनी परिचयां तहसील में डिपॉजिट कर दें, ताकि उनको जेल न हो और उनका कर्ज सैंट आफ हो जाए। इस तरह का कानून क्या बन नहीं सकता है?

एक और मिसाल मैं देता हूँ। यह सूद के बारे में है। 1978 में भागु प्रताप सिंह जी स्टेट मिनिस्टर थे। उन्होंने एलान

[श्री रशीद मसूद]

किया था कि किसानों का जो पैसा बकाया है मिलों की तरफ या को-ऑपरेटिव्स की तरफ उस पर उनको सूद दिलाया जाएगा। वह सूद आज तक नहीं मिला है।

मैं इस में ज्यादा नहीं जाऊंगा। सिर्फ इतना कहना चाहूंगा कि इन चीजों पर आप ध्यान दें। एक्सपेंशन का भी होना चाहिए। कौन सी एजेंसीज होंगे जो इस तरीके से क्लैमिंग होगा उसके लिए जिम्मेवार होंगी? यह साफ नहीं है या मैं इसको समझ नहीं सका हूँ। किस तरह पर आप इसके डिस्ट्रीब्यूशन का फॉर्मूला इबाल्व करोगे जो लोगों को मिलों को देना होगा? क्या क्राइटीरिया होंगे जो माडर्नाइजेशन या एक्सपेंशन के लिए आप बढ़ाएंगे? यह दो चार चीजें ऐसी हैं, जिन पर सोचने की जरूरत है।

जब आपने यह कर दिया है, और बिल लाए है तो कुछ न कुछ जब डिस्ट्रीब्यूशन का मसला आए, इसमें कोई कमेटी ऐसी होनी चाहिए जिसमें किसानों के नुमाइन्दे भी शामिल हों। मैं माफी के साथ कहना चाहता हूँ कि हमें शक है कि यह ईमानदारी के साथ उन्होंने लोगों को मिलेगा जिनको इसकी जरूरत है। लिहाजा जब कमेटी बनाएँ, ऐसेस करके कि किन-किन मिल का एक्सपेंशन और माडर्नाइजेशन होना चाहिए और उसमें किसानों, के नुमाइन्दे भी रहें ताकि किसान भी अहसास करके कि जिस मिल में वह अपना गन्ना बचता है, वह ठीक है। हो सकता है आप सब-कमेटी मिल के लेवल पर बनाएँ उनके पास से रिकमैण्डेशन आए कि यह खराबी है। मैं जानता हूँ कि किसान अभी तक उतना पढ़ा लिखा नहीं है कि टैक्नीशियन्स और व्यूरोक्रेट्स के मुकाबले में अपनी राय इजहार करके, वहाँ से तो वही रिकमैण्डेशन आएंगी जो व्यूरोक्रेसी चाहेंगी, मिल-ओनर्स चाहेंगे, लेकिन इनके नुमाइन्दे रहने पर इतना जरूर होगा कि कल किसान को जब अहसास होगा, आज किसान के बच्चे भी पढ़ रहे हैं, वह जब पढ़-लिखकर काबिल हो जाएंगे तो सारी

बातों को समझने लगेंगे तो मैं समझता हूँ कि उन्हीं मिलों को वह पैसा एक्सपेंशन और माडर्नाइजेशन के लिए मिलेगा जिन को किसान ईमानदारी से समझेंगे कि यह किसान की खिदमत कर रहे हैं। उन मिलों को नहीं मिलेगा जो किसान समझ रहा है कि उनके मालिक किसानों को लूट रहे हैं।

मैंने मिसाल दी है देवेबन्द के मिल की, अप वहाँ की इन्क्वायरी करा लें, क्या हालत है। इसमें अगर आप किसानों के डेवलपमेंट के लिए भी कुछ प्रावजन रख दें तो बहुत अच्छा हो। बाकी सारी चीजें कही जा चुकी हैं, मैं रिपीट नहीं करना चाहता हूँ। मैं समझता हूँ कि आप ठाँडे दिल से गौर करेंगे ताकि किसान के इन्टररेस्ट की बात इसमें आ जाए।

आपने बफर स्टॉक की भी बताया कि 32 लाख टन के करीब बचता है क्योंकि आपकी गंजम्पशन 55, 56 लाख टन है इसलिए 32 लाख टन तो बचता है, आप 5 लाख टन और चाहते हैं। अगले साल का अच्छा रहेगा और ज्यादा हो जाएगा। यह साइकिल है, 5, 5 साल के बाद आती है उसमें कमी पूरी हो सकती है।

जब बफर स्टॉक करना आप शुरू करेंगे और मुस्तकिल फीचर बना लेंगे कि स्टॉक के लिए खरीदना है तो उसमें यह पॉसिबिलिटीज भी देखनी चाहिए कि कहाँ-कहाँ हम एक्सपोर्ट कर सकते हैं।

जिस तरह से आयल प्रोड्यूसिंग कंट्रीज ने अपनी एसोसियेशनज बनाली है, एक्सपोर्ट के लिए आप भी शुगर प्रोड्यूसिंग कंट्रीज की एसोसियेशन बना लें तो मिलकर ताकि हर आदमी को अपने यहां से एक्सपोर्ट इन्टरनेशनल प्राइस को कंट्रोल कर सकेंगे। करने में परेशानी और दिक्कत न हो।

इसलिए इस पर आप गौर फरमाएँ, क्यों नहीं इंडिया इस मामले में इनीशियेट करके कि शुगर इंडस्ट्री की एसोसियेशन बने।

[श्री रवींद्र मसूद]

इसके साथ मैं इस बिल का आधा समर्थन करता हूँ और आधा विरोध करता हूँ।

राव वीरेंद्र सिंह: कन्टीज का नेशनल शगर एग््रीमेंट है, उसके मुताबिक होता है।

श्री रवींद्र मसूद (सहानिर्णय):

محترم راء پریمیڈ سڈگھہ صاحب آج کچھہ قصہ میں معلوم دیتے ہیں -
شہری راء پریمیڈر سڈگھہ: نہیں

