

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM); Private Members' Resolution. Shri Suresh Pachouri to continue. If Members cooperate, we will finish it early.

Resolution Re. Unprecedented Rise in the Prices of Essential Commodities as a result of hike in administered prices —Contd.

श्री सुरेश पचौरी (मध्य प्रदेश) माननीय : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से सरकार का ध्यान आकर्षित कर रहा था कि जो आम उपभोक्ता के उपयोग में आने वाली आवश्यक वस्तुएं हैं उनके दामों में निरन्तर वृद्धि हो रही है, विशेषरूप से जो चावल, गेहूं, चीनी, और पेट्रोलियम प्रोडक्ट्स हैं, उनकी कीमतों में जब निरन्तर वृद्धि हो रही है तो उससे आम जनता को अनेकानेक परेशानियों का सामना करना पड़ रहा है। इसलिए यह आवश्यक हो गया है कि सरकार समय रहते समुचित कदम उठाए ताकि आम जनता राहत की सांस ले सके। मान्यवर, जो एनुअल रेट आफ इनफ्लेशन था वह 10.2 प्रतिशत से बढ़कर इस साल के अप्रैल के सप्ताह तक 10.5 प्रतिशत हो गया है।

जबकि ढाई साल पहले यह सरकार बनी थी, उस समय की स्थिति कुछ अलग थी। हमारे फॉरेन एक्सचेंज की भी स्थिति कुछ अलग थी, लेकिन आज यह आवश्यक हो गया है कि हम इस बात पर ध्यान दें कि रेट आफ इनफ्लेशन क्यों बढ़ रहा है? इसके लिए एक यह सुझाव आया कि जो पैसा है उसको इंडस्ट्रियल सेक्टर और एग्रीकल्चर सेक्टर में डायवर्ट किया जाए और कुछ ऐसे कदम उठाए जाएं कि जो फॉरेन सेक्युरिटीज हैं, उसका ठीक ढंग से रिजर्व मनी के रूप में इनवेस्टमेंट किया जा सके। लेकिन इस बारे में भी

कोई कदम नहीं उठाए जा सके। फिर यह सुझाव सामने आया कि जो महत्वपूर्ण आइटम्स हैं, जैसे शक्कर है, एडीबल ऑइल है, कपास है इनका इम्पोर्ट किया जाए। उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मुझे खुशी है कि सरकार ने इस दिशा में पहल की है। सरकार ने क्या-क्या कदम इस संबंध में उठाए हैं, इसका ब्यौरा हमारे सामने है कि सरकार ने क्लोजली यह देखने के लिए कि मूल्यों में वृद्धि न हो सके इसका मानीट्रिंग करने के लिए एक कमेटी बनायी है जिसमें कि सम्बंधित विभाग के अफसरों को रखा गया है और यह भी सुनिश्चित किया गया है कि इन एसेंसियल कमोडिटीज की प्राइस नियंत्रण में कैसे रहे और उसके लिए क्या-क्या एदम उठाए जाएं। इस बारे में उन्होंने समय-समय पर कुछ मीटिंग्स की हैं। जैसे कि मैंने बताया एक हाय-लेवल कमेटी का गठन किया गया है जो कि समय समय पर प्राइस सिचुएशन का रिव्यू करेगी और यह सुनिश्चित करेगी कि उपभोक्ताओं को कैसे राहत दी जा सके और साथ ही पब्लिक डिस्ट्रीब्यूशन सिस्टम को भी किस ढंग से मजबूत किया जा सके ताकि उपभोक्ता को आम उपयोग की वस्तुएं मिल सकें और यह भी सुनिश्चित किया जा सके कि एसेंसियल कमोडिटीज एक्ट, 1955 के तहत होर्डर्स और ब्लैक मार्केटिंग्स के खिलाफ कार्यवाही की जाए। इस मीटिंग में इस बात की समीक्षा की गयी है।

मान्यवर, जो शॉर्ट सप्लाय में है, जैसे पल्सेस, एडीबल ऑइल और शक्कर है, उसे इम्पोर्ट करने का सरकार ने जो निर्णय लिया है, वह निश्चित रूप से हमारे रेटा ऑफ इनफ्लेशन को नियंत्रण में लाएगा, ऐसा मेरा विश्वास है। उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, ट्रांसपोर्टेशन में सुधार और आम उपभोक्ताओं को एक राज्य द्वारा दूसरे राज्य के लिए उपयोग में आने वाली वस्तुएं समय पर उपलब्ध हो सकें, यह भी सुनिश्चित किया गया है

