

SHRI R. S. PANDEY : I know that I am guilty not to take your permission, but I was excited because. . .

अध्यक्ष महोदय : गिल्टी की कोई बात नहीं है, आप स्वाहित्शमन्द् हैं, मैं जानता हूँ । . .

SHRI R. S. PANDEY : I will give a practical suggestion. It is a question of the fate of the country and of the small farmers.

MR. SPEAKER : But, do it in a proper manner. आप अन्दाजा लगाइये एक-एक सवाल पर मैं सरदर्दी करता हूँ, बसीट कर हाउस को आगे ले जाना पड़ता है, लेकिन फिर भी नहीं छोड़ते हैं ।

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : क्या यह बात सच है कि इस साल की भीषण बाढ़ से जो हमारे देश में आई थी, और जिसकी वजह से बिहार, उत्तर प्रदेश, बंगाल आदि राज्यों में जो विकास के बहुत सारे काम थे, उनको बहुत भारी धक्का लगा है ? क्या यह बात सही है कि आप उन राज्यों को जहाँ जगदा नुकसान हुआ है विशेष मदद देने को तैयार हैं ? क्या यह बात भी सच है कि इसके लिये उन राज्य सरकारों ने आप को विशेष सहायता देने के लिये आग्रह किया है, यदि आग्रह किया है तो आप ने उनको क्या जवाब दिया है ?

SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN : If you want any specific detailed information you can ask a specific question on that and I will reply.

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : मैं बिहार की बात जानता हूँ ।

श्री यशवन्तराव चव्हाण : आप बिहार की बात जानते हैं, मैं भी वहाँ गया था और वहाँ की बीजों को देख कर आया हूँ । The Bihar Government had certainly made certain demands. We had sent—as we normally do in these circumstances—teams representing the Planning Commission, the Finance Ministry, etc. they went there. They had made certain recommendations about the ceiling in this matter,— ceiling for loans, ceiling for relief, ceiling for gratuitous relief etc. And on different heads, large amounts of ceilings have been accepted. The actual release of the funds depends upon the actual expenditure made in those different spheres. I do not have the exact figures with me here. If the hon. Member tables a specific question, I can give the figures.

मूल्यों में वृद्धि

+

*130. श्री हेमेश्वर सिंह बनेरा :

श्री जगन्नाथराव जोशी :

श्री पी० गंगादेव :

क्या बिल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या इस वर्ष बजट प्रस्तुत करने के बाद देश में महंगाई बढ़ी है ;

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो मूल्यों में किसने प्रतिशत वृद्धि हुई है ;

(ग) उन उपभोक्ता वस्तुओं के नाम क्या हैं जिनके मूल्यों में वृद्धि हुई है और प्रत्येक वस्तु के मूल्य में कितनी-कितनी वृद्धि हुई ; और

(घ) सरकार द्वारा इस सम्बन्ध में क्या कदम उठाए गए और उनके क्या परिणाम निकले ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE
(SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN) :
(a) to (d). A statement is laid on the
Table of the House.

Statement

Wholesale price indices (1961-62=100) of selected important consumer goods for the week ended October 30, 1971 and the order of change as compared to May 29, 1971 (the pre-budget week) are given in the statement laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in library, see No. LT-1050/71]

(d) The Government has been keeping a close watch on the price trends in the economy and remedial measures are being taken in the light of the emerging situation. Price and distribution controls are being continued in respect of several commodities; steel re-rollers' products have recently been added to this list. The Government has been procuring large quantities of cereals, and these are being issued at fixed prices through a net-work of fair price/ration shops throughout the country; State Governments have been advised to strengthen the public distribution system. In the wake of developing shortage of controlled varieties of cloth, the mills were asked to step up the production, and to check the malpractices in the sale of such cloth. They were also directed to stamp 'consumer price per metre' on every metre length of the cloth. Sizable imports of essential raw materials such as raw cotton, edible oils, oil seeds, steel, soda ash are being arranged to make up the shortfall in their indigenous output and thus to stabilise the prices of the corresponding consumer and intermediate goods. In respect of other inputs essential for the industry, urgent steps are being taken to

arrange imports for keeping the industrial production uninterrupted.

Steps have been recently taken to effect economy in the non-plan expenditure both at the Centre and in the States and to raise fresh resources for meeting the extra expenditure on account of the refugees. To keep overall demand under check, the Government has been pursuing a fairly restrictive credit policy; in view of the rising trends in the prices of sugar, the availability of bank credit to mills and trade was further curtailed. For checking speculative activities, certain lacunae in the Forward Contracts (Regulation) Act have been removed, and forward trading, including trading in non-transferable specific delivery contracts in edible oils and oilseeds, has been suspended; and the futures trading in *gur* has been banned.

The various measures adopted by the Government are expected to have a dampening effect on the current pressure on prices. Large imports of steel and the recent release of additional free foreign exchange for further imports has helped relieve the shortage of this basic raw material; emergency imports of soda ash have checked the rise in its prices. Continued imports of edible oils and oilseeds have helped stabilise the prices of edible oils, vanaspati and soap. However it may be added that some of the measures have been taken only recently and their full impact is still to be felt. The seasonal downward trend in prices has already started and with the various measures adopted this downward trend should be further reinforced in the coming months.

