

others. This is a Bill to amend and consolidate the law relating to Trade Marks, whichever Trade Marks law is there ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: We are not considering it today. You apply your mind.

उपसभापति : आप पढ़ लीजिएगा और जब कंसीडरेशन के लिए आएगा तब बोलिएगा ।

श्री जीवन राय : आज ही इतना बड़ा बिल क्यों सर्कुलेट किया ?

उपसभापति : तो आज थोड़े ही इसे कंसीडर कर रहे हैं ।

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: I apologise for that. But kindly withdraw your objections.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Jibon Roy, whether a Bill is big or small, some day it has to be brought before the House. He is only introducing it today. I would like to inform you that we are not taking up the Bill today. How could you expect us to be so inefficient to allow you to read such a Bill and start discussing it within two minutes? We can't be so untrained. You take it home, read it, and when it comes up for consideration, you come and raise your objections. Now, I will put the question.

Now the question is:

That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend and consolidate the law relating to Trade Marks, to provide for registration and better protection of Trade Marks for goods and services and for the prevention of the use of fraudulent marks.

*The motion was adopted.*

DR. RAMAN: Madam, I introduce the Bill.

## STATEMENT BY MINISTER

### Imposition of Customs Duty on Wheat

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री बालासाहेब विखे पाटील) : मैडम, मैं गेहूं पर कस्टम ड्यूटी के बारे में एक वक्तव्य पढ़ना चाहता हूँ ।

**उपसभापति :** पढ़िए, आप स्टेटमेंट पढ़िए । यशवन्त सिन्हा जी, उस हाउस में स्टेटमेंट कर रहे हैं । उन को पता नहीं था कि आप लोग इतने एफीसिएंट हैं कि इतनी जल्दी सब पास कर देंगे । तो समय आप का नष्ट न हो, इसलिए वह बोल रहे हैं । बोलिए, मंत्रीजी ।

**श्री मोहम्मद सलीम ( पश्चिम बंगाल):** मैडम, बिल की हिंदी प्रति नहीं है ।

**उपसभापति :** मंत्री जी हाउस में पहली बार बोल रहे हैं, आप उन्हें सुनिए ।

**SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL:** Madam Deputy Chairman, currently, under the EXIM Policy on foodgrains, import of wheat is canalised through the Food Corporation of India. However, Roller Flour Mills are free to import wheat directly or through the STC, MMTC or PEC for milling purposes. Import of wheat does not attract any customs duty at present. In view of the bumper production of wheat during 1998-99 and the higher Minimum Support Price of wheat fixed for procurement, the procurement of wheat during the current marketing season 1999-2000 has been very good. During 1999-2000, a quantity of nearly 141 lakh tonnes of wheat has been procured for the Central Pool as against 126 lakh tonnes during the previous year.

With the availability of relatively cheaper imports, the offtake from the Central Pool has been low, despite the liberalisation done through the Open Market Sale Scheme. Between May and November 1999 almost 15 lakh tonnes of wheat has reached Indian ports. The landed cost of wheat is much lower than the open sale rate fixed for FCI. If the current situation continues, it is estimated that there will be excess stock of over 100 lakh tonnes with the FCI by 1.4.2000 over the minimum buffer norm of only 40 lakh tonnes. The carrying cost of foodgrains for FCI is heavy, estimated at around Rs. 1600 per tonne per year. Carrying the excess stock would impose a massive financial burden on the Government, which would be detrimental to the economy.

With a view to rectifying the situation, and stimulating the offtake of wheat from the Central Pool, the Government have come to the conclusion that it is imperative to impose customs duty of 50 per cent on common wheat and durum wheat. A notification seeking to amend the relevant entries in the First Schedule to the Customs Tariff Act, 1975, by invoking the emergency powers vested under section 8A of the said Act is being issued and the levy

shall become effective from today. Copies of this notification shall be laid on the Table of the House in due course. A resolution seeking the approval of Parliament to the notification shall also be moved shortly.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I don't think there should be any clarifications. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA (Karnataka) : What will happen to the foodgrain security? Somebody should explain this.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Ramachandran Pillai.

SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI(Kerala): Madam, I would like to bring to the notice of this august House that it sets alarming trends with regard to the food security of our country. Of course, over the years, there have been great fluctuations in production. In certain years there is a bumper production and in certain years we see a decline in production. So, a great fluctuation in production is there in certain years. If we look at the growth rate of our foodgrains production, it is not above, it is not over the growth rate in population. It is below the growth rate in population. That means, the per capita availability of foodgrains is declining slowly. There are also reports that the overall investment in foodgrain production is due to the decline in public investments, particularly in irrigation, power and science and technology. Of course, I do not dispute the present steps. I would like to know from the hon. Minister the additional steps the Government intends to take for increasing the foodgrain production in India so as to ensure the foodgrain security.

उपसभापति : श्री हनुमन्तप्पा । मंत्री जी, सब सवाल एक साथ पूछ लें, उसके बाद आप जवाब देंगे । मुझे तो लगा कि स्टेटमेंट में तो यही है कि फूडग्रेन्स प्रोडक्शन बढ़ गया है ।

श्री एच० हनुमन्तप्पा : नहीं, बढ़ गया है या इम्पोर्ट में जो आया वह भी मार्केट में आया एफसीआई को With your higher minimum support price इसमें बहुत सारा हिडेन एजेण्डा है । ----- (व्यवधान)

उपसभापति : आर्डर, प्लीज । बोलिए हनुमन्तप्पा जी ।

श्री राजूभाई ए० परमार (गुजरात) : जो पाकिस्तान से इम्पोर्ट हुआ, वह भी इसमें आ गया । --- (व्यवधान)

