

essential commodities? ...(*Interruptions*)...

श्री देवेन्द्र प्रसाद यादव: सभापति महोदय, मेरे सामने कई तरह के विचार हैं जो माननीय मुख्य मंत्रियों के जरिए आए हैं, राज्यो से हमने जो सुझाव प्राप्त किए हैं और यह माननीय सदस्यों के द्वारा मैंने पहले ही किया है और अभी हमारे सामने, सरकार के सामने एक रिपोर्ट भी है। सन् 1993 में नागरिक आपूर्ति मंत्रालय द्वारा बनाई गई राज्य मंत्रियों की समिति की रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि जब तक समाज के संपन्न वर्गों को सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली से वंचित नहीं किया जाएगा तब तक निर्धन वर्गों को लाभ उपलब्ध कराने की दिशा में अभी कोई कदम संभव नहीं है। यह रिपोर्ट है, हमारा फैसला नहीं है। हम तो आगे फैसला करेंगे। यह मुद्दा आज भी सब से महत्वपूर्ण विषय है क्योंकि अभी जो कॉमन मिनिमम प्रोग्राम है उसमें आलरेडी इस मुद्दे पर जोर दिया गया है और इंगित किया गया है कि गरीबी की रेखा के नीचे रहने वाले परिवारों को विशेष राशन कार्ड उपलब्ध कराए जायेंगे तथा सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली में उनको आवश्यक वस्तुएं आधे दाम पर उपलब्ध कराई जायेंगी। यह राज्यों के मंत्रियों की रिपोर्ट है और उसमें कहा गया है कि समाज के संपन्न वर्गों को इस प्रणाली के लाभों से वंचित किया जाए।

श्री राजनाथ सिंह: हम उसकी रेकमेंडेशंस के बारे नहीं जानना चाहते।

श्री देवेन्द्र प्रसाद यादव: सभापति महोदय, इस रिपोर्ट पर हम गंभीरता से विचार कर रहे हैं और संपन्न वर्गों को पी०डी०एस० सिस्टम से बाहर निकालने पर हम गंभीरता से विचार कर रहे हैं। इसलिए इस पर हमारा पॉजिटिव जवाब है। सरकार गरीबों के लिए कृत-संकल्प है और एफ्लूएंट क्लास या सैक्शन को पी०डी०एस० सिस्टम से निकालने के बाद ही इसका लाभ गरीबी की रेखा के नीचे वाले रहने वाले लोगों को मिल पाएगा। जो माननीय सदस्य ने चिंता जाहिर की है कि अनाज का जो एमार्केट होगा जैसे अभी पांच किलो मिलता है इस क्वॉटिटी को बढ़ाने के लिए भी विचार कर रहे हैं। इसलिए मैं कह रहा हूँ कि जो रिपोर्ट है उस पर गंभीरता से विचार कर रहा हूँ। उसमें है गरीबी की रेखा के नीचे के लोगों को आधे दाम पर गेहूँ और चावल आपने खुद अपने सप्लीमेंटरी क्वथन में जिक्र किया है कि प्रथम फेज़ में कुछ आइटम्स को लिया जाए और फिर आगे चल अन्य आइटम्स को लिया जाए। इस तरह का विचार है। जरूर इस तरह के सुझाव हमारे सामने हैं। इस पर हम गंभीरता से विचार कर रहे हैं कि आधे दाम

पर भी यदि पूरे सदन की सहमति हो जाए और सभी राज्यों के मुख्य मंत्रियों की राय भी इससे सहमत हो जाए हालांकि अभी तक अधिकांश राज्यों की सहमति हमको मिल चुकी है, और जो राज्य हैं उनसे हम कंसल्टेशन कर रहे हैं। राय मिल जाएगी तो आधे दाम पर अनाज उपलब्ध कराने की सुविधा गरीबी की रेखा के नीचे रहने वाले लोगों को हो जाएगी। इसमें अभी प्रथम फेज़ में, प्रथम चरण में हम चावल को लेंगे और इसके बाद अन्य को लेंगे।

*63. [*The questioner (Shri Rajubhai A. Parmar (was absent for answer, vide col. 29 infra.)*]

Delicensing of Industries

*64. SHRI V. RAJESHWAR RAO:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA
JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to delicense some more industries;

(b) if so, the industries likely to be delicensed; and

(c) by when this new policy will come into effect?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) At present, there is a short list of 15 industries under compulsory licensing. The process of reviewing the list of items retained under compulsory licensing is an ongoing process.