ایسی کوئی بات نہیں ہے -

شہری رشیڈ مسعود: وجہ پتہ

نہیں کہا ہے لیکن میں انکو زیادہ قصہ کا موقع نہیں دوں گا - صرف کچھہ خاص مدوں کی طرف انکا دھیان آکرشت کروں گا -

ہم یہاں نمائندے ہیں عوام کے پبلک کے اور جب ہم نمائندگی کرتے ہیں تو مل اونرس کی بھی کرتے ہیں اس میں شک کی بات نہیں ہے - جب بھی ہمارے سامنے کوئی چیز آتی ہے تو اسکو ہم دیکھتے ہیں -

ہمیں یہ دیکھنا پڑے گا کہ اس قانون کا فائدہ کن لوگوں کو پہنچ رہا ہے - کہا ایسا تو نہیں ہے کہ اسکا فائدہ چند انگلی پر گلے جانے والے لوگوں کو ہو رہا ہے - کہا ایسا تو نہیں ہے کہ اس کا فائدہ ان لوگوں کو ہو رہا ہے جن کے بارے میں عموماً یہ کہا جاتا ہے کہ الیکشن کے دنوں میں وہ بہت کام کی چیز ہے یا ان لوگوں کو ہو رہا ہے جو اس ملک کی سیاست کو بدلنے میں کام آتے ہیں تو ہمیں پہلی طور پر اس پر اعتراض ہوگا -

محترم اس بل کو دیکھنے کے بعد یہ اندازہ ہوتا ہے کہ سرکار مل اونرس کو فائدہ پہنچانا چاہتی ہے - لیکن انکی بھی کچھہ پریشانیوں ہیں دقتیں ہیں وہ دور ہونی چاہئے مثلاً اس میں جو مافرنائزیشن اور دی ہیڈی لیتیشن مل کی بات کہی گئی ہے میں سمجھتا ہوں ملوں کو مافرنائز کرنا چاہئے انکی کوریجسٹی کو بھی بڑھانا چاہئے کیونکہ اس کی ان ڈائریکٹ ترقی سے کسان کی ترقی ہوگی - جب آپ مل اونرس کو اتنا رویہ دینا چاہتے ہوں ان کی مدد کرنا چاہتے ہوں تو ہماری سرکار کو ان فریب کسان اور مزدوروں کی طرف بھی دیکھنا چاہئے - آپ نے بتایا تھا کہ ۸۳ کروڑ روپیہ ایگریڈرس میں پڑا ہوا ہے - سڈ ۱۹۷۶ع میں بھی میں نے یہ مسئلہ اس سڈن میں اٹھایا تھا اور تب بھی یہ ایگریڈرس دیا گیا تھا کہ آج کے بعد جو کسان ہیں ان کا جو ایگریڈر ملی مانکوں یا کوآپریٹو کی طرف ہے تو جب کسان کو پھسا دینا جائے گا اس کے ساتھ سون بھی دیا جائے گا -

PROF. N. G. RANGA: No interest?

شہری رشیڈ مسعود: میں نے اس وقت بھی کہا تھا اور آج پھر کہہ رہا ہوں کہ کسان اس ملک کی بدقسمت قوم ہے - میں تو کسان کو ایک قوم کہتا ہوں - جب اسکے اوپر سرکار یا پبلک کا پیسہ ہوتا ہے اسکے جانور بھیچ دئے جاتے ہیں اسکو جھل میں ڈال دیا جاتا ہے جب اس کا پیسہ مل مالک پر ہوتا ہے تب اس کا کوئی حل نہیں

[شری رشید مسعود]

ہوتا ہے - جب وہ اپنا گنا قال چکتا
ہے تب اسے کوئی انڈرپسٹ نہیں
ملتا ہے اور اس فریب کو بند
کر دیتے ہیں اس کی سلسلہ والا کوئی
نہیں ہے -

مل اونرس آپ کے نوٹیفیکیشن کا
کھلم کھلا الیکشن کرتے ہیں تب
انہوں کوئی پوچھنے والا نہیں ہے -
کوئی آدمی نوٹس لیکر جانے والا
نہیں ہے کہ انہوں بھی لاک آپ کا
مزا ملتا چاہئے -

میرے کچھ ساتھیوں نے جو
معاملہ اتھاریا ہے میں سمجھتا ہوں
وہ صحیح اتھاریا ہے - جہاں
مائنٹیننس کی ضرورت ہے مل کی
وہاں ایکپلینشن کی بھی ضرورت ہے
آپ نے ایکپلینشن ورت استعمال نہیں
کیا ہے - ہمارا آپ یہاں سہارنپور کا
تجربہ ہے کہ جن ملس کی کیپیسیٹی
۱۲۵۰ لاکھ تین ہے وہ مل کوئی
زیادہ پرانی تھیل نہیں سمجھی
جاتی انکی ملو م کیپیسیٹی در ہزار
لاکھ تین تک پہنچانی چاہئے -
میں نے ایک خط بھی ماسٹر صاحب
کو لکھا تھا امید ہے انہیں ملا ہوگا -

میرے کہنے کا مطلب یہ ہے کہ
اس بل سے یہ اندازہ ہوتا ہے کہ
کوئی خاص سیکشن کو فائدہ پہنچانے
کے لئے یہ بل لایا گیا ہے - میں
معافی چاہتا ہوں اگر میری یہ بات
بری لگی ہو - اس کے اندر جو
کسانوں کو راحت پہنچانے والی بات
ہو سکتی ہے وہ نہیں ہے - آپ کا
یہ نوٹیفیکیشن ہے کہ جن ملس کے
اوپر دس فیصدی سے زیادہ کسانوں