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SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Sir, you have a higher minimum support price here and wheat is imported at a cheaper rate. It reaches the Indian ports at a cheaper rate than the higher minimum support price you are paying. Will the Government ensure or assure us now that the imported wheat will not be purchased by the Food Corporation of India at a higher rate? When you have got surplus wheat with you, first of all, import permission is wrong. When you are importing at a cheaper rate, and when you are also giving the higher support price in the country, will the Minister assure us that the imported quantities are not going to be purchased by the Food Corporation at a higher rate? And what will be the effect after you impose a duty of 50 per cent on common wheat and durum wheat? This is understandable only by the roller flour millers and the traders. You come with a language which the parliamentarians can also understand! We are the farmers' representatives. If I am wrong, or if I am innocent to that extent, I may be excused. But what will be the effect of your imposition of customs duty of 50 per cent on common wheat? How much value will it increase by adding that?: I would like to know whether it will curb the further imports which will help our farmers, or, will it lead to increase in the market price? If you increase the customs duty, naturally, the importers, the floor millers, will be free to directly import through STC and MMTC. They will certainly increase. Then, what will be the fate of the consumer? Are you going to balance it, or, again you will come with a proposal for subsidy? These things have to be clarified. Mr. Minister, please clarify these points. What will be its effect? Mr. Pillai said that you have got a surplus stock of about 15 lakh tonnes in your godowns. That is all right. You should expect a calamity like the Orissa cyclone also. Orissa is in need of food. We have to take care of it. For another one year, there won't be any production in Orissa. What will be the loss of production in the next year? Only yesterday, the Defence Minister said, 'We may try to bring up rabi, but a lot of salty water is still in the fields, and that has to be removed. Fertilizer.....(Interruptions)....

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please let him make his point. If you want to make your point, then, send me a note and I will allow you. (Interruptions). Let him be heard. ....(Interruptions)....

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: My main point is this. When you are paying the highest support price, then, is the imported wheat being purchased by the FCI? Secondly, what will be the effect of this increase of 50 per cent,

on the consumers? What will be the cost price in the market? How will you take care of the consumers interest? Will it not dissuade the farmers from growing wheat next year? Have you taken care of that? If you raise the customs duty this year, the farmer who grows wheat this year may not be induced to grow wheat at all because you are reducing the purchase from the FCI and there is wheat available elsewhere which is reaching the Indian ports at a cheaper rate. I want answers for these.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I will call Mr. Gurudas Das Gupta now....*(Interruptions)*.... I have got the names in order. I will call according to that. ...*(Interruptions)*... I have got your name.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA(West Bengal): It is a clear case of anomaly that the present economic policy has landed the country into. The Government is imposing customs duty to ensure that the peasants of the country are not ruined. It is good, let them do it. Madam, the point is that there are many such cases. Because of the imports, our peasants, who are producers of many things, are suffering. Let me give the example of apple. Can anybody believe it that American apples are being sold in India? We are using our scarce foreign exchange for importing apples; to fulfil the taste of the people who have money.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: They are not tasty apples.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: I understand it. But, unfortunately in this country...*(Interruptions)*...I agree with you...*(Interruptions)*..It does not taste well. But, unfortunately, in this period of consumerism, there is attraction for foreign goods. People, out of their curiosity for foreign goods, will go for that. Unfortunately, believe it or not, this is the situation prevailing in the country. Madam, as a result of this our apple producers in Himachal Pradesh are losing. On the one hand, we are spending our foreign exchange; on the other hand, our peasants are being ruined. Therefore, the question that arises is this. Will the Government take care of the Open Door Policy with regard to the import of agricultural goods, which has its repercussions on foodgrains production, on the economic condition of the producers, that is, peasants, and also on our economic situation?

The time has come for this Government to take into consideration the effect of this open-door policy. Why I say so, Madam, is the latest Reserve Bank report--the hon. Minister must be having it and he must have

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looked at it--published only one month back categorically States that we have no reason to be related, our food production and agricultural production are likely to reach a plateau. That is the warning given. Our food production and agricultural production are reaching almost a plateau. The reason is that peasants are shifting from production of one commodity to another because of the lure of exports and that they can get more money. Therefore, because of the lure of exports they are producing something else. There is a drive for commercial crop and as a result our food production may, or is going to, decline. The senior Minister is not here. But the junior Minister is here. ...*(Interruptions)*....

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No. He is very senior. He is a senior Parliamentarian....*(Interruptions)*....

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: No. I am saying that the senior Minister, the Cabinet Minister, is not here. He is a very senior person and he is a full-fledged Minister. We all believe in his wisdom. I am speaking about his position in the hierarchy. Will the Government take any signal from the Power Minister? He should not be very happy. power production is going down. Power production has also gone down, according to the Reserve Bank report and not according to me. Therefore, he should not laugh for the time-being, at least. ...*(Interruptions)*....

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM): Madam, I think it is wrong. If the hon. Member permits me, I say that power production has not gone down. I don't know from where he is getting this information. I can establish it. ...*(Interruptions)*....

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Madam, let it go on record. I will produce the Reserve Bank report tomorrow. ...*(Interruptions)*....

SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM: I can establish it. *(Interruptions)*... I can establish it. ...*(Interruptions)*....

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: It is in the Reserve Bank report. I am not guided by the report of the Minister. The Reserve Bank report says that power generation has gone down. ...*(Interruptions)*....

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): What provoked this diversion? ...*(Interruptions)*....

SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Madam, what I wonder is, why he can't lay me off for a while. ...*(Interruptions)*....

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: You are laying off the workers. How can I lay you off? ...*(Interruptions)*....

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now you have made your point. Can I allow others to speak? ...*(Interruptions)*....

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: I want the hon. Minister to take into consideration the ill-effects, the pernicious effects of the open-door policy and its impact, repercussion, on the rural economy, particularly on the production of foodgrains and living standard of the peasants. Will the Government take that into consideration, having learnt a lesson from the cheap import of wheat? ...*(Interruptions)*....

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I should remind the Members that the Minister is an agriculturist himself and he is also Minister for Banking. So, he should have the freedom to import. He is a known agriculturist from Maharashtra....*(Interruptions)*....

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Whatever be his profession, once he becomes the Minister he becomes the Minister of the Government. He is not an agriculturist. ...*(Interruptions)*.... Mr. Kumaramangalam is not a power man. He is a powerful man now.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You are giving him again a compliment. ....*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: I must correct my friend. He is not a powerful man. He is a super powerful man because of his closeness to the centre of power. ...*(Interruptions)*....

