

में माइका-उत्पादक लोग बहुत ही संकट में हैं और कभी कभी वहाँ से स्मग्लिंग भी इस की हो रही है, अगर यह बात सही है तो इस को रोकने के लिए आप ने कौन सी व्यवस्था की है ?

श्री एल० एन० मिश्र : खान वालों को क्या कठिनाई है वह मेरी समझ में नहीं आता। वह तो आम मजदूरों का शोषण कर रहे हैं। दस रुपये का माइका बे निकालते हैं तो उन को 8 आने पैसे देते हैं। इसलिए हम हर जगह अपनी दूकान खुलवा रहे हैं, एजेंसीज खुलवा रहे हैं एम० टी० सी० की। मेरा ब्याल है कि उत्पादन करने वालों को कोई कष्ट नहीं है। काफी मुनाफा अब भी है और उस को हम रोकना चाहते हैं। उस का राष्ट्रीयकरण भी करना चाहते हैं। स्मग्लिंग की जो बात है उस की शिकायत हमारे पास है, हम देश का नाम नहीं लेना चाहते हैं। लेकिन हम लोगों ने जो सन्धि अभी की है उस में इस को रोकने की बात है।

#### INCREASE IN CATERING CHARGES ON THE RAILWAYS

\*174. SHRI S. C. SAMANTA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway Catering Service charges higher rates for food and beverages than the market rates;

(b) whether catering rates on the Railways are revised according to the increase or decrease in market rates and if so, at what frequency; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure that the catering rates on the Railways are reasonable and at par with the market rates?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. HANUMANTHAJIYA): (a) No, Sir. The Railway Catering Service does not charge rates for food and beverages higher than those in comparable establishments outside.

(b) and (c). No, Sir. The rates for food and beverages are fixed taking into account the cost of raw materials and overhead costs. The rates are revised only when there is increase in costs and not according to any fixed frequency. Such revisions also take into account the prevailing market rates.

SHRI S. C. SAMANTA : May I know whether the catering rates that are prevalent in different zones are determined by an all-India committee like the All India Time-Table Committee?

SHRI K. HANUMANTHAJIYA : There is no all-India Committee.

SHRI S. C. SAMANTA : Then, may I know how these rates are notified and whether they are strictly followed?

SHRI K. HANUMANTHAJIYA : The respective zones have their committees and offices in consultation with whom these rates are fixed.

SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN: It is not a fact that the minister himself has admitted that the food supplied in railway canteens is not wholesome and is inferior. May I know what steps he has taken or proposes to take to improve the quality?

SHRI K. HANUMANTHAJIYA: I have seen myself that sometimes it is good and sometimes it is not good. Many hon. members have written to me that in certain places they have found the catering to be good. I propose to take the House into confidence and as indirectly suggested by Samantaji, I propose to set up a National Committee consisting of Members of Parliament not only to fix the rates but also to determine the quality.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : According to newspaper reports yesterday, the minister himself observed, that it was a 'Socialist misfortune' to have changed the railway catering from private agencies to the department itself. If the minister himself said so, may I know whether he has any intention to divert the ownership of railway catering back to private

agencies, or, if not, what steps he is taking to improve the condition of the catering system?

**SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA :** I did not make any such statement. All I said was, to begin with there were a lot of complaints by hon. members and others that private contract system was detrimental to quality and cost. Therefore, departmental catering was introduced. Even this departmental catering has not satisfied hon. members and many other customers. This is the predicament in which we are placed. I am not abolishing departmental catering. Let not the House be under the impression that reverting back to the old system will improve matters. Both have their own deficiencies. The real problem relating to departmental catering is that the overhead charges are too high, because we have to pay emoluments of all varieties just as we pay to railwaymen. But I propose to make use of the experience and vigilance of the hon. members of the House to tone up the catering system by setting up a National Committee.

**श्री नाथूराम अहिरवार :** अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं मंत्री महोदय से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या उन के पास कुछ ऐसी शिकायतें मिली हैं कि जो रेलवे कैटरिंग है उस में जो सामान खरीदा जाता है उस में से अफमर लोग अपने यहां घरों में सामान मंगा लेते हैं जिम से घटिया सामान वहां मिलता है, इस के बारे में आप जांच कराएंगे।

**MR. SPEAKER :** I do not treat it as a supplementary question.

यह कोई क्वेश्चन नहीं है। आप को क्वेश्चन की शेष भी प्राप्तर रखनी चाहिए।

**SHRI S. M. BANERJEE :** He said he is going to establish a committee. But a committee known as the Parimal Ghosh Committee was already established and it has already submitted a report. May I know whether the Minister has tried to ascertain why the meals supplied to railway passengers are costlier and of inferior quality than the meals supplied to M.Ps., by the

same railway catering in Parliament House? We pay less and get better food. May I know why this difference exists and why it cannot be removed?

**SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA :** The hon. Member may note that I am not thinking of a committee to investigate and report. I want a permanent standing committee of the hon. Members of both Houses so that they may adequately supervise and make suggestions and watch where they go wrong. So far as deterioration in quality is concerned, though I am a Minister I have no hesitation in admitting that there is a lot of corruption and it is such a difficult thing to stop corruption everywhere.

**SHRI S. M. BANERJEE :** Sir, I have asked about the food served to Members of Parliament by railway catering.

**SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA :** I am coming to that.

**MR. SPEAKER :** May I request the Minister not to give very long answers? He should be concise, precise and to the point.

**SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA :** The reason for hon. Members getting cheaper and better type of food is that the canteen is subsidised to the extent of Rs. 1,25,000 a year.

**SHRI S. M. BANERJEE :** Sir, I want clarification. He refers to a standing committee.

**MR. SPEAKER :** No arguments during the question hour.

**SHRI S. M. BANERJEE :** Only members of the standing committee will get good food.

**श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय :** खान-पान की जो व्यवस्था स्टेशनों पर मिलती है, उस के घटिया किस्म का होने का एक कारण यह भी है कि जिन लोगों के नाम लाइसेंस दिये जाते हैं, वे स्वयं काम नहीं करते हैं, नौकरों से काम कराते हैं और उन का वेतन बहुत

ही कम है। यदि यह एक प्रमुख कारण है तो क्या सरकार कोई ऐसी नीति अपनायेगी जिस से उनका वेतन ऊंचा हो तथा जो लोग काम करते हैं उनको लाइसेंस दिया जाय।

श्री के० हनुमन्तैया : नो सर।

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : यह क्या उत्तर हुआ, अध्यक्ष महोदय।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आपको समझ नहीं आया उन्होंने कहा है—नो सर।

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : मैंने पूछा था...

अध्यक्ष महोदय : अब आप बैठ जाइए।

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : लेकिन उत्तर तो दिलवाइये। मुझे तो सन्तोष नहीं है। अगर आप को सन्तोष है तो बैठ जाता हूँ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आपने जो इन्फर्मेशन मांगी थी, उन्होंने कहा है—नो सर।

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : मैंने कहा था कि खान-पान की जो दुकानें स्टेशनों पर हैं, वहाँ जिन के नाम लाइसेंस दिये हुए हैं, वे स्वयं काम नहीं करते हैं, नौकरों से काम कराते हैं, जिन की तनखाहे बहुत कम है। उनका वेतन कम होने के कारण अच्छी चीजे नहीं बेचते।

MR. SPEAKER : I think the Minister should make his "No, Sir" very clear to him sometimes.

SHRI PHOO MODY : It all arises because he is not precise.

MR. SPEAKER : I do not want further elucidation from him.

SAFEGUARDING INTERESTS OF INDIAN TOBACCO EXPORTERS TO U.K.

\*176. SHRI SATPAL KAPUR: Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the contracts of sale of Indian leaf tobacco exported by the Indian Leaf Tobacco Development Company Limited to UK are signed in London;

(o) if so, whether export of tobacco is made without fixing prices before shipment ; and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to safeguard the interest of Indian exporters?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE: (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) & (c). The export of Tobacco is freely allowed to all destinations subject to the condition that the Tobacco cannot be sold abroad on prices less than minimum Export prices notified by the Government every year. There is no provision in the export Trade Control Regulations that the contracts must be signed in India. The Government do not keep any information in respect of the contracts finalised by the individual parties.

श्री सतपाल कपूर : क्या मिनिस्टर साहब बतलाएंगे कि आई० एल० टी० डी०, लन्दन को जो तम्बाकू जाता है, उस का मिनिमम प्राइस हमारे मुल्क में फिक्स नहीं होता है, क्योंकि वह तम्बाकू एक्स-बाई क्वारिटी का जाता है ?

SHRI A. C. GEORGE : There are 11 or 12 varieties of tobacco and at the beginning of each tobacco year that is, in January of every year, prices are fixed by the Administrative Committee of the Tobacco Export Promotion Council. For all the varieties we are fixing the floor price for export.

श्री सतपाल कपूर : क्या यह दुरुस्त है कि 21-2-72 को टाइम्स आफ इण्डिया में हमारे तम्बाकू एक्सपोर्ट कारपोरेशन के श्री पी० बी० के० मूर्ति, जो आई० एल० टी० डी० के मैनेजिंग डायरेक्टर भी हैं, का स्टेटमेन्ट छपा है कि इण्डिया जो तम्बाकू तैयार कर रहा है वह घटिया है, इस लिये ईस्ट यूरोपियन कन्ट्रीज में डम्प कर दिया जाय ? क्या हमारा मंत्रालय सोच रहा है कि तम्बाकू का सारा ट्रेड अपने हाथ में ले और तम्बाकू बोर्ड कायम किया जाय ?