

[श्री सिंहासन सिंह]

इस टंकम के लग जाने से शायद उन में भीड़ जरूर कम हो जाएगी। मैं भविष्यवाणी तो नहीं करता, लेकिन मैं समझता हूँ कि जहाँ एक तरफ थोड़ा सा पैसा कर के रूप में सरकार को मिल जाएगा वहाँ दूसरी तरफ भीड़ के कम हो जाने से उसका धामदनी में फर्क भी पड़ जाएगा।

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Now, I cannot call any other hon. Member. We have to pass on to non-official business. So, I would ask Sardar A. S. Saigal to move his motion.

15 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

SIXTH REPORT

Sardar A. S. Saigal (Janjgir): Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House agrees with the Sixth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 28th August, 1957."

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That this House agrees with the Sixth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 28th August, 1957."

The motion was adopted.

RESOLUTION RE: APPOINTMENT OF A COMMITTEE TO REPORT ON A CLEAR-CUT PRICE POLICY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SECOND FIVE YEAR PLAN—

contd.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The House will now resume further discussion of the Resolution moved by Shri A. K.

Gopalan on the 17th August, 1957 regarding 'Appointment of a Committee to report on a clear cut price policy and machinery for the implementation of the Second Five Year Plan.'

Out of 2½ hours allotted for the discussion of the Resolution, 31 minutes have already been taken up and 1 hour and 59 minutes are left for its further discussion today.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh was on his legs. Before he resumes his speech I would like to state that there are some amendments that have since been received. I would like to find out whether the hon. Members are in their seats and whether they want to move them.

Shri Diwan Chand Sharma: He is not present and so it is not moved.

Shri Shree Narayan Das.

Shri Shree Narayan Das (Darbhanga): Yes, Sir, I am moving.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Shri Radha Raman; he is not here; so it is not moved

Shri Khadilkar (Ahmednagar): I am moving, Sir

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Shrimati Renuka Ray.

Shrimati Renuka Ray (Malda): I am not moving but I should like to get a chance for speaking.

Shri Shree Narayan Das: I beg to move:

That for the original Resolution, the following be substituted, namely:—

"This House is of opinion that the rising prices of various essential industrial and agricultural products as observed in the economy might unduly hamper the progress and execution of the Second Five Year Plan, and accordingly suggests to the Planning Commission to examine them with a view to 'formulate' a

suitable price policy and machinery to deal with the situation as soon as possible".

Shri Khadilkar: I beg to move:

That for the original Resolution, the following be substituted, namely:—

"This House is of opinion that the absence of a firm and well-defined, price policy is upsetting the calculations of the Second Five Year Plan and its execution is being undermined by a chronic threat to stable standards of living of the lower income group people, wage-earners and peasants. This House accordingly recommends that the Planning Commission should examine immediately price levels of the commodities that constitute the major part of consumption of the vast majority of the people and devise a suitable machinery to take over trading from private traders in commodities such as food, coarse and medium cloth and other articles of common consumption of the people so as to create a fully protected and controlled sector of economy that would be completely immune from the speculative influence".

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Now, these amendments are also before the House for discussion along with the Resolution.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh (Sasram): Sir, it is true as has been stated in the resolution of Shri Gopalan that the absence of a well-defined and clear-cut price policy is upsetting the calculations of the Second Five Year Plan and undermining its execution. I may also add that the Second Five Year Plan was framed on the basis of the psychology of surplus production in 1953-54 and 1955.

At that time, you may recall that the prices of foodgrains had reached the lowest ebb. But the fall in production of foodgrains after that followed by the increase of prices of

miscellaneous commodities due to taxation measures and the increases effected by the Government themselves in the prices of fertilizers, cement, iron and coal, and, as you have just heard, the increases in the postal rates and railway fares etc. and above all the bank advances against foodgrains have resulted in increasing the prices of foodgrains also. These increases are not going into the pockets of the agriculturists but are going into the pockets of those who have been favoured by the Government with the bank advance amounts. So, if I may say so, the responsibility for increasing the food prices squarely lies on the Government and those middlemen who have hoarded the foodgrains.

At the same time I want to compare the production of agricultural commodities as well industrial commodities on the basis of 1949-50 as the base year. The production of foodgrains went on increasing from 1951 to 1954, but it slowly decreased in 1954 and 1955. It has again gone up in the current year. The figures for these years are—

1951-52	..	91.5
1952-53	..	101.5
1953-54	..	119.1
1954-55	..	114.1
1955-56	..	111.3

and this year 1956-57 the production figure of agricultural commodities stands at 116.9.

Compared to these, the production of industrial commodities has been as follows.

(The base year is 1951)

1952	..	103.6
1953	..	105.6
1954	..	112.9
1955	..	122.1
1956	..	132.7

These figures indicate that the production of industrial commodities has been more steady than the production of agricultural commodities.

[Dr. Ram Subhag Singh]

I also want to compare the figures for the wholesale prices of agricultural as well as manufactured goods.

With 1939 as the base year they are as follows:

Year	Agricultural commodities	Industrial commodities
1950	410.4	348.4
1951	409.8	398.5

In that way, every year for agricultural commodities it went down from 409 to 359.8 in 1952 and 380.8 for 1953 and to 358.3 in 1954 and 304.5 in 1955 and to 372.9 in 1956. But the prices of industrial commodities went on increasing. In 1952, it was 377.5, it went down to 367 in 1953, went up to 375.5 in 1954 and 373.4 in 1955 and 381.9 in 1956.

It is clear from these figures that the prices of industrial commodities are still higher than the prices of agricultural commodities when we take 1939 as the base year because the figure for agricultural commodities is 372.9 and for industrial commodities it is 381.9.

But, I do not say for a moment that the prices of agricultural commodities should stand where they are today at 372.9. I want that they should be brought down but not at the cost of the agriculturist alone because the entire vocal section, even the Government spokesmen, has been saying that it is only the prices of agricultural commodities which are going up.

Nobody is saying that the prices of industrial commodities are much higher, even today, than the prices of agricultural commodities. But the production of both these commodities have gone up. So, it is a bit surprising that the prices are going up. It may be said that the prices have increased because of the large amount of money supply with the public due to developmental expenditure. But I think that the prices have gone up mostly because of our taxation

measures, because every year whenever any new tax is levied the prices go up. For instance, in January 1956 the wholesale price index was 376.3, but after the presentation of the Budget in 1956 that figure went up to 387.3. This year also, in January, 1957 the index figure was 422.3, but in May it went-up to 438 and in June it went upto 440. I can give further examples in regard to the prices of sugar, cloth, railway fares and so many other things. Even the prices of coal and fertiliser and cement went up. The Government are directly responsible for increasing the prices of iron, cement and fertiliser.

About bank advances, the other day, you might recollect, the Finance Minister told—the House that as the paddy crops were better this year most of the State Governments informed the Government of India that we should go on advancing bank advances. That was done. Due to those advances some people were able to have larger stocks of paddy and rice. On 26th July, 1957, only in respect of paddy the bank advances were to the tune of Rs. 11.14 crores. With this amount one can easily buy more than 1½ crore maunds of paddy. Where is that quantity of paddy? Nobody knows.

We passed the Essential Commodities Act long ago, about three months ago, but no action was taken under that Act to get that stock of rice, paddy, wheat or any other grain from the stockists at a reasonable price. It was only yesterday or day before yesterday that we read in newspapers that some stocks had been seized in Calcutta.

In that way the prices have gone up, mostly because of governmental interference and our taxation policy. Due to the increase in prices the living conditions of people have become very precarious. Their hardships are not only due to buying their daily,

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requirements of food at a high price. They are not able to educate their children. They have to pay very high prices for building materials. It is very difficult for any ordinary man to construct a shelter or a house by paying such high prices for materials. For this the Government is mainly responsible, because building materials like iron and cement are costing much today.

Therefore, it is in the interest of everybody that the Government should come forward with a well-defined and clear-cut price policy. They should link the prices of agricultural commodities with the prices of industrial commodities or manufactured goods. There must be parity between the two prices. Unless and until we establish this parity between the prices of agricultural and industrial commodities, and also between the services which are rendered to the people things will not improve.

For instance, we were paying only 14 annas per acre as irrigation charges in 1939, but today the charge has come to about Rs. 10 per acre. It has also—gone up by more than ten times. Therefore, there should be a link between everything—between services rendered by the Government, the prices of agricultural commodities and the prices of industrial commodities.

At the same time, there should be some efficiency also. I want that there should be complete control over everything, but efficiency should also be there. Without efficiency things will go from bad to worse. This efficiency should be increased by the Government, because it is the Government which is mainly in the picture.

If a clear-cut price policy is formulated then there won't be much difficulty, the difficulty which is in the way of the Government. For instance, when there is a rise in prices the people in services will naturally demand that their pay scales

should be increased. The industrial workers also will demand a wage increase if the cost of living goes up. That will naturally happen, as has happened in the case of coal. That will result in an increase in the price of industrial commodities. Because of that our export will also suffer.

I say this because all the agriculturists are not surplus producers. A vast majority of them are subsistence farmers. They have very little to sell. What they sell is not meant for sale. Because they do not have anything to purchase cloth or give fee for the education of their children, under compulsion they sell something. The upward trend in prices does not do any good to them. It is a misnomer. Even some Ministers have been going on saying that the agriculturists have profited by the increase in prices. But I want to know the number of agriculturists who are having any surplus with them. That is why I say it is a misnomer to say that the agriculturists have profited.

Therefore, the prices of foodgrains should be brought down. Along with it the prices of industrial commodities should also be brought down. The service charges should also be brought down. The Foodgrains Enquiry Committee is also going into the question of prices of foodgrains. But I would like that that Committee should also go into the question of prices of industrial commodities. It is wrong on the part of the Government to set up a committee only to enquire into the prices of foodgrains, because no prices of foodgrains can be determined in the present circumstances without taking into consideration the prices of industrial commodities also, and all other connected factors which are in India today. Therefore, I suggest that that Committee should also be charged with this work, and it should be asked to submit a clear-cut policy and suggest a machinery which would implement that policy. If need be the personnel and terms of reference of that Committee may be expanded.

Shri Ranga (Tenali): Mr. Deputy-Chairman.....

An Hon. Member: Deputy-Speaker.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao (Khammam):
Are you still in Rajya Sabha?

