

मुझे मालूम हो तभी मैं किसी किसम का कोई तफसल कर सकता हूँ। गौतम साहब की तकरीर तो बहुत ही साहित्यिक थी, उसमें इतिफाक न करने की कोई वजह नहीं है। गौतम जी यहाँ पर नहीं हैं।

सदर साहब, ज्यादातर हरियाणा में जो कुछ हुआ है उसके बारे में है। फैक्ट यह है कि मैं उस पर किसी किसम का कमेंट्स करने की हैसियत में नहीं हूँ।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI T.N.CHATURVEDI): We will now take up the Short Duration Discussion on Sugar Policy.

SHORT DURATION DISCUSSION

Sugar Policy (contd.)

श्री रमाशंकर कौशिक (उत्तर प्रदेश):

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, चीनी उद्योग हमारे देश में इस प्रकार का उद्योग है जिसके लिए विभिन्न उद्देश्य रखे गए हैं। वह केवल एक इंडस्ट्री के रूप में नहीं, वरन् उसके कई उद्देश्य ऐसे रखे गए जो जनता के लिए हमारे देश के विकास के लिए, हमारे देश के किसानों के विकास के लिए और करोड़ों लोग जो उपभोक्ता हैं, उनके हितों की रक्षा करने के लिए चीनी उद्योग का विशेष दर्जा हमारे देश में रहा है। इसमें कोई संदेह नहीं है कि हमारे किसानों की स्थिति आजादी से पहले और आजादी के बाद भी कोई बहुत बेहतर नहीं रही है। पहले बहुत बदतर, खराब स्थिति थी और अब कुछ अच्छी हुई है लेकिन उनकी हालत पूरी तरह से सुधरी नहीं है। उनकी उपज का जो लागत मूल्य होता है वह भी उनको नहीं मिल पाता है। इसमें भी कोई संदेह नहीं कि जैसे कि गन्ने की खेती है या तिलहन की खेती है या और जो ऐसी चीजें हैं जिनको कैश क्रॉप कहा जाता है, अगर वह न हो तो हमारे किसानों की स्थिति तो बहुत खराब हो जाएगी। इसी दृष्टि से इस उद्योग को बढ़ावा दिया गया है, इसको सुरक्षा दी गई है। यह भी सही बात है कि इस उद्योग से उम्मीदें भी बहुत रखी गई हैं। हमारे देश में पांच करोड़ लोग गन्ने की खेती करते हैं और उन पांच करोड़ लोगों के पीछे लगभग 30 करोड़ लोग अपनी माली हैसियत को स्थिर कर पाते हैं। चूंकि और उपजों में तो उनको उतना भी नहीं मिल पाता है। गन्ने की फसल से थोड़ा-बहुत लाभ उनको अपने विकास के काम में, अपने स्वास्थ्य के मामले में, अपने पढ़ने-लिखने के मामले में होता है। इस दृष्टि से अगर हम देखें तो

हमें अपने चीनी उद्योग को इस प्रकार से करना पड़ेगा कि वह किसान का हित भी करे, वह हमारे मजदूर का भी हित करे और यह भी एक हकीकत है। आज की दुनिया में जबकि कम्प्यूटराइजेशन का जमाना है, इस जमाने में भी इस इंडस्ट्री के जरिए से जितना एम्प्लायमेंट मिलता है उतना और किसी इंडस्ट्री से नहीं मिलता है। आज की स्थिति में भी यह बात है। लाखों लोग इससे इम्प्लायमेंट पाते हैं। करीब 25-30 लाख लोग डायरेक्ट इससे इम्प्लायमेंट पाते हैं और 25-30 लाख से नीचे दूसरे लोग इन्डायरेक्ट इससे इम्प्लायमेंट पाते हैं। हमारे यहाँ बेरोजगारी तो है ही। इसको दूर करने की दृष्टि से, किसानों का हित साधने की दृष्टि से और करोड़ों उपभोक्ताओं को लाभ पहुंचाने की दृष्टि से भी चीनी उद्योग को हमारे यहाँ विशेष दर्जा दिया गया है।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री टी० एन० चतुर्वेदी): आपके 6 मिनट बचे हैं केवल सुझाव दे दीजिए। वस्तुस्थिति तो आपने बता दी है।

श्री रमाशंकर कौशिक: महोदय, अगर हम इस दृष्टि से देखें तो हमें चीनी उद्योग को इस प्रकार से करना होगा कि इससे किसान का अधिक से अधिक हित हो। आज किसान को अधिक से अधिक 70-72 रुपए किंटल के हिसाब से गन्ने की कीमत मिलती है। मैं भी मानता हूँ और हमारी पार्टी भी इस बात को मानती है कि कम से कम सौ रुपये किंटल आज की तारीख में उसकी कीमत होनी चाहिए और आगे जैसी स्थिति हो उसमें वह कीमत बढ़ती रहनी चाहिए। इसी प्रकार से हम इसको इम्प्लायमेंट की दृष्टि से भी देख रहे हैं। इसके चार उद्देश्य मैंने विशेष रूप से बताये। मजदूरों, किसानों, उपभोक्ताओं और हमारे देश के विकास के लिए, इन चार उद्देश्यों की पूर्ति नहीं हो रही है। आज भी पांच सौ करोड़ रुपया किसानों का मिल-मालिकों के ऊपर बकाया है और इसकी भी कोई व्यवस्था हम नहीं कर पा रहे हैं।

इम्प्लायमेंट की दृष्टि से चीनी उद्योग में कई ऐसी मिलें हैं जो सिक हो रही हैं। उनकी तरफ सरकार का ध्यान नहीं जा रहा है। उपभोक्ताओं को जिस प्रकार से चीनी मिलनी चाहिए उस प्रकार से आज उनको चीनी नहीं मिलती है। हालांकि इसके लिए राशन कार्ड की व्यवस्था है। देहात के लोगों को आज कितनी चीनी मिल रही है और ठीक से उनके पास चीनी पहुंच भी रही है या नहीं, इसकी तरफ भी कोई ध्यान नहीं दिया जाता है। अगर इस दृष्टि से हम देखें तो हमको ऐसे चीनी उद्योग की व्यवस्था करनी पड़ेगी जो इस उद्योग में लगे हुए लोग हैं उनको हमें संरक्षण देना पड़े। इसमें कोई संकोच नहीं है।

आज हमारे देश में लाखों टन चीनी पैदा होती है और इतनी ही इस वर्ष पैदा होगी। इतना ही हमारा खर्च है। हमारे पास 65 लाख का स्टॉक है फिर भी हम दूसरे देशों से आयात कर रहे हैं। इससे हमारा चीनी उद्योग नहीं बढ़ेगा। अगर चीनी उद्योग नहीं बढ़ेगा तो हमारे किसानों और मजदूरों का भला नहीं होगा। जो करोड़ों की तादाद में उपभोक्ता हैं उनको भी चीनी उपलब्ध नहीं होगी जो कि आज भी नहीं हो रही है। इसके लिए सरकार ऐसे ढंग से काम करे कि हमें आयात करने की जरूरत ही न पड़े। इस दृष्टि से भी मैंने माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी का ध्यान खींचा था तो उन्होंने बताया कि हम सार्क देशों के सदस्य हैं और वे देश हमारे साथी हैं। मैंने उनसे पूछा था कि यदि वे देश हमारे साथी हैं तो क्या हम ऐसी चीजों का भी आयात करेंगे जिनकी हमें जरूरत नहीं है और जो हमारे यहां स्थितियां उल्टे पैदा कर दे? हमारे पास 150 लाख टन चीनी पैदा करने की ताकत है, इस वर्ष हम उसे पूरा कर रहे हैं। हमारे पास 65 लाख टन चीनी का स्टॉक है तो फिर हम क्यों आयात कर रहे हैं? हमारे यहां 7 लाख टन चीनी का आयात हो गया, और भी हो सकता है। विश्व व्यापार संगठन की वजह से हमारे यहां सारा मामला गड़बड़ा रहा है। अगर हम इस दृष्टि से देखें तो हमें चीनी उद्योग के मामले में और भी बहुत सारी चीजें करनी पड़ेंगी। चीनी उद्योग से इण्डस्ट्रियल एलकोहल काफी बन सकता है और इसके आधार पर हमारे यहां एक इण्डस्ट्री खड़ी हो सकती है। इससे देश में रोजगार बढ़ सकता है और विकास के रास्ते बन सकते हैं। इण्डस्ट्रियल एलकोहल को बढ़ाने के लिए भी कोई कोशिश नहीं हो रही है। हमारी चीनी फैक्ट्रियों से बिजली पैदा हो सकती है। इस तरफ भी कोई कोशिश नहीं हो रही है। अगर इस ओर सरकार कोशिश नहीं करेगी तो ये जो बहुउद्देशीय चीनी उद्योग है जिसका हमने एक विशेष दर्जा मान रखा है, वह हल नहीं होगा। हमारे किसान, मजदूर और उपभोक्ता हमेशा परेशान रहेंगे। इसलिए सरकार को चाहिए कि इन सारी बातों का ध्यान रखते हुए चीनी उद्योग को बढ़ाने का काम करे। हमारे किसानों की आमदनी बढ़ाने का काम करे और उनका जो मिलों पर बकाया पैसा है वह भी उनके दिलवाया जाए। कम से कम सौ रुपए क्विंटल गन्ने की कीमत हो। इन्हें शब्दों के साथ मैं अपनी बात समाप्त करता हूँ। धन्यवाद।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI T.N. CHATURVEDI): Mr. John F. Fernandes, you have five minutes. Your part is left with five minutes only.

SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES (Goa): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, this is a very sensitive industry. Basically, the backbone of this industry is the poor farmers. Since agriculture is in the private sector, it is for the farmer to decide what crop he should retain yearly. Since sugarcane is a cash crop, the middlemen exploit the farmers. We know that this industry is basically in the private sector and the cooperative sector. There is no protection of the Government because the Government does not play any part either in the production or manufacturing of sugar in the private sector. So, I think it will be appropriate for the Government to see that it comes to the rescue of the poor farmers who are being exploited by the middlemen. It is at the time of procurement of sugarcane that the middlemen fleece the farmers. Unless we plug the loophole and give protection to the farmers, the middlemen will exploit them.

As you know, one of the mechanisms which is in the statute is the Statutory Minimum Price which is again at variance. The Central Government fixes the lowest price; and the State Government fixes it at the highest. Recently, on this matter, there have been judgements from the Allahabad High Court.

Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, the Mahajan Committee has rightly mentioned and this Government also thought that we should totally decontrol and delicense this industry. I don't think we can do this overnight. Therefore, the Committee had mentioned in its report that it could be done within two years. Unless we protect the farmers, we cannot achieve this. Now, the Government has also arbitrarily taken a decision about the 'policy of distancing of the sugar mills'. Earlier, it was 25 KMs. Now, the Government has arbitrarily reduced it to 15 KMs. But that was not the recommendation of the Mahajan Committee. Finally, what we have to do is, we have to see the capability of the crop in the market. I

know that the Government has taken a decision to decontrol it and to reduce the distance to help certain industries, certain traders, so that there can be a glut of factories in the country. Now, we have 450 sugar factories in the country. We are the largest producer of sugar in the world. At the same time, we are also the largest consumer of sugar in the world. In May, 1980 the per capita consumption of sugar was 7.3 kilos. Now, the per capita consumption of sugar has gone up to 15 kilos. I think, India being the poorest country, we also have a sweet tooth. The consumption is very, very high in this country. I think we have to compliment the farmers for maintaining the tempo of sugar production.

Sir, we had established the Technology Mission Programme in 1994. In 1995-96, we had a bumper crop. We have recorded the highest sugar production in the country because the right input was given to the farmers by the Technology Mission. I do not know whether it is functioning, or, it was only an *ad hoc* mechanism adopted by the then Government. I would like to know from the Minister whether it is really in operation. I would also like to know from the Minister whether it has really given any incentive and inputs to modernise and to upgrade this industry which is technologically at the nascent stage. The technology we have is very, very obsolete because it is not in the hands of multinationals. It is in the private sector as well as in the cooperative sector as a cottage industry.

Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to how many recommendations of the Mahajan Committee, set up by this Government, have been accepted. I would like to know whether they will implement these recommendations in toto or whether they will go in for *ad hoc* decisions, political decisions. We have seen that in certain States, the cooperatives, the federations and all those societies have political connotations. Certain political parties are

controlling them, by taking political decisions. Would the Government see or is it the desire of this Government to see that this cooperative system is destroyed in those states? I do not know what the decision of the Government is or whether the Government will allow the multinationals in the name of privatisation, whether they can sustain it, whether the farmers will get a price for which they are toiling day and night.

With these few submissions, I hope the policy, the sugar policy, of the Government will be reviewed and we will not have to depend on our neighbouring SAARC countries. I do not think it was a bad decision. But we have to give the right signal to the farmer in the previous year itself as to what crop he has to grow and what price he is going to get for it. This wavering decision of the Government in the market has really created a low production of sugar in the country.

Thank you,

श्री नरेश यादव (बिहार): महोदय, चीनी नीति पर चर्चा हो रही है। हम सभी इस बात को जानते हैं कि पूरे देश की आबादी को 75 प्रतिशत हिस्सा किसानों का है और बड़ी संख्या में देश में किसान तिलहन, दलहन के साथ-साथ गन्ने का उत्पादन करता है। इसको कैश क्रॉप कहा जाता है। इससे किसान के पास कुछ सीधे पैसा चला आता है। जब किसान को बड़ा कार्य करना होता है, शादी विवाह का कार्य करना होता है तो वह इसी से अपनी सब्जी को, तिलहन को बेच कर लेता है। लेकिन आज किसानों के सामने बहुत बड़ी समस्या है और वह समस्या है किसानों को गन्ने का सही मूल्य नहीं मिल पाता है। उसका लागत मूल्य दिन-प्रति-दिन बढ़ता जा रहा है। मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहूँगा कि केमिकल फर्टिलाइज़र्स की कीमतें बढ़ गई हैं, इनसेक्टोसाइड्स, पेस्टोसाइड्स की कीमतें बढ़ रही हैं, डीज़ल की कीमत बढ़ने से ट्रैक्टर की जुताई की कीमत बढ़ रही है, मजदूरी भी हर साल बढ़ाई जा रही है, इस तरह से उपज पर लागत मूल्य अधिक बढ़ गया है और उसी के हिसाब से किसान की उपज का मूल्य तय नहीं किया जा रहा है। जब मूल्य तय होता है तो उसमें किसानों का कोई प्रतिनिधि वहां नहीं रहता है। इसके कारण किसानों को सही मूल्य प्राप्त नहीं

हो सकता है। महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से एक दो बातें कहूंगा। जैसे कि अभी कई साथियों ने कहा है, एक बहुत खराब पैसेज जा रहा है। अभी-अभी दो गुज्यों की सरकारें चली गईं और उसका कारण प्याज था। प्याज से कोई सबक वर्तमान सरकार ने नहीं सीखा है। इस के साथ प्याज का तर्क इसलिए है कि प्याज का गलत रूप से हमने निर्यात किया, फिर हम को आयात करना पड़ा जिसके कारण प्याज का देश में काफी अभाव हो गया और कीमत भी काफी ऊंची चली गई। आपने बताया और हमें मालूम है कि इस वर्ष चीनी का अनुमानित उत्पादन एक करोड़ 54 लाख टन है। प्रति मास 12-13 लाख टन चीनी की खपत है। इस हिसाब से 54 लाख टन चीनी शेष बच जाती है। फिर चीनी का आयात करना, यह कहाँ का तर्क है, कहाँ का तुक बैठता है? हम सभी जानते हैं कि चीनी अन्य देशों में भारत के अलावा मंहगी बिक रही है। मंहगी चीजों को खरीदना कहाँ का तुक है? इसका भार कहाँ पड़ेगा? हम आपके माध्यम से सरकार से कहना चाहेंगे कि इसकी एक समग्र नीति किसानों के हित में बनाई जाए, चीनी उद्योग संबंधी समग्र नीति बनाई जाए जिसमें किसानों का हित हो और साथ हम चाहेंगे उद्योगों के साथ-साथ किसानों का भी हित हो। यह गलत नीतियाँ देश में चल रही हैं। जैसे कि मेरे पूर्व वक्ताओं ने कहा हम लोग चीनी का जो आयात कर रहे हैं इस पर आयात शुल्क पांच प्रतिशत है, मेरा सुझाव यह है कि इस आयात शुल्क को बढ़ा कर 150 प्रतिशत कर सकते हैं। इससे जो चीनी का आयात बाहर से होगा वह मंहगी होगी और देश की उत्पादित चीनी सस्ती होगी। इसका लाभ उद्योगों और किसानों दोनों को जाएगा। हम चाहेंगे सरकार को निश्चित तौर से इस बात का ख्याल रखना चाहिये कि फिर से जमाखोरी के चलते, कालाबाजारियों के चलते

5.00 P.M.

हमें नुकसान न उठाना पड़े और फिर से हमारे अर्थतंत्र को गहरा धक्का न लगे। इसके लिए सावधान होकर सरकार से अपील करूंगा कि आपके चीनी के बारे में, गन्ना किसानों के बारे में एक समग्र नीति लेकर आना चाहिए। चूंकि आपकी, माननीय मंत्री जी की रुचि कृषि में ज्यादा है, मैं उम्मीद करता हूँ कि माननीय मंत्री महोदय जो इसके ईंचार्ज हैं एक समग्र, कृषक के हित में नीति लेकर आएंगे।

आपने मुझे बोलने का मौका दिया, बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI T. N. CHATURVEDI): Hon. Members, it is five O' clock now. May I take it to be the sense of the House that we will sit beyond five O'clock and complete the Business?

SOME HON'BLE MEMBERS: Yes, Yes.

श्री नागेन्द्र ओझा (बिहार): उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, हम चीनी नीति, शुगर पॉलिसी की बात कर रहे हैं लेकिन मैं मानता हूँ कि सम्पूर्ण कृषि नीति के अंतर्गत ही इसकी बात आती है। उसी आलोक में इसके प्रति जो नीति अपनायी गयी है उसे देखना चाहिए। मेरी मान्यता है, हमारे देश के अर्थ शास्त्रियों की मान्यता है, बहुत से एक्सपर्ट्स की मान्यता है कि हमारे देश में प्रारंभ से ही कोई सुनिश्चित कृषि नीति नहीं रही। 1993 में तत्कालीन कृषि मंत्री जाखड़ जी ने एग्रीकल्चर पर ड्राफ्ट रिजोल्यूशन लोक सभा में 14 मई, 1993 को रखा था। उस ड्राफ्ट रिजोल्यूशन की दिशा में कुछ नहीं हुआ। फिर इस सरकार ने प्रयास किया है। वह यह काम शुरू कर रही है कि एक कृषि नीति सामने लायी जाए। मेरा आग्रह है कि उस कृषि नीति के अंतर्गत चीनी के मामले को गंभीरता से लिया जाए और चीनी उद्योग के बारे में एक निश्चित नीति देश को प्रदान की जाए।

सर्वप्रथम मैं यह कहना चाहूंगा कि चीनी तो मीठी है लेकिन इसके मामले में जो नीति अपनायी गयी है वह कतई मीठी नहीं है—

Though sugar tastes sweet, the sugar policy is not that sweet.

हमें उस नीति को भी मीठा बनाना चाहिए।

श्री संघ प्रिय गौतम (उत्तर प्रदेश): यह तो उल्टा हो गया।

श्री नागेन्द्र नाथ ओझा: बिहार के मामले को लीजिए तो किसानों और मजदूरों का जो बकाया है चीनी मिलों के पास वह कुल 1 अरब, 18 करोड़ है। यह बताते हुए मैं आग्रह करूंगा कि पिछली सरकार के दौरान जैसे यू०पी० में किसानों और मजदूरों के भुगतान के लिए केन्द्र सरकार की तरफ से मदद की गयी थी, बिहार में भी इस बकाए के भुगतान के लिए बिहार को मदद की जाए।

दूसरी बात, बिहार के अंदर तीन ऐसी चीनी मिलें हैं जिनकी जवाबदेही केन्द्र सरकार की है। ये मझौरा, कनपटिया और बागजिका की प्रिंसीपल गुडिया कंपनी ग्रुप

की चीनी मिलें हैं और इनके मैनेजमेंट को केन्द्र सरकार ने टेकओवर किया था। ये मिलें भी बंद हैं। कुल 29 मिलों में से 19 मिलें बंद हैं। चूंकि ये तीन मिलें भी बंद हैं, मेरा आग्रह होगा कि इन मिलों को चालू किया जाए।

हमारे देश की लगभग 30 लाख हेक्टेयर जमीन में शगर को उपजाया जाता है। आप अनुमान लगा सकते हैं कि साढ़े चार करोड़ से ज्यादा किसान इसमें कार्य करते हैं। मेरा आग्रह होगा कि चीनी के बारे में जब नीति अपनायी जाए तो ऐसी टेक्नलाजी को डेवलप करने की बात की जाए और उपाय ढूँढे जाएं ताकि चीनी की पैदावार प्रति हेक्टेयर ज्यादा से ज्यादा बढ़ायी जा सके और कास्ट आफ प्रोडक्शन कम किया जा सके।

