

और अगर संपन्न लोगों पर ज्यादा भार पड़ रहा है तो इस में इतनी ज्यादा तकलीफ महसूस करने की जरूरत कहां है? महोदय, सरकार को विभिन्न कार्यक्रमों के लिए अगर पैसा मुहैया कराना है तो वह कहां से कराएगी? हम सिर्फ यहां आवाज लगाते रहें कि यह खर्च कर दो, वह खर्च कर दो और अगर सरकार आमदनी बढ़ाना चाहती है तो हम सरकार की खिचाई करें, इस तरह से काम नहीं चलेगा। महोदय, हम लोगों को साधन मांगने का जहां हक है, वहीं साधन बढ़ाने के लिए सरकार को सहयोग देने का भी हमारा फर्ज बनता है। धन्यवाद।

Reduction of import duty on methanol which harms the methanol producing Petro-Chemical Industries

SHRI DRUPAD BORGHAIN (Assam): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to mention about some difficulty being faced by the petro-chemical industries of our country which produce methanol. The price of methanol which is being imported from foreign countries is very low. The imported methanol has invaded the market and has hit the indigenous industry. There are six methanol producing industries. They are all facing serious problems. They are not able to market their produce. In the near future, some of the industries may have to be closed down. The State of Assam also has such an industry. This industry produces methanol. Their market is also being invaded by the imported methanol.

Secondly, I had put a question to our hon. Finance Minister on the 9th March, 1999. He has replied, "The basic customs duty on methanol has remained unchanged at 25 per cent in this year's budget and five per cent special customs duty which was chargeable prior to the Budget has been abolished. However, surcharge at the rate of ten per cent of the basic duty has been imposed. The effective rate of customs duty, excluding the CVD and special additional duty, after the Budget would be 27.5 per cent as against 30 per cent prior to the Budget. Because of this lowering, the prices of foreign methanol will be further

lowered and the local methanol industry will have a lot of difficulties.

Sir, I urge, through you, the hon. Finance Minister, to change this policy so that the price of foreign methanol is kept at par with the Indian one.

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA (Assam): Mr. Chairman, I stand here in support of what Mr. Borgohain has said. The methanol producing industries of the country are on the verge of closure. Due to the gradual reduction of import duty on methanol, there is a very cheap flow of methanol in the entire country from the foreign market and the cost of production in the domestic industry is such that it is not in a position to compete with the imported methanol in the country. Sir, we appreciate that we have international obligations so far as liberalised economy or free market for our country going forward is concerned. But, at the same time, it was assured on several occasions in this House, and in the other House, and through different media that our domestic industry would be fully protected. Sir, this is an example as to how the gradual reduction of import duty is going to hamper our domestic industry and most of the industries are going to close down. I would, therefore, request the Government, through you Sir, to take a positive view on these issues so that not only this methanol industry but also other industries are protected by imposing heavy import duties on imported methanol and other products.

Revelation in the British House of Commons that UK has deliberately supplied incomplete information to India concerning Purulia Arms Dropping Matter

SHRI K.R. MALKANI (Delhi): Sir, I rise to draw the attention of this august House to something sinister that happened more than three years ago and that continues to reverberate. In December, 1995, lethal arms were