Shri Ranga: I am sorry. Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I wish to make it perfectly clear at the very commencement what I wish to say on this occasion, that I do not stand here to plead for merely high prices for agricultural producers. I am not interested in any kind of a higher price at all. I am interested in seeing to it that the State Governments as well as the Central Government assure our peasants remunerative prices. I hope I will not be misunderstood by that. I do not want that Government should give them too high profits. I would be satisfied if no profits also are given to them. I would be satisfied if the cost of cultivation is covered, and a decent, human standard of living is assured to our more than a hundred million peasants in our country.

They do not want to make any profits. If by profits it is meant that somebody else is to be exploited, they do not want to carry on their cultivation and agricultural activities as an exploitative profession at all. They want only to be enabled to carry on their employment today on a 'no profit no loss' basis. I hope the Government will be prepared to agree with us on that basis.

Having said that, I would also like to assure the industrial workers that the peasants are not opposed to the industrial workers or the professional workers or even the intellectual workers in the towns. They do not want that anybody should suffer at all in this country. If suffering there must be, then, it must be shared equally among us all. We are a poor country in this world and, as everyone knows, and as has been stated here by some economist, a foreigner, it is found that in such countries as ours—low income countries—the world population is to be found to the tune

of 67 per cent. And our world income is only 15 per cent and our per capita income is only 54 when compared to the high income countries which have a per capita income of 915. Therefore, I do not straightaway ask the Government to assure to our peasants and also the industrial workers all that is being enjoyed in the other countries. But, at the same time, I do not want the Ministers concerned to pit one section of our population against another or any of our political parties in this country to make that mistake.

What is the position now? Why are these prices rising at all? I personally feel that this is the position. I think this remark would be substantiated if a careful and impartial examination were made into the activities of our banks including the Reserve Bank as well as the State Bank and also the activities of the Government in their operations in the utilisation of the Nasik Press, in the manner in which the so-called deficit financing of the budget is being worked, in the manner in which they are helping these various banks to subscribe to their various kinds of loans that are being raised in this country and in the manner in which also the ways, means and resources are being found through the floatation of these treasury bills and so on. I would like them to examine whether I am right or not, when I say that there is a creeping inflation in this country, a spiral that is going on.

Why do I say that? Apart from all these facts that I have already mentioned, it has been stated by the Government themselves that our industrial production has been going up and also agricultural production. In spite of it, why should prices go up? I will only place before you one or two facts. We find that the bank advances have gone up from Rs. 415 crores in 1953 to Rs. 743 crores by May, 1957. I want the Government to account for it. Cheque clearances have also gone up from Rs. 550 crores in 1953 to Rs. 769 crores now, in May, 1957.

Shri Bimal Ghose (Barrackpore): Currency in circulation has gone up.

Shri Ranga: I am coming to that. All these indicate that there is more money. How does it come? It must be coming from the Government through various channels. Let the Government give an account of all this to the country. Let them satisfy themselves whether there is no inflation and if there were to be inflation, naturally, the prices go up. Prices have been going up all round, and as my hon. friend Dr. Ram Subhag Singh has already made it perfectly clear, the industrial prices have been going up to a higher degree in some cases than the agricultural prices themselves. Why blame the poor agriculturist? Why appoint this kind of a committee with partial or inadequate or dangerous terms of reference and put the whole onus on the peasants who do not find themselves to be in any prosperous condition at all. In fact, when compared to other classes of people, they do not find themselves in an equally good position.

What is the thing that the Government have been doing in regard to industrial profits. They have been going up all this time. In 1949, it was 181.5, the base period, of course, being 1939. In 1953, it was 261. I am laying special stress upon 1953 because the Food Minister has rightly stated that the Government consider all these prices, taking 1953 as the base period, as that was the year which followed soon after the removal of controls, when it was made possible for all these various prices to find some kind of relative condition as between themselves. If you take 1953, the profits went up from 261 to 314 in 1954.

Shri V. P. Nayar (Quilon): Only!

Shri Ranga: They are going up too. Take, for instance, sugar. It was only 215 in 1949. It became 420 in 1951. Then it came down by one point in 1953—to 419. It is still at 334. In iron and steel, where there is supposed to be no profit-making at

all, they too have gone up to 222 from 179 in 1953. Cotton too has gone up to 387. Like this, the profits have gone up. Has there been any enquiry? Was any enquiry committee appointed in order to show that the profits do not go up at all in this spiral fashion, and yet, the peasants have been singled out by this Government.

Then let me come to the consumer's food. If we take the consumer's food, we will find the true position. Let us compare it with the industrial workers' wages also. In 1953, the consumer's food index was 109 when compared to 1949. But at that time the wages were Rs. 1,110. By the time we reached 1955, it was Rs. 11,173 for industrial workers, and the prices went down by 92. Did my hon. friend and several others who are now interested in industrial workers ask that wages also should be brought down because food prices have gone down? They did not. Did we ask, those of us who were standing for agricultural producers, did we say, "We feel jealous of the poor industrial workers because their wages have gone up while our prices have gone down?" We did not raise any complaint then. I am only anxious that we should not allow the authorities concerned to pit the industrial workers against the agricultural producers and *vice versa*.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: There must be an alliance between the two.

Shri Ranga: I wish to make it perfectly clear that the time has come when an all-round estimate should be made about the costs of production for various crops. Only recently, the ICAR decided ordering an enquiry, a pilot enquiry, to be made in different parts of the country into the cost of production of cotton. Similar efforts have got to be made especially for food products.

Then there is also the question of markets. They say that there are as many as 1,500 recognised markets in this country, and so far the market committees have been organised only

[Shri Ranga]

for about 450. These committees too have no powers at all. Although they are supposed to have all sorts of functions, really they are powerless to protect our agriculturists. Most of our agriculturists, as has been said by my friend Dr. Ram Subhag Singh, have been obliged to sell their produce a few months after the harvest at low prices. Thereafter, it passes into the hands of either the big land-holders owning 50 or 60 or 100 acres of wet land or into the hands of the factory-owners and other merchants and banks also. The bankers too have got their finger in the pie. It is those people who are making profits at the cost of both the agricultural workers as well as the agricultural producers. We want to protect the agricultural worker. Their wages go on varying in a very erratic manner from eight annas to Rs. 2 per day in different periods of the year. We do not want these agricultural workers to suffer. Today, they are living in a sub-human condition and more than 50 per cent of our agricultural producers are also obliged to live under sub-human conditions. These people have got to be helped.

What is it that the Government has been able to do in an effective manner. They have just started. They have made a very good start with the Warehousing Corporation, and they have placed about Rs. 25 crores at its disposal. This is only a flea-bite. What they have done till now is to control the market. It is also only an apologia. Therefore, I want the Government to concert measures and see to it that the prices of commodities, industrial as well as agricultural, are regulated in such a manner that they are related one to the other, in such a manner that there would be a parity, and if there were to be any kind of suffering, and there is bound to be suffering in this country, because we are so very poor, let it be equally shared by all classes of people. If there were to be any kind of prosperity—bit by bit we seem to

be improving our own conditions—we should assure a fair deal to our agricultural classes also.

I shall sound a note of warning. Let the impression go abroad in our countryside that the Government is one-sided, that it is leaning too much towards the industrial classes, including their own professionals. Let them not forget that after all they are not very many, not more than 5 million people employed in all these organised industries in this country, when compared to more than 100 million people who are dependent upon agriculture for their livelihood. It would be unwise, disastrous and suicidal for the Government here as well as in the States to let this impression go abroad in our countryside that this Government is favouring the industrial classes, the commercial classes, the professional classes and the urban people in preference to the peasants themselves. Let them not also give currency to the propaganda that is being carried on in the towns through the daily papers which are supporting them that peasants are profiteering at the cost of all other people. Let them make it clear that in their own view they do not consider the peasants to be profiteers at all, that in their own view the peasants are performing as important a national duty as all other classes of people, which is a more important and more fundamental duty. Let them assure the peasants that they are anxious to see to it that either through this committee which is already there, the committee about the personnel of which I and many other Members have also already expressed their disagreement, or by increasing or improving the personnel of that committee, or in any other manner, it does not matter, they will take urgent and immediate steps to see that this parity is established between the agricultural classes and other classes of people, that there is a kind of integration between the wages paid to the industrial workers and the

wages paid to the agricultural workers and also the various prices allowed to be paid to these industrialists.

I only want to say one more sentence. Let us not forget the agricultural workers and their plight. How long can we allow these people to go on suffering? Their sufferings are increasing every day because of the spiral of inflation. Therefore, let us start from that end. As we have decided to fix what is known as the floor price for wheat and rice, similarly let us also decide—let us not leave it to the State themselves—a correlated floor wage for the agricultural workers, so that they can have the assurance that they are being protected, that they are not going to be exploited either knowingly or unknowingly by the agricultural producers and also other classes of people who are getting whatever surplus value they can get from out of the peasants. I hope my hon. friend on the side of the Government will give proper consideration to this matter. Even if they are not willing to accept the whole of the resolution along with this amendment, please accept the spirit of the resolution as well as the amendment moved by Dr. Ram Subhag Singh.

Shri Khadilkar: Mr Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the resolution that has been brought forward by my friend, Shri Gopalan, is an attempt to diagnose the present economic malady and suggest a remedy or a cure for it. But I am puzzled that he has been taken in by the popular device of the appointment of a committee to go into the question of prices and how to determine them.

Everybody in this House knows, particularly those who are studying the present economic trend and the crisis in our country that we are facing for want of a clear-cut price policy know, that it is very likely that the whole planning will founder because there is no clear-cut price policy. In order to examine the present policy and suggest some cure or radical remedy, I would suggest

that we will have to take into consideration the controversy that was going on between 1947 and 1949 when the question of control and decontrol was debated here. Of course, it was a pre-Plan period and post-war period; I do not forget it. But, if we go into that controversy, we will find the root cause of the present disease.

What, was the nature of the controversy? Several committees were appointed. I will not repeat all the figures, because practically all figures have been exhausted by my hon. friend, Shri Prof. Ranga. Therefore, I would not like to go into figures, to show how prices of industrial goods and agricultural produce are unevenly rising and there is disparity. I would like to restrict my remarks regarding this controversy, because it will throw some light on the present development of the policy or want of policy in this economic sphere. There was a committee appointed under the chairmanship of Shri Purushottamdas Thakurdas. If I mistake not, that committee came to the conclusion that we must give up controls and come round to free market economy. There was only one man, Dr. Lohia, who did agree with the general recommendation but said—I am quoting his own words—that “the replacement of private trader, wholesaler and retailer by the State is the only ultimate solution for this problem.”

There was another price committee of which D. R. Gadgil and A. D. Gorwala were members. I will place before the House what they had to say:

“Not abolition, but the improvement of the system of controls would have to be undertaken, especially if our long-term plans involve regulation and direction of economic activity by the State.”

