

श्री दुर्गाचन्द : मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि अरबन लैंड (सीलिंग एंड रैगुलेशन) एक्ट, 1976 के रूल्स में जो आपने तरमीम की है या जो गाइडलाइन्स दी हैं, उस में एग््रीकल्चरिस्ट्स को क्या सुविधाएं दी हैं, क्या उनका मेन जिस्ट वह बतायेंगे ?

श्री राम किकर : इस में हमने यह 4 सुझाव दिये हैं :

(1) यह भूमि केवल खेती बाड़ी के प्रयोग में लाई जाये,

(2) इस भूमि को जब कभी अन्य किसी प्रयोग में लाने का प्रस्ताव हो तो सरकार अथवा संबंधित रुक्षम राज्य-करण को पूरक सूचना देनी चाहिये,

(3) इस भूमि का अन्तरण, विक्री पट्टे वगैरह अन्य किसी प्रकार बिना सरकार की अनुमति के न किये जायें और इस भूमि को न तो भूखंडों में बांटा जाये और न बेचा जाये, किन्तु बैंक से ऋण अथवा अन्य किसी वित्तीय संस्था से ऋण लिये वगैर इस भूमि को रेहन रखने में कोई आपत्ति नहीं है, तथा

(4) यदि जब किसी राज्य सरकार को इस बात संतुष्टि हो जाती है कि (I) से (III) तक की किसी भी शर्त की अवहेलना हुई है, अथवा यदि राज्य सरकार इस छूट दी गई भूमि को अपने निजी प्रयोजन के लिए चाहती हो, तो राज्य सरकार इस छूट को वापस ले सकती है ।

श्री दुर्गाचंद : मैं यह जानना चाहता कि स्टेट गवर्नमेंट्स को जो गाइडलाइन्स दी गई हैं, और रूल्ज में जो एमेंडमेंट्स हुए हैं, क्या उन का इम्प्लीमेंटेशन ठीक तरीके से हुआ है और क्या, उन की पब्लिसिटी का इन्तजाम किया गया है ।

श्री राम किकर : हाल ही में ये गाइडलाइन्ज हर एक प्रदेश और संघ-शासित राज्य को दी गई हैं और उन पर अमल किया जा रहा है । इस के लिए एक समिति का गठन हुआ है और-चार रिजनल समितियां बनी हैं । इस समिति के सदस्य और हमारे अधिकारी प्रदेशों में जा कर अध्ययन करते हैं कि इस संबंध में क्या वित्तीय तथा प्रशासनिक कठिनाइयां और कानूनी अडचने हैं । समिति उन पर विचार-विमर्श करती है और अपने सुझाव देती है । इस बात का प्रयास किया जाता है कि उन गाइडलाइन्ज को सही रूप से लागू किया जाये ।

श्री निर्मल चन्द्र जैन : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या नगरीय भूमि (अधिकतम सीमा विनियमन) अधिनियम के सम्बन्ध में सरकार के पास ऐसे बहुत से प्रतिवेदन आये हैं, जिन में और ढील देने की प्रार्थना की गई है, यदि हां, तो उस पर क्या विचार हो रहा है और कब तक निर्णय हो जायेगा ।

श्री राम किकर : इस वक्त मेरे पास यह सूचना नहीं है कि कुछ प्रार्थनापत्र आये हैं, लेकिन अभी ढील देने की पुनः बात नहीं की जा रही है । अभी गाइडलाइन्ज को सही तरीके से लागू करने का पूरा प्रयास किया जा रहा है ।

Cost of Production of Khandsari Sugar

*87. DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) what figure as cost of production of khandsari sugar is accepted by Government;

(b) item-wise split up of this figure in the case of khandsari sugar pre-

pared through sulphur process and for the other type of khandsari sugar;

(c) whether during the last 5 years local taxes and excise duty on khandsari sugar was raised 600 per cent from the prevailing rate as in 1973; and