यह फख की बात है कि आजादी के समय 50 लाख टन जो हमारे देश में चीनी उत्पादित होती थी आज 130 लाख टन से लेकर 175 लाख टन तक उसकी पैदावार हो रही है। काफी संभावना है कि इसको हॉम और बढ़ा सकेंगे यदि इस पर रियून्वेस्टिव प्राइस किसानों को मिल सकें।

वर्कर्स के हित की भी इसमें बात आती है और मैं बताया कि बिहार में किस तरह बकसा है। जहाँ-जहाँ जिन राज्यों में यह उद्योग है वहाँ मजदूरों का बकाया है। आपको मालूम ही होगा कि आल इंडिया कन्वेंशन आफ शगर वर्कर्स अभी हाल में सम्पन्न हुआ और उसने 15 दिसंबर को आल इंडिया स्ट्राइक का काल दिया है। उसकी कई मांगें हैं। मेरा आग्रह होगा कि उन मांगों पर भी सरकार विचार करे। माननीय चम्पल जी ने महाराष्ट्र के कोआपरेटिव सैक्टर में जो चीनी उद्योग हैं, उनकी चर्चा की है। 114 से ज्यादा ऐसे कोआपरेटिव हैं जो वहाँ चीनी उद्योग में हैं। जिस तरह से डी-लाइसेंसिंग किया गया, उस कारण जो प्राइवेट सैक्टर में जा रहे हैं, दूसरे मोनोपली हाउसेज़ में जा रहे हैं, इसमें हमारी पार्टी की ओर मेरी समझ है कि ये कोआपरेटिव सैक्टर में जो चीनी उद्योग हैं, डी-लाइसेंसिंग के कारण वे समाप्त होंगे। उसी तरह से एक्सपोर्ट और इंपोर्ट की जो नीति अपनायी गई, उसके चलते किसान प्रभावित होंगे। हमारे देश के अंदर चीनी का जो बाज़ार है वह प्रभावित होगा। यह कतई हमारे देश के हित में नहीं है। यह बात अखबारों में भी आई है कि फाइनांस मिनिस्टर साहब ने यह कहा कि कुछ इंपोर्ट इयूटी बढ़ाई जाएगी। लेकिन दूसरे भी मिनिस्टर हैं फूड मिनिस्टर, जिनका यह कहना है कि यह ज्यादा मात्रा में बढ़ाई जाएगी। अब यह कम या ज्यादा कितनी बढ़ाई जाएगी यह स्पष्ट नहीं है। लेकिन इतना स्पष्ट है कि इंपोर्ट इयूटी बढ़ाने की जरूरत है। जैसा कि

पिछले दिनों में प्रोपोज किया गया कि यह इस रूप में बढ़ाई जानी चाहिए ताकि यह हमारे चीनी बाज़ार को प्रभावित नहीं कर सके।

अंत में हम मजदूरों के वेज़ रिविज़न के बारे में कहना चाहेंगे। वेज़ रिविज़न के बारे में मामला यह है कि 1997 में ही चीनी उद्योगों में लगे हुए मजदूरों के वेज़ रिविज़न के लिए कमेटी बनी थी। उस कमेटी ने क्या किया, क्या नहीं किया, लेकिन वह कमेटी अब डिज़ाल्व कर दी गई है और एक दूसरी कमेटी बनी है। जिसमें मैं समझता हूँ कि सभी दूसरी बड़ी जो कुछ ट्रेड यूनियन हैं उनको उसमें रिप्रेजेंटेशन नहीं दिया गया है। इस पर दो मेरी मांगें होंगी कि वह कमेटी जब काम करे, वेज़ रिविज़न का काम पूरा करे और उस कमेटी में जो ट्रेड यूनियन छूट गई हैं, उनको भी उसमें हिस्सेदारी दी जाए। उसमें भी उनकी भागीदारी सुनिश्चित की जाए। इसी तरह से जो वर्कर्स पार्टिसिपेशन का सिद्धांत अपनाने की बात की जा रही है हर उद्योग के अंदर, उसी तरह से चीनी उद्योग के अंदर भी वर्कर्स के पार्टिसिपेशन को सुनिश्चित किया जाए और जो बीमा तथा बंद चीनी मिलें हैं उनको चालू करने के उपाय ढूँढे जाएं।

इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ, मैं अपने सुझाव समाप्त करता हूँ। धन्यवाद।

SHRI R. MARGABANDU (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I congratulate this Government for delicensing the sugar factories. So, it shows the transparency of this Government. There should not be any malpractices. In this way, it is appreciable. That is number one. At the same time, I would like to state certain facts which are adverse to the agriculturists. In our place in Tamil Nadu, sugar mills are giving Rs. 550/- or Rs. 580/- per tonne, but the workers who are involved in cutting get Rs. 150/- per tonne. A sugar mill itself charges Rs. 100/- or Rs. 150/- per tonne, for transport depending upon the distance. If we calculate the whole thing, out of Rs. 550/-, nearly Rs. 300/- has been taken away. The amount left is Rs. 250/-. The agriculturists will have to rear the sugarcane for the one year. They will have to cultivate it, they will have to fertilise it and they will have to irrigate it.

They will have to do all these things. But ultimately, the agriculturists are not getting anything at all.

Sugar mills are doing one thing more. They are involved in the sugarcane activity throughout the year. What the sugar mill authorities are doing is that they are purposely delaying the issue of cutting orders. They give cutting orders after one-and-a-half years. By that time the entire sugar-cane gets lost. The reason is that if it is dried-up, the sugar contents will be more. It will be beneficial to the sugar mills. But it is to the disadvantage of the agriculturists because the weight comes down. Ultimately, the agriculturists are put to a heavy loss. In several places the agriculturists are setting fire to the sugarcane fields saying that they are not able to cut it in time and get anything. There are several such instances. If the sugar mills are getting profits, it should not be at the expense of the agriculturists. If the situation continues, a time will come when no agriculturists will grow the sugarcane. Keeping this in view the AIADMK party has taken a stand that, at least, Rs. 1,000 per tonne should be given to the agriculturists. Unless Rs. 1,000 is given to the agriculturists, they will have the minimum income. So, the Government should think of fixing Rs. 1,000 per tonne.

Sir, the sugar mills are giving loans at the time of plantation for seeds, plantation expenses, fertilizers, etc. But that is not given in time. If it is not given in time, naturally, the agriculturists will not be able to grow it in a better way. The Aruna Sugar Mill in South Arcot District does not give the price for two years or three years. Even after the agriculturists launched an agitation, the private-sponsored sugar mills—perhaps, with the connivance of the Government or any such thing—did not pay the price. They pay only half of the amount and the agriculturists have to wait for one year or two years for the remaining amount. That is the situation. There is no proper

monitoring agency from the Government side. They take advantage of the situation and exploit the agriculturists, whether it is in the co-operative sector or in the private sector. If the sugar mills are getting profits, it should not be at the expense of the agriculturists. I believe that this Government which is interested in the welfare of the agriculturists will take note of all these things, appoint a proper monitoring agency and see that the agriculturists' interests are protected.

DR. GOPALRAO VITHALRAO PATIL (Maharashtra): Hon. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I am very happy that you have given me a chance to participate in this very important debate. The sugar industry is the second largest industry, which is agro-based, after the cotton textile industry. It has a vital role to play in the rural economy of this country because it is contributing three billion dollars to the sugarcane growers. At the same time, it is enriching the exchequer, both the Central and the State, by contributing 450 million dollars. That is not the only contribution. It is changing the whole rural area, as far as Maharashtra is concerned. The co-operative movement is very important and it has a vital role to play in the rural economy. You take, for example, a sugar factory. The whole surrounding area is developed. The roads are developed. There are hospitals. There are schools. There are colleges. They have done one important thing. They stopped the flight of rural students to the urban areas and the rural people to the urban areas. Now a reverse flight has started. There are medical colleges, engineering colleges, polytechnics, law colleges and what not. Take the name of any college, it is there in the rural area. There is a flight of students from urban areas to these institutions. But there are many problems. Here I would like to highlight three important things. Sir, not much attention is being given to diversification. Sugar itself could be a by-product whereas we are treating it as main

production. There are many products which can be diverted. Take the case of alcohol. If we extract alcohol from molasses, we can produce many products from alcohol like butanol, ethylene, glycoll, acetic acid, etc. Very few factories produce all these things. Alcohol is very important. Brazil has shown a way to the whole world that alcohol could be used as motor fuel. Even it is admixed petrol and diesel. They call it gasohol. They have reduced their consumption of petrol and diesel. We import petrol worth Rs. 25,000 crores. I do not know why the Planning Commission or the experts or the scientists have not given much attention to it. No pilot project has started so far. There is enough alcohol in our country. We can use alcohol as motor fuel.

Sir, there is the Sugar Fund. There is Rs. 1936 crores in the Sugar Fund. Why should we not give some amount from the Sugar Fund which we are collecting as Cess for research and development of alcohol as fuel? This is my suggestion.

My second point is regarding generation of power. Many mills are having their own plants. The sugar industry is using its own fuel. It is a very good and important contribution of the sugar industry. They burn bagasse. It is an alternative source of energy. Therefore, it is very important. There are 117 units in Maharashtra. Some of them are already producing power. If each and every unit produces 10 MWs of power—these factories run for five months—they will be supplying excess power to the State Grid and they will also contribute electricity production. If we given importance to diversification or sugar industry, some of our problems will be solved. But we are not paying much attention towards this issue.

Then there are difficulties in fixing the price of sugar. Now we want to liberalise the sugar industry. There is liberalisation at both ends. We want liberalisation at the beginning and at the end.