That was their remark regarding this controversy I will read out one more observation from the report of the Reserve Bank, 1948; of course it was not a majority observation, but two directors have placed it on record,

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during this period of controversy, because they had some vision of the future economic trends likely to develop in this country. They have said:

"To create an atmosphere of disinflation, it seems necessary, therefore, that controls in some forms may have to be redevise^d at least in the case of essentials of life like food, clothing, kerosene and this should be coupled with a system of allocating essential raw materials for industry designed to organise production in the required pattern."

After all this controversy, as we know, extra-economic factors dominated in the determination of the policy and the old machinery that was built up during the war period under the stress of circumstances was thrown overboard, without any thought of the future.

Our Prime Minister had to make an observation in August, 1948, when this controversy was almost complete. I am quoting the Prime Minister:

"The fact of the matter is that we live, in a matter of adopting policies, from hand to mouth".

After going through this controversy, we find that we have been so long following a hand to mouth policy. What has happened? Later on, we have come to the Plan and now we are professing socialism, democratic method of planning and socialist reconstruction. Of course, when we look at the utterances of our Ministers, the Members of the Government, what do we find? Is there a common outlook, is there a common agreement regarding socialism or planning? There is a lack of conviction which is evident from their utterances.

It has been said, perhaps in the autobiography of our Prime Minister, about the third decade of this century regarding moderates and liberals. He has observed that these moderates and liberals deserve to be sent to the

elementary school of politics to learn the ABC. I would repeat the same thing as regards the Members of the present Government, when I look at the failure of this policy, that they should be sent to the elementary schools of economics, socialism and other policies that have been implemented in the Soviet Union, the East European countries, and for that matter, even in the western part of Europe. Have they thought about all this? Sometimes,—I am sorry to say this—when I look at the Planning Commission.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Education is not yet compulsory!

Shri Khadilkar: At least at the top, it should be made compulsory. And when we look at this problem what do we find? Nobody would accuse—I am not accusing—individual Ministers. But what is the approach to economic life of the country of those who are supposed to shape our policy and implement it? Nobody would accuse Morarji Desai of having any faith in socialism or democracy; he has faith in gun and bullet. Everybody in this country knows it.

What happened to the policy of the Food Minister? When we came in this House in the month of May he was complacent. He thought that there was no food problem. But at the end of the session he had to rush with a Bill through this House because there was serious crisis of food situation. What does it indicate? It indicates very clearly that whatever the Ministers collectively and severally might say, they have no homogeneous outlook. They have no conviction and they have no definite plan of execution of whatever has been decided upon.

What is the use of a committee being appointed? I know the present malady or disease is the outcome of two factors. One is inflation and the other is speculation. Of course, under a developing economy in a retarded country like ours, a certain amount of

inflationary forces are bound to exert their pressure. They are not always under our control. We will try to repress them by controlling them. But ultimately some pressure, inflationary pressure on our economy, is bound to remain.

But what about speculation? In this country, the trading community, as a community, has exercised surreptitiously effective influence on the policy of the ruling party and the Government. You have got to examine it. The economic policy of the ruling party which talks for agricultural and industrial labourers is dominated by this class and this class today is the enemy of the Plan, and its speculative activities are really undermining the Plan. Therefore I would humbly submit that the diagnosis and cure of this disease should be a radical one. We have to think almost on war footing. The situation has come to that.

Of course, there might be some complacency. The situation has not developed in a day. It was developing. There was lack of perspective planning. They thought they could keep the carrot of the blue-print of the plan dangling before the electorate. But the beast of burden of the Indian people cannot be driven for any length of time. They are likely to kick. Therefore, when there is a Planning Commission, I do not see any reason why there should be a committee. I do not see any reason why this Asoka Committee is moving round and touring round the country. Is the Planning Commission doing planning on books and producing blue-prints?

We must realise that we have got the great experience of the Soviet Union and China at our disposal. Lots of books are being published. Every day material is available. There is a central organ of planning and they exercise day examination and direction of policy and Ministries are responsible for its execution. Has it been done here? It has not been done. Therefore, my humble submit-

sion so far as the cure is concerned is this. If at all we are serious about planning and socialist reconstruction in this country and if we want to bring it about by democratic methods—I am one of those who feel that we must bring it about by that method—we have to create a sector of economy where the common man's life is not disturbed day to day. Otherwise there will be a demand for higher wages and the disparity between the money wage and the real wage will increase—this gap will widen every day.

Some people imagine that there is a conflict between agricultural and industrial workers, because of the prevailing prices of industrial goods and agricultural produce. That is not a real conflict. The real conflict today is between the common man and the speculating trading class in this country and unless trading of this nature is taken over by the Government, I do not think that price control, or whatever the recommendations of the committee may be, will have any effect in checking rise in prices. Speculation must be absolutely done away with. In this regard I am fortunate in having a very recently expressed opinion by our ex-Finance Minister Shri C. D. Deshmukh. For his sobriety and conservatism I need not say anything. He is known for it. I would like to read out to the House what he has said regarding the Plan and the prices in his recently published book. He says:

“The case for State trading practically in an economically retarded country like India can be made quite strongly. For, such an institutional organisation—if it works well—can check inflationary increases in prices by destroying the foundation to speculation in basic commodities; at the same time, it would be able to tap commercial profits at source and provide resources for national development. Something along these lines may be evolved

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through the growth of co-operatives, but in the short-term, when the need for rapid development is urgent, the evolution may be too slow and a more vigorous participation of the State may prove necessary."

After the mature conclusion that he has reached, taking a survey of the economic development of the country, if we throw it overboard and just hanker after committees and commissions, I think we will be deceiving the people and perhaps ourselves. Today the position is this. A common man finds, if he has to feed himself and his children, that he has to depend on the trader. The retail price in villages is very often 100 per cent more than the price obtaining in metropolitan towns. I have made a study of this. This is the lag between the city prices and village prices. All these profits are mopped up by the trading community. And because there are no controls tax evasion goes on, and evasion cannot be prevented because no proper accounts are kept. This situation must be tackled by the trading being taken over by the State. That is the only remedy. Therefore, as I said earlier, if we want to check inflationary pressure, we must build up a sector of economy which is insulated from the free market mechanism thereby preventing the trading community dominating our economic thinking. We are thinking in terms of ancient economics. To those who are professing socialism I would plead that they should at least read the theory of socialism and practice at least its premier, as our Prime Minister has rightly said.

Shrimati Renuka Ray: Mr Deputy-Speaker, at the very outset, I want to say that I do not support this resolution as it stands. I do not support the view that we should have more committees at a time when we are facing a crisis, as we are today. In India, many of us have a mentality of wanting a committee whenever something

happens. We think that by just appointing a committee, we could get over the crisis. It is not so easy. I do not think we shall in this way be able to overcome our difficulties.

Turning to the subject-matter, there is no doubt that we are facing a difficult situation. I am sure that the Government are, perhaps, more alive to it than any of us in the House, or at least, they are equally alive to the difficult situation that we are facing. In the first place, prices are rising. As the previous speaker said, it is quite right that, in a developing economy, price rise to some extent is inevitable. But, the inflationary spiral should be checked to the extent possible. Certainly in the India of today, this is better than the opposite extreme, that is, deflation.

When I was listening to Shri Ranga a few minutes ago, it struck me forcibly that while we must keep the prices of essential commodities down, we must not peg the price of food-stuffs so low that it may affect the primary producer, the cultivator. India is a land of villages, of agriculturists. In an agricultural country, we have got to see that the agricultural sector also advances, and that it is better off, but not at the cost of high prices and an inflationary spiral by which the consumer is very badly hit.

How are we to get over this crisis that we are facing today? It is very easy to blame the Government, or somebody else. It is always easy to blame others not take the responsibility on ourselves. That is the easiest thing to do. I say that in this serious situation that faces the country today, there can be no question of party. It is a question of the country as a whole. We have got to check certain things. We ask the Government to check the prices effectively. How can they effectively check prices if we have no regulation or control? The word 'control' is not liked by many. Yet, in the world of today, we do not believe any longer in the law of the jungle. We do not want a *laissez-faire* economy. We are planning

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today. We cannot get away from controls altogether. Of course, we want private initiative. We do not want that the individual's right to freedom of expression and initiative should be taken away. But we do not want licence. We do not want licence in the economic domain. We do not want the law of the jungle as I said.

If that is so, there is only one way out, and we have got to face it. I entirely agree with what the previous speaker said about control and regulation of prices of essential commodities, I entirely agree. That is the only way out. I do not mean that the prices should be controlled at such a level that the primary producer is hit. But, I do say that we must control the prices so that the hoarders and speculators do not benefit. If we believe in planning, if we believe in regulation to a certain extent—we need not use the word 'control' if we do not like it—we may use some other word—but the fact remains—we have got to peg the prices. It is no use telling the Government, please don't have a system of distribution by rationing. It is no use telling the Government all these things. We have got to face the situation today. I am sure, the hon. Finance Minister who is here will agree with me that in today's economy in India, we have got to bring in some kind of regulation, some kind of check, on the hoarder and the speculator. Obviously, that cannot be done by indirect means which have not been effective. That is obvious today.

A few days ago, I came from West Bengal. The West Bengal Government is facing a very difficult position. The price of foodgrains has shot up and floods and droughts have worsened the position. What has happened? Due to the compelling force of circumstances, the State Government had to seize the stocks. The rise of prices has to be checked somehow and if price has to be pegged, the Government including the State Governments must have the power to do so. It is no use expecting the impossible from the State Governments when in

an emergency they are not empowered to check the prices in an effective manner.

It is the middlemen whose activities have got to be curbed to a large extent. As I said, if we do not face up the situation, it is no use asking the Government to peg the prices, to have committees, commissions and all sorts of devices. The Planning Commission is there. The Central Government is there. It is for the country, for this House to tell the Government that we hope that they will improve the system of controls. The old system was not good. The administration of it was not good. There were many things in it which were not good. Improve upon it certainly. Don't discard that which is right. We have discarded it largely due to sentiments. We have got to get it back. We have got to do better. In the light of past experience, one can always do better. No human institution, nothing that human beings do can be always perfect. If the endeavour is there, if we are sincere about it, if we try to do as best as we can in the given circumstances, that is all that can be expected. That is all that can be expected of the Government today. I know that they are intending to do it. We have to strengthen their hands.

I appeal to the House to discard sentiment in this matter. We should ask the Government—and I hope we shall have the full support of the Finance Minister if we do so—to bring back some system by which—you can use the word regulation: not control—by which inflation could be stopped at the level of the hoarder and speculator, by which the poor man can be given essential foodstuffs by rationing.