† The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Dr. Shrikant Ramchandra Jichkar.

DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: The Hon. Minister has said that the question of reviewing the list is an ongoing process. Sir, we know that it is an ongoing process. We ask this question because now the Government has changed. So, what is there in their mind? We want to know what is there in their mind? The Finance Minister has made a public statement that the new Government is going to be more liberal than the previous Government. Several other ministers have been making public state-

ments with respect to their departments saying that such and such industry will be de-licensed. So we want to know from the hon. Minister as to what exactly there is. Do they want to keep the list at 15? If they want to keep the list at 15, for how much time do they want to keep the list at 15? If they want to review, which are the industries which they want to review? So, let us know about this ongoing process; whether the process is stationary, presently stationary or it is going or it is ongoing. We want to know the present position as the new Government has come.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Sir, at present there are 15 industries under compulsory licensing. There are six industries which are reserved for public sector. There are 836 subjects reserved for small sectors. Sir, we have not frozen the liberalisation. We have stated in our common minimum programme that the process will continue. The process of de-regulation or de-control is required. Sir, it is a continuous process. If you read history, all industries except 18 were identified sectors and were de-licensed in 1991. Then in 1993, there more industries were de-licensed; in 1994, most of the bulk drugs and formulations were de-licensed. So, at present there are only 15. So naturally we have to consider the needs of the industry and the competition, domestic and international. So if licensing comes in the way, naturally, we have to de-license. Sir, it is an ongoing process, we cannot freeze it. So the Government will make up its mind from time to time.

DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Sir, my first question he has not answered; he has only elaborated what is meant by the ongoing process. We are not denying it. We already know what the ongoing process is. What I want to know is what it was before the first of July and what the position now is after the first of July.

Do you have at least a few industries in mind and which you are actively considering? There is a list of 15 industries.

Now that you have come into the Ministry, and we are there to support you, do you have anything in mind? Are you actively considering because we are there to support you in your ongoing process? You must help me. You must help us to support you. We want to support you. You want us to support you. Now except for some statements made by responsible Ministers....(Interruptions)....

MR. CHAIRMAN: Prof. Jichkar, you have made your point. Please...

DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Sir, he must answer my question.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Sir, I have to thank the hon. Member and his party for the support they are extending. Sir, there are requests and demands made by industries now and then for de-licensing. One of the candidates for de-licensing is sugar. The other is entertainment electronics. So these are in the list. So the Government is actively considering the list now and then.

DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Thank you, Sir. This is what I wanted to know.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Put the second supplementary. No explanations.

DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Sir, he gave me an explanation.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You put the second question.

DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: My second supplementary is about the drugs and pharmaceutical industry. Presently, five drugs have been reserved like the recombitant DNA, tissue and cell targeted bulk drugs. So these are the five drugs which are now reserved in the drugs category. There is a heavy demand for de-licensing these drugs like the recombitant DNA and the tissue targeted cell and tissue targeted drugs. So, I want to know in the realm of drugs and pharmaceuticals what the position is about de-licensing in these five categories.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Sir, at present there is no specific proposal before the Government for de-licensing. But there are demands from the industry. We have to consider it from various aspects, with due regard to the implications and the policy. So an appropriate decision will be taken at the appropriate time.

SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Sir, anyhow the Government has said that this is an ongoing process. The delicensing of industries is an ongoing process. Will the Minister kindly state what the parameters under which we decide the delicensing are? If any parameters are decided, kindly tell us what the parameters are.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Sir, the parameters are, for example, the demand of the industry. Importance is given to technological dynamism and competitiveness, both domestic and international. If licensing comes in the way, naturally, we have to delicense it. Sir, the justification for retaining a particular industry under compulsory licensing needs to be carefully considered with due regard to its implications. The policy lays down guidelines. For example, the social factor is there. And then the health reasons are there. For example, we cannot delicense alcohol. Then industrial safety is there. That is why hazardous chemical manufacturing industries and industries manufacturing explosives are not delicensed. The environmental conservation and pollution control is also one of the policy requisites. Above all, the strategic and military point of view comes first. We cannot delicense those industries that are related to our defence and strategic industries. So these are the policy guidelines.