श्री हेमेश्वर सिंह बनेरा : प्राप ने स्टेट-मेन्ट भी दिया है और इस विषय पर सदन में भी चर्चा हुई है। जैसे जैसे भारत और पाकिस्तान के युद्ध की सम्भावनाएँ बढ़ती जा रही हैं, स्थिति और ज्यादा

बिगड़ती जा रही है। इन सब बातों को दृष्टि में रखते हुए क्या कोई शार्ट-टर्म एक्शन आपके ध्यान में है? इस स्टेटमेंट में आपने कई उपचारात्मक उपायों का उल्लेख किया है, लेकिन अल्प समय में जो सुविधायें हमें प्राप्त हो सकें, उसके लिए आपका कोई प्रोग्राम है या नहीं?

SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN :
The steps that have been, taken are both short-term and long-term. जिन के लिए आप ने कहा है कि वे ठीक हैं...

श्री हेमेश्वर सिंह बनेरा : मेरा एक स्वेसेफिक सवाल है, जिस प्रकार की स्थिति इस समय देश में उत्पन्न हो रही है, उसके मुकाबले के लिए, उसके इम्पली-मेंटेशन के लिए क्या आपने कोई कदम उठाए है। प्लान में उपचारात्मक आर्डेंज तो आपने दिए हैं, लेकिन उनके इम्पलीमेंटेशन का क्या हो रहा है?

श्री यशवन्तराव चव्हाण : इम्पली-मेंटेशन हो रहा है।

श्री हेमेश्वर सिंह बनेरा : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं एक स्पष्टीकरण चाहता हूँ। क्या इस विषय पर सदन में चर्चा होगी?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : यह बाद में देखेंगे।

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI :
May I know whether Government are aware of the fact that the Reserve Bank of India in its latest bulletin has said that the problem of rising prices has again raised its ugly head in the country, and has suggested that it is because of speculative trading and all kinds of things that the prices are rising so very fast? Deficit financing has reached...

MR. SPEAKER : Let not the hon. Member waste his time in introductions. Let him come to the question straight.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI :
In spite of the instructions of Government not to have more deficit financing, during the last two months, deficit financing has reached the figure of Rs. 600 crores. May I know whether Government are aware of this, and if so, how they are going to control the prices?

SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN :
It is very difficult to indicate the exact quantum of deficit financing at the present moment. If the hon Member is referring to the report of the Reserve Bank, then it is true that the Reserve Bank has certainly said that Government expenditure or credit facility to Government is partly responsible for it. That is true in a sense, because in some States the overdraft problem is there. Even in the case of the Central Government, we have to give credit to the Food Corporation, for instance, because we have to keep a larger buffer stock.

The solution for this can be in two ways. One is to see that we do not give liberal credit to the trading or speculative elements. As I was explaining the other day, we have taken a decision that we shall be very strict in giving credit facilities to the trading and speculative elements.

The other way is to raise more resources and we have taken some steps in this direction, and all the State Governments are also taking more steps to raise more resources. Some of ordinances which were issued were meant for this. This is another way of meeting the deficit financing problem.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI :
The Reserve Bank Governor has said that Rs. 5,000 crores would be needed for

meeting the expenses in connection with the Bangla Desh refugees...

MR. SPEAKER : Shri A. P. Sharma.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : We have also read that statement.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : He has asked a pertinent question.

SHRI A. P. SHARMA : From the statement, it is clear that the prices of essential commodities have gone up now. Government have all along been taking up the position that the prices of commodities have not gone up to the extent where government servants will be entitled to additional D. A. In view of the statement made by the hon. Minister, will Government now grant enhanced D.A. to Central Government employees?

श्री यशवन्तराव चव्हाण : भाप देरी से माए है, अगर पहले से माए होते तो अच्छा था। इसकी पूरी चर्चा यहां पर हो चुकी है। यहां पर सवाल पूछा गया था और उसका उत्तर दिया गया था कि यह मामला वे कमीशन के पास एडवाइस के लिए भेजा गया है।

श्री ए० पी० शर्मा : वे कमीशन ने राय दे दी है तो फिर क्यों उसके पास भेजा गया है।

शुभ्यत महोदय : इसका जवाब था चुका है।

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : For ensuring availability of essential commodities to the consumers at a cheap price, do Government propose to bring the production of these commodities under the public sector? Secondly, in view of the fact that there is need to give fair prices to the producers on the one side and also make

available to the consumer these commodities at cheap on the price, other, will it be possible for Government to eliminate the middleman by socialising the wholesale trade in essential commodities, a recommendation already made by the Foodgrains Inquiry Committee ?

SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN : These are some attractive ideas. We will have to work them out in detail. Socialisation of the wholesale trade in essential commodities is a very attractive proposition in principle, but really speaking, we have to think in terms of how to make this administratively feasible, faced as we are with immediate problems. Naturally, we have to think about having physical controls at least in the case of those essential commodities which ultimately are the concern of the common man. In some cases, we have formal control. We have certainly issued instructions to State Governments to keep in fact the distribution system which was brought into existence for the distribution of food. In regard to other commodities like drugs and kerosene, there is formal price control. The question whether we can really undertake the distribution of these commodities to the public is one which will have to be gone into carefully.

Recommendations of the Ganges Water Pollution Enquiry Commission

*131. SHRI K. LAKKAPPA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether in the light of recommendations of the Ganges Water Pollution Inquiry Commission, disciplinary proceedings have been completed against the concerned officials; and

(b) if so, the result thereof ?