Today, in Calcutta, the State Government has had to re-introduce rationing as the hon. Minister for Food said yesterday. These things are absolutely necessary. What is the use of saying that three years ago, production was such that it was not necessary. Today it does become necessary. May be, one day it is not

[Shrimati Renuka Ray]

necessary. It becomes necessary again. I would request the Finance Minister, to take up this matter and re-introduce some effective check, some pegging of the price level of essential commodities. I do not agree with those who say that the prices, for all time, should remain the same. That is not possible. It is an economic impossibility. As I said at the very outset, in a developing economy, prices will go up. They have gone up the world over. They will go up in India. We must see that the prices and wages are in such a parity that people gradually will have more and not less. That can only be done by the Government if we empower them with the right to bring in those measures which we abandoned earlier because they were not as effective as they should be, because there was some kind of corruption. It may be so.

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Let us try to check that corruption, and let us try to do it more effectively with a better system. But nevertheless we must get back to it, because we do not believe in a *laissez-faire* economy. And I would request every Member of this House, to whatever party he may belong, and everybody in this country that at this juncture that we face today there should be no question of party. Let it not be said of our country that in these times when the greatest difficulties faced us "all were for the party and none were for the state". Let it be true of India that when a crisis came, we faced up to it unitedly. Because if we are to overcome the crisis we have to pool our efforts together and work so that posterity may have something better.

श्री जाधव (मालेगांव) : जो सुझाव कामरेड ए० के० गोपालन ने रखा है उसके जनरल प्रॉसपेक्ट्स की ताईद करने के वास्ते मैं खड़ा हुआ हूँ ।

हमारे देश में जो सब से बड़ी समस्या है वह किसानों की समस्या है । हिन्दुस्तान की

भावादी हम देखते हैं तो उस भावादी में से करीब करीब २४ करोड़ की भावादी किसानों की है और इस किसानों की भावादी की तरफ जिस तरीके से देखना चाहिए उस तरीके से हम नहीं देखते हैं । उनकी जो तकलीफें हैं उनको दूर करने के वास्ते हम को जिस नजरिये से कोशिश करनी चाहिए वह नहीं होती है । उनके जो सवाल थे उनको हमारे राष्ट्रपिता ने बहुत स्पष्टता से हमारे सामने रखा था । जमीन के सवाल के बारे में उन्होंने कहा था कि भाजादी मिलने के बाद किसान जमीन ले लेगा । इससे उनका मतलब यह था कि जो ज्यादा जमीन दूसरे लोगों के पास है वह जमीन उनको बिला मुभावजा मिल जायेगी ऐसी महात्मा गांधी जी की इच्छा थी कि वह जमीन उनको बिला मुभावजा मिलनी चाहिए । लेकिन इसकी तरफ भी हमने ध्यान नहीं दिया है ।

हिन्दुस्तान का अगर कोई बैंकबोन है तो वह किसान है । इसलिए हमें किसान की जिन्दगी की तरफ देखना चाहिए । अगर इमारत का पाया मजबूत नहीं होगा तो वह इमारत नीचे आने वाली है । आज जो हिन्दुस्तान का मुस्तकिल है उसको अगर कोई बनाने वाला है तो वह किसान है । अगर हमें किसान की जिन्दगी अच्छी करनी है तो किसान के लिये जिन चीजों की जरूरत होती है उनकी तरफ भी हमें देखना पड़ेगा । किसान को हर रोज काम करने के वक्त जिन चीजों की जरूरत होती है वे चीजें उसे बराबर मिलती नहीं हैं और ठीक भाव से नहीं मिलती हैं । किसान की जरूरत की जो चीजें हैं और जो वह अनाज या धान या मनी काप पैदा करता है उनकी कीमत में पैरिटी होनी चाहिए । लेकिन इसकी तरफ हम नहीं देखते ।

एक दफा जब फूड मिनिस्टर को सवाल किया गया तो उन्होंने जवाब दिया कि किसान को काफी पैसा मिल रहा है । इस बारे में यहाँ काफी कहा गया है कि किसान को पैसा नहीं

मिलता है बल्कि मिडिलमैन को ज्यादा पैसा मिलता है। जब फसल तैयार होती है या जो चीजें वह पैदा करता है जब वे तैयार होती हैं तो वह उनको बाजार रिसा कानें कें लिए नहीं ले जाता, बल्कि इसलिए बाजार में ले जाता है कि उसको अपनी जरूरत की दूसरी चीजें खरीदनी होती हैं। उसको जो लाभ मिलना चाहिए वह नहीं मिलता है। उसको मजबूरन उसको थोड़ी कीमत पर बेचना पड़ता है। इस चीज को हमें हटाना है तो इस तरफ गवर्नमेंट को ध्यान देना पड़ेगा। यहां पर कहा गया कि इस चीज को गवर्नमेंट को अपने हाथ में लेना चाहिए। अनाज का सवाल है। उसकी किसान को काफी कीमत मिले। हम यह नहीं चाहते कि उसको ज्यादा पैसा मिले लेकिन जो उसे कम मिल रहा है उसके बदले ठीक पैसा मिलना चाहिए।

अगर आप हमारी नेशनल इनकम को देखेंगे तो आपको मालूम होगा कि किसान की आमदनी शहरी लोगों की आमदनी से बहुत कम है। हमें बताया जाता है कि हमारी पर कैंपीटा इनकम २६२ रुपये है। लेकिन जो एवरेज एग्रीकल्चरिस्ट है उसकी आमदनी शहरी आमदनी की आमदनी की एक तिहाई से भी कम है। इसके प्रतिरिक्त आप जानते हैं कि किसान के ऊपर तरह तरह के और टैक्सेज लगते हैं। जब प्लान का सवाल आता है तब भी हम उससे सहायता की इच्छा करते हैं। कम्युनिटी डेवेलपमेंट प्रोजेक्ट में आप देखें कि देहातियों से पैसा भी मांगा जाता है और उनसे श्रमदान भी मांगा जाता है। जिनकी जिन्दगी ही श्रम की जिन्दगी है उनसे पैसा मांगा जाता है और प्लान के नाम पर उनसे श्रम भी मांगा जाता है। जो शहरों में रहने वाले लोग हैं, जो पूजीपति हैं उनसे पैसा नहीं मांगा जाता। मैं अदब से कहना चाहता हूँ कि महात्मा गांधी ने कहा था कि जो पूजीपति हैं और जो राजा महाराजा हैं उनके पास जो पैसा है वह गरीबों का है और वे उसके ट्रस्टी हैं। मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ कि

क्या उनको बापू के ये शब्द याद हैं। लेकिन कम्युनिटी डेवेलपमेंट के लिए हमारे पूजीपतियों ने और राजा महाराजाओं ने कितना पैसा दिया है। एक पैसा भी नहीं। अगर दिया है तो केवल कर्ज के तौर पर दिया है। इन बातों को हमें बहुत गौर से देखना होगा। किसान हमारे देश की बैकबोन है। इस पर यदि आप बहुत अधिक बोझ डालेंगे तो यह टूट जायेगी, अगर यही दशा रही तो हमारी हिन्दुस्तान की इमारत का यह पाया फट जाने वाला है और हमारे देश का बहुत नुकसान होने वाला है। इसलिए मैं अपने और भाइयों से अदब से कहना चाहता हूँ कि ये हमारे किसान हिन्दुस्तान के मुस्तकबिल को बनाने वाले हैं, इनके बारे में यह न कहिये कि इनको काफी पैसा मिल रहा है, इनको काफी आमदनी हो रही है। यह कहने से आप उनकी जिन्दगी में कुछ ज्यादा जीवन पैदा करने वाले नहीं हैं। हिन्दुस्तान को अगर कोई जिन्दा रख सकता है तो किसान ही जिन्दा रख सकता है। इसलिए उनकी जिन्दगी को आप सहन करने योग्य तो बनाइये। इस और गवर्नमेंट को खास तौर से ध्यान देना चाहिए कि इन लोगों को उचित पैसा मिले। उनके बच्चों की शिक्षा का कोई प्रबन्ध नहीं है। आप उनके ऊपर बेसिक ऐजुकेशन लादना चाहते हैं। लेकिन जो मामूली सा ज्ञान है वह भी वे प्राप्त नहीं कर पाते हैं। उनके रहने के लिए मकान नहीं हैं, पहनने के लिए कपड़ा नहीं है। अगर उनकी यह जिन्दगी दुस्त नहीं की गयी तो हिन्दुस्तान का मुस्तकबिल अच्छा होने वाला नहीं है।

श्री विभूति मिश्र (बगहा) : वह जो प्रस्ताव गोपालन साहब ने प्रस्तुत किया इसका भी मंशा यही है कि इस सवाल को टाल दिया जाये। यह कहते हैं कि ६ महीने में कमेटी रिपोर्ट दे। कोई भी काम सरकार को करना होता है तो वह कमेटी बैठ देती है। इसलिए मैं गोपालन साहब के इस ६ महीने के कमेटी वाले प्रस्ताव का विरोध करता

[श्री विमूर्ति मिश्र]

हू । लेकिन मैं यह कहना चाहता हू कि सरकार प्राइस पालिसी के सम्बन्ध में निश्चित धारणा रखे । क्योंकि आज हमारी सरकार को दिक्कत हो रही है गल्ले की और बहुत सी दूसरी चीजों की । मैं देखता हू कि किसान गल्ला पैदा करता है । किसान जितना गल्ला पैदा करता है, सरकार को चाहिए कि वह उस का कास्ट ग्राफ प्रोडक्शन निकाले । जितना उत्पादन का खर्च पड़ता है उसी हिसाब से और चीजों की कीमत भी तय करे । यह जरूर है कि सरकार को इस में थोड़ी देर लगेगी, लेकिन अहा तक इस का सवाल है, मैं कह देना चाहता हू कि सरकार के पास सारा डेटा मौजूद है । वह सब जानती है कि धान के पैदा करने में कितना खर्च बैठता है, गेहू की पैदावार में कितना खर्च होता है, कपड़े के बनाने में कितना लगता है । सीमेंट, लोहा आदि जितनी भी चीजे हैं सब का हिसाब उस के पास है । उस को सब चीज का हिसाब लगा कर पांच या दस रोज में उनकी रिलेटिव प्राइस फिक्स कर देनी चाहिए । इस से सरकार की सहूलियत होगी । इस तरह से नहीं कि कमेटी बनाई गई, वह सारे देश में छ. महीने घूमती रहे, पैसा खर्च करे और दौरा करने के बाद अपनी रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत करे । इसकी कोई जरूरत नहीं है । जरूरत इस बात की है कि सरकार ऐसी नीति अख्तियार करे जिस में रा मेटोरियलस और फिनिश गुड्स सब की कीमतों का रिलेशन तय हो जाए । अभी हमारे एक भाई बोले । वह चले गए रूस । कोई भाई चले जाते हैं इंग्लैंड । हमें रूस और इंग्लैंड जाने की क्या जरूरत है ? नियम तो बनाये जाते हैं देश काल और पात्र के अनुसार । रूस और इंग्लैंड में जाने से क्या फायदा ? हमारे देश में आज जरूरत इस बात की है कि सब चीजों की कीमत ठीक हो, चावल की क्या कीमत होनी चाहिए, जितना उस का उत्पादन खर्च बैठता है । इसी तरह से लोहे की कीमत तय होनी चाहिए । बजाय इस के हम रूस और