Now comes the question of delicensing. It means there is no licence for starting a sugar factory. This will also create some problems. For example, there is already enough capacity for crushing sugarcane. Now I have come to know that people with small capacity are coming into this field. A capacity of 500 to 1000 tonnes is not at all economical. Two Hundred such units have already been registered. If such units multiply, it will not be economical. On the other hand, a small country like Thailand is having a crushing capacity of 10,000 tonnes per day on an average. Each and every mill in Thailand is having this capacity. In our country, Maharashtra has shown that from a small capacity of 1,000 or 1200 or 2500 tonnes, we can go up to 10,000 tonnes. There are a few factories in Uttar Pradesh. This can be done only if we give free licences. Our average crushing capacity is just 2,500 tonnes, and it is uneconomical; whereas the world over, the capacity is 10,000 tonnes. Then, comes the question of the pricing system. On the export side, we have liberalised sugar. Sugar is on the OGL. Exports are freely permitted. This year we have permitted about 14.4 lakh tonnes of sugar to be exported, and it is already on the pipeline. To whom are we exporting? What is happening in the world market? Sugar is having a very complex pricing system. In one factory, there are four different prices. You will be surprised to hear that there is the levy price, there is the SAP and so on. If a factory produces more sugar by starting the production season earlier,—for example, it starts in October—there is no compulsion on that factory to sell the production in that month towards the levy sugar quota. Even if a factory starts production within 39 months after getting the licence, it still gets freedom from the levy sugar. So, when there are different prices, say, the levy price, the SMP and the SAP, the levy price adversely affects this industry. That is the reason why this industry has not progressed. The farmers, the co-operative movements, are demanding that the levy sugar quota

should be cut because there is a difference of Rs. 5 between the levy price and the general price which is there in the open market. This has been causing about Rs. 300 crores to Rs. 400 crores of loss per year to the farmers for the last 40 years. This is the reason why the Mahajan Committee has recommended that the policy regarding levy sugar should be changed, and that it should be abolished in two years in stages; that is, it says that in the first year, instead of 60 per cent, you can have 20 to 40 per cent, and in the next year, it should be gradually abolished. It is only then that the position of the sugar industry can improve. Otherwise, even with liberalisation, there will not be many people coming forward to invest in this industry as it will not be a profitable industry for them. Already, there are limitations. I would like to highlight two or three important points. As regards consumption, Asia is the largest consumer of sugar, whereas on the production side, it is deficient in production to the tune of 5 million tonnes. There, 45 million tonnes of sugar is consumed, but only 40 million tonnes of sugar is being produced. This is very important because in Europe, there is a 10 million surplus production because production is more and the consumption is less there. Therefore, there is a surplus which can be sold, and there is no other area, except of course, Asia where it can be sold. In India, the production is more. So, there is a great future for our country. What the rest of the world is doing as regards pricing is that — international price is again a complex thing — for example, if we take the prices prevailing in Europe, the cost of production of sugar per tonne is about 800 dollars, whereas in Europe, they are selling sugar at 1000 dollars to 1200 dollars per tonne. When the sugar is surplus in the European community, they are selling it in the international market at 215 to 300 dollars. That much subsidy, more than 300 per cent subsidy, is being

given to the farmers there. So, the prices are coming down and we are hesitating. For example, on imports, we are levying 5 per cent import duty and 7 per cent countervailing duty, that is, a total of 12 per cent. Whereas in the whole world there is a restriction in imports and they want to protect their own industry by giving more prices to their farmers, we are not doing the same thing. There are many difficulties. A proper policy should be evolved and that is the reason why this industry is really facing a complex problem. We are having liberalisations; at the same time, we have controls. Unless we come out with a rational policy, the whole problem will not be solved. To solve this problem, the people went to the Allahabad High Court. The Allahabad High Court appointed a Committee headed by former Secretary of Food, Mr. B.B. Mahajan, and the Committee has given its report. Now, and we do not know exactly whether the Government has accepted the report of the Mahajan Committee. I will finish in two minutes. The report is,...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI T.N. CHATURVEDI): You need not repeat the suggestions, as you have referred to the Mahajan Committee.

DR. GOPALRAO VITHALRAO PATIL: The Mahajan Committee has never recommended delicensing of sugar. The Government has done delicensing. At the same time, licensing is compulsory for any unit. If you want to start any unit, licensing is necessary. It has recommended decontrolling of sugar. For example, levy sugar is being distributed through the Public Distribution System. We are distributing so many items in the Public Distribution System. These items are purchased from the open market, but we are having a levy on sugar. Therefore, what the Committee has suggested is, if at all the Government wants to supply sugar through the PDS, it should be supplied only to the people who are living below the poverty line. Then the amount will be less, the subsidy will be

less, and Government should purchase that sugar from the open market. Why should the burden shift to the poor farmers? We always take their name and in their name, in the farmers' name everything is done in this country. But the farmers' interest is not protected. This industry is important. At the same time, the Mahajan Committee has made many other recommendations. They have made many other recommendations. What the industry needs, I believe, is a very clear, transparent, total and complete policy. Unless we come out with such a policy, this kind of a partial and titbit policy will never work. Here, we are talking about liberalisation. There are maximum controls. That is there only in this industry. From its inception, this has been happening. To earn foreign exchange, we exported sugar at a loss; and the loss was shared by the co-operative movement by creating funds.

So, farmers have suffered a lot because there is no consistent policy on sugar. When we want to export, we always export. But there is no definite policy. At least the Mahajan Committee has suggested that one million tonnes of sugar should be exported consistently. For imports, we should levy a duty of 40 per cent, plus a countervailing duty of 85 per cent. Thus, at least a 125 per cent duty should be levied on the imports. Without that, our whole sugar industry will be adversely affected. Therefore, my only suggestion to the Minister and the Government is this. Of course, our policy is evolving. The policy is unfolding. But that is not enough. We have to take some decisions in the light of the Mahajan Committee Report, in the light of the discussion in this House, and come out with a clear policy. If we want to open up, let all the controls go. Without that, this industry will not come up. Thank you, Sir, for giving me this opportunity.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI (Kerala):
Sir, thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to speak. Sir, I don't want to repeat what has already been said by

the hon. Members. Here, I want to say something about some policy matters. I want to draw the attention of the Government towards these issues. Sir, first of all, I disagree with my hon. friend Dr. Patil who said that there should be no levy sugar and the Government should purchase from the open market and give it to the PDS. I agree that since independence we are facing many problems about sugar. We have adopted two systems. There is levy sugar as well as open market sugar. We have to make a balance between these two. The mill-owners should not suffer loss and they should be allowed to sell sugar in the open market. I don't want to go into details. But, people like me feel that any disturbance to the PDS will be disastrous. The Mahajan Committee is the High Court business. I believe that such type of recommendations cannot be accepted.

Sir, there are three components in the sugar industry. One is the farmer. The second is the industry and the third is the consumer. The consumer is the most important factor which always creates problem for the Government. At one time, the previous Congress Government went for a panic import of sugar because there was a big crisis in the country. There was a lot of pressure from the consumer. There was also pressure from sugarcane growers. So, you have to make an equilibrium between these two. But, now the balance has been disturbed. This discussion has come up in this House because the balance between these two has been disturbed and the industry is

facing a crisis of dumping of sugar. This is the problem. How can you face it? Why is there so much of dumping of sugar in this country? Mr. Barnalaji, kindly tell us categorically, whether the price of sugar has come down or not. My leader, Shri S.B. Chavan quoted all the facts and said that there is a big surplus of sugar in this country. Apart from that, you are making additional import of sugar from whichever country, the neighbouring country — I don't want to

name the country — and still the price of sugar has not come down. Who has benefited out of this? This is the basic question. In spite of so much of surplus sugar, plus import, the price of sugar in Cochin is still sixteen rupees a kilo. It is not coming down. The hon. Minister must enlighten us as to why the prices have not come down so far. There are some problems somewhere. Sir, in Kerala, Christmas is one of the major festivals. Now, the Civil Supplies Corporation of Kerala Government has decided to purchase sugar from the open market for giving it to PDS because the hon. Minister refused to release extra quota of sugar to Kerala during Christmas.

SHRI M.J. VARKEY MATTATHIL (Kerala): Sir, for every festival whether it is Onam or Christmas, we used to get special quota of sugar. But, this time, no extra sugar is being released for Christmas. I want to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to this fact.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, with your permission, I am requesting the hon. Minister to release extra quota of sugar to Kerala. All Members from Kerala — I am not in agreement with the Kerala Government because there is a Communist Government; I strongly oppose it; even Shri Rajagopal agrees with me — request the Minister to release extra quota of sugar to Kerala. While there is production surplus as well as a huge quantity of imported sugar, yet the Kerala Government is purchasing from the open market. Why can't you release the PDS quota of Kerala for the Christmas? So, I am requesting the Minister to please release it. At the same time, please enlighten us as to why the consumer has not benefited from it.

Sir, the last point I would like to make is about the import which we have made. I want to make it very clear that Pakistan is our neighbouring country. It is unfortunate that many of our friends

make such remarks here. Mr. Minister, please come forward and say that you are for diplomacy and it is a part of diplomacy. I will appreciate it. Say it openly. But, there is no diplomacy here. Sir, you know it very well as you were in the Home Ministry, when Cuba was isolated and America made so much of embargo against that country, then India was one of the countries which came forward and made a lot of import of sugar from Cuba. It was diplomacy. If you say that it is also a part of diplomacy, I am prepared to accept that. Sir, I would like to say that trade is going to be one of important components of the new world. In the next millennium, in the 21st century trade is going to be one of the major factors of diplomacy. We all know it. At the same time, if you say that it is a part of diplomacy, please come forward and say it.

Sir, I want to know from the Minister about the persons who made this import. This is a simple question. Today, all of us want transparency in every deal. We want transparency in every Government action. On that basis, I request the hon. Minister to come forward and say on the floor of the House as to who the people are who imported sugar from Pakistan. What are their trade practices? I want to know whether any OGL has been used and what their relations are with these companies which are making these imports. We want to know about these persons and these companies because there is a talk in the air that there are some high politically influential people behind it. With these words, I conclude, Sir.

श्री अमर सिंह (उत्तर प्रदेश): उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं सदन का बहुत ज्यादा समय नहीं लेना चाहूँगा। मेरे पूर्ववर्ती वक्ताओं ने आँकड़ों के माध्यम से बड़ा विस्तृत विवरण दिया है। मैं अपने मित्र वयलार एवं की बात से सहमत हूँ कि पी०डी०एस० और लेवी शुगर दोनों को अपनी जगह कायम रहना चाहिए ताकि देश की गरीब जनता को जो इससे लाभ मिल रहा है, उससे वह वंचित न रहे। लेकिन मैं यहाँ पर इन बातों

को दोहराने के बजाए जो मूल बिन्दु है उसकी ओर आप का और आपके माध्यम से मंत्री जी का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहूंगा।