SHRI ADHIK SHIRODKAR(Maharashtra): He has given the maximum number of compliments to the Ministers in the last three-and-a-half years that I am here in this House. ...*(Interruptions)*....

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You are talking of only three-and-a-half years. It is so in the last thirteen years when I have been presiding here. Shri Rahman Khan.

SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN (Karnataka): Madam, I would like to seek some clarifications on the Minister's statement. It is stated, "the import of wheat is canalised through the Food Corporation of India. However, roller

flour mills are free to import wheat directly or through the STC". So, the roller flour mills are still free to import wheat. I would like to know whether that provision still exists. The statement says "import of wheat does not attract any customs duty at present." I would like to know when this provision of not imposing any customs duty on wheat was introduced. Now, you are imposing customs duty on import of wheat at the rate of 50%. You have canalised the import of wheat. When it is canalised, why is there this provision of direct import? When was it introduced and for what period was it introduced? Now, you say that you have procured 141 lakhs tonnes of wheat. That is the total procurement.

The requirement here is 126 lakh tonnes. And you have 15 lakh tonnes of wheat as buffer stock. But you have just said that 100 lakh tonnes of wheat will be the excess stock by 1.4.2000. How can it be 75 lakh tonnes? Are you anticipating an import of 75 lakh tonnes? You have not given the break-up of cost, but you have only said that 50% of the duty will be imposed. What is the landing cost of wheat today? What is the procurement rate of the wheat? And what is the difference between the two? If we impose 50% duty, then what would be the final cost of wheat? Atleast these data should be furnished to Parliament. How can we come to the conclusion that you have taken a right decision? We should be given some statistical information. We should be given information with full facts and figures. We cannot be taken for granted that such and such statement has been made by the Government, without proper data, without proper information. This is not correct. I would tell the Minister that the practice of making such a statement is not going to free them from their responsibility.

श्री बालकवि बैरागी (मध्य प्रदेश) : माननीय उपसभापति महोदया, जैसा कि हम लोग जानते हैं, निकट से जानते हैं, करीब से जानते हैं कि जिन मंत्री महोदय ने वक्तव्य दिया है, वे खुद अच्छे किसान हैं और किसान के अर्थशास्त्र से परिचित हैं। भलीभांति जानते हैं कि खेती का मतलब क्या होता है। आपके इस वक्तव्य और आपकी इस नीति से जो कुछ आप ला रहे हैं देश में, क्योंकि मैं मालवा से हूँ और मालवा का किसान गेहूँ पैदा करता है, वह तो हतोत्साहित होगा ही और गेहूँ का प्रोडक्शन अगले साल गिरेगा, यह निश्चित बात है, इसमें कोई शक नहीं है। दूसरा, मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि आप जो यह बता रहे हैं इम्पोर्ट वाला मामला, जो आप बफर स्टॉक बता रहे हैं, तो जो गेहूँ इम्पोर्ट हुआ है, उसके सहित है या उसके सिवाय है? दूसरा, किन-किन देशों से आपका उस मामले में संबंध रहा है? क्योंकि गेहूँ के मामले को चुनाव के दौरान मैदानों में काफी



उठाया गया और उस पर काफी बहस हुई है। गेहूं का चक्कर बहुत बड़ा चक्कर है, इस मामले में समय-समय पर हम कुछ कहते भी रहे हैं। तो कृपा करके ये बातें स्पष्ट करें। जैसा कि रहमान साहब ने बताया है, इसमें आपने मोटे तौर पर एक गोलमोल वक्तव्य जैसा दे दिया है और जब आज ही से लागू हो गया है तो आज से पहले वाला जो कुछ इसमें घपला हुआ है, उसके ऊपर इस ड्यूटी का क्या होगा? और उस गेहूं के बारे में आपकी क्या नीति है, यह आपने इसमें स्पष्ट नहीं किया है। तो मैं चाहूंगा कि आप एक सम्पूर्ण वक्तव्य के साथ आएँ,

एक सम्पूर्ण पॉलिसी के साथ आएँ, सम्पूर्ण नीति के साथ आएँ और सम्पूर्ण आंकड़े जो भी आप देश के हित में मानते हैं, उन सबका समावेश आपके वक्तव्य में हो और उसके बाद आप सदन में आएंगे तो आपकी प्रतिष्ठा भी रहेगी और किसान को राहत मिलने की व्यवस्था हो सकेगी वरना अभी तो किसान अधमरा हो जाएगा, इसमें कोई शक मुझे नज़र नहीं आता और मेरे यहां तो इसका बहुत ज्यादा खराब असर पड़ने वाला है।

**THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN:** Shri Dhananjay Kumar.

**SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA:** How can a Minister speak, Madam? You cannot ask a Minister to participate in the debate?

**THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN:** I am sorry. I do not recognise most of the Ministers, since they are from the other House.

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR):** But, Madam..

**THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN:** I could be ignorant. Mr. Dhananjay Kumar, if you want to answer the queries, you can do so after everybody has expressed his opinion. It is entirely between you and the other Ministers to decide, who would take the brunt.

**SHRI MD. SALIM (West Bengal):** You feel quite at home in this House.

**SHRI V. DHANJAY KUMAR:** Madam, I am not seeking any clarification.

**THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN:** Still I have some names to call upon.

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SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: You have forgetfully called a Minister.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Gurudas Das Gupta, I am not supposed to know all the Members of the Lok Sabha. I will get used to only after a few days.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Madam, the number is very large.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is not a question of number. Mr. Das Gupta, you have got a very photogenic memory. Some people may be ignorant, like me.

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Minister's name has already come in the list.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: The number is so large.

SHRI SURESH A. KESWANI (Maharashtra): Madam, I wish to bring to the notice of the House that this Government has earned the reputation or the disrepute of being a Government of the deals, a Government by the deals and a Government for the deals. This Government has entered into one more deal. This is a very clear case of a fraud being played on the Indian public. The wheat which is being procured at a higher price ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Madam, I think 'fraud' is not a Parliamentary word.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: 'Fraud' is not a Parliamentary word. Mr. Keswani, you say something different. *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: What is this? Madam, we have used the word 'fraud' on a number of occasions. The word 'fraud' is not unparliamentary. *(Interruptions)*.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is for me to decide. ....*(Interruptions)*.... Mr. Gurudas, I am still in the Chair. Let me decide. .