کا بقایا رہ جائے گا ان ملس کو
ایڈمنسٹریشن گورنمنٹ ٹیک آپ
کر لے گی -

میں سمجھتا ہوں زیادہ تر ملسوں
آج ایسی ہیں جن کے اوپر کسانوں
کا دس پرسینٹ سے زیادہ بقایا ہے
لیکن انکے خلاف کوئی ایکشن نہیں
لہا گیا ہے - آج بھی کسانوں کو
معمولی سے قرضے کے لئے نتھیل کے
لاک آرٹ میں بند کر دیا جاتا ہے
قانون کے مطابق اگر وہ قرض ادا
نہیں کر پاتا ہے - لیکن کسانوں کا
بھسا آپ کے نوٹیفیکیشن کے مطابق
اس لٹ سے بھی زیادہ ہے جو آپ نے
طے کی ہے تو کیوں نہیں انکے خلاف
ایکشن لہا جاتا ہے - کوئی نہ کوئی
انکے خلاف ایکشن ضرور ہونا چاہئے -
ان کو بھی احساس ہونا چاہئے کہ
کہ کسانوں کا فریبوں کا کوئی نام
نہیں والا ہے ان کا بھلا سوچنے والی
سرکار ہے -

ایک ٹھیکر کا سلسلہ ہوتا ہے -
اس میں مل اونرز کے نمائندے ہوتے
ہیں کسان یونینوں کے ہوتے ہیں
گورنمنٹ کے ہوتے ہیں بیڈک کے
ہوتے ہیں - وہاں پر ایک ایکریڈنٹ
ہو جاتا ہے کہ اس سال میں اتنا
روپیہ بیڈک ایڈوانس کریں گے ملسوں
کو کچھ روپیہ ایڈوانس کریں گے
کچھ روپیہ یونینوں کو بھی اس
میں سے دیا جائے گا - ہمارے یہاں
بھی چھ سات ملس ہیں لیکن آج
تک کوئی پوسہ انکو نہیں ملا ہے -
اسکے برعکس ہوتا یہ ہے کہ یہ جو
آپ کا قانون ہے کہ چودہ دن کے اندر
کسان کا پیمینٹ ہونا چاہئے اس
چودہ دن کے اندر تو ہوتا ہی نہیں ہے

[شرعی رشود مسعود]

طرف اس پر انکو سو دلا یا جائے گا -
وہ سو د آج تک نہیں ملا ہے -

مہوں اس مہوں زیادہ نہیں
جائوں گا - صرف اتنا کہنا چاہوں گا
کہ ان چھڑوں پر آپ دھواں دیں -
ایکسپلمنٹس کا بھی ہونا چاہئے - کون
سی ایکسپلمنٹس ہرننگی جو اس طریقے
سے کلیکشن ہوگا اسکے لئے ذمہ دار
ہوں گی - یہ صاف نہیں ہے یا مہوں
اسکو سمجھ نہیں سکا ہوں - کس
طرح آپ اس کے دستریوشن کا
فارمولا ایوارڈ کریں گے - جو لوگوں
کو ملوں کو دینا ہوگا - کیا کریڈیٹ
ہوگا جو مادیٹرائزیشن یا ایکسپلمنٹس کے
لئے آپ بڑھائیں گے - یہ دو چار
چھڑیں ایسی ہیں جن پر سچلے کی
ضرورت ہے - جب آپ نے یہ کر دیا ہے اور
ہل لئے ہیں تو کچھ نہ کچھ جب
دستریوشن کا مسئلہ آئے اس
مہوں کوئی کمیٹی ایسی ہونی
چاہئے جس مہوں کسانوں کے نمائندے
بھی شامل ہوں - میں معافی کے
ساتھ کہنا چاہتا ہوں کہ ہمیں
شک ہے کہ یہ ایمانداری کے ساتھ
انہیں لوگوں کو ملے گا جن کو اسکی
ضرورت ہے - لہذا جب کمیٹی
بنائیں ایسوس کریں کہ کن کن
مل کا ایکسپلمنٹس اور مادیٹرائزیشن
ہونا چاہئے اور اس میں کسانوں کے
نمائندے بھی رہیں تاکہ کسان بھی
احساس کریں کہ جس مل میں وہ
ایدا گنا بوجھتے ہیں وہ تھیک ہے -
ہو سکتا ہے آپ سب کمیٹی مل کے
لیول پر بنائیں انکے پاس سے
ریگولیشن آئے کہ یہ خرابی ہے -
میں جانتا ہوں کہ کسان ابھی تک

اتنا پڑھا لکھا نہیں ہے کہ ٹیکو شیمل
اور ہیڈروکریٹس کے مقابلے میں اپنی
دالے کا اظہار کرے - وہاں سے تو وہی
ریگولیشنز آئیں گی جو ہیڈروکریٹس
چاہے گی مل انرس چاہیں گے لیکن
ان کے نمائندے رولے پر اتنا ضرور ہوگا
کہ کل کسان کو جب احساس ہوگا
آج کسان کے بچے بھی پڑھ رہے ہیں -
وہ جب پڑھ لکھ کر قابل ہو جائیں
گے تو ساری باتوں کو سمجھنے لگیں
گے تو میں سمجھتا ہوں کہ انہیں
ملوں کو یہ پیسہ ایکسپلمنٹس اور
مادیٹرائزیشن کے لئے ملے گا جن کو
کسان ایمانداری سے سمجھیں گے کہ
یہ کسان کی خدمت کر رہے ہیں -
ان ملوں کو نہیں ملے گا جو کسان
سمجھ رہا ہے کہ ان کے مالک کسانوں
کو لوٹ رہے ہیں -

میں نے مثال دی ہے دیویڈ
کے مل کی آپ وہاں کی انکوٹری
کرائیں کیا حالت ہے - اس میں اگر
آپ کسانوں کے دیویڈمنٹ کے لئے
بھی کچھ پروویژن رکھ دیں تو بہت
اچھا ہو - باقی ساری چیزیں کہی
جا چکی ہیں میں ریپبلیک نہیں
کرنا چاہتا ہوں - میں سمجھتا ہوں
کہ آپ تھلڈے دل سے فور کریں گے
تاکہ کسان کے انٹریسٹ کی بات
اس میں آجائے -

