

hope his friends and followers will be able to view things in the larger perspective and we will be able to integrate them in a national community. I express again our deep condolences and request you to convey on behalf of our party our deep mourning and sympathy to the bereaved family.

SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN (Madurai): I join my voice to the sentiments which you and the Prime Minister and other Members expressed in the House. I knew Mr. Ismail for a long time. When he entered in 1946 the Madras Legislative Assembly as the leader of the Muslim League, I was also elected as a Congress Member and we had been working together in that House. Though we were in different parties, he was very gentlemanly and always accommodated the other viewpoint. He comes from a respectable family in Tinnevely district and is well respected in Tamilnad. So, I also wish to join in the sentiments expressed by the House.

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBIAH (Nandyal): I too had the privilege of being a member of the composite Madras Assembly along with Mr. Swaminathan and Mr. Ismail, leader of the Muslim League party. In those days when we had not attained independence, we differed politically. Even then the presence of Mr. Ismail had a sobering effect on the politics of Madras State in those days; It required great courage to organise the Muslim League in India and he had been President of that organisation for a number of years. He was good parliamentarian who occupied important positions in both the Constituent Assembly and in the Lok Sabha. Whatever may be our political differences, personally he was a man of great charm and unimpeachable integrity. The country has lost a great soul in the sad demise of Mr. Ismail and I request you to convey our feelings to the bereaved family.

MR. SPEAKER: The House may stand in silence for a shortwhile.

The members then stood in silence for a shortwhile.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Increase in Price of Indigenous Tractors

*261. **SHRI N. K. SANGHI**: will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOP-

MENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have permitted increase of price of tractors produced in the country twice during the last one year;

(b) whether the second increase was based on the recommendation of the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices, as was done in the case of the first increase; and

(c) if not, the reasons why the Bureau was not consulted and the justification for effecting the second increase within one year?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

SHRI N. K. SANGHI: My question has not been answered. I specifically asked in part (b) whether the second increase was based on the recommendation of the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices, as was done in the case of the first increase and he says that it does not arise. What does he mean?

SHRI MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: The hon. Member has not followed the answer. I said 'yes', for parts (a) and (b) of the question. That means that the second increase was based on the recommendation of the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices as was done in the case of the first increase.

SHRI N. K. SANGHI: It is really a serious matter that the Government has approved prices, increasing the price twice in a year by 30 to 35 per cent. particularly when in the case of cars they did not allow an increase and it was only the court which allowed the increase. May I know the reason for following such a fantastic increase twice in a year and not waiting for at least one year to give it a trial?

SHRI MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: The first report was given in July 1971 and Government notified the price on 1.10.71. As soon as it was notified, representations were received from the various manufacturers bringing out certain points. These were sent to the Bureau for

examination. They re-examined and recommended the price again, and that was notified on 11th February 1972.

SHRI N. K. SANGHI : He has not replied why he did not wait for at least a year before giving a second increase. Did the Bureau of Costs and Prices indicate in their recommendation that proper data were not available from the manufacture, and was this increase allowed in spite of that ?

SHRI MOINUL HAQUE CHOU-DHURY : The manufacturers made certain complaints with regard to the price recommended. They brought out certain points and said those facts had not been taken into consideration. These were forwarded to the Bureau, the Bureau considered them, they had a *de novo* look into the question and they recommended the price. Therefore, the price was given to them.

SHRI SHANKERRAO SAVANT : How does the increased price of indigenous tractors compare with that of the imported tractors of same utility and same horse power ?

SHRI MOINUL HAQUE CHOU-DHURY : I want notice for that.

श्री अचल सिंह : क्या माननीय मंत्री जी इस बात का इत्मीनान दिलाएंगे कि जो कीमत बढ़ चुकी है उसके बाद फिर कोई कीमत नहीं बढ़ेगी ?

SHRI MOINUL HAQUE CHOU-DHURY : We hope that there will be an increase in production,

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : The hon. Member asked whether as a result of the price increase there has been an increase in production. We are not interested in his hopes. We want to know whether, as a matter of fact, there has been an increase or not.

SHRI MOINUL HAQUE CHOU-DHURY : The prices were increased only a few months back. Therefore, it has to be reflected in future.

डा० लक्ष्मीनारायण पांडेय : क्या मंत्री महोदय यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि पहले

प्रस्तूबर 1971 में जो कीमत बढ़ाई गई थी और फिर फरवरी 1972 में कीमत बढ़ाई गई, प्रस्तूबर से फरवरी की जो कीमत बढ़ी उसके कारण इंटरनेशनल ट्रैक्टर की कीमत 5 हजार रुपये, फर्ग्युसन की 6 हजार रुपये और हिन्दुस्तान की 6 हजार रुपये बढ़ी, तो क्या सरकार ने उस सीधित्व को स्वीकार कर लिया जो कि निर्माताओं ने प्रस्तुत किए थे जिसके कारण यह कीमतें बढ़ी जिससे किसानों को बहुत ज्यादा नुकसान हुआ और उनको बहुत ज्यादा रुपया देना पड़ा ? केवल 3 महीने बाद कीमतें बढ़ाने का क्या कारण था ?

SHRI MOINUL HAQUE CHOU-DHURY : There are several reasons given for the increase of the price. These also include the increased price of the imported components.

Plan to raise earnings of persons getting Rs. 15 or less a month

*262. DR. KARNI SINGH :

SHRI FATEH SINGH RAO GAEKWAD

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of the total population of the country getting Rs. 15 or less a month in 1971; and

(b) to what extent Government plans to raise their earnings during the course of the next three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI
MOHAN DHARIA)

(a) Data on income distribution by size groups for 1971 are not available and hence it is not possible to indicate as to what percentage of population was getting Rs. 15 per month or less.

(b) Every attempt is being made to raise the level of earnings of the poorer sections. However, in the absence of firm