SHRI SURESH A. KESWANI: The Government, through its actions has tried to cause a wrongful loss to the people of India and a wrongful gain to the people whom they want to favour by this particular transaction. For the satisfaction of the House, I would like to say that there is a prima facie case in this particular matter. Here is a Government which, through the FCI has procured wheat at a price which is much higher than the

price at which certain selected people through this deal have been allowed to import wheat regardless of the fact that whether they are the direct users of this wheat or not. Madam, there are reports that some big industrial houses, some big importers, taking advantage of the zero duty imports, have imported into this country lakhs of tonnes of wheat regardless of the fact that we already have a huge quantity of carry-forward unsold stock in our godowns for which we may have no customers. After this wheat is imported, after the wheat is cleared from the Custom godowns, after it finds its way into the warehouses of these industrial houses, the Government comes up with the next phase of a pre planned and premeditated design. They impose a duty of 50 per cent. By imposing this duty they have artificially raised the profit of those people who imported a huge quantity of wheat and filled their pockets at the cost of the poor people of this country. How are we going to haul up these people? In which court do we carry them? How do we prosecute them? How do we bring them to book? They know it very well that the procurement price of the Government is higher than the import cost of those big merchants who have imported wheat in huge quantities. Therefore, the Government is unlikely to be the first one to be able to dispose of the surplus wheat. Now 50 per cent import duty is being imposed on the new importers at the eleventh hour. After this duty is imposed, those merchants who have imported wheat at zero duty will be the first people to be able to dispose of their imported wheat even before the Government has an opportunity to empty the FCI godowns. This is how they have filled the pockets of selective houses at the cost of the nation. There should be a detailed inquiry into it. There should be a parliamentary committee to go into this aspect as to who the people are, who have indulged in large-scale import of wheat, because the import transactions are handled by the banking system. We have a system even in our Customs through which we can find out who these importers are, and what has happened to the wheat which has been imported. We must put a ban on these people from disposing of that wheat in the market and pocket the profit. We must not allow this 50 per cent duty to benefit the pockets of those people who are trying to take this country for a ride. Madam, I have completed what I wished to say, and it is now for the House to take the decision. Thank you.

SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN (Kerala): Madam, by giving this statement, the hon. Minister gives an explanation that the offtake from the Central pool has been low. The main reason for this low offtake is because of

the increase in the price of that wheat which is distributed through the Public Distribution System. That is the main problem. Even though there is a bumper harvest, the benefit has not been given to the consumers.

So, that matter has to be discussed while discussing about this thing. Now, Madam, the practice which is going on in this country is that we are regularly increasing the procurement price and, simultaneously, we are increasing the price of wheat and rice distributed through the Public Distribution System. So, here, I would like to know from the Minister whether he will reduce the price and give the benefit to the consumers, and, thereby, this offtake can be high. That should be explained.

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI (Tamil Nadu): Madam Deputy Chairman, in this statement, they have stated that the landed cost of the imported wheat is much lower than the open sale rate fixed for the FCI. What I want to know, and which is absent in the statement is, whether the country, from which we are importing wheat, is selling it to India at a price lesser than the price at which they are selling it to any other country. Are they selling it to any other country at a high price? I would like to know whether this aspect has been gone into. That is No.1. No.2 is, they have compared the landed cost of imported wheat and the open sale rate fixed for the FCI. Then, they say: "To improve the offtake, they have taken the decision to impose a customs duty of 50 per cent." What I want to know is that, -- actually, 15 lakh tonnes have been imported --by how much the offtake has reduced this year as compared to the last year. Supposing it is more than 15 lakh tonnes, then the reason would have been different. If it is less than 15 lakh tonnes, this should be the definite reason. Therefore, we should know the figures of the corresponding year as well. My third point is, after having imposed the 50 per cent customs duty, what I want to know is, whether the rate that is going to be fixed for the imported wheat is going to be more than the open sale rate fixed for the FCI. These are the three points on which I wanted to seek clarifications.

\*श्री मोहम्मद सलीम : मैडम, जब किसान मंडी में, बाजार में अपना गेहूं लेकर पहुंचा तो इस साल हरियाणा और पंजाब में ऐसा हुआ कि वहां पर एफ.सी.आई. के

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\*Transliteration of speech in Persian Script is available in the Hindi version of the Debate