महोदय, यह बड़े हर्ष का विषय है कि सदन में मंत्री जी के अतिरिक्त आदरणीय के.के. बिरला, चव्हाण साहब और हमारे पुत्रे समाजवादी साथी जो अब बी.जे.पी. में मंत्री हैं यादव जी यहां बैठे हुए हैं। ये उत्तर प्रदेश से आते हैं। उत्तर प्रदेश में चीनी उद्योग एक बहुत बड़ा उद्योग है। लेकिन उत्तर प्रदेश में जो राजनैतिक वातावरण है, जो सामाजिक वातावरण है उसको देखते हुए वहां कोई नया उद्योग नहीं लग रहा है। मुझे बड़े खेद के साथ और दुःख के साथ कहना पड़ता है कि इसके कारण यहां पर सारा चीनी उद्योग रुक हो जाएगा या बंद हो जाएगा। सबसे पहले तो डीलाइसेंसिंग के साथ साथ जो दूरी का प्रश्न था कि एक निश्चित दूरी के अंदर चीनी मिलें नहीं लगाई जायेंगी इसको समाप्त कर दिया गया है। सबसे बड़ी समस्या जो हमारे मित्र वयालार रवि ने बताई, उससे मैं बड़ा आतंकित हूं। अभी, 7 तारीख को एक पूरक प्रश्न के उत्तर में हमारे आदरणीय मंत्री हेगडे जी ने बताया कि पाकिस्तान से चीनी लेने की जरूरत इसलिए है कि वह सार्क मंडल का सदस्य है। हम चीनी पाकिस्तान से लेकिन हिन्दुस्तान में डंप नहीं कर रहे हैं बल्कि हम पाकिस्तान से चीनी इम्पोर्ट कर रहे हैं। मैं पूछना चाहता हूं कि जब इतनी चीनी हिन्दुस्तान के गोदामों में पड़ी हुई है, जब यहां पर चीनी इतनी बड़ी मात्रा में उपलब्ध है तो क्या जरूरत है जो हम चीनी इम्पोर्ट कर रहे हैं? अगर इसी तरह से चीनी इम्पोर्ट होती रहे और भारतीय चीनी यहां के गोदामों में सड़ती रहे तो वह दिन दूर नहीं जब सारा चीनी उद्योग बंद हो जाएगा। यह चीनी जो पाकिस्तान से इम्पोर्ट कर रहे हैं उन्होंने कहा कि यह जरूरी है। उन्होंने यह भी कहा है कि यह डंपिंग नहीं है यह इम्पोर्ट है। मैं पूछना चाहता हूं मैं यहां कोई राजनैतिक रंग नहीं देना चाहता हूं, जब मुलायम सिंह जी कहते हैं कि भारत-बंगलादेश और पाकिस्तान का एक महासंघ बनना चाहिए और इसके लिए वहां की गरीब जनता को अगर मदद की जरूरत है तो वह हमें दे देनी चाहिए तो इस पर बड़ा बवाल मचता है। लेकिन जब पाकिस्तान से हजारों करोड़ की चीनी इम्पोर्ट होती है तो कोई सुनने वाला नहीं है। मैं पूछना चाहता हूं और आपका ध्यान इस गंभीर प्रश्न की ओर आकर्षित करना चाहता हूं कि ... (व्यवधान)...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री टी.एन. चतुर्वेदी): उनको कहने दीजिए। वह खुश है या नाखुश है, कोई बात नहीं है।

श्री अमर सिंह: मैं आपको बताऊंगा।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री टी.एन. चतुर्वेदी): यह बात आप उनको अलग से बता दें। यहां रहने दीजिए।

श्री अमर सिंह: मैं आपका ध्यान आकृष्ट करना चाहता हूं कि अगर आपके यहां समस्या है, अगर देश में चीनी का संकट है, या उपभोक्ताओं को चीनी नहीं मिल रही है तो ऐसा करने पर मुझे कोई गुरेज नहीं है। अगर चीनी की कमी है तो पाकिस्तान से आप अवश्य चीनी इम्पोर्ट करें। लेकिन आपके यहां जब इतनी अधिक मात्रा में चीनी बन रही है, चीनी का उत्पादन हो रहा है, आपके पास बफर स्टॉक भरपूर है तो फिर कौन सी मजबूरी है जिससे आपको पाकिस्तान से चीनी मंगानी पड़ रही है। मैं किसी पर कोई आरोप नहीं लगा रहा हूं। मैं बड़े आदर के साथ कहना चाहता हूं, वैसे इस देश में किसी की पगड़ी उछालना और किसी पर आरोप लगाना यह सबसे सरल काम है। लेकिन अखबारों में यह समाचार छपा है कि यहां एक कुंदन राइस मिल है जो चावल की है और वह चीनी इम्पोर्ट कर रही है। एक राइस मिल चीनी इम्पोर्ट कर रही है इसको पढ़कर बात समझ में नहीं आई। राइस मिल को चीनी से क्या मतलब? इसके अंदर क्या सार है। चावल और चीनी का इसमें क्या संबंध है इसके बारे में जैसा अज्ञानी नहीं जान सकता है। अगर सरकार के संज्ञान में यह है तो सरकार इस बात को स्पष्ट कर दे। इसके कारण निडिल आफ सस्पेंशन जो है, प्रजातंत्र में ट्रांसपैरेंसी, पारदर्शिता की हम बात करते हैं, प्रतिपक्ष भी इस तरह की बात करता है इसलिए यह बात स्पष्ट होनी चाहिए। मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूं कि यह कुंदन राइस मिल क्या है इसके बारे में बताया जाना चाहिए। क्या यह एच.टी.सी. और एम.एन.टी.सी. का नया रूप है और क्या इसने सारे नियमों का पालन किया है? सब जानते हैं कि रमजान मिल नवाबा शरीफ की मिल है। सवाल खाली चीनी उद्योगपतियों का नहीं है, अगर चीनी मिलें बंद होगी, रुक होगी, मात्रा किसान को उनकी कीमत नहीं दी जाएगी तो गन्ना किसान भी भरेगा और चीनी मिल मालिक भी भरेगा। चीनी एक ऐसा उद्योग है जिसमें दुधारी तलवार है। चीनी मिल मालिक को सस्ती चीनी देनी पड़ती है उपभोक्ता को क्योंकि चीनी सामान्य आदमी, आम आदमी खाता है और गन्ना उत्पादकों को ज्यादा पैसा देना पड़ता है क्योंकि गन्ना उत्पादक किसान

वर्ग से संबंध रखता है। किस तरह से चीनी उद्योग जीवित रहेगा। आप गन्ना उत्पादकों को ज्यादा दाम देंगे, मैं अपने साथियों से सहमत हूँ कि आप लेवी भी रखिये, पी०डी०एस० भी रखिये, ससती चीनी उपभोक्ता को दीजिये, गन्ने के किसान को ज्यादा दाम भी दीजिये। लेकिन ईश्वर के लिए यह तो मत कीजिये कि चीनी अगर थरी हो गोदामों में, चीनी की उत्पादकता का स्तर भरपूर हो, इसके बावजूद आप पाकिस्तान से सार्क देशों के नाम पर, डिप्लोमेसी के नाम पर जैसे कि रिकार्ड पर है, आप भी उस समय सदन में उपस्थित थे, उन्होंने उत्तर दिया, मैं शान्त बैठा रहा। यह कोई डिप्लोमेसी नहीं है। आप अपने उद्योग को रण कर दें, इस तरह से रण कर दें किसान मारा जाए, मिल मालिक मारा जाए और किसी का भला नहीं हो। हालांकि इस सरकार से मुझे कोई उम्मीद नहीं है, स्वदेशी का नाम लेने वाली यह सरकार विदेशियों के चंगुल में जा चुकी है चाहे इन्सुरेंस का मामला हो, चाहे कोई भी मामला हो, चाहे मारुति का मामला हो, चाहे सुजुकी का मामला हो, यह विदेशियों के हाथ में खेल रही है। चीनी के मामले में पाकिस्तान के हाथ में खेल रही है। इस पर कोई मुझे ज्यादा ताज्जुब नहीं है। अखबारों में आ गया है, बड़े बड़े विज्ञापन आ गए हैं, लेकिन कान पर जू० नहीं रेंग रही है। आज इस डिप्टी सेक्रेटरी से माननीय मंत्री जी हैं, चण्डीगढ़ साहब हैं और सब लोग हैं, अगर कोई फायदा हो जाए तो हो जाए। आपने मौका दिया, धन्यवाद।

SHRI M.J. VARKEY MATTATHIL:
Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister, Shri Baranajaji, to only one point. Unfortunately, we do not have on the Treasury Benches any Member from Kerala who can speak for the people of Kerala. ...*(Interruptions)*... I have got the blessings of the Chair. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, I would like to request the hon. Minister for releasing at least a month's sugar quota to the State of Kerala during this month because the Christmas is coming. In Kerala we celebrate Christmas just like Onam regardless of religion or caste or creed. This is something unique in itself. We do not find any place like this in India. Our Food Minister is ...*(Interruptions)*... We have been begging of them that ...*(Interruptions)*... The problem is that they do not think that we are part of India. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI T.N. CHATURVEDI): He is more than the Congress; he is from the Kerala Congress. He will espouse the cause of Kerala well. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI M.J. VARKEY MATTATHIL:
Sir, I request the hon. Minister to make an announcement in this regard in this august House so that the people of Kerala feel that we are concerned for them. Thank you.

SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN (Kerala): Sir, I associate myself with the sentiments expressed by the hon. Member.

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): Sir, I thank Mr. Ramachandra Reddy for initiating this discussion on the Sugar Policy. A fairly large number of hon. Members have taken part in the discussion and the discussion has been very interesting and useful also. Some days back there was a discussion on rise in prices of essential commodities. Sugar is also an essential commodity. In that discussion, nobody mentioned sugar because the prices of sugar in the country have remained stable all through. So, there was no necessity of mentioning, and nobody thought of mentioning sugar in that discussion. But, nobody is willing to give me credit for that. Keeping the price stable in the country is a difficult job. We have such a large population. This I was handling so that the essential commodities particularly, sugar, reach every part of the country and are distributed in time. It has been mentioned here—and it is correct also—that India is the largest producer of sugar in the world. We are also the largest consumer of sugar. But the production of sugar keeps on varying. It is not constant. It depends on many things and keeps on varying. I will give some facts here. Sir, in 1992-93, the production of sugar was 106 lakh tonnes;

but the next year, i.e., in 1993-94, it fell. It came down to 98 lakh tonnes. There was a loss of 8 lakh tonnes of production in that year. Then, suddenly, it was increased in the next year. In the year 1994-95, the production went up to 146 lakh tonnes. That means, there was an addition of 50 lakh tonnes within a year. It is a very big jump. And, in 1995-96, it went up further by about 20 lakh tonnes. It went up. This was the maximum ever production in the history of sugar industry. The production went up to 164 lakh tonnes. Thereafter, unfortunately, there was a decline again. In 1996-97, the production fell by about 35 lakh tonnes and it came down to 129.5 lakh tonnes. This was in 1996-97. Again, last year i.e., 1997-98, the production was down to 128.3 lakh tonnes. So, that is how it is going up and down. This shows that the production is not stable. But, there is a large scope for increasing the production. There is a large scope for stability also, but, for that, many things will have to be done. My hon. friend was just now mentioning here that there are three important factors have to be under consideration. They are: the producer of sugarcane, i.e., the farmer, the industry which produces sugar; and the consumer. All the three are equally important and they have to be taken care of. Unless the farmer is given encouragement and incentive; it becomes very difficult for him to produce sufficient quantity of sugarcane. That has to be looked into. Similarly, the sugar industry also has to be helped. If you keep on squeezing the sugar industry, it becomes sick. Many sugar mills have already become sick. There are difficulties in other sugar mills also. It is not a very profitable business, as some hon. Members have mentioned. Now, it is not a very profitable industry. We have to ensure a fair price also. There was a mention that the SMP is very low. There were two views on that. Some hon. Members, who have a farming background, or, people belong to the farming community or have some connection with farming, were saying that