آپ نے بفر اسٹاک کا بھی بتایا
کہ ۳۲ لاکھ ٹن کے قریب بچت ہے
کیونکہ آپ کی کلوزیشن ۵۵ یچین
۵۶ یچین لاکھ ٹن ہے اس لئے
۳۲ لاکھ ٹن تو بچتا ہے آپ ۵ لاکھ
ٹن اور چاہتے ہیں - اگلے سال کا
اچھا رہے گا اور زیادہ ہو جائے گا -
ساتھ ہی چار پانچ سال کے

بعد آتی ہے اس میں کمی ہو
ہو سکتی ہے -

جب بفر اسٹاک کرنا آپ شروع
کریں گے اور مستقل فہچر بنا لیں گے
کہ اسٹاک کے لئے خریدنا ہے تو اس
میں یہ پاس بلتے بھی دیکھنی
چاہئیں کہ کہاں کہاں ہم ایکسپورٹ
کر سکتے ہیں -

جس طرح سے آئل پروڈیوسنگ
کامپنیز نے ایلی ایسوسی ایشن بنا لی
ہیں ایکسپورٹ کے لئے آپ بھی شوگر
پروڈیوسنگ کمپنیز کی ایسوسی ایشن
بنا لیں تو مل کر انٹر نیشنل
پرائس کو کنٹرول کر سکیں گے -
تاکہ ہر آدمی کو اپنے یہاں سے
ایکسپورٹ کرنے میں پوریسانی اور
دقت نہ ہو -

اس لئے اس پر آپ فور فرمائیں
کیوں نہیں اٹھایا اس معاملے میں
انہی شی ایٹ کرے کہ شوگر انڈسٹری
کی ایسوسی ایشن بلے -

اس کے ساتھ میں اس بل کا
آدھا سمرٹن کرتا ہوں اور آدھا
درویشہ کرتا ہوں -

PROF. N.G. RANGA (Guntur) : I
am in favour of this Bill. I am generally
in favour of the policy that is being pursued
by our Government. According to this
policy scales are sought to be kept even
between the poorer consumers on the
one side and the poorer kisans on the
other. In between the mill-owners should
not be so discouraged as to go out of business.
But the clear thing is that not only this
government but the Janata Government
also said the same thing. They also pursued
the same policy....

SHRI VIRDI CHANDER JAIN :
But they are not progressive.

PROF. N.G. RANGA : At the same
time, the kisans are not satisfied. The mill-
owners are not satisfied. The poorer kisans
are to a large extent being served properly.

But, then, the industrial workers who
are working in the sugar mills are not
satisfied. Where is the source of this

mischief coming from? My hon.
friend, Shri Chitta Basu would like to
place his finger on the sugar mills and
then say that it is they who are making
all the money. I have been trying
Madam, Chairman, to persuade our
kisans to organise the cooperative sugar
mills. But, we have not succeeded in
places where were able to get licences in
the name of kisans—that too is a very
difficult job—if there is delay, they
have not been able to collect sufficient
share capital to be able to go ahead ;
wherever they have succeeded, to some
extent, they could not satisfy all the
experts behind the Government in rais-
ing sufficient funds to be able to erect
a sugar factory. The erection of a sugar
factory has become a very big business
now-a-days. Crores of rupees are needed.
Nearly seventyfive per cent of the money
is said to be contributed by various
financial institutions which have been
established by the Government itself.
But, those who are in charge of these
financial institutions will stipulate stiff
conditions that it is not possible generally
for the group of cooperatives or group
of kisans to satisfy them and get the
money from them. That itself takes a
lot of time. Thereafter, they have
to go to the sugar machinery manu-
facturers to purchase the machinery and
erect it. All this is a delaying process.
So, it takes five years or so and some-
times even six years. That is where
the difficulty comes. Secondly, the fac-
tories are established and are being run
on modern lines. The managers may get
very high salaries as also the directors and
all the rest. They have also got to be
satisfied and must make their profits.
They make profits not only in a visible
way but also in an invisible way. If
you look at it merely from the side of
sugar manufacturers, they are able to
convince my hon. friend, the Minister
in charge of it.

Now, they are not making much money
although I think they have made more
money. They are able to have their
subsidiary companies and they are able
to make or mint plenty of money by the
use of various by products that come
out of these sugar factories such as bag-
asse, molasses, spirit, alcohol and various
other things. All these are not being
accounted for. They show their own
balance sheet of their subsidiary com-
panies. In this way they make a lot
of money. They may do not show it even
to our Minister and his officers. We
are not able to calculate all these
things.

In places where we have got the
sugar mills, cooperative sugar mills,
they are not able to develop the sub-
sidiary agencies of production. Then,
welcome to the kisans. The most im-
portant thing that Shri Rafi Ahmed
Kidwai, when he was in charge of Food,

[Prof N.G. Ranga]

and Agriculture, did was that he put up a suggestion that all the other mills in U.P. and Bihar should be allowed to be closed down as and when their time was over. Thereafter, new mills should be allowed to be established. Only in those states like Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Tamilnadu and Karnataka, the sugar content in the canes will be high. But what about those expansions that took place in U.P. and Bihar who are also producing cane? What will happen to them? To this he said let them take to the cultivation of some other crop. The other crops are not paying as sugarcane cultivation. Sugarcane cultivation is one of the better paying cultivation. These people have been used to it for ages and ages and you cannot very well ask them to divert their agricultural activities to some other crops. Therefore that idea had to be given up. Now, the price of it is this. The sucrose content of the cane that is being produced with the sacred waters of Gangaji and Jamunaji is not so high, most unfortunately. I do not know what is wrong with the Himalyas and the soil over which these waters flow. But anyhow the sucrose content is very low. The sucrose content is very high in Maharashtra and Andhra and other Southern States. Government has to take into consideration the production in the South and also the production in the Gangetic Valley and strike a balance somewhere. That is where the difficulty comes in.