अफसरों से कहा गया कि हमारा माल क्यों नहीं खरीदते, हमारा माल खरीदो। अनाज स्टॉक करने पर किसान को सही मायने में जो फायदा पहुंचना चाहिए था वह, उससे जो पैसा मिलना चाहिए था वह उसको मिला नहीं। यदि बाद में एफ.सी.आई. अनाज खरीदती है तो वह मिडिलमैन से खरीदती है। एफ.सी.आई. की डेफिसियन्सी, करप्सन्स, हार्ड कॉस्ट इन हैंडलिंग, हम कंज्युमर्स को सफर करना पड़ता है। मैं कंज्युमर्स प्वाइन्ट आफ व्यू से बोल रहा हूँ। अभी दो रोज पहले इस सरकार से स्टील के बारे में सवाल पूछे गये थे। वह कहे कि यूजर फ्रंट का, यूजर इंडस्ट्री के लिए हमें स्टील की कीमत घटानी पड़ी इम्पोर्ट प्राइस, फ्लो प्राइस। अभी ये कह रहे हैं कि नहीं, लैंडेड प्राइज जब गेहूँ का कम है तो उसमें कोई ड्यूटी लगा दें। पहले बम्पर क्रोप्स हुई इसलिए हम गेहूँ की कीमत को कम नहीं होने देंगे। मैडम कोई भी कमर्शियल एस्टेबलिश्मेंट में ओपन मार्केट की बात ये लोग करते हैं, और जब गरीबों का, मध्यम वर्ग का, पूअर्स के, अरबन पूअर्स का, रूरल पूअर्स की रोटी खाने की बात आ रही है तो वहां पर वह वे मार्केट फोर्स की बात नहीं कह रहे हैं, वहां लिबरलाइजेशन की बात नहीं कह रहे हैं। उनकी जो रिफॉर्म प्रोसेस ऑफ पोलिसीज हैं, वह सिलेक्टड है, यह मैं पहले भी कह चुका हूँ। उन्हें रोटी सस्ती सस्ती मिलने का अधिकार है। अगर क्लॉथ मिल्स वाले अपने स्टॉक को क्लियर करने के लिए 25%, 30%, 40% का डिस्काउंट अनाउंस कर सकते हैं तो एफ0सी0आई0, गवर्नमेंट ऑफ इण्डिया, जो इतना बड़ा कारोबारी है, जिन्हें एक लाख टन गेहूँ रखने की जगह नहीं मिलेगी अगले साल वह चिंतित हैं। तो हमारे पचास परसेंट बिलो दि पोवर्टी लाइन के लिए BPL के लिए फेयर प्राइस शॉप के लिए देना था गवर्नमेंट के समय जो स्कीम बनी थी, वह क्यों नहीं लागू कर रहे हैं? पचास परसेंट प्राइस में जो हमारे पूअर्स हैं उनको आप गेहूँ दें फिर आप देखें। एक बात केसवानी जी ने कही है, यह मालूम करके कि इम्पोर्ट ड्यूटी लगने वाली है। आपने पिछले तीन महीने गेहूँ इम्पोर्ट किया है। उनके पोलिटिकल कनेक्शन भी मालूम हैं। सरकार के पास लिस्ट है कौन-कौन इम्पोर्टर्स लोग हैं गेहूँ के, और उनको मार्केट करने के लिए। ....(व्यवधान) मैं जवाब दे रहा हूँ, जो रहमान साहब ने कहा कि एक लाख टन कैसे रह जाएगा तो एक लाख इसलिए रह जाएगा कि बाकी जो लोगों ने गेहूँ स्टॉक किया है वह तो बाजार में निकलेगा, खपत ज्यादा है, लेकिन एफ0सी0आई0 की स्टॉक घटेगी नहीं। सरकार खुद आंकड़ा लगा रही है। सरकार का 75 लाख टन है वह कहां से आएगा? यह सब इसलिए है क्योंकि यह सरकार की जो section of merchants हैं, holders हैं, importers हैं उनको आप क्लेडेसाइन तरीके से फायदा करने की एक साजिश नहीं है, कोशिश है खुलेआम। इसके लिए मैं यहां यह मांग कर रहा हूँ कि कम से कम, एक सिलेक्ट कमेटी न भी हो, तो इस

सदन में, इस सरकार की बात नहीं है, पिछली बार भी गेहूँ इम्पोर्ट करने के बारे में यहां पर सुरजेवाला जी ने सवाल उठाया था, आज भी वह मामला वैसा ही पड़ा हुआ है और अब इम्पोर्ट करके, इम्पोर्ट ड्यूटी लगाने की बात हुई है, इसलिए कम से कम राज्य सभा में एक हाउस कमेटी सरकार बनाए तो we will go into the all details and report it. बहुत लम्बी से नहीं सिर्फ इसी डील में, तीन महीने में क्या हुआ पता चल जाएगा। पिछला जो सीजन था प्रोक्योरमेंट का वहां से लेकर आज फर्स्ट दिसम्बर तक क्या-क्या गुजरा गेहूँ के मैदान में, इसकी लिस्ट है, सिर्फ यह देखने के लिए यह एग्री करती है या नहीं।

**श्री नरेश यादव (बिहार) :** उपसभापति महोदया, चूंकि मंत्री जी कृषि से काफी संबंध रखते हैं और आपने कहा कि मंत्री जी एक किसान हैं और चूंकि मैं गेहूँ पैदा करने वाला किसान हूँ इस हैसियत से मैं कुछ बातों का स्पष्टीकरण मांगता हूँ। माननीय मंत्री जी ने अभी जो हम लोगों के सामने वक्तव्य दिया है यह एक लोकप्रिय सरकार का लक्षण नहीं है। आपके पास अगर बफर स्टॉक था तो भी इस देश में 39 परसेंट लोग गरीबी रेखा के नीचे जी रहे हैं। अच्छा होता कि उन 39 परसेंट लोगों को आप दो जून की रोटी खाने की व्यवस्था करते सस्ते दाम पर, गेहूँ देते, तो इस देश का, गरीबों का बहुत बड़ा कल्याण होता, सब्सिडी देकर गरीबों का बहुत बड़ा कल्याण होता। लेकिन इसके बदले आपने आयात को रोकने का प्रयास किया, पचास परसेंट सीमा शुल्क लगाकर। महोदया, गेहूँ उत्पादन में किसानों का खर्चा अधिक आता है, बनिस्बत के धान उत्पादन से। गेहूँ कम फायदेमंद अनाज है। आज पूरा देश और विशेषकर पंजाब, हरियाणा और अन्य कई प्रांत हैं जो चावल पैदा करके, बासमती चावल पैदा करके दुनिया के देशों को भेज करके आमदनी कमा रहे हैं। यह आमदनी जो किसानों की हो रही है, आज के इस स्टेटमेंट से किसानों में इसका बहुत बड़ा असर होगा। इसके कारण निश्चित तौर से जो मुनाफेखोर हैं उनकी वाहवाही होगी। हमारे किसान जो चावल पैदा करके - क्योंकि गेहूँ की पूर्ति आयात से हम करते थे, इसलिए चावल पैदा करने वाला किसान जो है वह अधिक आमदनी कमा रहा था, मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इसका उस पर क्या असर पड़ेगा और आप इस बारे में क्या कर रहे हैं?

