

who do not have any policies. I would like to know from the Minister whether LIC has any scheme in which it can expand the OYH Scheme and make it applicable to the general public at large and thus utilise the money properly for a massive programme in this country.

SHRI ZULFIQUARULLAH: L.I.C. also loans to Housing Boards, to Co-operative Societies and to others, besides this scheme. But to other individuals, it has so far not been giving any loans. The suggestion will be considered. Here I may point out one thing more that the L.I.C. is giving cent per cent loan against policy. It was not on cent per cent basis earlier. They are now giving 100 per cent against any policy, but it may be pointed out that the policy may be for 20 years or 30 years and the loan is required immediately, on the same day of applying for it. Therefore, the L.I.C. has to keep in view all these factors.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: This is a very vital question, I would like to invite the attention of the Finance Minister to this fact because this is coming under your jurisdiction. Under your new policy, to encourage the weaker sections and help them, L.I.C. with its huge funds—the public money—can play a very vital and important role in house building activity particularly to the middle-income and weaker sections. Now, for a loan for house building, the house itself gives the security. Nobody can take away the house.

MR. SPEAKER: After it is built, but not before....

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Very right, Sir. You have pointed out the essence of the matter. Therefore, if you can evolve a policy....

MR. SPEAKER: Now come to the question.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: I would like to know from the hon. Minister,

in keeping with his new orientation policy in rural areas, whether he can bring in the L.I.C. in the rural areas and also in the slum areas or the areas where the weaker section lives so that a massive programme can be undertaken and by this it will also provide employment to so many people. House building is the best industry in our country. So, I would like to know, instead of taking a narrow outlook of bureaucracy, whether the hon. Minister would evolve a massive house-building programme under the L.I.C. to help people, apart from those who have insurance?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI CHARAN SINGH): Sir, Government will consider the suggestion that the hon. Member has made.

MR. SPEAKER: Q. No 353.—Absent.

Bringing Public Distribution System Under Essential Commodities Act

+

*354. **SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO**
SHRI DURGA CHAND:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the plea that all orders relating to the proposed public distribution system ought to be brought under the Essential Commodities Act to ensure deterrent action against persons indulging in malpractices; and

(b) if so, reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR GOYAL): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The powers available under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, shall be used wherever necessary, to implement the Production-cum-Distribution Scheme for selected essential commodities.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Under the Essential Commodities Act, Government has power to direct that blackmarketeers, economic offenders, adulterators and other such type of people who violate orders under Section 3 of Essential Commodities Act, may be tried by a special procedure. I do not understand the reluctance of the Government in saying "wherever necessary, for selective essential commodities, it will consider." I do not understand their reluctance in trying these people under special procedure and especially in view of the fact that political offenders in this country are now being tried under special and summary proceedings.

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA): On the contrary, I have written to all the Chief Ministers and also the Lt. Governors to take stringent measures under Essential Commodities Act and by any chance if some approval from our end is necessary, it will immediately be given. I would like to take stern measures against those who do blackmarketing in the country.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: I appreciate and I know the genuineness of the hon. Minister because we are on the same wave-length on this point. But my question was: why the Central Government will not immediately say that these people will be tried under the summary procedure under Section 12(a) of the 'Essential' Commodities Act. Therefore, the hon. Minister may kindly reply to that point. My second supplementary is: when you are going to have this public distribution system, is this public distribution system to be done through co-operative societies alone or are you going to involve the private retail dealers and private traders also? And if you are going to involve the private traders, what control, what restrictions are you imposing on them?

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: So far as the first part of the question is concerned, we have already given these powers to the State Governments and because they are not exercising the powers, I have written to them that they should make use of the powers already with them.

So far as the second part of the question is concerned....

SHRI VASANT SATHE: In spite of that if they do not do, what are you going to do?

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: You know, ours is a federal structure. Then so far as the second part of the question is concerned, as I have already said on the floor of the house, we have in the country today 2.40 lakhs fair price shops and out of these 1.80 lakhs are with the private people, small shopkeepers. We would not like to dislodge them, but they will have to fall in line; they will have to accept certain discipline, they will have to abide by the vigilance of the local committees and their advice. So far as the additional shops are concerned, we would like to encourage the co-operative societies.

श्री दुर्गाबाबू : न्यू पब्लिक डिस्ट्रीब्यूशन सिस्टम पासिली जो है जिसके लिए आपने कहा है कि जुलाई में उसका एलान किया जायेगा, मैं जानना चाहूंगा क्या इसको आप धरमन और करल एरिया में मुनिकामती लागू करेंगे, बीनों जगह आप मुनिकामती आइटमस सप्लाई करेंगे और इस समय फेवर प्राप्त आपस से जो आइटमस सप्लाई किए जाते हैं उनमें कुछ एबीमन्स भी करेंगे जैसे कि कपड़ा है ?