Then again, the sugar factories are not enough now to crush all the cane that is being produced by our kisans. So, the kisans are being obliged to depend upon khandsari factories and also gur manufacturers. And my hon. friend Mr. Rajagopal Naidu has been clamouring for a separate organisation for the protection of the interests of the producers of gur. Till now our Government has not established any Board for it. There is need for it and I hope that they will take some timely steps in order to establish a separate Board to see that minimum price is fixed for them also and proper arrangements are made for the sale of gur and storing of gur whenever there is surplus production and so on. Now, there are these khandsari factories. To establish a khandsari factory one need more than Rs. 25 lakhs. That itself is not enough. All these claims and counter-claims have got to be balanced. That is where the difficulty comes for the Minister. My hon. friend Mr. Chitta Basu wants the whole of it to be nationalised. I would like it to be nationalised also. But, what is the fate of the State managed factories and industries? What would happen is, it would serve the purpose of my hon. friends, we are communists

and all those other people who are associated with the communists because they would be able to have conveniently placed groups and groups of workers who can all be quietly organised and then they can be misled in the manner in which they are being misled by their counterparts in Bombay and other places and the fate of the nation would be the same as what is happening in the Food Corporation of India now.(Interruptions).

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : It is a defamation of the workers.

PROF. N.G. RANGA : Wastage there would be. Mismanagement there would be. Corruption there is bound to be. And, on top of its, overhead charges would go on very high. And the demand of the workers would be in such an insatiable manner that it is not possible for the Government which would be placed in charge of the management of the nationalised sugar manufacturing industries to manage the whole affairs.

Therefore, from the Government point of view, any Government, Socialist Government or your Government, or Forward Block Government, or Social Democratic Government of my party, Congress-I party—from the Kisan's point of view, it is better that these things are not nationalised.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : How many mills have they nationalised in West Bengal?

PROF. N.G. RANGA : Well, that is why they are running away.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : How many have you permitted?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : How many have you asked?

PROF. N.G. RANGA : My dear friend, industrialists are running away from West Bengal. Many industries also are being slowly dismantled from West Bengal.

PROF. SATYASADHAN GHAKRA-BORTY (Calcutta South) : You are a follower of Mahatma Gandhi. I can quote from Mahatma Gandhi's speeches that he advocated Nationalisation. (Interruptions) Nationalisation was also supported by Mahatma Gandhi. (Interruptions)

PROF. N.G. RANGA : I am not opposed to nationalisation, Madam. But then there can be nationalisation and nationalisation—nationalisation, when it is being managed by a national Government of all parties, whose leaders would learn to behave in a patriotic and co-operative and consensus fashion, not in the manner in which the Janata party had been mismanaged. The nationalisation may possibly yield good results.

But as things stand, under the present circumstances, nationalisation will benefit only the agitators would only benefit sectarians and sectionally-minded politicians and not the nation as a whole. That is the real trouble now. Therefore, my hon. friend has done the right thing in having decided to build a storage or buffer stock of sugar when there is surplus and I am glad we are having surplus production this year. I do not know what is going to happen during the next year because of the drought and all these things now. But today we have got the surplus. This surplus of sugar should be kept in storage in our own country instead of dumping them in the rest of the world where prices are very low, where we would be losing our valuable goods. Instead of that, it is better to keep it in our own country. Now the point is how should we keep it for our future consumption. The storage expenses are becoming more and more higher and these expenses have got to be met. By whom? Not by consumers. We want to give subsidy for the sugar consumption to the poorest of our people. We want to give them subsidies. Therefore, we cannot very well pass it on their shoulders and at the same time we cannot allow the growers to bear it. So, we want to place it on those people whose shoulders are broader enough, who can shoulder this burden. So this burden is going to be placed on the shoulders of non-poor men in our country by asking them to pay higher price for the sugar that they would be consuming. If you consume more and more 'rasagoolas' I have no objection. You have to pay for that. But poor kisans are consuming a very small quantity of sweets and they should not be asked to pay for it. That is what our present Government is doing. (*Interruptions*). My friend, if your mind functions in a nationalistic manner, functions in a nationalised manner in a patriotic manner, you should be willing to support this policy of the Government. Even if you are to be transported to this place, you would have no other go than to follow this policy.

My hon. friend, Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh—he was my good friend, he is one of the best champions of the kisans—had burnt his fingers very badly when he was in charge of the Food and Agriculture including Sugar. Why did he burn his fingers? It is because the situation was like that. I had to go to Lucknow and champion the cause for kisans there. I had to march in a procession and I had to bear the lathi charge also. At that time most people were taking rest at home. Why did I bear the lathi charge? Is it because my hon. friend Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh is the enemy of the kisans? No. It is built into this system.

You cannot go through these travails system. The producers and kisans are too many. Lakhs and lakhs of them are there and they are unorganised, disorganised and incapable of protecting themselves. But the manufacturers are organised, entrenched in power and being supported by the industrial workers and all of them are also organised and they are exploiting the producers on one side and on the other the consumers and in between the Government comes into the trouble. This is what is happening. Under these circumstances, the best thing that should have been done at that time—which is being done now by my hon. friend—is that the Government should have come forward with a proposal like the present one to build this huge stock and keep them in the storage so that whenever there is shortage of supply or of production, the merchant would not be able to exploit the consumer and the sugar mill owners would not be able to exploit the sugarcane growers and the consumers and all the three parties can be made to feel that some justice, not full justice, some justice is being done to the poorest of the poor among the consumers and also among the producers.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: Mr. Chairman, these two Bills involve a very simple amendment of the Acts, but the hon. Members have shown very keen interest and have thrown light on the various aspects and implications of the measure that we have proposed. I am thankful to them.

The question of sugarcane arrears was discussed in detail for a long time in this House. I would not, therefore, like to again take much time of the House to clarify the various points that have again been raised. The sugarcane arrears stand at Rs. 83 crores this year, and that comes to 4.9%. Shri Mudhukar, Shri Zainal Abedin, and Shri Rasheed Masood have mentioned that the Government has not done much and has not paid attention to clearing the sugarcane arrears and has come forward with this amendment to the Sugar Cess and the Sugar Fund Acts. As the arrears stand at less than 10%, the fear of Shri Rasheed Masood is unjustified. The Act provides for taking action if the arrears accumulate 10% or more. Most of the mills, it is very obvious, have less than 10% arrears to be paid. But there are certain mills in whose case the arrears are quite high and I have mentioned the names of those mills also. We are trying to see that the cane growers get their money as soon as it can be arranged.