the price that is being given is very low. Just now, an hon. Member was saying that it should be Rs. 100. Somebody was saying that it should be even more. But, there are other who have an industrial background or industrialists, who think that prices have gone too high. Only yesterday, my friend from this side was arguing that unnecessarily a high price is being given to the sugar cane producer. So, that is the problem. As I said, the SMP was low. It is a notional price. It is not the actual price of sugarcane. It started in 1986-87, and at that time, the price was Rs. 17/-. Then every year there is an increase of Rs. 1.50 or Re. 1/- or Rs. 2/- It went on like this until 1993-94, when the price was Rs. 34/-. Then, there was a decline in production of sugar because there was a decline in production of sugarcane. As I was just mentioning, it has been very low. It had gone up to 98 lakh tonnes. Then, at that time, the Government realised that there should some increase in the price and, for the first time, a jump of Rs. 5/- was made. So, the SMP went up to Rs. 39/-. Now, this year it has been fixed at Rs. 52.70/-. This is related to a 8.5 per cent recovery. After 8.5 per cent recovery for every extra point, the price is given. That is how it is calculated. Therefore, the SMP will not be sufficient. We have the State Advised Price. The State Advised Price is different for different States. For example, in Uttar Pradesh, it is Rs. 80 to 85/-. In Punjab, it has gone upto Rs. 90/-. Similar is the case with Haryana. In Haryana, it is Rs. 84/-. So, it is like that. Why has the price in Punjab gone up? There is a reason behind that. Rupees 90/- is a high price, but they did not have sufficient cane. The production of cane in Punjab has fallen. So, we do not have sufficient cane. That is why, to make it more attractive, they have fixed this price. This year, Punjab is expecting only 3,30,000 tonnes of sugar. That is what they are expecting. This is what they have calculated and told us. Punjab has 22 sugar mills. Haryana, on the other hand, has 14 sugar mills. But they are expecting 3,80,000 tonnes of sugar which

is slightly more than Punjab. But they cannot fix a lesser price because the sister has fixed higher prices. So, to keep the farmers happy, this price has to be fixed. It is like that. State Advised Prices are fixed according to the necessities of the States. Sir, this is the system which has been followed for a long time. It has been going on successfully. It was also argued that there are arrears, very large arrears, and the farmer does not get the price for the cane that he is selling. I will give the figures for that also. the arrears in 1995-96 were to the tune of Rs. 684 crores. That is the overall arrears in the country.

Rs. 684/- crores is a very large amount. In 1996-97, it went down to Rs. 387 crores. Last year, in 1997-98, it was the lowest. It was Rs. 247 crores that is 3.2 per cent. this was the lowest. Last year it was the lowest. I have got the figures of various other States also. Uttar Pradesh has a the largest arrears, that is Rs. 130 crores. Tamil Nadu has very high arrears of Rs. 60 crores. In the case of Bihar—somebody was saying it is Rs. 100 crores, it is not correct—it has only Rs. 5 crores as arrears because there is no sugar production. Similarly, in other States, it is something like Rs. 8 or Rs. 10 crores. Maharashtra has good sugar industry. Particularly, the co-operative sugar industry is doing fairly well there.

That is why gradually, they have been able to improve the quality of sugarcane and the recovery of sugar in Maharashtra has increased.

In other States like U.P., Punjab, it is not so good.

Sir, almost every Indian's intention is that this industry should grow, as there is a possibility for this industry to grow. It should grow and become an exporting industry for all time to come. We should be one of the largest sugar exporters. That is our intention. With that intention, we are trying to work it out.

Sir, we have taken some important decisions within a short time. One was

de-licensing. Some friends have welcomed it and have congratulated this Government on this step. Some have not agreed with it for some reasons. But, Sir, de-licensing was demanded. Many other industries were de-licensed, but sugar was not de-licensed. It was one of the items in the report of the high-powered Mahajan Committee that this industry should be de-licensed. So, it has been de-licensed. There will be many other benefits coming out of this. this will help in setting up new mills. New units can now come up, if they have the site, if they have the money, if they have the sugarcane area. If cane is available, we can set up a mill. If there is financial viability, they can do so. Expansion will also be easier. Earlier, for setting up a mill, people used to work for many, many years, unsuccessfully, sometimes, as licence was not given. It was very difficult to get a licence. They had to wait for a long time for expansion. So, it was very expensive. Similarly, technical upgradation of new mills for additional capacity has become possible now. New techniques will also come up. This was also thought of.

Sir, there was an objection regarding the distance. The distance from one sugar mill to another sugar mill was decided to be 15 kilometres. The hon. Member, Shri Birla, while speaking on the debate, mentioned that his will mean only 7.5 kilometres from one factory area to another factory area. He said that they had submitted a representation to the Industry Minister. He also mentioned that it has been forwarded to me. It has not come to me so far. When it comes to me, I will look into it and call some of the concerned persons. If necessary, I will call Shri Birla also and take a decision in this matter.

SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA (Rajasthan): Thank you, Sir.

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: It is all right. If a rectification is to be made, we will try to do that.

Sir, there has been a demand for extra

releases in some of the sugar factories. That also goes on. Wherever I get a demand for extra releases, we examine it. Generally, we allow extra releases, because we are in a comfortable position.

An hon. Member mentioned about one cooperative factory. I assured him that we will be able to help him in this matter.

Sir, there was a demand from Khandasari men. They wanted to convert from open-pan to vacuum-pan. It has been decided that they can convert their units to vacuum-pan, because by doing so, they will be having an increase in sugar production, as recovery will increase. Now, there is a recovery of 6 per cent or 6.5 per cent at the maximum. A very good industry might be having 7 per cent. By introducing vacuum pan, perhaps, it will increase by about 2 per cent. So, the industry, which is now having a recovery of 6 per cent, will increase it to about 8 per cent.

6.00 P.M.

So, that way we will be increasing the production of sugar in the country. By doing this, there will be a possibility of giving an opportunity to the farmers also in that area to have a regular supply of sugarcane. Now the farmers who are not in the sugarmill areas do not have a system of regular supply of sugarcane. So, they are reluctant in producing sugarcane. Sometimes they have decided not to do it. So, it goes on like that. But by improving the khandasari units, they will have a system of regular supply to the khandasari units in that area. Of course, it has to be decided on the basis of the area reserved for the sugarmills. This is one condition. Now these khandasaries have been exempted from minimum economic size. They have to pay no levy. These are the concessions which have been given. So, there is a possibility that some persons will take advantage of this and more vacuum pan khandasari units will come up.

Similarly, we have taken a decision regarding the sugar trade also. Earlier we used to tell the State Government as to what should be the number of wholesale dealers in the State. Now, we have done away with that. The State Governments themselves have to decide as to how many dealers they intend to have in that area. Earlier we used to decide about the stock holdings also. That power also has been transferred to the State Governments. They can decide what amount of stock holdings their dealers should have. That also has been done.

Many things were said about the Mahajan Committee. A high-powered committee was appointed headed by Mr. Mahajan who was a former Secretary of Food Ministry. He gave a report. I think 140 recommendations have been made in that. It is a very large report. Some of these have been implemented by me. The things which I have mentioned are from that report. But there are other things in that report. For example, they have mentioned that sugar should be decontrolled. They have advocated decontrolling of sugar. There should be no levy. It should be abolished in about two years time. In the first instance, we should make it to 20 per cent from 40 per cent. Finally, after two years we should abolish it altogether. They have also recommended abolishing of the PDS. Mr. Vayalar Ravi has just now mentioned about it. I called a meeting of the State Chief Ministers and representatives from the States and Union Territories also. In that meeting, there was almost a unanimity on this point that the PDS should continue, except by two States who are sugar-producing States. They were not very keen on continuing PDS. But all other States have said that the PDS should continue.

SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): May I know which are those two States?

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: It is not necessary to name them. So, there

was a demand from all quarters that the PDS should continue. The PDS has been working satisfactorily for a long time. Sometimes, there have been complaints that we were not giving them enough quota and they wanted us to give them something more. So, it has been functioning satisfactorily for a long time. For the time being, I don't think it will be possible to do away with the PDS.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: On that we support you.

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: Surely, I will find support from any hon. Members in this. Regarding decontrolling of sugar, removing the levy, an exercise had been done earlier also. I think it was done in 1978 when the Janata Party was in power. Mr. S.B. Chavan knows it very well. It was done by me. At that time, I was the Food Minister as well as the Agriculture Minister. After a great deal of deliberations, we did it. The price of sugar had gone very high. At that time, 20 years back, the sale price of free sale sugar was Rs. 7.50 per kg. That was considered very high in those days. We were trying to find out some solution. We were trying to find out how to do it. Ultimately, we came to the conclusion that we should de-control it. The decision of de-controlling was taken and the prices fell. As hon. Member Mr. Chavan was mentioning yesterday, the prices fell drastically. From Rs. 7.50, they came to Rs. 3.25, just half. And in that whole country, it was selling at that price. But, unfortunately, we decided to de-control everything. We decided to remove the controls even from distribution. That, Sir, today I admit, was a wrong step. Distribution was also not in our control and the sugar producer, the industry, was free to sell sugar anywhere, any quantity. Whatever they wanted to do, they did: ultimately, after two years, there was a shortage of sugarcane supply. Because the prices had drastically fallen, the sugarcane producer did not go in for sugarcane production and the production fell down. An it had the worst effect after

two years. Again, that de-control system was removed and controls were effected. So, we have already burnt our fingers on that and I am not in favour of it for the time being. We have not taken a final decision yet. But I am not in favour of de-controlling like it had been suggested in the Mahajan Committee report.