इंग्लैंड में चले जाएं, अमरीका चले जाएं, हम देखें कि हमारे हिन्दुस्तान में क्या स्थिति है । हमारे खाल टोपी वाले भाई ने गांधी जी का जिक्र किया । गांधी जी इंग्लैंड गए, वहां से क्षमता प्राप्त कर के लौटे, लेकिन हिन्दुस्तान की आजादी के लिए हिन्दुस्तान के तरीके पर उन्होने अहिंसा का अस्त्र निकाला और उसी का प्रयोग किया । उन्होंने कहा कि भारत के जितने दफ्तर हैं, बाहर स्वराज्य की लड़ाई लड़ने के लिए सब बन्द होने चाहिए । और हिन्दुस्तान में यह अस्त्र सफल हुआ । हिन्दुस्तान में हमारे भाइयों को आगे आना चाहिए और देखना चाहिए कि हमारी परिस्थिति क्या है । मैं बतलाता हू कि हमारे किसान भाई बहुत गरीब हैं । आज जो हमारे यहा गल्ले की कीमत का हिसाब है, उस के कारण किसान को कोई इसेंटिव नहीं है । हमारे फूड एंड ऐग्रिकल्चर मिनिस्टर, श्री जैन ने बतलाया कि गल्ले का इडेक्स नम्बर कितना बढ़ा है । उसी हिसाब से सीमेंट, लोहा, छाता, जूता, स्कूल की फीस, सभी की कीमत बढ़ेगी । इस लिए सब की कीमत को इन्फ्लेटेड होना चाहिए । आज सरकार को इसकी जरूरत है ।

जो भाई हमारे अभी बोले, मैं उनसे बतलाना चाहता हू कि अभी हाल में ही हम चुनाव लड़ कर यहा आये हैं और पिछले हिसाब से ज्यादा आये हैं । हम भी किसान के रिप्रेजेंटेटिव हैं, लाल टोपी वालों में से बहुतों की जमानत जब्त करा कर आये हैं । लेकिन मैं भी सरकार से कहना चाहता हू, पार्लियामेंट में इसका दावा करता हू कि जैसा हमारे गोपालन साहब ने कहा कि कमेटी बने, और छ. महीने बाद उसकी रिपोर्ट आये, इसकी जरूरत नहीं है । सरकार के पास सारा हिसाब मौजूद है । मैं अपने फाइनेंस मिनिस्टर से कहूंगा कि वह इस काम को करे । हमारे अपने फायदे के लिये और देश की सेवा करने के लिये यह सब से जरूरी चीज है जिस को सरकार को करना चाहिये । अगर वह इसको

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नहीं करेगी तो हमारा अपना प्रस्तित्व भी खतरे में पड़ जायेगा। आप लाल टोपी वालों की बात क्यों करते हैं। धरती हमारे भाई ने कहा कि किसानों के बच्चों के लिये स्कूल और कालेज होने चाहिये। मैं पूछता हूँ कि सन् १९२० से १९४२ तक कभी वह जेल भी चले हैं, या यों ही आज स्कूल और कालेज की बात करने चले हैं। मैं पूछता हूँ कि सन् १९२० से १९४२ तक वह कहाँ थे, क्या उस समय उनके स्कूल और कालेज बन्द थे? पता नहीं पेजेन्ट्स पार्टी के हैं या किस पार्टी के हैं, वह हमें रास्ता बताने चले हैं।

उत्तर : आप इस झगड़े को यहीं छोड़िये।

श्री स० ब० बनर्जी (कानपुर) यहां के बाहर फंसला कर लेंगे।

श्री विभूति मिश्र : यही करेंगे, बाहर तो अभी कर ही चुके हैं। मैं सरकार को बतसाना चाहता हूँ कि जैसा अभी मैंने थोड़े दिन हुए जूट के संबंध में प्रश्न किया था, एक मन जूट की कीमत मिलती है १६ रु०। उसी के बोरे बनाये जाते हैं जो ४० रु० मन बिकते हैं। २४ रु० कास्ट आफ प्रोडक्शन नहीं पड़ता है। जो बड़े बड़े इंडस्ट्रियलिस्ट्स हैं, जो कच्चा माल खरीदते हैं और पक्का माल बनाते हैं, उनकी वजह से कीमत इतनी ज्यादा हो जाती है। आज इसीलिये जरूरत है कि सरकार सब चीजों के लिये एक इंटिग्रेटेड कीमत कायम करे। एक दूसरे के मुकाबले चीजों की कीमत क्या हो और पूंजीपति को कितना मुनाफा मिले। जिसको मुनाफा मिलता है, उसमें हमें ज्यादा लेना चाहिये।

अभी हम यहां कोम्पारेटिव सोसायटी की बात कर रहे हैं। यह नहीं है कि सरकार चुप बैठे हैं। बेअरहाजिसिंग की बात चल रही है। कोम्पारेटिव सोसायटी के बनने में अभी कुछ देरी लगेगी। देश बहुत बड़ा है। उसमें सारी बातें एक दम से करने में दिक्कत होती है और देर लगती है, लेकिन इस बात की तत्काल आवश्यकता है कि सरकार इसे करे।

मैं यह बतलाना चाहता हूँ कि आज फूड ग्रैंड एन्वयरी कमेटी की जरूरत नहीं है। आज सरकार के पास सारा डेटा मौजूद है। सरकार जानती है कि किस के पास कितना गन्ना है, उसको यह गन्ना ले कर सारे देश में लाना चाहिये। सरकार को चाहिये यह वाकिफ एक ऐग्रीकल्चर कमेटी बना दी, जैसे कि लार्ड लिनलिथगो ने रायल कमीशन बनाया था। सारे देश में खेती के बारे में पूछी जांच होती और जांच के बाद सरकार के पास रिपोर्ट आती कि कैसे पैदावार बढ़े। फूड सार्टेंज कोई हमारे अधिकार में तो है नहीं। अगर बिहार में अनाज कम हो गया है, बारिश हो नहीं रही है, तो बारिश के ऊपर हमारा अधिकार तो है नहीं। रहा यह कि हम नहरें वगैरह बनायें, ये कोई हमारा हिस्सा तो सिर्फ है नहीं, हिन्दुस्तान की सभी स्कीमों को साथ लेकर चलना है। सरकार सबके लिये ही तो कार्य कर रही है। इसलिये हो सकता है कि सरकार को इस काम के करने के लिये कुछ समय ज्यादा चाहिये। लेकिन तत्काल यह आवश्यक है कि सरकार कोई ऐसी नीति अस्त्यार करे जिसकी वजह से सारी चीजों की कीमतों पर असर पड़े। वह ऐसा असर होना चाहिये कि किसान को भी कुछ बचे और जो फिनिश गुड्स बनाते हैं उनको भी मुनाफा हो। क्योंकि जब तक हम पब्लिक और प्राइवेट सेक्टर को साथ लेकर नहीं चलेगे, तब तक हमारा काम ठीक से नहीं हो सकता। इसलिये मैं सरकार से प्रार्थना करना चाहता हूँ कि सरकार इस चीज को देखते हुए कोई निश्चित नीति अस्त्यार करे।

श्री गोपालन साहब का प्रस्ताव है, वह डायलेटरी है। छः महीने तक जांच हो। कमेटी सब जगह पर घूमे, उसके बाद अपनी रिपोर्ट तैयार करे। आज छः महीने तक जांच पड़ताल होने की कोई जरूरत नहीं है। वह अपने पास सारा हिसाब देख कर के सारी चीजों की कीमत निश्चित कर दे ताकि किसान भी जिन्दा रहे और किसान के अलावा जो माल बनाते हैं वह भी जिन्दा रहें। सेक्रेट फाइव

[Shri Nagi Reddy]

इमर प्लैन, बड़े फाइव इमर प्लैन, फॉर फाइव इमर प्लैन सभी प्लैन्स को देखते हुए सरकार बले। यह नहीं कि सेकेन्ड का तो ब्यास रखे और प्रागे के बारे में कुछ न सोचे।

Shri Nagi Reddy (Anantapur): I would not take much time and I would not go into too many points. I would only take up three points.

Even in the interest of agriculture today, fixation of prices and a kind of price parity is very essential. There are two reasons for this. One is this. At a time when we are talking of a fantastic rise in prices of quite a number of important commodities, we must also remember that even at such a time as this, there are quite a number of commodities, and agricultural commodities at that, the prices of which are very low. This is a feature which can be seen only in agriculture. Therefore, it is very essential, if we have at least to keep certain minimum agricultural prices for commodities like linseed, turmeric, copra etc. to have this inquiry. Even at a time when food prices are very high, we find that the prices of these commodities are tending to go low. This is a very peculiar feature which should be stopped as early as possible. We must, therefore, agree to this Resolution for a Committee to go immediately into the question of the rise in prices—the price structure—and how to control it.

There is also another important reason why we should immediately go into this question. We must remember that only two years back, in 1955—and the Government must remember this very seriously because I am afraid it might happen next year or the year after that—the prices of almost all agricultural commodities came down very fast. We must remember that in 1955, groundnut slumped by 240 points, raw cotton by something like 100 points, castor seed by 110 points, cotton seed by 110 points, and wheat by 140 points. Agriculture is always hit by speculative

markets, by the moneylender on one side and by the industrialist on the other. It is agriculture that is always facing the crisis of either very high prices or very low prices. Therefore, it is that I say that even from the agriculturists' point of view, there should be a fair price policy which will be in the interest of the agricultural producer, the consumer and also the Second Plan.

In the end, I would say that even the Home Minister, Pandit Pant in his reply to the debate on the Presidential Address referred to high prices and the agriculturists taking some advantage of it and said that it is necessary because agriculture has suffered so far, and that we should not raise a hue and cry. I would remind Government only of one thing.