(d) whether Government are aware that the khandsari manufacturing industry is going through heavy financial losses in spite of its being rural based, labour intensive and agricultural industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH): (a) and (b). As the Khandsari Industry is licensed, regulated and controlled by the State Governments the information has been called for from the State Governments and will be laid on the Table of the House on receipt. Khandsaris vary widely in size, technology, age of plant, recovery etc. and, therefore, in costs. Their cost-prices structure has not been investigated by any expert agency of the Government of India. From information available so far, the cost of production of sulphur khandsari is indicated around Rs. 265 inclusive of excise duty. But claims from the industry pitch it upto a figure of even Rs. 320 per quintal.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Representations have been received by Govt. from khandsari industry alleging that they are suffering financial losses.

DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: I must first voice my and my colleague's dissatisfaction with the reply given to my question. It is something like playing about the bush. The question of khandsari sugar has been raging for the last six months. Many of us have had the occasion to meet the hon. Minister and placing before him the cost structure of the entire khandsari industry, i.e. of the different types of khandsari productions.

MR. SPEAKER: Shall we confine ourselves to the supplementary?

DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: And I fail to understand how it is being said here now, that information is being sought from the State Governments. I fail to understand why the Central Government has not yet appointed any investigating or expert committee to go into the cost structure of different methods of khandsari sugar and if they have not appointed, it will Government appoint, or think of appointing a Comprehensive expert committee to go into the complete question of khandsari production?

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH: As I have stated earlier, there are different kinds of khandsari units, ranging from the very small one, upto almost a mini-factory. Their technologies are different. Their scales of operation are different. Their recoveries are different. So, there can be no one cost of production in the case of units of different sizes. (*Interruptions*). The excise duty is also different, for your information. But nevertheless, I have already decided to appoint a group of officers to carry out trials this year, and see what the cost will be; and it may be that after a few months, we may be in a position...but again, as I said, there are different kinds of khandsari; and it is not just easy to say, or give one reply. It will vary from the small unit to the large unit.

DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: In reply to part (c) of the question the Minister stated "No, Sir." Leaving aside the State taxes, cess, local taxes and sales tax, will the hon. Minister explain by how much percentage the excise duty has been increased during the last five years?

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH: The question was whether it has been raised by 600 per cent and I said "No, Sir." The fact is that it was increased by 400 per cent.

DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: On what basis was this increased by 400 per cent?

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister should not have simply stated "No"; he should have given the correct information.

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH: As is well known, the international price of sugar went up very high. The Government of India wanted to take advantage of that. So, they imposed a heavy excise duty on mill sugar so that the consumption may be reduced. As a consequence of that, the price of sugar in the Indian market rose very high. So, a big margin of profit was left for khandsari. That is why a very stiff excise duty was imposed so that part of the profit could be siphoned away from them.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: My hon. friend, Dr. Vasant Kumar Pandit, is pleading for the khandsari units. I am sorry for that, because an organised effort has been made by the khandsari units to fight against the sugarcane growers throughout the country. They are not giving a remunerative price to the farmers. They are holding the farmers to ransom. As a result of that, the farmers are suffering not only in UP but also in Karnataka.

MR. SPEAKER: Please come to the question.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: Sir, the Minister must know the background so that he can answer the question. He has stated that the Government of India do not feel it necessary to appoint an expert committee to go into these malpractices.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister only referred to the cost of production.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: We should go into not only the cost of production but also recovery, because it is a national waste. The khandsari units are working against the interests of cane growers. Therefore, I want to know how soon the Government would appoint an expert committee to go into these malpractices of these people who are cheating the farmers and not giv-

ing them a remunerative price. How are they going to control the khandsari units run by the private people?

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH: I do agree with the observation of the hon. Member that the khandsari units are not treating the farmers fairly. I have drawn the attention of the State Governments to this and in a number of cases they have launched prosecution.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: My question is how soon they are going to appoint an expert committee.

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH: Khandsari units are taken care of by the State Governments. If there are any malpractices, they should look into them and take remedial measures.