दूसरा मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ और जैसा कि केशवानी साहब ने कहा है जो ये इम्पोर्ट करते थे, बाहर से मंगाते थे, आयात करते थे क्या उन व्यापारियों का नाम आप बतायेंगे कि कौन कौन से व्यापारी इसमें शामिल थे जो कि बड़ी संख्या में गेहूँ आयात करके मोटी रकम कमाते थे और जिन्होंने देश के साथ इतना बड़ा धोखा किया, यही मैं आपसे जानना चाहता हूँ।

**SHRI B.P. SINGHAL** (Uttar Pradesh) : Madam, the statement says, "...roller flour mills are free to import wheat directly or through the STC, MMTC or PEC for milling purposes." There is no scope for other merchants to import wheat. If other merchants have been doing, as some of the hon. Members have made out, then it is evidently against the prescribed rules, and it must amount to a crime, and which I expect the Government to take drastic action against such people. But, of the wheat that was imported even by the flour mills, at a reduced price, were those flour mills made to give that wheat to the fair price shops or to the consumers at a lower cost, because of the facility they got by importing at a lesser cost? This is one clarification that I would like to seek. The second point that I want to make is, if there was so much surplus stocks, then why should the import be discouraged by 50 per cent duty? Why can't the Government stop the import of wheat altogether?

उपसभापति : जो भी मंत्री जवाब देना चाहें दे सकते हैं ।

**SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR** : Madam, I may be permitted to...  
...(Interruptions)...

**SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA** : Madam, we have amply made it clear that there is something hidden in the statement.

**SHRI MD. SALIM** : I support him.

श्री एच० हनुमन्तप्पा : मैडम,...

उपसभापति : उनको जवाब तो देने दीजिए ।

श्री एच० हनुमन्तप्पा : इतने में क्या जवाब होगा । इसमें थॉरो इन्क्वायरी होगी । इसके बारे में इन्क्वायरी होनी चाहिए और इन्क्वायरी के लिए गवर्नमेंट को एग्री करना चाहिए क्योंकि इसमें करोड़ों रुपये का घपला है ।

**SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR** : Madam, I must have my say, then...  
...(Interruptions)...

**SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA** : At the end, the Minister would agree for an enquiry committee.

**THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN** : Hanumanthappaji, let him first explain as to what is being done, see how satisfied you are, then he will consider....(Interruptions)....

[1 December, 1999]

RAJYA SABHA

**SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE**(West Bengal) : Madam, let the Minister start with the list of those importers.

**SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR** : Madam, I heard all the Members with rapt attention, and I am highly obliged to them for expressing their concern for the consumers. But at the same time, I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Members that they should also have some concern for the growers. Madam, the Government always adopts a policy on food items keeping in view the best interest of the producers as well as the consumers. In the case of wheat, the procurement price for the producer has been revised upward and it has been fixed at Rs.5,500 per tonne. The economic cost of the FCI, including the procurement cost, handling charges, transportation cost and storage cost, works out to Rs.8,200 per tonne. The landing cost of the imported wheat is ranging between Rs. 6,200 and Rs.6,400 per tonne. That is why, as clearly made out in the statement, with a view to rectifying the situation and also to stimulate the offtake of wheat, this step of imposing a customs duty of 50% is resorted to. With this duty ....(Interruptions)....

**SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA**: What is the open sale rate of wheat?

**SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR**: With the imposition of 50% duty, the landed cost would work out to Rs.8,100 per tonne. I hope this explains the whole situation. Madam, doubts were raised with regard to the quantity imported and who all have imported it. Well, again, it is explained in the statement itself. It is a canalized item. Apart from the imports made by the FCI, the roller flour mills are free to import either directly or through the STC or through the MMTC.

**AN HON. MEMBER**: Are they Government organizations?

**SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR**: Roller flour mills are in the private sector. I would like to impress upon the Members, Madam, that there is no guarantee that the wheat, which is imported at a cheaper cost, will be sold at the same cost because the Government has absolutely no control on the ultimate price. There is no doubt about that. It is a fact.

**SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE**: Are you accepting the charge? (Interruptions) Are you accepting it?...(Interruptions)....

**THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN**: Let him finish first. सुनने तो दो । ....(व्यवधान) बात तो सुनने दीजिये । ....(व्यवधान) बोलने दीजिये । अगर वह कुछ



सही कह रहे हैं, गलत कह रहे हैं।

श्री वी. धनंजय कुमार : यहां पर कुछ छिपा नहीं है । It is an open secret that the open market price is not controlled. Open market price is free. Anybody can sell it at whatever price he can.

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Mr. Minister, you have said that the landed cost is much lower than the open sale rate fixed by the FCI. You must be having that figure. Open market price is not in your control, but you should be having the figures for the FCI.

SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR: Madam, I have given the figure of procurement also. I have given the figures of the final cost that will work out.

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: What is the open sale price rate fixed by the FCI? (Interruptions) That will bring the cat out of the bag.

SHRI SURESH A. KESWANI: Sir, what you need to do is to inquire as to how did the note in your department originated, where a decision was taken to impose 50% duty. You would come to know who the culprits are. We are straightaway telling you that you have tried to fill the pockets of a select few. You have tried to make sure that the country pays for it and the poorest of the poor pays for it.

SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR: Madam, it is not a strange thing. (Interruptions) Please let me say. (Interruptions) On the decision taken by the Food Ministry, as they are the competent authority to take decisions, based on the situation as to the quantity of foodgrains available and the quantity to be imported and the price at which it is to be sold, etc.; the Finance Ministry will only help them out in ... (Interruptions)....

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let him finish the sentence, please.

SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR: .... achieving parity, so that the price of imported wheat would match with the procurement and the ultimate cost of wheat. This may include procurement price plus the storage, transportation handling costs, etc. etc. In order to bring parity between these two, the Finance Ministry has been requested to come up with this measure of imposing Customs Duty.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Before asking you to fix that 50 per cent Customs Duty, they must have given you certain facts. This is what the

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Members want to know. ...*(Interruptions)*... They may have given you certain facts as to why they are doing so. The Members want to know what the sale price would be by which you can protect the locally procured wheat. This is the simple question that has been put by the hon. Members.

SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR: Madam, I have already given figures regarding procurement price and the cost which the FCI is going to incur. ...*(Interruptions)*.... The FCI would incur Rs.8200 per tonne out of which the procurement cost would be Rs.5500 *(Interruptions)*. The landing cost....*(Interruptions)*....