Sir, the main thrust of the discussion in the House was regarding imports. Almost every Member in the House said, Members from all the parties, have said, there had been large-scale imports. Imports are made when there is less supply of any commodity. That is why imports are made. Sir, now, I would like to mention some facts. This year, that is, 1997-98, it was the lowest production of sugar in the last four years. As I had mentioned earlier, in 1994-95, it was 1,46,000 tonnes. In 1995-96, it was 1,64,000 tonnes. Then, in 1996-97, it was 129 lakh tonnes and in 1997-98, it became 1,28,000.3 tonnes. We had the lowest supply during this year. That is why the import started. Imports on OGL started in 1994 when we had gone very low in sugar production and that year, 1993-94, 4.6 lakh tonnes of sugar was imported on Government account. Now, this one is not on Government account. We have not imported any sugar. Only traders and importers have gone in for it, not from Government account. Similarly, in 1994-95, though the production had gone up very high—the production was 1,46,000 tonnes, much more than last year; 20 lakh tonnes more at that time—the import was 6,74,000 tonnes. It was a very high import even though at that time we had a very large quantity of sugar available in the country. And we can calculate which was the Government at that time in 1994-95. The Government had taken that decision and sugar was imported. And in the year after that, in 1994 again, there was some import; it was low, but there was import. This year import was required. But, as I see, now, there has been sufficient import. A point was raised by my hon. friend on that side that in spite of huge imports, there has been

no decrease in prices. The total import has been to the tune of seven lakh tonnes. This is the figure given to me and I have been going over it for a long time, now for the last few days. It was mentioned that 7-8 lakh tonnes had come into India but there had been no decrease in prices. The prices have remained stable in the country. What is the reason? What could be the reason? Sir, I have not been able to find out the reason for that. Perhaps, this quantity of sugar has also been absorbed in the country. That is why the prices have not fallen. Otherwise, in the Department of Sugar, we have a mechanism of releases by which the prices are brought down. If we see the prices are going up slightly, then we make some releases in the market and the prices are subdued. Two months back, before Diwali, I had received a representation from Maharashtra. In that representation, it was stated that the prices have started going up, slightly firming up. So, I immediately ordered the releases and the prices came down and became stabilised. So, we have a mechanism. But I have not been able to yet come to a conclusion why the prices have not fallen. They should have gone down, excepting in Tamil Nadu. In Tamil Nadu, there has been some decrease in prices.

SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: As far as the States of U.P. and Bihar are concerned, I have mentioned yesterday that the wholesale prices have fallen by Rs. 100/- per quintal since July. I would request the Minister to check this up. I am not referring to the retail prices. I am referring to the wholesale prices. They have come down.

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: I was mentioning about the retail prices because we deal in retail mostly. We are concerned with retail prices. So, the retail prices have not gone down. That is one problem. So, I think, it is the intention of the entire House that the retail prices should be brought down. Just now, I mentioned this thing to my colleague, the

Finance Minister also. He was sitting here. I told him that he can see for himself and demand from the entire House. I have also been discussing this thing with him earlier. So, we intend to take a decision very soon on this point.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Who are the trading companies who are importing sugar?

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: There has been a mention about sugar being imported from Pakistan. Why is it being imported from Pakistan? Time and again, so many Members have referred to this point. Sir, the situation is like this. Sugar is on OGL. Anybody can import from any place. Now, the prices prevailing in the international market are like this. In Brazil, the unit value of sugar is Rs. 11.95 paisa; in France, the unit value is Rs. 14.28 paisa; in Germany, it is Rs. 13.15 paisa; in Mexico, it is Rs. 12.64 paisa. I was specifically mentioning these three countries. In Brazil, the unit value is Rs. 11.95 paisa, in Mexico, the unit value is Rs. 12.64 and in Pakistan, the unit value is Rs. 13.60 paisa. The cost of sugar is higher in Pakistan than in Brazil and Mexico. But still, imports are being made from Pakistan. There is a reason behind it. Pakistan is the nearest country and the arrival of the item to this place is very quick. The CIF value has also to be calculated. The transport cost from Brazil, for example, or from France, Germany or Mexico, is very high. The transport cost from Pakistan is the lowest. So, the traders or the importers calculate this thing also, and that is why they import from Pakistan. But it is not correct to say that we want to be closer to Pakistan, and so we are importing sugar from that country. Pakistan is not a very friendly country.

SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Pakistan is giving subsidy at the rate of Rs. 4,500/-.

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: that is right. That is why they are exporting to this country. Otherwise,

their cost of production is not lower than our cost of production. They have been subsidising to a greater extent.

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN (Maharashtra): Does it not amount to dumping of sugar?

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: Sir, I won't call it dumping. Dumping surely would have reduced the prices in the market. That has not happened. I won't call it dumping. It has been absorbed. It has come through the main route also. It has come through Lahore-Amritsar route. We have the figures of the quantity from that side also. It has all been absorbed and the prices up to Calcutta, have remained the same. Except Tamil Nadu, the prices throughout the country have remained the same. They are constant. Sir, this is another matter which was concerning the hon. Members. As I said, we are intending to restrict the imports to a very large extent; perhaps, we might create a situation where imports may not be possible, may not be convenient for others.

Hon. Member, Mr. Chavan, has mentioned that we should provide a level-playing field. My intention is to provide not only a level-playing field but also a more comfortable field for our farmers. That is my intention because I know that if the industry is able to work properly, ...*(interruptions)*...

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: Please stick to your point of view and get it passed.

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: If the industry is able to work properly it will benefit the cane farmers; otherwise, the cane farmers won't get money for their cane, and if good production is possible in the country, the prices for the consumers also are maintained at a reasonable level. That is the effort we are making.

Then, Sir, there was a mention about the Sugar Technology Mission. The Sugar Technology Mission was started by the Ministry of Science and Technology. We have taken twelve new technologies. We are working on them. They started

working in January, 1994. Since then, it has initiated trials on twelve new technologies, most of them are at the plant level. Five of these have been commercially proved successful and are in different stages of application also. The Sugar Technology Mission has also identified a number of sugar mills for technology upgradation. The Mission has also prepared a detailed technology upgradation scheme for twelve other factories. I have got here the list also. That is the position regarding the upgradation of technologies. Sir, there is a good scope for technology upgradation which is needed. Unfortunately, much effort was not made in that direction. Our sugar industry requires technological improvement. There were some complaints from Bihar. There are 15 factories in Bihar, not 23, as I mentioned earlier. Those fifteen factories, which were almost sick, have been taken over by the Bihar State Sugar Corporation and they have not been able to run them. So, they are not functioning at present. Similarly, there are some very old sugar mills in U.P. also, which were taken over by the Government. They are now under the Corporation and are not functioning properly. But there are new industries which are coming up and are showing very good results. So, there is a requirement of technology improvement in the country. There is a large scope.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: What about our request for releasing more sugar to Kerala?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI T.N. CHATURVEDI): Mr. Vayalar Ravi, that will subdue the other objections and criticisms.

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: Sir, he is my old colleague and friend. So, I may tell him that Kerala State has been given levy sugar @ 12,368 tonnes per month, which is their normal monthly quota, and 3,600 tonnes for festival quota. That also has been released. If there is anything lacking, then kindly inform me; we will make releases for that

iso! ...*(interruptions)*... They know that Kerala is very far from. *(interruptions)*...

SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: What about the festival quota?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI T.N. CHATURVEDI): The hon. Minister has said that if something more is to be done, *(interruptions)*... The Minister has already mentioned that he will take care that.

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: I have been to that State long back. When I was Agriculture Minister, I went to their State.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: He is more concerned. He is a great friend of Kerala, I know that.

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: Yes, I went to Kerala, and Vayalar Ravi and some other friends took me to Kuttanad area. Kuttanad is a low-lying area, lower than the sea level. They had made some laws that the land which is used for rice cannot be converted into any other production etc., but they were also mentioning that if spices are sown, and if other crops, commercial crops, are sown, they can have better yields. I said, as long as I am the Agriculture Minister and the Food Minister, I am responsible for supplying all the rice you need, whether par-boiled rice or any other variety of rice. You don't worry about it. You put this area to a better use, if it can possibly do. I have been there for a long time.

With these words, I thank the hon. members for a very nice and good discussion.

HRI S.B. CHAVAN: Sir, may I seek clarification from the Minister?

We are very grateful to you because you have given a promise that it is not only a level-playing field, but you would like to improve the position. The duty is that it may be your personal duty. What is going to be the decision of Government? Will the hon. Minister

declare the revision which he has in mind before the end of this session?

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: Sir, it would not be possible for me to make any declaration about the amount of levy.

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: I am not asking you about the levy. I am asking you about the import of sugar, about the decision regarding import of sugar.

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: It is not my personal intention. It is the intention of the Government. The intention of the Government is that import of sugar should not be encouraged.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Sir, the second Notification is regarding soft drinks exemption, especially, coca cola.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI T.N. CHATURVEDI): Not now, please. Some Members want some information from the hon. Minister. Dr. Ranbir Singh.

डा० रणवीर सिंह (उत्तर प्रदेश): मंत्री जी ने बताया कि पंजाब में गन्ने की कीमत 95 और 90 रुपये प्रति क्विंटल है, लेकिन यूपी में 85 और 80 रुपये प्रति क्विंटल गन्ने की कीमत है। गन्ने की कमी की वजह से यह बताया गया कि पंजाब में प्रसिज हायर है। मैं यह यकीन करता हूँ कि उस रेट के बाद भी फैक्टरी वाला मुनाफा कमाल होगा। यूपी में रिकवरी ज्यादा है। पंजाब के अंदर बिजली मुफ्त है, नहर के पानी का इंतजाम भी मुफ्त है फिर भी उनको ज्यादा दाम दिए जा रहे हैं। इसका साफ मतलब है कि यूपी के किसानों को लूटा जा रहा है। एक बात मेरी यह है। मैंने यह डिमांड की थी कि एक यूनिफार्म रेट पूरे देश में होना चाहिए।

दूसरी बात यह है कि सबसे ज्यादा शुगर यूपी के अंदर पैदा होती है लेकिन टोटल गन्ने का एक तिहाई मिलों में जाता है और बाकी कोल्हू और क्रेशर में जाता है। अगर ये क्रेशर मिल एरिया के अंदर हैं तब भी किसान को कभी कभी गन्ना जलाना पड़ता है। क्रेशर वाले मिल वालों के मुकाबले एक तिहाई या आधा रेट पे करते हैं फिर भी उसको मजबूर होकर गन्ना फैकना पड़ता है, क्रेशर के ऊपर। यूपी में जितनी मिलें होनी चाहिए

थी उतनी नहीं है। इसलिए सरकार को इस बात को खासतौर से यू०पी० के बारे में सोचना चाहिए।

तीसरी बात यह है कि मंत्री जी ने केशरों में वैक्यूम पैन टेक्नोलॉजी अलाउ की है। लेकिन उसमें उन्होंने एक ऐसी कंडीशन लगा दी कि जिसका फायदा किसी को नहीं मिला। मिल कमांड एरिया में जो केशर्स हैं उनको वैक्यूम पैन टेक्नोलॉजी अलाउ नहीं की जाएगी यह भी बात मैंने अपनी स्पीच में कही थी।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री टी०एन० चतुर्वेदी): उन्होंने भी माना है कि कुछ रिट्रैक्शन के साथ।