I would like the Government to note not the average price of a year. That is a very dangerous thing. Sometimes it is very dangerous to say that the average per capita income has grown so much is very dangerous. In the same way, to say that the average price in a particular year has been high and the agriculturist is making money, is also wrong. I would just read out what I have. I have no time to read the whole thing. I would just, for example take 1950—the price of paddy.

The price in January was 479 points, by September it was 549. Take another year, at random. Take 1953. In January, it was 493 and by August it became 546. In 1955, it was 399 in January and by September it was 509. Similarly in 1956. It was 449 in January and by September it was 600. All these years we have found that by September there has been a rise in the prices of foodgrains. I was talking of paddy. I find here is a huge variation which has been to the detriment of the real producer, the producer who sells a small amount of his agricultural produce, paddy or whatever it is. The same feature can be seen if month to month calculation is made, even if we take groundnut or a

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number of other agricultural commodities.

Therefore, in the interests of agricultural production, in the interests of the Second Five Year Plan and the consumer, in the interests of the small peasants who produce these things, I would say that Government must immediately set up a committee to go into the whole question of fixing some parity price, integrated price so that the country would not be in this plight.

After the Second Five Year Plan, we might talk of the per capita income having gone higher. But, if this sort of price policy is to continue we will find the peasant, the consumer, the producer, 80 per cent. of the people would not see any growth in national income. It is in this aspect that Government should accept this Resolution and set up the Committee immediately.

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

Secretary: Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary of Rajya Sabha:—

'In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 162 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Appropriation (No. 4) Bill, 1957, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 24th August, 1957, and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill.'

RESOLUTION RE: APPOINTMENT OF A COMMITTEE TO REPORT ON A CLEAR-CUT POLICY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SECOND FIVE YEAR PLAN—
contd.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I have still some 7 or 8 minutes more. If any

hon. Member wants to speak I can allow.

Shri Bimal Ghose: If you can give me 10 to 12 minutes, I can speak.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: No; I have to call the Minister at 4-30.

श्री बनगर (मैनपुरी) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, आज हमारे सामने फूड प्राइसिज का प्रश्न है। खाद्य पदार्थों की कीमतें लम्बता बढ़ती जा रही हैं। इस समस्या को हल करने के लिये गवर्नमेंट बहुत दिनों से तरह तरह का तजवीजें ला रही है, लेकिन यह समस्या सुलझ नहीं रही है और जहाँ तक मौजूदा सरकार का संबंध है, मैं समझता हूँ कि वहाँ इस को हल करने में कदापि सफल नहीं हो सकेगी। इसकी मुख्य वजह यह है कि हमारे देश में बहुमत किसानों और मजदूरों का है, लेकिन अगर हम सरकार की तीनों श्रृंगों—जुडिशरी, एग्जीक्यूटिव और लैजिस्लेचर—का ख्याल करें, तो हम देखते हैं कि उनमें ज्यादा तादाद उन लोगों की नहीं है, जो कि देश के सही नुमाइंदे हो सकते हैं। यही बात वजह है कि हम अपनी जटिल समस्याओं को, जो कि हमारे देश के लिये या किसी भी देश के लिये मौलिक समस्याएँ हो सकती हैं, हल करने में सफल नहीं होते हैं। जब तक हम सरकार में बहुमत किसानों का न होगा, मजदूरों का न होगा, उन लोगों का न होगा, जिनकी ये समस्याएँ हैं, तब तक ये समस्याएँ हल नहीं हो सकती हैं। आज इस देश में कांग्रेस पार्टी का राज्य है, जिसके सामने महात्मा गांधी ने यह आदर्श रखा था कि हम देश का राष्ट्रपति जब तक एक किसान नहीं होगा, तब तक इस देश का बेड़ा पार न हो सकेगा, लेकिन राष्ट्रपति तो क्या, सारे देश के किसी भी क्षेत्र में, किसी भी संस्था में किसानों और मजदूरों का, जिनका कि इस देश में बहुमत है, सही प्रतिनिधित्व नहीं है। राज्य जैसी संस्था हो, या कोई भी संस्था हो, हर एक संस्था बहुजन हितायत और बहुजन सुखाय के लिये संगठित होती है, लेकिन इसका ठीक विपरीत प्रय

[श्री. बमगा.]

हमको देखने को मिलता है, तीसरे इस प्रभागने देश हिन्दुस्तान में। यह शोषण की व्यवस्था हमारे देश के लिये नहीं है। हमेशा से यह समस्या इस देश में रही है और वह समस्या स्वराज्य के बाद भी और जोर से मौजूद है। हालांकि हमारे ट्रेडरी बेचिख के बहुत से लोग हिम्मत कर के कहते हैं कि हम किसानों के नुमायंदे हैं। हम बहुत से लोगों की—साल टोपी वालों की खमानतें जप्त करा के यहां पर आये हैं, लेकिन मैं कहता हूँ कि ये बड़ी बनावट और धोखे में डालने वाली बातें हैं। और, मैं इस विवाद में न पड़ कर मुख्य प्रश्न पर आता हूँ। जैसा कि मैंने अभी कहा कि इस देश में किसानों, मजदूरों और मामूली गरीब किस्म के श्रावमियों का बहुमत है और वही हिन्दुस्तान की सारी संपत्ति को कच्ची शकल में पैदा करने के जिम्मेदार हैं, लेकिन जुड़ियारी, एग्रीकल्चरल डिप्टी, लैजिस्लेचर या व्यूरोक्रेसी में जिन लोगों का रिप्रेजेंटेशन है, उनमें से ज्यादातर—मैं सभी तो नहीं कहूँगा—इस क्लास के संबंधित नहीं हैं और इस लिये इस समस्या का सुलझाव बड़ी कठिनाई में पड़ता चला जा रहा है। यह समस्या इन लोगों की है, लेकिन इसको सुलझाने वाले, इसको हल करने वाले दूसरी किस्म के लोग हैं। जब तक किसी भी समस्या को संबंधित लोगों के सहयोग और सहायता से हल नहीं किया जाएगा, तब तक हरगिज उस समस्या को सही तौर पर हल नहीं किया जा सकता है। जैसा कि मुझ से पहले बोलने वाले सज्जन ने कहा है, किसान एक चीज को पैदा करता है, लेकिन जिस वक्त प्रश्न तैयार हो जाती है, उस वक्त किसान को अपनी जरूरत को पूरा करने के लिये उन चीजों को बेचना पड़ता है और उस वक्त उन चीजों का जो भाव होता है, उसी पर उसको बेचना पड़ता है। किसानों का बहुमत ऐसा है, जो कि अपनी साल भर की जरूरत के लिये अपना बचा नहीं सकता है। जब वह बचा नहीं सकता है, तो जरूरत के वक्त उसको

अपने बचने के लिये, अपना जी जो भी प्राइस होती है, उसके हिसाब से वह खरीदना पड़ता है। इन चीजों पर विचार करने वाले दूसरे ही लोग हैं। प्रश्न ही यह समस्या मौजूद स्थितियों में हल नहीं हो सकती है, यह बहुत ही जटिल समस्या है। जैसे गांधी जी ने इसकी तरफ इशारा किया था और कई बार इसका खिन्न भी किया था और कहा था कि इस पर गवर्नमेंट का मौलिक दृष्टिकोण होना चाहिये और गम्भीरता से उसे इस पर विचार करना चाहिये।

जहां तक इलेक्शंस का संबंध है, हमने देखा है कि जितनी भी व्यवस्थायें हैं, सब की सब पूंजीवादी हैं और यहां पर पूंजीवादी व्यवस्थाओं के सहारे ही लोग कामयाब होते हैं और हुए हैं। अगर गवर्नमेंट वास्तव में चाहती है कि इस समस्या का हल हो तो उसको अपनी पालिसी में मौलिक परिवर्तन करना होगा। उसे समुचित व्यवस्था पर किसानों को, मजदूरों को तथा दूसरे लोगों को जिनका कि बहुमत हमारे देश में है, उत्साहित करना पड़ेगा —

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय. तैयारी बाहर होगी, यहां पर तो नहीं हो सकती है।

श्री. इनगर : देश की समस्या [अभने के लिये हम लोगों को चाहिये कि हम सभी का सहयोग हासिल करें। मैं इस बात को मानता हूँ कि यह केवल कांग्रेस पार्टी का ही काम नहीं है, यह उसका ही जिम्मा नहीं है। हम जो विरोधी दल के लोग हैं और जो यहां बैठे हुए हैं तथा हम में से जो बाहर हैं, उन सब को इस काम को करना है। लेकिन कांग्रेस को भी जो पक्षपाती पालिसी पर वह प्रमल कर रही है, उसे छोड़ना होगा। हर मामले में हम देखते हैं और विशेषकर सविस्तिज में कि वह इसी पालिसी पर चल रही है। इस चीज के खिलाफ हम लोगों को बटे से बड़ा मोर्चा लेना है और किमानो तथा मजदूरों को संग-

ठिक करना है, उनमें जायति पैदा करनी है।
इसको करने के लिये हम लोगों को बड़ी मेहनत
करनी होगी —

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : आप, जो प्रस्ताव
इस समय विचाराधीन है, उसका क्या समर्थन
करते हैं या विरोध करते हैं ?

श्री धनवर : मैं प्रस्ताव का समर्थन करता
हूँ . . .

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : धनरेबल मिनि-
स्टर ।

The Minister of Finance (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the intention behind this resolution is something with which I for my part cannot quarrel. In fact, the need for an integrated policy in regard to the prices of those articles which are necessary for the fixed income earner, and those articles which are necessary for the purpose of keeping a dynamic economy going is a thing which is recognised. I would also like to say, if my hon. friend opposite will permit me, that with much of what he said I would agree. In introducing his resolution he made a speech. On a number of passages, a number of sentiments, even ideas, principles and policy which he has indicated there could be no disagreement, because if our intention is that we should have an ordinary development in which the agriculturists, the primary producer, the wage earner and the fixed income earner would all benefit equally, I think there is no denying that we should have an integrated price policy.

In fact, the Planning Commission in its Second Plan has made this position clear. It is not a matter of somebody committing himself to fiscal controls or not committing himself to fiscal controls. A certain imbalance in a developing economy has been envisaged by the Planning Commission, and it is also suggested that we should guard against that particular contingency arising.

But, while I say that I agree with my hon. friend opposite, I am not able, at the same time, to recognise the remedies that he suggests, which are of an interim character. Are the remedies now to be sought, or if something that we have not done would not in fact achieve that end, or we should wait to see whether that is useful for that purpose or not, is a thing which I would urge on him to reconsider.