श्री मोहन धारिया : जैसा कि मैं ने इस सभन को पहले बताया है कि प्रनाज है, तेल है, कपड़ा है, केरोलिन और दूसरा ईंधन है, गुमर है—इस तरह की चीजें उसमें पहले से ली गई हैं। (स्वभावतः) जहाँ तक बावों की बात है, जिसको हम बाहर से मंगा नहीं सकते, उसका जब तक उत्पादन नहीं बढ़ाते हैं तब तक उसमें कठिनाई है। लेकिन उसका भी बकर स्टॉक हो और उचित बटवारा हो, यह कोशिश कर रहे हैं।

इसके साथ ही जो इन्फ्लिडियल प्रोबन्ड्स हैं, जैसे गार्मिन्स हैं, शीप्स हैं, यह भी हम उसमें जोड़ रहे हैं। यह जो हमारी स्क्रीन है वह पूरे मुक्त के लिए है। कम से कम जो हथार भी बाबादी बर एक साथ रहे, ऐसी स्क्रीन है। इसके लिए जो भी आइटम हम सेलेक्ट करेंगे उनका बाज पूरे मुक्त में एक ही रहे—यह सर्वोत्तम स्क्रीन का है।

को लोय पिछड़े इलाकों में रहते हैं, जहाँ ट्रांसपोर्ट का इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर नहीं है, उन्होंने कोई सुनाह नहीं किया है। ऊपर में रहने वालों को बिल दाम पर चीज मिलती है उसी दाम पर उनको भी मिले—यही बात इस स्कीम में रखी गई है।

PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR: The hon. Minister and the new Government have launched on a very extensive, massive and substantial public distribution system. Though this is all appreciable, laudable and admirable, I would like to ask him whether this is not ambitious and whether the Essential Commodities Act which is already in existence is being implemented both in letter and in spirit effectively and whether it is not a fact that at the level of the Government of India, certain political will is lacking. It is no use the Minister telling us that this is a federal scheme and, therefore, the States have been asked to do things. He can always pass the buck to the State Governments. But what is his special duty as a representative of the Government in this respect although ours is a unitary State with federal scheme? What is he doing to use his political force and that of the Government of India to see that this is done well and the Act is implemented properly and the wrongdoers and the evil-doers are effectively and urgently dealt with?

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: So far as the Central Government is concerned, there is no lack of will whatsoever. On the contrary, I am very much enthusiastic about getting the scheme implemented. So far as the Essential Commodities Act is concerned, between July 1977 and today, the State Governments have been repeatedly requested to make the maximum use of the provisions of this Essential Commodities Act and to take measures to arrest the rise in prices, to arrest the offenders and to prosecute them. And it is in this context I was not happy; and in the Conference of the Chief Ministers held recently on 5th January 1979 I again brought to their notice that even though we have been writing to them, unfortunately these

measures that they should have taken, have not been taken. I would very much like them to take such measures. From our end, we would like to insist on the State Governments; but ultimately, the House will appreciate that the executive agencies are the State Governments or the Union Territories.

So far as the Union Territories are concerned, I am very much insisting on all these Union Territories that they must be absolutely harsh in dealing with these offenders.

SHRI YASHWANT BOROLE: The success of this scheme is dependent on its due execution, and it lies with State Governments. May I know from the Minister whether the State Governments themselves have made any survey as to the defalcations of the various cooperative societies—misappropriating the funds of the cooperative societies themselves? How many societies are there, what is the percentage...

MR. SPEAKER: I don't think it arises, I am sorry it does not arise.

SHRI YASHWANT BOROLE: In due course, the distribution is to be carried through the cooperative societies. That is what he said. When the cooperative societies themselves are the defaulters, the distribution will not be effective. (Interruption) Secondly, I want to ask the Minister whether the fair price shops which are run by private individuals will in Course of time, be substituted by voluntary agencies if they come in i.e. the cooperative sector comes in.

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: We have already asked the State Governments to look at the existing fair price shops, including cooperative societies and see how they are functioning. Such shops or cooperative societies which are not functioning well, will have no place whatsoever in this scheme. And in this context, I have already asked the State Governments to make all the surveys on the basis of which further decisions will be taken, in consultation with the State Governments.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: Is it a fact or not, that the wholesale prices of many commodities have fallen, but the retail prices continue to be high? And because there are no fixed prices, you cannot say there is black-marketing as well. How are you going to meet the situation, under the Essential Commodities Act? The States say they have no powers. The consumer says he is paying high prices. You say that prices have come down. How are you going to meet the situation at present? m

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: We have said that we have already transferred the power to the State Governments. We are insisting on them. It is not that nothing is being done. But I am not happy with what is being done. I will quote the figures: from January 1978 to November 1978, the number of cases of violation which were detected was 9989, the number of persons prosecuted was 6406; the number of persons convicted was 934, and foodgrains and other essential commodities seized were of the order of 2,25,000 quintals; and there are so many other figures also. I am not happy with the

progress being made by the State Governments.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Decline in Exports of Textile and Garments

*345. **SHRI SUKHDEO PRASAD VERMA:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO-OPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Exports of textiles and garments have decreased during the period from April, 1978 to December, 1978 as compared to the corresponding period last year; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons thereof and the new strategy to increase the exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL, SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BEG): (a) and (b). The figures of total exports of textiles and garments including jute goods, available upto November 1978, are given below alongwith the figures for April-November, 1977.

	(Value in Rs. Crores)	
	April-November 1978	April-November 1977
Cotton textiles including garments	351.53	341.60
Natural silk textiles including garments	28.77	20.73
Woollen textiles including garments and hand-made carpets	70.44	66.18
Man-made textiles including garments	25.46	23.44
Jute goods	139.31	139.51
TOTAL	615.51	591.46