

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH I think Mr Banerjee has answered this question'

MR. SPEAKER You will please reply this question This concerns more with the Railway Minister than the Minister of Commerce

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH As for non-coking coal, the present quantum of coal that we are making is not going to affect the domestic needs Future exports will be made only after taking into consideration our domestic demands

SHRIMATI MAYA RAY In view of the fact that the hon Minister has just told that we have large reserves of coal would he kindly explain as to why it does not reach the destination in time and thus results in retarding steel production considerably?

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH I suppose I was answering questions on export and not on transport.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE May I know from the hon Minister the exports that are made are on the basis of barter system or on the basis of cash payment?

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH We are not having barter system of late.

श्री. रामचतार शास्त्री। जो हम अपने पड़ोसी देशों को कोयला भेजने की योजना बना रहे हैं तो आप ने वाम के बारे में भी तय किया है कि क्या कीमत लेंगे? क्या वह कीमत हिन्दुस्तान की तुलना में कम होगी या ज्यादा होगी, या बराबर होगी?

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH They are comparable to international prices.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI May I know from the hon Minister whether it is a fact that immediately after the liberation of Bangladesh

there was great demand of coal both in their industrial as well as transport sector? Also whether it is a fact that any specific agreement with Bangladesh Government has been signed or reached with a view to supply coal on reasonable prices in the interests of the people of Bangladesh based on the friendly relations of India and Bangladesh?

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH Till now we were supplying to Bangladesh coal at domestic prices but now we will be supplying on comparable international prices

SHRIMATI T LAKSHMIKAN THAMMA Sir, in my constituency, the Singareni collieries are there which are the last producers of coal There is a vast reserve of coal in that area Sir, I would like to ask the hon Minister, since there is demand both abroad and in India, will there be coordination between his department and other departments for the exploitation of these resources to the fullest extent?

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH This coordination is there

अत्यावश्यक वस्तुओं की कीमतें

168 श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी :

श्री जगन्नाथ राव कोठी :

क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क)गत तीन वर्षों में से प्रत्येक वर्ष के जनवरी मास के अन्त में तथा गत वर्ष के प्रत्येक माह के दौरान अत्यावश्यक उपभोग्यता वस्तुओं के प्रचालित खूदरा मूल्य क्या थे ,

(ख) हर बार कीमतों में कितने प्रतिशत वृद्धि अथवा कमी हुई ; और

(ग) गत तीन वर्षों के दौरान कीमतों को कम करने की दिशा में कौनसे विदेश प्रवास किये गये तथा हर बार क्या परिणाम निकले ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE
(SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM). (a) to
(c). A statement is laid on the Table
of the House.

Statement

It is not possible to give information regarding retail prices of individual commodities as these vary from place to place. However, the all India Industrial Workers Consumer Price Index (1960-100), which is prepared in the Ministry of Labour rose from 184 in January 1971 to 194 in January 1972, and further to 210 in January 1973 and 264 in January 1974. The increases work out to 5.4 per cent, 8.2 per cent and 25.7 per cent respectively. The monthwise percentage changes in the Index since January 1974 have been as follows:

1974		
	February	1.0
	March	3.0
	April	2.0
	May	3.0
	June	2.4
	July	-3.3
	August	3.2
	September	4.0
	October	0.3
	November	1.2
	December	-1.5

The measures taken to prevent prices from rising unduly have been outlined in such annual documents as the 'Economic Survey' of the Ministry of Finance, and the Reserve Bank's report on Currency and Finance. In so far as the efficacy of the measure taken is concerned, it has to be pointed out that there were certain special factors operating during the last 2-3 years which prevented their full impact from being felt. The steps taken to control the expansion of credit and check hoarding and profiteering, combined with the demand management measures of July 1974, appear to have brought about a degree of normalcy, since the seasonal decline in prices has reasserted itself after a lapse of two years.