श्री भारत भूषण : मैं आप के माध्यम से मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ— इस वर्ष जब कि खाण्डसारी और शुगर मिलों में भारी मंदा आया हुआ है, ये लोग किसानों से गन्ना खरीदने के बजाय अपने यूनिट्स बन्द कर रहे हैं। ऐसी स्थिति में क्या सरकार अपनी नीति पर पुनर्विचार कर के कुछ ऐसी व्यवस्था करेगी, जिससे इस वर्ष उत्पादित गन्ने की ठीक से पिराई हो जाये और किसानों को कुछ राहत मिल सके ? आज लाखों टन गन्ना किसानों के खेत में खड़ा है और कोई उसे पेरने वाला नहीं है। खाण्डसारी यूनिट्स बन्द हो चुकी हैं, गुड़ बनाना बन्द हो गया है, क्योंकि उसका निर्यात नहीं हो रहा है और ठीक भाव नहीं मिल रहा है। शुगर मिलें अपने कर्मचारियों को नोटिस दे रही हैं। ऐसी परिस्थिति में हमारी सरकार क्या कार्यवाही करने जा रही है, जिस से कि वे मिलें चालू हो सकें, खाण्डसारी यूनिट्स चालू हो जायें और किसान का गन्ना पेटा जा सके ?

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister is going to make a statement today. I have permitted him. He will cover most of these questions.

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY: When the prices of khandsari were high, the tax was raised by 400 per cent. Now the prices have come down very steeply. So, may I know whether the Minister is going to consider abolition of the excise duty and also advise State Governments to waive the sugarcane cess and other things so that the khandsari units may pay a good price to the cane growers and the kisan may not be destroyed? I want to categorical reply from the Minister.

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH: Excise duty on khandsari units working with the aid of sulphitation plant has already been reduced by 50 per cent. Formerly it was Rs. 11,400, now it is only Rs. 5,700. In the case of units working without the aid of sulphitation plant, the reduction is 75 per cent. It was Rs. 6080 and now it has been brought down to Rs. 1520.

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY: What about the abolition of the entire tax?

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH: The khandsari owners themselves do not want total abolition. If the excise is totally withdrawn, khandsari will attract sales tax. They are more afraid of it than excise duty.

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY: What about advising State Governments?

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH: Advice has been given, and in U.P. they have already reduced the purchase tax by 50 per cent.

डा० रामजी सिंह : क्या मंत्री जी बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि खाण्डसारी की चीनी पर जो 400 परसेंट का उत्पादन शुल्क लगाया गया है—क्या यह ग्रामीण उद्योगों को बढ़ावा देने की सरकार की नीति के अनकूल पड़ता है?

यदि नहीं पड़ता है तो क्या आगे के बजट में हम लोग आशा करें कि उस को कुछ राहत मिलेगी, जब कि चीनी मिलों को 80 करोड़ पया बढ़ावा देने के लिये सरकार द्वारा दिया गया है ?

MR. SPEAKER: He will not be able to say anything about the Budget.

डा० रामजी सिंह : पहले सवाल का जवाब दिया जा सकता है—क्या ऐसा सरकार की वंशित ग्रामीण अर्थ-नीति के अनकूल है?

श्री भानु प्रताप सिंह : मैं पहले निवेदन कर चुका हूँ कि यह किन परिस्थितियों में बढ़ाया गया है । जब अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय बाजार में चीनी का मूल्य 700 पौंड हो गया, तब इस को बढ़ाना पड़ा, क्योंकि कास्ट-आफ़-प्रोडक्शन और बिक्री भाव जो बाजार में था, उसमें बहुत बड़ा अन्तर हो गया था । गृह उद्योगों को बढ़ावा देने का यह मतलब नहीं है कि ज़रूरत से ज्यादा मुनाफ़ा करने का अवसर दिया जाय ।

Cyclone in Andhra Pradesh due to alleged experiment with Weather Warfare

*89. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been alleged by some responsible scientific workers and other responsible persons that experiment with weather warfare by a foreign country was one of the factors responsible for the recent cyclone devastation in the coastal areas of Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, what are the facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) My Ministry