This amendment became necessary on account of the Government decision to build up a bufferstock of sugar. I am glad that friends like Shri Chitta Basu, Shri Balasaheb Vikhe Patil, Prof. N.G. Ranga, the veteran farmer leader and

[Rao Birendra Singh]

others have welcomed this move. It is, in fact, essential that in a year of good production, Government should create a bufferstock. And this was the mistake that was committed by the Janata Government; they did not create a bufferstock, and we know what happened, and how the sugar production came down and the prices soared up. The policies of this Government have been so successful that India is now at the top in the world in the matter of sugar production. From 38 lakh tonnes the production has gone up to above 84 lakh tonnes. The sugarcane crushed this year is about 40 to 50 per cent of the production. Normally it has been between 30 to 32 or 35% of the production that has been crushed. Now, it has been 18 to 20% more than what has normally been used in the sugar mills and the benefit has gone to the farmers directly.

What would have happened if this bumper crop of sugarcane had not been used by the sugar mills? The farmers would have again suffered, production would have come down and we would have been in difficulty again.

A charge has been levelled by some of my hon. friends that the Government is very soft towards the millowners. If we were soft towards the mill owners, Shri Chitta Basu would not be taking sugar at Rs. 4.50 per kg. today. The sugar prices in the free market now range between Rs. 4.50 paise to Rs. 4.90 paise per kg. less than Rs. 5/- per kg. Could you ever imagine this? But since we have brought down the prices of sugar in the free market, it is also our duty to see to the viability of the mills. The interests of the mills and the farmers are the same. They are inter-connected. If the mills don't work, there will be no sugar-cane grown in this country.

Prof. Ranga asked about a Board for Gur development to be set up. We have not found it feasible so far to look after this sector, though this is a very important sector. But if almost half of the sugar cane has been crushed by the mills this year, with new licences being given for setting up more sugar mills, with their capacity being expanded, with this liberalisation in the matter of licensing, I hope the use of sugar-cane for gur manufacture would reduce considerably. I would even welcome the Khandсарis to change over to sugar mills, the vacuum ban system for sugar production so that we can produce more sugar and there is less of wastage.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE:
But not mini-sugar mills?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: Yes, we are considering all this. Perhaps we can think in terms of mini-sugar mills;

if it is feasible. But more research is required to be done. If we can successfully set up mini-cement plants, why not mini-sugar mills also so that the Khandсарis are no longer needed and the gurs manufacturers also can form into small cooperatives and set up small mills. But that is a matter which is still revolving in our minds and we are not yet sure whether we have the necessary technology available for the purpose and whether they could be made viable.

A question has been raised as to the impact of this increase in the cess. Raising it to Rs. 14/- per quintal would certainly result in raising to some extent the price of levy sugar; because, after all, it is to find the money that we have come forward now with this amendment in the Bill. May be around ten paise in levy sugar prices will have to be raised.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: The cat has come out of the bag.

PROF. N.G. RANGA: But it would not be much, riefy demr and.

RAO BIRENDER SINGH: But where from do we find money I don't know whether Shri Chitta Basu was a student of arithmetic or not, but he comes forward with startling figures at times. He says the price of sugar-cane paid to the farmers is Rs. 22/- per quintal, but the cost of processing of sugar is Rs. 4/- per kilogram.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: No, Rs. 4 per quintal.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: How much does it come to for a quintal of sugar produced? According to the various studies made on the cost of manufacture of sugar.....

SHRI CHITTA BASU: If it is Rs. 26 per quintal, then what does it come to per kilogram?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: No, it is Rs. 88/- per quintal on sugar produced. It is based on various studies made. It is straight calculation, though you have reduced the cost of sugar production to almost half.

श्री राम विलास पासवान: इस के लिए क्या कोई कमट्टी है जो इसको देखती है?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: This is the Report of the Committee which worked on this.

श्री राम विलास पासवान : क्या कोई कमट्टी नहीं है जो गोवर्स को भी देखे, इंडस्ट्रीज को भी देखे और प्राइस में रैगनेलिटी लाए।

श्री राव बीरेन्द्र सिंह : सब कुछ देखकर ही किया जाता है। ए. पी. सी. भी इसी के लिए बैठी है, ब्यूरो आफ इंडस्ट्रियल

कास्ट आफ प्रोडक्शन भी वही काम करता है, उनसे भी रिपोर्ट लेते हैं।

SHRI CHITTA BASU: It is anti-peasant council.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: At least Mr. Chitta Basu has welcomed the decision to build up a buffer stock. He would like it to be a large buffer stock also. Probably, he would like the entire sugar produced in the country to be made into a buffer, under Government control. But, at the same time, he does not want to pay anything to the mills. The Mill should not be able to sell sugar. They should hold the stock for the Government.

And it should be a very big buffer stock. That only means Mr. Chitta Basu wants sugar mills to close down.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: They have earned a lot.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: If the Government wants to keep a buffer, the cost has to be.....(Interruption)

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: One clarification on this point (Interruptions) If buffer stock is necessary, we have no objection. Why not raise this levy sugar quota itself.....(Interruptions) so that the Government itself can hold the buffer stocks ?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: I am coming to that. The banks will finance the mills for holding these buffer stocks. The only way is for banks to allow 100% margin, and against all the sugar that is kept with the banks for the Government, the mills will be able to get finance. But they will have to pay interest and that interest the Government has to reimburse to the mills. The holding charge.... (Interruptions)

SHRI CHITTA BASU: You cannot pay interest on the arrears for the growers.....(Interruptions)

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: That point has been discussed in detail yesterday.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: You should bear that point in mind.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: Getting the mills to pay interest for the arrears of sugar cane is quite different from the interest which mills have to pay to the banks for the stocks they hold for Government. But the holding charge that Government will pay to the mills will be only 1% for their godowns, storage and everything; and it will bring about Rs. 50 crores. And this Rs. 50 crores which the mills will get against this stock, can be utilized by them to clear the arrears of sugar cane. That way, the benefit will go to the farmers also. The amount of Rs. 30 crores to Rs. 35 crores

that we intended to raise under the original Act is to be spent for modernization and rehabilitation of the sick mills.

