

[*Translation*]

SHRI JAGMEET SINGH BRAR The C C I which was purchasing cotton from the farmers before the Punjab elections has now backed out. As a result of this the price of cotton has fallen at least by Rs 200 per quintal. I want to request the Government through you that the farmers of Punjab are under this impression that the Cotton Corporation of India has withdrawn because the big business houses, the textile owners such as Oswal and Birla, having large mills, want to make profit at the cost of the farmers.

I would also like to submit that 7 lakh tonnes of cotton exported to Pakistan by Government is of so inferior quality that it has been rejected. On the other hand, the laborious farmers of Punjab produce the superior kind of 414 No. cotton. It is a cruel joke with the farmers of Punjab. The farmers have stood by us in the trying moments and have made several sacrifices to grow crops. Despite this why has the C C I withdrawn from market and why are the prices constantly falling and have declined from Rs 1570 to Rs 1200 per quintal in the market. I and the farmers of Punjab hold this view that the Government has succumbed to the pressure exerted by big houses and subsequently brought down the prices. Such a trend should be stopped immediately lest a feeling should develop in the minds of the farmers of Punjab that the Punjab elections were a mere drama. The C C I has withdrawn the rates since Punjab elections are over.

[*English*]

MR SPEAKER The hon. Members wanted a statement from the Minister. Mr Chidambaram, you are making a statement now.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHI-

DAMBARAM) On the other one! (*Interruptions*)

MR SPEAKER This was something which was raised at this point of time. You wanted to make a statement. I am allowing you now.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE Sir, would you allow after this statement? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT (Rajapur) Sir, you are not allowing me. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI INDER JIT (Darjeeling) The hon. Member Shri Sudhir Sawant wants to raise a very important point. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT Sir, you have not allowed the Congress Members to speak on matters which have been raised by other Members. I do not understand whether it is related to Sudhir Sawant as a Member of Parliament. (*Interruptions*)

MR SPEAKER I have been seeing that every day you are standing up like this. If you are doing like this, I am not going to allow you. You are not the only Member.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT I am one of the Members of this House. You have allowed everyone to raise the matter and speak on that. You have not allowed me, a Congress Member to speak on that. This is happening time and again. (*Interruptions*)

MR SPEAKER Now, you have to sit down. Otherwise, I will name you and ask you to withdraw. This is too much. This is not gram Panchayat.