श्री अशोक चंद्र बोधी : यह जो मन्त्रालय पर चर्चा रखी है वह बड़ा नमूनेदार

है। क्योंकि इन में जो जानकारी मैंने पूछी थी कि यह कीमतें कैसे बढ़ती गईं यह तो जानकारी दी है किन्तु कौन से कारगर उपाय अपनाए गए इस के लिए हवाला दिया है कि अनुचित रूप से कीमतों को बढ़ाने से रोकने के लिए जो उपाय किये गये हैं उन की रूपरेखा वित्त मन्त्रालय की 'आर्थिक समीक्षा' और मुद्रा और वित्त के मन्त्र में रिजर्व बैंक की रिपोर्ट जैसे वार्षिक ग्रन्थों में बतायी गई है।

सवाल हम यहाँ पूछ रहे हैं कि कौन से कारगर उपाय अपनाए गए और हवाला दे रहे हैं वहाँ है यहाँ है। इस में अच्छा वह हवाला दे देते किमी लाइब्रेरी का कि वहाँ में किताबें दूढ़ कर देख लीजिएगा। यानी उन से पूछते हैं तो हम रिपोर्ट का हवाला दे देते हैं और यह दो तीन दिन पहले आए तो रिपोर्ट भी पढ़ लेंगे लेकिन यह मिलता है साठे दस बजे के बाद और हवाला देने है रिजर्व बैंक की रिपोर्ट या वित्त समीक्षा का। इस में समय थोड़ा है उस में हम रिजर्व बैंक की रिपोर्ट पढ़ें या वित्त समीक्षा पढ़ें? तो यह जो इतना लम्बा चौड़ा दिया है इस के अंदर दो तीन चार उपाय बता देते तो बात समझ में आ जानी। मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ कि इस में जो आपने दिया है 5.4 प्रतिशत फिर 8.2 प्रतिशत, उसके आगे एकदम 25.7 प्रतिशत यह तो अनुचित रूप से कीमतें बढ़ गई हैं। रिजर्व बैंक की रिपोर्ट में जो कारगर उपाय बताए गए हैं उस को अपनाने के बाद भी यह जो अनुचित वृद्धि हुई है 25.7 प्रतिशत यह भी अलग अलग कन्ज्यूमर्स प्राइसेज के लिए नहीं है यह तो आपने सम टोटल बताया है। गोल मोल कर के क्योंकि इसी पार्लियामेंट में जो भी मिलता था 1971 में बारह साठे बारह रुपये किलो वह आज 25 रुपये किलो मिलता है यानी ती प्रतिशत कीमतें बढ़ गई हैं तो ऐसी स्थिति में 25.7 प्रतिशत यह गोल मोल कीमत दिखाई गई है तो ठीक नहीं है। इसलिये में जानना चाहता हूँ कि अनुचित रूप से जो वृद्धि हुई है उस के लिए

कीम से कारगर उपाय अपनाए गए और वह अपनाने के बाद भी कीमते क्यों बढ़ रही हैं ?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: Sir, the Economic Survey is a recent document which was placed on the Table of the House only three-four days back and being a current publication, I thought the hon Member would have gone through it. It has been published both in English and in Hindi and the hon. Member is quite conversant with both the languages. In that, we have given all the steps which had been taken for the purpose of controlling the price and here also we have given the figures to show that from October onwards these steps had some effect on the price trends. In October, the price increase was only 0.3 per cent, in November—1.2 per cent—it has started coming down—and in December—1.5 per cent. In January this year, there has been a further decrease. No doubt, there are certain commodities where prices have gone up by more than 25.7 per cent. That would mean, there are certain commodities where the price increase is less than 25.7 per cent. It is only the average of certain commodities which go into common consumption, particularly of labour, which have been taken into account in building this index. Therefore, Sir, I respectfully submit that we can give only averages. If the hon. Member wants the price of any particular commodity, if it is available, certainly we will be able to give.