Mr. Rasheed Masood and other Members also wanted that this money should be available also for cane Development, in the area of sugar mills. That is not ruled out. This can also be used for research purposes, for development of cane. The benefit will go to cane-growers, and the capacity of mills will be increased, to pay better prices, if they are modernized as hon. Members have already accepted. This money will be there for making the mills more efficient, so that they may pay better prices to the farmers. We have already accepted the policy of liberalization. We are considering applications for expansion, so that more and more sugar cane can be produced.

The question of levy sugar ratio and free sale sugar is under consideration by Government. We are soon going to take a decision. But I am not sure whether we would like to increase this 65% ratio for levy sugar. Because it is a year of very high production. We expect good production even next year. If we have enough of levy sugar why should we want to take more as levy sugar from the mills; because if we increase the share of levy, that will leave less for the mills to sell in the free market; and whatever loss they suffer for supplying the levy sugar to the mills, over 65 per cent will mean higher price in the free market; that will raise the price of sugar in the free market. So, we have to look to the interest of the consumers; and you know how government has been guarding the interest of the consumers. I have quoted the free market prices ruling today in the country. That shows that while we are for ensuring good prices to the cane growers, while we want cheap sugar to be supplied through levy to the consumers as also free sale sugar to be supplied at cheaper rate, we do not want that the mills should be strangled to such an extent that the entire sugar economy goes topsy-turvy and that is the intention of this amendment.

We hope that this money that we want to realise through cess will be utilized to develop the sugar industry ultimately with a view to benefit the sugar cane growers. There will be a high level committee formed which will look into the distribution, the utilization of this fund. Some hon. members wanted an association of farmers with this high level committee so that the use of these funds would be supervised in a way that farmers' interests are not ignored. There is a provision for association of two experts on this high level committee and we shall see what type of experts will be necessary to be included. But the rules are being framed and these rules will be placed on

[Rao Birendra Singh]

the Table of the House; they will come before the Parliament and at that time you can see whether the rules are to your liking or not. After the rules are framed, I hope all hon. members will be satisfied. (Interruptions) well, experts will be there but we will see what is needed.

The arrears, as I said are not very alarming. Out of Rs. 83 crores that I mentioned, about Rs. 10 crores is the payment which is still within 14 days; and that way, according to our rules actually, the arrears are supposed to be only about Rs. 70 crores. But this additional money which the mill will be getting will be used for clearing these arrears also.

It has been stated that some cheques are not being honoured. In the case of Debind Mills mentioned by Mr. Masood we shall have this matter looked into. After all, this is the responsibility of the State Government. As I have stated time and again we try to persuade the State Governments; we advise them to take action against the defaulting mills. Mr. Vikhe Patil and some other friends also plead for export of molasses. Molasses are controlled by my hon. friend Mr. Vasant Sathe. But we have to keep in view the need of alcohol for the manufacture of various chemicals it is used for even drugs. If the price of alcohol shoots up the price of every product will also be affected—essential commodities. But in principle we have concurred that molasses can be exported to some extent as is found possible.

A question has been raised that the APC's recommendation of the statutory cane price to be fixed at Rs. 15.50 Paise has not been accepted by the Government Hon. Members regretfully have not appreciated and understood what I have been trying to explain time and again in the House; that this cane price that we fixed on the recommendation of the APC is not at all relevant to the price that we want farmers to get from the mills. While the price was Rs. 13 last year, we saw to it that the farmers got more than Rs. 20/, Rs. 21 and Rs. 22/- and it was better—it even went up to Rs. 25/- or Rs. 26/- per quintal in certain areas in the country for sugar cane during 1980-81. We shall again ensure that the farmers get a remunerative price, but whatever price is fixed for sugarcane, that will be for purposes of calculating the cost of production of the factories with regard to the payment of price for the levy sugar. And on that basis we shall see how far the mills can reduce the gap between the price of the levy sugar and the price that we would like to prevail in the open market for free sale sugar. We shall also have to take into view the capacity of

the mills to realise at least such a price that they will not run into losses and that is why while fixing the 65:35 ratio we have to fix a certain price or levy sugar and also assume as to what should be the realisation for free sale sugar that the mills have and we control the free sale sugar prices by the mechanism that we have in hand for release of free sale sugar under Government orders from each mill, and by regulating it from month to month we keep a check on prices. That way, we look after the interests of the mills we look after the interests of the farmers and we look after the interests of the consumers. That policy has been very successful. You know it in your heart, Mr. Chitta Basu. It is a different matter that you do not acknowledge it here in the House. I hope I have clarified the points which the hon. Members have raised.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : It is a war of ideas.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : You seem to have no ideas at all, which ideas would be at war with our ideas ?

SHRI CHITTA BASU : We have only one idea, namely the protection of the interests of the farmers which would be at war with the idea of protection of the interests of the millowners.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now the question is:—

“That the bill to amend the Sugar Cess Act, 1982, be taken into consideration.”

The Motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House will now take up Clause by Clause consideration of the Bill Sugar Cess (Amendment) Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

“That clause 2 stand part of the Bill.,,

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is:

“That Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title stand part of the Bill.”

The Motion was adopted.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : I beg to move :

“That the Bill be passed.”

MR. CHAIRMAN : Motion moved :

“That the Bill be passed.”

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI (Gontai) : The parents Act—the Sugar Cess Act and the Sugar Development Act—were purported to give some benefits to the sugar mill owners in the form of modernisation of sugar mill and for the development of sugarcane. The present Bills, which are under consideration, are purported to give benefit to the mill-owners. The cess is being charged from the production of sugar at the cost of the consumers will be highly burdened with tax and increase in prices. In whose interests all these things are done? To serve the interest of the mill-owners. They would earn huge profits. The Government is giving them help because they feel that they will get some money to fill their election coffers.