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Even after imposing this 50 per cent Duty, the imported wheat will be cheaper....*(Interruptions)*.... This is according to the figures that he has given...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR: It works out at Rs.8200 *(Interruptions)*

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: WE have already noted down the figures that he has given. ...*(Interruptions)* I can prove it what the Minister has said. ...*(Interruptions)*.. If he does not know about it, let the Food Minister come here and reply to the points raised. We do not know whether the Food Minister has taken this decision or the Finance Minister has taken this decision.*(Interruptions)* Let the Food Minister come and tell us about it. ....*(Interruptions)*... Let the Food Minister come and clarify. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MD. SALIM: I appreciate that the Minister is trying to respond to the points raised and he is also trying to convince the Members. But, you know how we work in the Committee system. If there are so many details, so many questions, it is not possible for the Minister to satisfy all the queries on the spot. That is why I suggest that a smaller Committee can go into it and look at the files, talk to the officers, listen to the officers ...*(Interruptions)*...

AN HON. MEMBER: This is an intelligent way of putting it. ...*(Interruption)*...

SHRI MD. SALIM: The Minister is accepting that there is nothing wrong. He is also ready to convince the Members. ...*(Interruptions)*... Let him convince that Committee. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Madam, I have a point to make...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR: Let me have my say.  
...*(Interruptions)*....

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Just a minute. Please sit down.  
...*(Interruptions)*.... Mr. Hanumanthappa, let him reply and allow him to say whatever he wants to say. The House has a right to put questions to the Minister. Nobody is taking away that right. Until and unless he finishes all his queries, he cannot *(Interruptions)* If you find any discrepancies in his reply, then at any point of time you can put a question. If you interrupt him like this, then you would not know what the next sentence is. Let him finish his reply. You are always free to put questions.

SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR: My friend wanted to know the sale price through the FCI. Up to 30.11.1999, it is Rs.690 per quintal in the Northern Region, Rs.747 in the Southern Region, Rs.747 in the Eastern Region and Rs.725 in the Western Region. I am at a loss to understand whose interests my friends are soliciting. I am not in a position to understand that. I have made it clear that whatever policy decision the Government takes that is taken keeping in view the best interests of the producers as well as the consumers. Keeping in view their interests, the Government is taking this decision. Now, here is a situation where you have enough production within the country and when you are able to import wheat at cheaper cost, naturally the middlemen, the traders, would like to take advantage of this. With a view to stopping that and with a view to protecting the interests of the growers and also of the FCI, which is a public body, the Government has taken this decision. We have clearly stated that we are doing this with a view to rectifying the situation and also with a view to stimulating off-take. We all know very well that this is an item which would perish. We cannot store it for a long time. So, naturally, the buffer stock can last for a limited period. The off-take should also help in reducing the buffer stock. That is the reason why we wanted to bring parity in the price of the wheat, which is produced in our country and the wheat that is imported. That is the idea behind this  
...*(Interruptions)*....

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The question that was put was like this. As has been said in the House, a lot of wheat was imported. When the wheat was imported...*(Interruptions)*....

SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR: I have also given the figures. Madam, between May, 1999, and November, 1999, almost 15 lakh tonnes of

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wheat reached the Indian ports. Between May, 1999, and November, 1999, 15 lakh tonnes of wheat was imported, and the quantity that is procured from the farmers is 141 lakh tonnes during 1999-2000. It is higher than the procurement made when compared to the previous year. During the previous year, the procurement was 126 lakh tonnes. This year, for the same period, it is 141 lakh tonnes. The procurement itself is high. And, almost 15 lakh tonnes of wheat was imported. It is just to prevent the traders or the persons who are being named by my friends, from making profits ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: We have not mentioned any name....*(Interruptions)*... The names are with you.

SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR: My friends have all along been saying traders, hoarders and what not...*(Interruptions)*....

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: They are not names*(Interruptions)*It is a category.....*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR: I am referring to the same category of people. This measure has been taken to prevent them from knocking off a major portion of the profit. I hope the entire House would support this measure...*(Interruptions)*... There is absolutely no decision that has been taken which would harm the interests of the farmers ...*(Interruptions)*... I have already given all the details ...*(Interruptions)*... He has asked about the cost of procurement. .... *(Interruptions)*....

SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN (Karnataka): I asked when it was freed from the duty, and when the duty was imposed. That is one thing we wanted to know. Another thing is, he is giving contradictory figures with regard to procurement. That is the reason why I would like to be clarified. Madam, it is like this. Procurement price is Rs. 5,500/- but the FCI's cost is Rs. 8,200. The FCI sells, at a different places, at Rs. 6,900/- and Rs. 7,047/-. So, we would like to know FCI is losing Rs. 1,300/- per tonne; and whether you are giving any subsidy. That is one point.

The other point is, the Minister has said that the landed cost, if 50 per cent duty were imposed, would be Rs. 8,100/-. The Minister has also said that the landed cost is Rs. 6,200/-. If 50 per cent duty is imposed then landed cost comes to Rs. 9,100/- because duty is calculated on CIF values. If all this is taken into consideration, there is a total contradiction in the various figures given by the Minister. First of all, I would like to know when the duty was taken away and when the duty was imposed. The hon. Minister has said that

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it is a canalized item. But, it is not a canalized item. It is a partly canalized item. The millers can directly import it. Our concern is, 15 lakh tonnes of wheat was imported between May, 1999, and November, 1999. We want a break up of this 15 lakh tonnes. When it was imported? We wanted to know whether it was imported during the Kargil war. If so, how much wheat was imported during the Kargil war. What is the break up? Out of 15 lakh tonnes, what is the amount of stock that is there with the millers? Today, the miller are importing at a lesser cost. You are only increasing the customs duty. It is not the excise duty. With this customs duty, they are benefited by 50 per cent. If you calculate, it will work out crores of rupees to the millers. This is what we would like to know from you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He has put very specific questions. The import duty that was there on wheat was taken away and now you are again imposing it. The calculation that he has given is this. When you impose 50 per cent duty on imported wheat, the price does not come to Rs. 8000, it comes to Rs. 9,000/-. So, how is this miscalculation there?

SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR: From where did he get these figures? I am at a loss to understand it...*(Interruptions)*...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is a calculation...*(Interruptions)*.. Do not confuse him please...*(Interruptions)*...The question is, if you add fifty per cent duty on the landed price of wheat, what would be the final price of that wheat? This is one point. The other question that he had put was, when the import duty was withdrawn, for how long it was withdrawn and when was it reimposed?...*(Interruptions)*.. नहीं, अभी नहीं । पहले मंत्री जी को सुनने दीजिए ।

श्री एच० हनुमन्तप्पा : मैडम, मैं हाऊस में बताना चाहता हूँ । सुन लीजिए । Rs. 5,500 is the value. They have added 50 per cent on that and they say it becomes Rs.8,100/-. Fifty per cent duty should be on the landed value of wheat, not on the procurement rate ...*(Interruptions)*... Rs. 5,500/- ...*(Interruptions)*... It does not come to Rs.8,100/- We are not fools to accept these figures....*(Interruptions)*....

उपसभापति : अच्छा, अब एक्सप्लेन करने दीजिए। बैठिए, प्लीज । Please let h. . reply...*(Interruptions)*...Please let him reply....*(Interruptions)*...No, I am not allowing...*(Interruptions)*...Let him reply आप मंत्री बनेंगे तो आप आन्सर कर

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देंगे । अभी उन्हें आन्सर करने दीजिए ।

SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR: Madam, I am aware that all these members, who are sneior Members, have the primary knowledge of the price on which the duty is levied. Now, I have clearly stated that this was the landed cost. The procurement price in the foreign market will be much less than Rs.6,200/-....(Interruptions)....

AN HON. MEMBER : Now, this is enough....(Interruptions).....Now, this is enough...(Interruptions)...This is too much.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is not fair...(Interruptions).. Let him finish his sentence and then you...(Interruptions)...

SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: He is questioning the basic knowledge of the Members...(Interruptions)....He is questioning the basic knnowledge...(Interruptions)...we are not concerned with the procurement price in Italy or Pakistan or...(Interruptions)...We are concerned with it ...(Interruptions)... It is not fair...(Interruptions)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What are you enquiring about?...(Interruptions)..

SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN : The Finance Minister should educate us. The CIF value he has given us is Rs. 6,200/- as landed value, and now he says that the procurement price ...(Interruptions)...How can it be?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He is asking simply whether the duty is on the landed CIF price, or, it is on the procurement price, because the wheat might have been procured from different sources, there might be different prices. But you cannot have duty on different sources, there might be different prices. But you cannot have duty on different prices. Whatever the landed price was, including freight, etc. and the linked service, whatever it is...(Interruptions)...

SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR : Madam, duty is normally levied on the invoice price, I mean on the CIF price. Thge landed cost includes the cost of transporation ....(Interruptions)...

उपसभापति : अभी आप लोग चुप रहिए । सुन लीजिए, उनकी बात । ----  
(व्यवधान)

V. DHANANJAY KUMAR: Madam, my friend has no patience. I am really sorry ...(Interruptions)..You have put so many questions. At least you

must have the patience to hear me...(Interruptions)..I am trying to clear your doubts. The situation is that they have imaginary doubts. They do not have genuine doubts ...(Interruptions)...You please allow me to answer ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI MD. SALIM : He is supposed to clear the doubts, not to qualify the doubts...(Interruptions)...

SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR : So Madam, duty is calculated on the cost at which the wheat is procured in the international market. Now, adding that, the landed cost works out to Rs. 8,100/-. This is what I have stated.

SHRI B.P. SINGHAL : My friend is really confused. ...(Interruptions)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Is it fair for you to clap on the confusion of somebody? ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR : I have not clarified. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI B.P. SINGHAL : My contention is that there is one set of wheat which is imported at a cost of between Rupees 6200 and 6500 per tonne. This is what the Minister has said. Now, add 50% to it from tomorrow, not even from today; and it becomes 9300 or something. Okay. That is imported wheat. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR : Again my friend is thoroughly confused. ...(Interruptions)...

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : There is no point in replying if so many Members are asking so many questions at the same time. ...(Interruptions)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : There is one solution. I think I should adjourn the House now. ...(Interruptions)... I have a solution. Now, it is past five of the clock. I think there is some discrepancy, not only in figures but in the understanding also from both the sides. ...(Interruptions)... So, I suggest let us have the reply tomorrow. Let the Minister come back with the full facts because there are many questions. ...(Interruptions)... please behave in a proper manner.

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SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR : Madam, I have some more information ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Mr. Minister, there are many questions. So, I think you come back tomorrow with proper calculations, with proper figures. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR : Madam, I have the figures but let them have the patience to hear me. Please give me five minutes. ...*(Interruptions)*...

AN HON. MEMBER : The Chair has already given its ruling for tomorrow. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR : Madam, please give me two minutes. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Okay, please give him two minutes. ...*(Interruptions)*... please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR : Madam, the C.I.F. price at \$ 120 works out to 5227 ...*(Interruptions)*... Madam, they are not allowing me to speak at all ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN : He is misleading the House. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR : Madam, I seek your protection. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*...

AN HON. MEMBER : I want to explain the scam that has taken place. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : You see, Mr. Minister, if there are any doubts, if there are any figures, I would suggest and it has been my experience that it is better to come to the House with full facts because in this crisis you may make a wrong statement which will go against you. So, it is better that you come tomorrow with proper facts and figures. You must have noted the questions that Members have asked. Please find the facts and come back. Perhaps you do not know that there are so many queries. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR : Madam, I may please be permitted to say one thing. ...*(Interruptions)*...



THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : If you put the figures in dollars, I am telling you that you may get into more difficulties because dollar rate is changing everyday. My good wishes to you, and my advice to you is you come back tomorrow with proper facts. Now I adjourn the House till 11.00 a.m. tomorrow.

The House then adjourned at nine minutes past five of the clock till eleven of the clock on Thursday, the 2nd December, 1999.

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