श्री जगन्नाथ राव श्रीजी: मेरा जो सवाल था वह बिलकुल अलग था। यह कीमत जो बढ़ है 8.2 से 25.7 प्रतिशत यह तो अनपेक्षित है नार्मल नहीं है और यह एकदम बढ़ गई। सो यह मैंने पूछा था कि आप के कारगर उपाय अपनाने के बाद भी यह क्यों 8.2 से 25.7 प्रतिशत बढ़ गई और कीम से कारगर उपाय आप ने अपनाए ?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: Sir, I thought we had had enough discussion on the economic situation in this country and it was explained that this was due firstly to the Bangladesh war and later on due to the drought and more particularly due to the inflationary situation in the international economy as a whole. Therefore, our prices also had gone up. It is not only in this country that this had happened; it is a world situation. (laughter). There is no use laughing unless you want to shut yourselves to realities. We have taken steps. According to us, by the steps we have taken, the trend has been reversed, which has not happened anywhere else.

श्री जगन्नाथ राव श्रीजी: अध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरा दूसरा सवाल है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय: वह तो कर लिया था यै।

श्री जगन्नाथ राव श्रीजी: नहीं वह तो पहला था।

इसी बक्तव्य में उन्होंने विवरण जो बताया है वह तो दाही है—बंगला देश की लडाई और अकाल। लेकिन मैं जानना चाहता हूँ 1965 में लडाई भी हुई और 1966 में अकाल भी पडा यह दोनों होने के बाद भी उस समय प्राइसेज इतनी नहीं बढ़ी 65 से 69 तक इसलिए यह जो हम हवाला देने हैं लडाई और अकाल का यह लडाई और अकाल तो 65 और 66 में भी थे इतना होने के बाद भी प्राइसेज बढ़ी नहीं थी लेकिन अब आप अपने खर्च बढ़ा कर उसको सीट करने के लिए जो लडातार करो में कृत्रिम करने हैं जैसे मैं उदाहरण देना चाहता हूँ कि मिट्टी का तेल उस के 50 पैसे लागत मूल्य पर 50 प्रतिशत आप का टैक्स है तो वह मिट्टी का तेल ठीक दाम पर कैसे जाएगा ? इसी तरह से पेट्रोल है 68 पैसे उस के लागत मूल्य पर 2 रुपये 36 पैसे आप की ड्यूटी है। तो इस तरह से कीमतें जो बढ़ी है उस को नीचे लाने के लिए खर्च को कम करने और टैक्स को कम करने का आप का विचार है क्या ?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: He should wait till I present my Budget to see whether I have decreased it or not.

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI: It is a fact that there has been a general increase in prices, but it is also a fact that particularly in certain areas the increase has been much more because of transport bottlenecks and various other factors. The Economic Survey does not at all indicate whether Government are taking any steps to see that there is uniformity of prices of at least essential commodities throughout the country, so that particular parts of the country may not suffer. Are Government taking steps to see that the fall in prices may be uniform throughout so that particular parts of the country may not have to suffer because of certain bottlenecks and other things?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: Certainly we should see that there is not too much of disparity in prices from region to region. This cannot be assured in respect of all commodities, but with reference to essential commodities we are trying to see that we have a public distribution system through which we supply these commodities at reasonable prices at all points. Take, for example, the public distribution system of wheat, rice or other coarse grains. This is given at a particular price wherever it is distributed. In the same way, we are trying to develop a distribution system for other essential commodities also. For example, levy sugar is being made available at the same price throughout the country.

Therefore, this could be done only when we have a proper public distribution system for this purpose. This is what we are attempting to do.

SHRI INDER J. MALHOTRA: Have Government taken any decision as to which of the essential commodities will definitely be distributed through the public distribution system?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: Just now we are doing cereals; we are also distributing sugar. Standard cloth is being distributed through fair price shops. Therefore, it has necessarily got to be cereals, edible oil, sugar, domestic fuel and standard cloth. These will be the main commodities.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Just now he has said that standard cloth is being distributed through fair price shops. I do not know where it is happening; at least in our part of the world we do not see it.