The Government is doing a lot for the mill owners and big sugarcane growers, but what is the fate of the workers, who are working in the sugarcane fields and sugar mills. I demand at least an assurance from the Government that out of this cess, which is being collected by the Government, a substantial part of it would go for the welfare measures of the workers working in the sugarcane fields and sugar mills.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA (MA-DHUBANI) : I was very much astonished to hear the arguments of the Minister in favour of this Amending Bill.

There cannot be two opinions with regard to our having a buffer stock. For that purpose, he is going to levy a cess on sugar, which will be charged from the consumers. The mills will be paid the entire amount from the banks apart from defraying incidental and other charges. And the stock is with the mill-owners. In that case, a simple question arises not as a point of principle but simply from practical point of view. Why not the quota of levy sugar itself is raised to that extent so that the Government may hold the buffer stock in its own hands and the trouble of financing the mills and meeting their maintenance cost, etc. can be avoided? All these things are unnecessary. This is simply going to finance the mill owners at the cost of the consumers and the country.

I would like to point out that there are two parts to this amending Bill. In one part you propose to raise the cess from Rs. 5 to Rs. 10. In the Gazette notification issued earlier it was Rs. 5. Now it is being proposed to raise it to Rs. 14. After the notification it was Rs. 10. Now it is proposed to raise it to Rs. 15. After the notification you raised it from Rs. 10 to 15 and prior to the notification from Rs. 5 to 14. In fact, the original Act itself we adopted only a few months ago

and now you are raising it from Rs. 5 to 14, almost treble.

Here the simple question which arises is this. Is it in the interests of the buffer stock? No. That they can do by raising the levy sugar. Is it in the interest of the consumer? Certainly not. It is only in the interest of the mill owners. Only very recently, in the last session, it was stated that in the States of UP and Bihar the mills are being taken over because they are sick. So, it is clear that the mill owners have misused the money of the mills, transferred it to some of their concerns, and incurred heavy debts in the name of the mills. Finally, the Government had to take over the mills, foot the bill to clear the dues, invest more money to put them in working order. In this context, how can the Minister say that we are serving the interests of the growers and consumers through this Bill? It will only serve the interests of the mill owners, neither that of the consumers nor that of the growers. So, I say that this Bill is not fit for passing, it should be rejected.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : The interests of the workers will also be served because when the mills are in a state of health, they can pay their workers better, provide better amenities and, if the farmers get better prices from the mills, they will pay better wages to the workers, in the field.

Shri Bhogendra Jha has raised certain points which I have not been able to understand. Under the original Act, we empowered the Government to charge cess at the rate of Rs. 10 per quintal. In that Act itself the duty to be charged was placed at Rs. 5 per quintal. In this Bill, we have empowered the Government to charge a cess of Rs. 15 per quintal. Side by side, we have said that it will be charged at the rate of Rs. 14 per quintal. It is very clear and there should be no confusion about it. As soon as the two Houses of Parliament have passed this Bill, straightway the Government will become empowered to change at the rate of Rs. 14 per quintal.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

“That the Bill be passed.”

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now we take up the other Bill. The question is :

“That the Bill to amend the Sugar Development Fund Act, 1982 be taken into consideration.”

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

“That clause 2 stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : Madam, I beg to move :

“That the Bill be passed.”

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

“That the Bill be passed.”

The motion was adopted.

16.26 hrs.

SALES PROMOTION EMPLOYEES (CONDITIONS OF SERVICE) (AMENDMENT) BILL

MR. CHAIRMAN : We shall now take up The Sales Promotion Employees (Conditions of Service) (Amendment) Bill. Mr. Dharamvir may move.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI DHARAMVIR) :
Madam Chairman, I beg to move :

“That the Bill to amend the Sales Promotion Employees (Conditions of Service) Act, 1976, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration.”

As the House is aware, the Sales Promotion Employees (Conditions of Service) Act was enacted in the year 1976 and it came into force on the 6th March, 1976. The Act, at present regulates the condition of service of sales promotion employees in establishments engaged in the pharmaceutical industry. It extends to the sales promotion employees, the benefits of various labour laws relating to security of service minimum wages maternity benefits, working conditions, payment of bonus and gratuity and also contains provisions for leave and other matters.

The rules framed under the Act which came into force on the 6th March, 1976 give details of holidays and leave admissible to sales promotion employees from

the letter of appointment and registers and other documents to be maintained in respect of such employees. Rule 3 provides that the provisions of Chapter II of the Rules relating to holidays and leave shall have effect notwithstanding anything inconsistent therewith contained in any agreement or contract of service or award applicable to sales promotion employees.

The Committee on Subordinate Legislation of the Rajya Sabha examined the Rules and expressed the view in 1976 that it was the prerogative of the Legislature to annual private agreements which might be inconsistent with the provisions of any Act or Rule framed thereunder by amendment of the statute. Rule 3, in its opinion appeared to go beyond the Rule making power conferred on the Central Government by the Act. The Committee suggested that the Sales Promotion employees (Condition of Service) Act should be suitably amended so as to give legislative backing to Rule 3. Government accepted this suggestion.

16.27 hrs.

[SHRI N.K. SHEJWALKAR in the Chair].

Sir it is in this background that the Government propose to amend the Sales Promotion Employees (Conditions of Service) Act, 1976, with retrospective effect, by adding a new Section Section 11A—so as to implement the recommendation of the Committee on Subordinate Legislation of the Rajya Sabha.

You must be aware that the Bill was supported by all the Members when it was taken up for consideration in the Rajya Sabha. Members suggestions on the occasion related to extension of the Act to other industries enhancement of wage limited provided in the definition of the term sales promotion employees measures for appointing Inspectors for effective enforcement of the Act, modifying certain provisions connected with penalties for offences under the Act and time limit prescribed for processing applications before the Courts.

A large number of sale promotion employees would get the benefit of the Industrial Disputes Act as the Industrial Disputes (Amendment) Act, 1982, which has already been passed by the Parliament and has received President's assent brings all sales promotion establishments within the purview of the definition of 'Industry.'

The State Government have been asked to strengthen the inspectorate machinery and review the entire working of the Sales Promotion Employees Act from time to time.