SHRI JAYANT KUMAR MALHOUTRA: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is the intention of this Government to remove a large number of consumer products reserved for the small scale from the ambit of reservation under pressure from the multinationals.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Sir, there is no question of dereservation for consumer goods. "Consumer goods" is a very wide term. As far as this Government is concerned, we do not want to encourage low-priority items to come into the market. Therefore, fiscal measures will be taken to discourage them. That is our policy.

SHRI JAYANT KUMAR MALHOUTRA: As a supplementary to my question I would like to point out that a number of consumer products reserved for the small scale are being manufactured by the multinationals. This issue has been raised on numerous occasions in this House and elsewhere. What actions will be taken against these multinationals who have entered fields for which they are not licensed? In other words, they are there in these fields illegally which has resulted in the closure of thousands of small-scale industries in India.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Sir, after this Government came into power, no such licence has been issued. If the multinationals illegally produce such goods which are injurious to the health of the domestic industry, definitely, action will be taken. I now remember the hon. Member has given certain information about certain consumer goods. It is being considered by the Government.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Gopalrao Vithalrao Patil.

DR. GOPALRAO VITHALRAO PATIL: Sir, I would like to know from the Minister whether sugar industry is being delicensed. What adverse effect will it have on co-operative movement? At present there are certain norms that no sugar factory will be opened within the distance of 25 kilometres and once you delicense, it will have a very adverse effect on the co-operative movement which is most important. In Maharashtra, already, there are 106 units. so, how many units have been permitted as delicensed units under the sugar

delicensing policy? This is my question, Sir.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Sugar industry has not been delicensed. It is one of the candidates for delicensing. It is being considered by the Government, whether to delicense sugar industry or not. It has been under discussion for the last so many years. For example, in 1994, a Committee of Secretaries recommended delicensing of the sugar industry. Again, in 1995, the Standing Committee on Civil Supplies and Public Distribution recommended that the sugar industry should be delicensed. Therefore, there are arguments for and against delicensing. But there is a general tenor. If it is delicensed, the distance criterion would not go. This is being implemented by the State Governments. Even if it is delicensed, the distance criterion would be there and it would be implemented by the respective State Governments.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister has said that 836 items have been identified for production in the small-scale sector. Now, the investment limit in respect of the small-scale sector has been increased to Rs. 2.5 crores.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: No.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Please bear with me. According to my information, this has been increased. If that be the case, more items would come into the ambit of the small-scale sector and we have to give protection to the small-scale sector in respect of a large number of items. But Sir, we find that violations are taking place. Take, for example, the textiles sector where certain items have been reserved for the handloom industry, but in a modified form, the textile industry is manufacturing these very items. In spite of this no action has been taken against them. Norms have been flouted. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether strict measures would be taken to protect the industries in the small-scale sector which have been delicensed by the Government of India,

where items have been reserved for production by the small-scale sector alone.

Then, Sir, the hon. Minister announced a modification of the policy after he assumed charge. There was opposition from their partners, the C.P.I. and the C.P.I.(M). In this connection, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he would reconsider the decision because these parties say that they have not been consulted before taking the decision.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Sir, the investment limit which was fixed in 1991 in about Rs. 60 lakhs for small-scale industries and Rs. 75 lakhs for ancillary industries. This has not been changed. There are demands from many quarters that this limit should be raised to Rs. 2.5—3 crores. We are considering the matter.

In regard to his second question, I have not made any announcement regarding policy changes. There are certain suggestions. There is some loud thinking. That is all. We have no quarrel with our partners.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: They have issued a statement. Let them say that they have not issued any statement.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: They would issue statements if it goes against the Common Minimum Programme. But nothing has been done against the Common Minimum Programme by my Ministry.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: You are clarifying the position now.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Because you have asked about it.

Lifting of Trade restrictions between India and Pakistan

*65. **SHRI SANJAY DALMIA:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan has come out in favour of lifting restrictions on trade with India;