Is it a fact that a Committee had been set up with Shri Mohan Dharia as Chairman to go into and report on this question of extending the public distribution system to cover essential commodities like cooking oil, kerosene, sugar, standard cloth, drugs, etc.? If so, has the report been submitted to Government with recommendations and if so, what has happened to it? Because recently Shri T. A. Pai, Minister of Industry and Civil Supplies, issued a series of public statements in which he gave the public hope to think that action is about to be taken soon and these essential commodities will be procured for purposes of distribution through the public distribution system at fixed prices. Where exactly does this matter stand and can we at same time in 1975 expect specific action in this direction, without which these prices can never be held or reduced?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: I agree with the hon. member that unless we have a proper and efficient public distribution system, especially with regard to essential commodities, we are not going to control prices in an effective manner. That is why a separate Ministry has been set up for this purpose and my colleague, Shri Paf, is at it. If he has made statements, I do not think he did so without making any preparation and taking into account particularly the actual realities with regard to implementation. Therefore, I am also hoping that in 1975-76, it should be pos-

sible for us to develop this public distribution system in an effective way so that we start distributing at least some of the essential commodities and then go on extending it instead of trying to attempt everything even in the beginning and then fail.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: What about Shri Mohan Dharja Committee report?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: The Minister of Civil Supplies is taking into account that report also.

श्री नाथूराम बहिरवार : जो स्टैंडर्ड कपड़ा गरीब लोगों को बांटने के लिए देहाती क्षेत्रों में और शहरी क्षेत्रों में भी दिया जाता है बहुबहुत ही घटिया किस्म का होता है और इस कदम घटिया किस्म का होता है कि कोई उसको लेना नहीं चाहता है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि उसकी क्वालिटी में सुधार लाने के लिए सरकार क्या कर रही है? क्या कोई निदेश मिलो को इसके बारे में देगी ?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: We are getting away from the main question. As a matter of fact, I have to impinge upon the sphere of my hon. colleague, the Minister of Commerce. But I want to state this that no doubt in producing standard cloth, many mills resorted to sub-standard production so that they may say that it is not being taken by the public and, therefore, they should be allowed to get away from the production of sub-standard cloth. That is why the qualities and varieties to be produced are also being laid down. I am sure the Ministry concerned will see that this quality control is maintained and the quantities envisaged for production of standard cloth also will be reached.

Scheme of Granting Recognition to Trading Firms as Export Houses

*171. **SHRI SUKHDEO PRASAD VERMA:**

SHRI JHARKHANDE RAI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to review the scheme of granting recognition to trading firms as export houses; and

(b) if so, the main features of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. A Working Group has been set up in January, 1975 to review the Scheme of Recognition of Export Houses. The Report of the Working Group is awaited.

श्री सुखदेव प्रसाद वर्मा : मंत्री महोदय ने बताया है कि व्यापार करने वाली फ़र्मों को निर्यात गृहों के रूप में मान्यता देने के सम्बन्ध में कार्यकारी दल की स्थापना जनवरी में की गई है और उसकी रिपोर्ट की प्रतीक्षा की जा रही है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि कौन से ऐसे बिन्दु हैं जिन को लेकर कार्यवाही दल की स्थापना करने की आवश्यकता समझी गई है? मान्यता देने के मुख्य प्रश्न क्या है उसका उत्तर मैंने प्रश्न में भी माँचा था जो कि नहीं आया है। मैं चाहता हूँ कि उसका उत्तर भी दिया जाए।

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA: The working group has not yet submitted its report. So, the question of taking into account what we propose to do on their recommendations does not arise at this stage.

I would like to say that Government's policy regarding export houses changes from time to time because of the changing situation in the foreign trade market. We have already nearly 295 or 300 export houses. They are entitled to certain facilities and their efficient functioning adds substantially to our export earnings. That is why we are streamlining the procedures and the sort of incentive we can possibly provide to the export houses.