The main point made by my hon. friend is that an unplanned or excessive price rises are undesirable from the point of view of implementation of the Plan. Apart from raising costs, they alter the distribution of incomes between the different classes within the community. As I said, that is a general thesis which we can accept. Even so, I can also accept some of the points raised by my hon. friend Shri Nagi Reddy opposite, in regard to certain commodities which we may not consider essential from our point of view, but which undoubtedly impinge on the earning capacity of the agriculturists. It is an important factor in the scheme envisaged in the Plan.

But, there is also one factor which you must recognise. Assuming that we have an integrated policy, that does not mean that in a developing economy we can keep prices absolutely stable and/or we can completely prevent other influences from operating. Of course, the fact is that if there are changes the changes should not be precipitated. There again, what my hon. friend Shri Nagi Reddy said about the position of prices of ground-nuts and cotton 2½ years back is certainly valid. In fact, I was very much concerned in February, 1955 about the cotton prices, and I had to do all kinds of things to see that cotton prices were kept up at that time, because stocks were moving out of the hands of the agriculturists into the hands of the traders. So, that is a common ground. But, at the same time, when I accept the common ground, my hon. friend should not say, your policy is wrong.

[Shri T. T. Krishnamachari]

I say, we have a policy, and the direction of that policy is correct. May be, that hon. Members want certain things done, which are not probably being effected for various other reasons. And, it is quite enough—if I am going to be merely polemical, and I cannot afford to be so on this subject—if I quote the speeches of my hon. friends Dr. Ram Subhag Singh, Shri Ranga, Shri Khadilkar—all good speeches—and also hon. Members who spoke in Hindi and Shrimati Renuka Ray just to show how the emphasis in each case happens to be different. While Shri Nagi Reddy was extremely careful that, in mentioning certain categories of commodities, he said the main purpose should not be lost sight of, the other people were not so careful. Different persons have a set of opinion by people well informed and competent, something totally divergent, and the remedy suggested by all of them are also divergent.

Therefore, while arriving at a correct judgment on this question, it is necessary, firstly, to see the recent rises in prices in a somewhat longer perspective; and, secondly, to view Government's policy in its various aspects. In deciding on a course of action, one has to keep this perspective always in mind, and also to assess the pros and cons of various alternative courses of action.

Shri Gopalan himself has not enunciated any firm and well-conceived policy. He merely said, leave it to the Committee. If he would not be offended I would like to say, that his idea of a resolution of this nature might have taken place a little before the appointment of the Asoka Mehta Committee. I may be wrong. Anyway, he argued that Asoka Mehta Committee is different and it cannot serve the purpose that he has in view.

It is not very clear to me why this distinction is sought to be imported, because the Asoka Mehta Committee will take into account the trends in prices of essential commodities other

than foodgrains, and the fact remains that, after all, for the bulk of the community food prices are most important of all prices.

Shri Gopalan has formulated three issues. One is, what would be the repercussions of the increase in money supply contemplated during the period of the Plan upon the level of prices. Secondly, to what extent the estimates of the Plan will be undermined by the price fluctuations. Lastly, the evolution of an integrated price policy which will ensure the necessary allocation of resources and the fulfilment of the Plan targets.

So far as posing the issues are concerned I think they are right. At the same time, he would forgive me if I say, they are not capable of any clear-cut answers, in the sense that there should be very precise answers. One could only take a broad view of the likely developments and Government can only indicate a broad statement of their policy, subject to such changes as have to be made as new trends emerge.

Besides, in the matter of price policy, it is not a matter of what one does with one particular price or with a particular set of prices. It has a bearing on the sum-total of economic policies operating in the various points in the system. Can another committee in supersession of the Asoka Mehta Committee do it? My hon. friend Shrimati Renuka Ray had indicated—and I think some other hon. Member who spoke also had indicated—what is the Planning Commission for. What is it doing? Is there not a concurrent and a continuous examination of the price changes and what are the remedies that the Planning Commission suggests? My hon. friend Shrimati Renuka Ray would go also to the remedy. She says a certain controlled policy is essential without which you cannot implement the Plan. May be she is right. I won't say she is wrong, because, planning, as has been

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indicated by Shri Gopalan, does mean a large element of control. Maybe that we are defective in the sense that our control is not comprehensive. If the control may be at certain sectors, because of the pressure of controls on certain sectors, there is an 'up-raising' in the other sectors, and the prices rise. So, it is undoubtedly important to get the facts of the price situation cleared.

The facts are these as I could see. By the middle of 1955, prices have risen sharply. Foodgrain prices have risen the most. The general index on the base of 1952-53—it may not be a good enough yardstick, but it may reflect a good enough position as comparable yardstick—has risen by 25 per cent., and the index for cereals by 56 per cent. The prices of rice and wheat are now higher by 46 and 53 per cent. compared to May, 1955. Prices of industrial raw materials and manufactures have risen too, the former by 26 per cent and the latter by about 10 per cent. These rises are by themselves by no means small. On the other hand, it must not be forgotten that the level of prices early in 1955 was low, and the point was illustrated by Shri Nagi Reddy, when he mentioned about the price of raw cotton and the price of groundnuts. Even in regard to the foodgrain prices, we have to be ready with some measures in order to check the downward trend.

Perhaps one might take April, 1954 as a more appropriate base for comparison. I do not say the prices are equitable. The comparison, then, would be as follows. Cereals have risen by 20 per cent.; industrial raw materials by 13 per cent.; manufactures by 7 per cent.; general index by 9 per cent. But 1954 also cannot be taken as the norm satisfactory in all respects. One could take some other base and one could get a different sort of picture altogether.

The new index of wholesale prices, as I said, on 1952-53 terms, is as follows. The general level of prices is now 12 per cent. higher; that of

cereals 7 per cent.; food articles, 13 per cent.; industrial raw materials, 22 per cent.; manufactured goods, 9 per cent.: But again, in 1952-53, foodgrain prices were relatively high; in fact they were only a little less than peak; for, a rise in foodgrain prices took place from the time there was a decontrol towards the end of 1947 when the further acceleration with the Korean boom came. The index for rice at that time was 516, with the base year being 1939. For wheat, it was 546. These prices were relatively more favourable to the agriculturist, the general index being only 381. While I do not wish to pursue the will-o'-the-wisp of the ideal of theoretical norm, I must not fail to mention that even a moderate rise in foodgrain prices over the levels prevalent in 1952-53 is not a matter of indifference.

It might be of some help in getting the picture into the focus, if I finally quote to you the relevant indices as compared to April, 1956, that is, about the beginning of the second Plan, when the overall index of prices was, by some coincidence, 100. The rise in cereal prices since April, 1956 has been 20 per cent.; rice and wheat have recorded increases of 21 and 13 per cent respectively and coarse grains have risen more. As compared to these increases, industrial raw materials have gone up by 10 per cent. and manufactured articles by 6 per cent. These data show that although the rise in prices has been fairly general, it has been particularly marked in the case of foodgrains and agricultural products.

The question has been asked by my hon. friend, Dr. Ram Subhag Singh, as to the cause. He says that the root of the trouble is the Government. I agree if there is no Government, nobody can ask any questions, and nobody will know anything about that. The answer to the query, why have the prices risen, in brief, is that demands within the economy have been rising faster than supplies. May be that supplies also are immobile.

[Shri T. T. Krishnamachari]

That is a factor which I am afraid is operating as for instance in Andhra. In the coastal districts of Andhra, it is stationary. It does not move. The outturn of industrial production has been satisfactory; it has been rising at a rate of 9 per cent. or so per year. Foodgrains production, on the other hand, has not risen in keeping with the growth of demand. In 1954-55, production of foodgrains was two million tons below that in 1953-54. In 1955-56, it fell by a further 1.5 million tons. In 1956-57, the estimated production is 88.6 million tons which is 3.7 million tons above the previous year's level, but this is still slightly below the peak period of 1952-53. Agricultural production does not react in any precise or foreseeable way to increased investment or other effort. But the fact remains that production is not adequate relative to needs. An increase in food production is, therefore, a matter of crucial importance in the present context.

With food production, I think, around 1953-54 level, the plan outlays are much higher. In 1953-54, expenditure on the Plan was Rs. 343 crores. For 1957-58, the budgeted outlay is Rs. 965 crores. Some other items of public expenditure have also risen. The investment activity in the private sector has been steadily stepped up without real savings in the community. Of course, naturally, the pressure of these investment demands has been reflected in the rising trend in domestic prices. There has been one cushion. Otherwise, perhaps, the situation might have been worse. The large balance of payment deficit has acted as a cushion against inflation. Government policy in this context must be considered in terms of two broad types of techniques. One is, the overall regulation of economic activity through fiscal and monetary policy, and I still feel that it can be done notwithstanding the criticism of my friend Dr. Ram Subhag Singh, and secondly, by

devices like export and import controls, licensing of industries and trades, fixation of maximum and minimum prices and physical allocations, etc. While Government has been operating both these types of controls, it has so far avoided direct or physical controls in respect of foodgrains. The budgetary policy, as the House is aware, is being orientated towards raising larger resources for investment. Steps have been taken to curb excessive bank credit. Government do not rule out variations or modifications of these control measures from time to time.

Doubts have been expressed by my hon. friend Dr. Ram Subhag Singh as to the effectiveness of selective credit control. I do not propose to go into it at the present moment. Nevertheless, the level of advances against foodgrains has come down in the last few weeks. On July 26th, the total advances against foodgrains were Rs. 29.30 crores as compared to Rs. 42.52 crores at the end of May, and Rs. 32.70 at about the same time last year. The advances against rice were Rs. 11.14 crores on July 26th. This is some Rs. 10 crores less than at the end of May. It is also slightly less than in the corresponding period last year. Advances against wheat have also started coming down, the level on July 26th being Rs. 5.38 crores, compared to Rs. 6.80 crores a month earlier. The banks have, as I said before, difficulties in calling back some of their advances, but they are trying to abide by the directives that have been issued.

Government have taken various other measures; imports under P.L. 480, zoning, fair price shops, etc. They have also taken powers, which the House has given, to requisition stocks at stated prices. Government have by no means been complacent in the matter. They will certainly take further measures. But Government, Sir, have very regretfully to say that while we do agree with the main objective which prompted my

hon. friend opposite to move this resolution, they do not see the utility of appointing another committee on a subject a substantial part of which is covered by the work of the Asoka Mehta Committee. But this does not mean that there is no need for further steps, direct or indirect, or both, to deal with the price situation. Nor need anyone imagine that the necessary steps will not be taken. Government have, however, to weigh various considerations. An integrated price policy is an excellent idea. I have not, however, seen it worked out clearly anywhere. Even in highly centralised economies, price policy is not as integrated as one might think. I have no doubt that my hon. friend recognises the fact. What he wants is an attempt in that direction. Sometimes inner contradictions become manifest after some time lag and therefore it is difficult to conceive and say this is the integrated price policy for all time.