डा० रणवीर सिंह: हिन्दुस्तान के अंदर मुश्किल से उंगलियों पर गिने वाले केशर्स होंगे जिन्होंने इस टेक्नोलॉजी का फायदा उठाया है। यू०पी० में जो दो तिहाई गात्रे क्राश करते हैं उनको इस टेक्नोलॉजी का फायदा नहीं होने जा रहा है क्योंकि यू०पी० में जहां गात्रे की फसल है वहां कमांड एरिया है, शुगर मिल्स हैं। लिहाजा वैक्यूम पैन टेक्नोलॉजी का फायदा ना के बराबर है इसको एलाउ करना या न करना बराबर है। इसका कोई फायदा उनको नहीं मिल रहा है। इसकी वजह से जैसा मैंने कहा कि कई वर्षों में ऐसा हुआ कि किसानों को अपना गन्ना जलाना पड़ा। आज भी केशर के अंदर रेट 55 रुपए है।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री टी०एन० चतुर्वेदी): समझ ली उन्होंने आपकी बात।

डा० रणवीर सिंह: 85 रुपया जिसका रेट है, केशर पर उसका 55 रुपया है इसलिए वहां पर गन्ना सप्लाय नहीं होता। अगर उनको, मिल के कमांड एरिया में वैक्यूम पैन टेक्नोलॉजी की पैसिलिटी दे दी जाए तो वह भी गात्रे का दाम अच्छा चुकायेंगे। इससे किसानों को फायदा होगा। अभी भी किसान के साथ चींटिंग चल रही है। यह अप्रिंसिपल की बात है, धन्यवाद।

श्री सुरजीत सिंह बरनाला: तीन बात उन्होंने कही हैं। पहली कि सारे देश में कीमते एक होनी चाहिए गात्रे की, यह पॉसिबल नहीं है। इसके कई कारण हैं। अलग-अलग जोन्स हैं और अलग-अलग जोन में अलग हालात होते हैं जैसे अभी तमिलनाडु में बता रहे थे कि वहां गन्ना डेढ़ साल तक चल जाता है। पूरा माल चलता है और वह डेढ़ साल में उसको काटते हैं इसलिए वह डेढ़ साल चला जाता है। वो प्राइस इनका उनसे मुकाबला नहीं खा सकता। महाराष्ट्र में जो कोओपरेटिव हैं वह अपना मोल खुद तय करते हैं। स्टेट गवर्नमेंट को बताते हैं, उनका सहयोग लेकर खुद तय करते हैं। यू०पी० में और दूसरी स्टेट्स में स्टेट गवर्नमेंट्स तय

करती हैं। पंजाब का जिक्र किया इन्होंने। पंजाब में कास्ट आफ प्रोडक्शन ज्यादा है। अब हुआ कम है इसलिए उनको थोड़ा बहुत बढ़ाना पड़ा। मैंने बात भी की थी चीफ मिनिस्टर साहब से कि कैसे हुआ। यह इतना बढ़ गया। कहने लगे कि ये-ये कारण है। वहां पंजाब में शुगर कम होने की वजह से...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री टी०एन० चतुर्वेदी): अब एक्सप्लेनेशन सुनिए। सैटिसफाइड हो या न हो यह दूसरी चीज है।

सरदार सुरजीत सिंह बरनाला: प्रोडक्शन कम होने की वजह से वहां जो प्रायवेट मिल्स थीं वे आज बिक रही हैं। बंद हो गयी हैं। तीन प्रायवेट मिल्स बिकने को आई हुई हैं ... (व्यवधान) पंजाब में। बंद हो गयी हैं। तो यह हालत है उनकी। इसलिए मैं कह रहा था कि 22 शुगर मिलें होते हुए हम हरियाणा से जहां 14 हैं कम शुगर प्रोड्यूस कर रहे हैं। इस तरह से अलग-अलग बातें हैं। इन्होंने खांडसारी की बात की है। खांडसारी के लिए कहते हैं कि वैक्यूम पैन वहां भी एलाउ करने चाहिए जहां पर पहले शुगर मिल एरिया में कोई खांडसारी लगी हुई है। वह मुश्किल है क्योंकि शुगर मिल एरिया में अब नया जो कानून बना हुआ है उसके मुताबिक ... (व्यवधान) उसको यह भी नहीं कहा गया कि यह 500 टन रखो, 1000 टन रखो या 1,500 टन रखो। यह तो कहीं भी ले जा सकते हैं। ही कैरन सेट अप एनी अदर शुगर मिल इन वेट एरिया। वैक्यूम, यह जो ओपेन पैन है उसी को शुगर मिल में तब्दील कर ले तो सारी गड़बड़ हो जाएगी। इसलिए डिस्टेंस का ख्याल रखा गया है। डिस्टेंस से बाहर कहीं ले जाओ उठाकर। यह तो उठाकर ले जाना भी बहुत मुश्किल नहीं है। जमीन चाहिए। यह सामान, जो खांडसारी का सामान है वहां ले जाया जा सकता है और इसमें यह है कि खांडसारी की प्राइसेज उन दिनों कम होती हैं जब गात्रे की प्रोडक्शन बहुत हो जाए। फिर तो लेते नहीं वे। अगर गात्रे की प्रोडक्शन कम हो जाए तो खांडसारी शुगर मिल्स से ज्यादा पैसा देती हैं। मेरा अपना तजुर्बा है। मैं यू०पी० में घूमा हूँ। मौका मिला है मझे। 10—12 खांडसारियों पर गया हूँ। शुगर मिल्स में भी गया हूँ। इस बात को तीन साल हो गए। वहां शुगर मिल पर गन्ना बिक रहा था कोई 70 रुपए और खांडसारी पर मिल रहा था 80 रुपए में। खड़े हुए थे हमारे एक किसान-तराई के एरिए की मैं बात कर रहा हूँ—मैंने उनसे पूछा कि यहां क्यों आ गए, खांडसारी पर क्यों आ गए। कहने लगे कि साहब यह तो इतना पैसा दे रहा है और शुगर मिल

इतना पैसा। 10 रुपए कम शुगर मिल दे रही है। क्योंकि गन्ने की कमी थी, गन्ने की पैदावार कम हुई थी तो खांडसारी ने पैसे बढ़ा दिए। जब गन्ने की पैदावार ज्यादा हो तो खांडसारी ने पैसे कम कर दिए, ऐसा चलता है। तो ये सारे सवालों के जवाब हैं।

SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Sir, the hon. Minister was kind enough to give details of production from 1992-93 to 1997-98. I would like to have the figures of imports and carry forward stocks from the years 1992-93 onwards. Secondly, so many things have been mentioned about the report of the Mahajan Committee. Will this report be laid on the Table of the House? Shall we have an opportunity to discuss the report of the Mahajan Committee?

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: Sir, the Mahajan Committee report has not been approved so far. Unless it is approved, it cannot be placed on the Table of the House.

SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: How many months will it take for approval?

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: It will take some time. In the year 1993-94, i.e. at the beginning of the season, the total import including the carry forward stock was 31.30 lakh tonnes. The production during that season was 98.24 lakh tonnes; the import on Government account was 4.6 lakh tonnes. So, the total stock was 133.97 lakh tonnes. At that time, the internal consumption was 111.29 lakh tonnes. Even at the time of that shortage—it was the lowest production in the last so many years—we had exported 7,500 tonnes of sugar. Similarly, in 1994-95, the carry-over stock was 21.93 lakh tonnes; the production was 146.43 lakh tonnes; the imports were 6.74 lakh tonnes. So, the total stock was 175.1 lakh tonnes. The internal consumption increased to 119.74 lakh tonnes, and we exported 4,100 tonnes. In 1995-96, the carry-over stock was 54.95 lakh tonnes. The production during that season was 164.29 lakh tonnes; the

imports were .42 lakh tonnes, and the total came to 219.66 lakh tonnes. The internal consumption was 131.72 lakh tonnes...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI T.N. CHATURVEDI): You can circulate a copy of it to the Members.

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: I can give a copy of it to the hon. Member.

SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Thank You, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI T.N. CHATURVEDI): There is a small Supplementary List of Business, as permitted by the Chairman. Shri Kadambur M.R. Janarthanan to lay the Papers on the Table ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JIBON ROY: But why now?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI T.N. CHATURVEDI): It is because it has to be made before the House rises for the day ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JIBON ROY: The point is that I thought that the excise duty was withdrawn from iodine and not from soft drinks.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI T.N. CHATURVEDI): Shri Vayalar Ravi had sought permission to raise some objection to it, but, later on, he withdrew his name...

SHRI JIBON ROY: But I have not withdrawn my name. Soft drinks would mean Pepsi-Cola, Coca-Cola, and so on.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): Mr. Vice-Chairman,

Sir, the exemption is only in respect of soft drinks prepared and dispersed through vending machines like the ones at railway stations, bus stands, etc ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
Sir, we had discussed two days back that this should not be done.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI T.N. CHATURVEDI): This was discussed, but it has been approved now.

SHRI JIBON ROY: Since he has clarified it, it is okay.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE—Contd.

Notifications of the Ministry of Finance

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): Sir, I lay on the Table—

I. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue) Notification No. 101/98-Customs, dated the 10th December, 1998, seeking to amend Notification No. 23/98-Customs dated the 2nd June, 1998, reducing additional duty of customs on Iodine, under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962, together with an explanatory memorandum thereon.

II. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue) Notification No. 102/98-Customs dated the 10th December, 1998, seeking to impose safeguard duty on imports of Acetylene Black at the rates specified in the notification for a total period of two years, under section 8(b) of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975, together with an explanatory memorandum thereon. [Placed in Library. For (I) and (II) See No. LT. 1738/98]

III. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue) under sub-section (2) of section 38 of the Central Excise Act, 1944,

together with explanatory memoranda thereon:—

- (a) Notification No. 36/98-Central Excise dated 10th December, 1998, seeking to prescribe rates of excise duty applicable under sub-section (3) of section 3A of the Central Excise Act, 1944 in respect of a factory of an independent processor manufacturing or producing processed textile fabrics.
- (b) Notification No. 37/98-Central Excise dated 10th December, 1998, seeking to amend Notification No. 05/98-Central Excise, dated 2nd June, 1998, exempting aerated waters popularly known as soft drinks.
- (c) Notification No. 41/98-Central Excise (N.T.) dated 10th December, 1998, seeking to notify processed textile fabrics.
- (d) Notification No. 42/98-Central Excise (N.T.) dated 10th December, 1998, seeking to prescribe rules for determination of the annual capacity of production of a factory of an independent processor manufacturing or producing processed textile fabrics.
- (e) Notification No. 43/98-Central Excise (N.T.) dated 10th December, 1998, seeking to prescribe the procedure to be followed by an independent processor manufacturing or producing processed textile fabrics.
- (f) Notification No. 44/98-Central Excise (N.T.) dated 10th December, 1998, seeking to amend Notification No. 29/96-Central Excise (N.T.), dated 3rd September, 1996, to make consequential changes in the existing scheme of excise duty