Briefly, Government are taking steps at various points to correct the imbalance in the economy and these measures will be tightened and supplemented as and when necessary and we shall certainly welcome any suggestions that come from hon. Members of this House towards that end. We are also considering the reaction of these measures on the Plan. Price policy is not something which can be discussed or settled in isolation from all other trends in the economic system: the balance of payments situation, the demands of development, the possibilities of increasing production and savings, etc. All that Government can say is that the whole matter is being viewed about together. But the real point about it is that the Asoka Mehta Committee is there. If it is a matter of investigation, what is the use of appointing another Committee, or enlarging the scope of the work of the Asoka Mehta Committee, which is a possibility, because it will deflect them from the main work which is very important?

Of course, some hon. Member suggested that the Planning Commission should be asked to do this evaluation. It is doing it continuously. All the machinery that I have at my disposal is placed at the service of the Planning Commission for this purpose, and that is why Mr. Khadiolkar's suggestion that the Planning Commission should be asked to do it is something which is redundant. It merely means that we have to device a machinery and leave it at that.

The position, therefore, resolves itself to this. So far as some kind of enquiry, whether it is a committee or not, some kind of policy formulation in regard to the objective that Mr. Gopalan has in mind is concerned, I can see no difference of view at all. We have appointed the Asoka Mehta Committee. We should await their recommendations. The Planning Commission will examine the recommendations and find out whether there can be any integration of those recommendations with the other price trends. If it is necessary for us to constitute some other body, to go into it, not necessarily a committee which could relate industrial prices about which my hon. friend Mr. Ram Subhag Singh mentioned, we can do it. But I must say this. While Mr. Gopalan has not committed himself to any solution beyond the appointment of a committee and acceptance of a principle that there should be an integrated price policy, my hon. friend Mr. Khadiolkar suggested State-trading.

I know it. In fact, we had thought about it for a long time. The State Trading Corporation was started during the time I was Commerce and Industry Minister. But State trading for a purpose which is all covering like this would not be feasible in a country like ours. At the present moment, even co-operative consumer distribution which we have to try can only be tried in a sector, may be 10, 15, 20 or 25 per cent. There is no question of anybody taking trading in food-grains on a very large scale. It

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is not possible. So, I would again like to tell my hon. friend and the House that the objectives of the resolution very broadly are something with which Government is in sympathy. We have appointed the Asoka Mehta Committee. Let us see what the Committee is going to say. If any procedure has got to be evolved in regard to the implementation of the report of that committee, the recommendation of that committee, and any further examination has got to be made, in regard to integration of other price factors with the recommendations of the committee, I think we have to consider at that time. But the Planning Commission is continuously at the job.

Therefore, I would like to make a request to my hon. friend that he has drawn the attention of the Government and the country to the need for an integrated price policy and we have also accepted, by and large, the basic premises on which he has argued as something which is tenable. If my hon. friend wants the purpose to be served, I think he would not press his resolution. But if he wants to take it to vote, I shall only say, unfortunately I am unable to accept the resolution, because in the context of the Asoka Mehta Committee, in the context of the other circumstances now prevailing, it would not be fair either to the Asoka Mehta Committee or to the other limbs in the Government which are working, to appoint another committee. I hope my hon. friend would consider the suggestions that I have made.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Do these observations apply to the amendments also?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: So far as my hon. friend Mrs. Renuka Ray is concerned, she suggested something with which I am in agreement.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Shrimati Renuka Ray has not moved her amendment.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: So far as Mr. Khadilkar's amendment is concerned, I have dealt with it. There is no point in referring this to the Planning Commission.

The other question which has been mentioned—it is not stated in that way—is an integrated part of Mr. Gopalan's resolution. It is not a question of my saying that I cannot accept Mr. Gopalan's resolution, but I can accept the amendments. Because on the basic question, whether there should be a committee or not, I am afraid, I am not able to agree.

But the purpose for which he has envisaged a committee as a method of devising some kind of policy, some pattern of it is already in implementation. That is why I have made an appeal to him that since there is a large measure of agreement between Government's policy and his objective—we have already appointed a committee—whether he might consider whether it is not desirable for him to withdraw the resolution.

श्री विश्वूति मिश्र : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय मे वित्त मन्त्रा महोदय से एक प्रश्न पूछना चाहूंगा। अन्तर्ही ने हर तरफ के केंद्रों पर अक्रिडि पेश किए और दिलेन से लेकर एक कारखाने तक और एक किसान के घर तक का सारा हेतुब किताब उन के पास है तो फिर अन्तर्ही कमेटी के लिए बेट करने का क्या जरूरत है !

Shri A. K. Gopalan (Kasergod): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, I am sure you will give me at least five or six minutes. I am thankful to all the Members of the House as also to the Finance Minister who today has very calmly and coolly replied to the resolution.

An Hon. Member: Very unlike him.

Shri A. K. Gopalan: As far as the spirit of the resolution is concerned, even my hon. friend Mr. Ranga agrees with it. In regard to the suggestion for the appointment of a Committee

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hon. Members have in fact complained: "You are saying that the committee must be asked to recommend within six months". Why don't you suggest that something must be done immediately. The objective of the resolution, as the Finance Minister himself has realised is to bring to the notice of Government that something serious is developing and that immediate steps must be taken to prevent a crisis. I wish to impress on the Government that if Government are serious about it, they must deal with it immediately.

I have suggested some kind of a control. When I say control, I know there are difficulties. That is why I have been suggesting that some sort of a check must be exercised so that prices may not soar up.

As far as prices of agricultural commodities and industrial products are concerned, what my hon. friend Mr. Ranga said is correct. What is the actual position in the country today. We have been seeing during this session—and even yesterday and today—adjournment motions coming up regarding starvation. I do not wish to go into this question in detail, but I understand there have been starvation deaths in Bihar and Sunderbans. When the Member returned, she found out that the position was so bad. What is the position in U.P.? So far as U.P. is concerned, in all the sessions of this House, regarding the prices of foodstuffs resolutions have been brought forward.

17 hrs.

All parties are united on this matter. Mr. Ganda Singh is on hunger strike. All parties have decided that something must be done. There is a very strong public opinion in the country. I want only to point out that the object of my resolution is that for the implementation of the Plan, there should be a clear-cut price policy. That is very important. Not only should there be a clear-cut price policy, but if there is no implementation of that policy, if some machinery is not found out by the

Government for that purpose, there is every danger to the implementation of the Plan.

I want to point out another thing, which is more serious and which would be hindrance, as far as the implementation of the Plan is concerned. It may be that the Finance Minister may not agree with me. He may condemn me and my party and say that we are responsible for all the troubles. But I say that there are troubles. The troubles are spreading from one province to another, as far as I know. In the Working Committee, which is meeting today, I have said that it has been decided to hold *hartal* and demonstration in U.P. in solidarity with the agitation and the hunger strike that is going on there.

I would make this request to the Finance Minister. I want that something must be done immediately. He says that the Food Enquiry Committee is working. Certainly if the report of that committee comes, either the Planning Commission or the Government as a whole have to see what is the machinery by which they can control this and how it can be controlled immediately. If that is not done, certainly all sections of people are going to act against the Government. We have seen what happened about the P & T strike and also about the other Central Government employees. We also find from the papers that the All-India Railwaymen's Federation propose to do something like that. It is not only the working class and the middle-class, but also the agricultural labourers and the peasants in the villages who are not able to get in some places rice or wheat.

Every section of the people in the country, from province to province, are gathering together and there is a very big danger. So, the Government should find out a stable firm price policy. As far as the machinery is concerned, it may be the Planning Commission or the Government themselves. But something has to be done immediately and a firm

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policy has to be taken by the Government. That is the object of this resolution.

I do not want to press it, because I know. What is the use of pressing the resolution? I know the result of it. From the tone of the speech of the Finance Minister, I think he has understood it. So, I do not want to press the resolution. I only make a request to him. I am not able to use harsh words; I am not in possession of them.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The Minister has been calm and quiet in his speech. The hon. Member's response also should be equally good.

Shri A. K. Gopalan: My response is good. I do not want to press the resolution. I only want to draw the attention of the hon. Finance Minister, because it is a very important thing. Unless the attention of the Government is drawn to it, not only drawn, but unless some immediate steps are taken, whatever happens in the country in one province or another could not be stopped, because it is a very very important problem concerning the life of the people, concerning the day to day necessities of the people, not only of one section, but of all sections. I do not want to press the Resolution. I am glad that Members of the House of all sections, as well as the Finance Minister agreed with the spirit of the Resolution. I hope that immediate steps will be taken.

I may propose one thing: that within at least the next two or three months, the prices of foodstuffs be brought down by 30 per cent

Shri Ranga: Foodstuffs alone?

Shri A. K. Gopalan: ... foodstuffs and other things also—food comes first—and also that fair price shops be opened in as many places as possible. As far as the agricultural labourers and peasants in the villages are concerned, also, something must

be done so that they may have the benefit also. I request the Finance Minister to see that it is done in the interests of the Plan, in the interests of the country.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: What about the amendments?

An Hon. Member: If the original Resolution is withdrawn, the amendments also fall.

Shri Khadilkar: Is it an assurance that without waiting for the outcome of the Shri Ashoka Mehta Committee, you are planning to do something immediately, some action in this regard? If that is the assurance, then the Resolution... .

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I would like to assure my hon. friend, there is nothing else that we are doing most of the time. If that is an assurance, it is easily given. We are discussing it day after day. Mere discussion does not bring anything because the problem is so complex. It has got to be isolated and then brought together. Solution starts in isolation and then it is brought together. If the assurance needed is that the Government is seized of the problem, I can give the assurance.

Shri Ranga: So far as the problem of prices all round?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: I do not want to disturb their union. I withdraw my amendment.

Shri Shree Narayan Das: Sir, I also want to withdraw my amendment.

Shri Khadilkar: Sir, I withdraw my amendment

The amendments were by leave, withdrawn.

Shri A. K. Gopalan: I withdraw my resolution, Sir

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I presume that the Hon. Member has the leave of the House to withdraw his resolution.

The Resolution was by leave, withdrawn.