[श्री सुरेश पचौरी]

मान्यवर, मैं कुछ आंकड़े देकर यह बताना चाहूंगा कि पिछले साल जो हमारी आवश्यक उपभोग की वस्तुएं थीं, उनमें किस प्रकार से वृद्धि हुई है। जहाँ तक एडीबल ऑयल का संबंध है, इनमें 6.6 प्रतिशत वनस्पति में, 5.6 प्रतिशत ग्राउंड-नट ऑयल में, पिछले तीन साल से कमी आई है। इस प्रकार एनुअल रेट ऑफ इन्फ्लेशन जो कि वर्ष 1992-93 में 7 प्रतिशत था, वह बढ़कर 1993-94 में 10.2 प्रतिशत हो गया था और पिछले एक साल से 16-4-94 तक जो होलसेल प्राइसेस है, वह चावल की 8.9 प्रतिशत, गेहूँ की 15 प्रतिशत, अरहर की 12.7 प्रतिशत आलू की मायनस 8 प्रतिशत, चाय की मायनस 13.3 प्रतिशत, शक्कर की 17. प्रतिशत, नमक की 1.9 प्रतिशत और एडीबल ऑयल की 8.1 प्रतिशत हुई है। इसलिए हम को यह विचार करना पड़ेगा कि आखिर रेट आफ एनफ्लेशन में बढ़ोतरी क्यों हो रही है? अगर हम उसके कारणों पर विचार करेंगे तो पायेंगे कि पिछले दिनों 2 फरवरी, 1994 को पैट्रोल और डीजल की कीमत में बढ़ोतरी हुई है, उसका भी प्रत्यक्ष और अप्रत्यक्ष रूप से इस पर असर हुआ है जो आंकड़ों के हिसाब से 0.4 प्रतिशत आया है। तो उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, हमें यह देखना पड़ेगा कि एसेंसियल कामोडिटीज की कीमत को हम कैसे नियंत्रण में ला सकें और वे बढ़ने न पायें, यह सुनिश्चित किया जाना बहुत जरूरी है। साथ ही जो एसेंसियल कामोडिटीज की सप्लाय है, विशेष रूप से चावल, गेहूँ, चाय और एडीबल ऑयल समय पर उपलब्ध हो सकें और सही स्थिति में उपलब्ध हो सकें। उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, सही स्थिति से मेरा आशय यह है कि बगैर मिलावट के उपलब्ध हो सक, यह नियंत्रण में लाना बहुत जरूरी है।

यह नियंत्रण में लाना बहुत ज्यादा जरूरी है। इसके लिए समय-समय पर हम लोग यह हिदायत तो देते रहे कि दुकानदार अपनी दुकान के बाहर आवश्यक लिस्ट लगायें, रेट-लिस्ट लगायें, लेकिन वह उसका पालन नहीं कर सकते। यद्यपि हमारे इस माननीय सदन में विभिन्न

एकट बसाए हैं, लेकिन उनके परिपालन में हमें थोड़ा कड़ाई से पेश आना पड़ेगा और साथ ही हमको किसानों की भी सही कम्पनसेशन समय-समय पर देना पड़ेगा। हालांकि यह सरकार कह सकती है कि हमने 1990 में जो गहूँ की कीमत थी 225 रुपए प्रति क्विंटल, वह बढ़ाकर 275 रुपए 1992-93 में कर दी। 1994-95 में हमने 350 रुपए कर दी जो 1993-94 में 335 रुपए थी, लेकिन यह किसी किसान के लिए पर्याप्त नहीं है। इसलिए मैं कहना चाहूंगा कि ऐसे कठम समय-समय पर उठाने बहुत जरूरी है कि जिससे हम किसान के हितों की रक्षा कर पायें और किसान किसी भी प्रकार की प्राकृतिक आपदा का शिकार न होने पायें। इसके साथ ही साथ हमें यह भी देखना चाहिए कि गरीबी की रेखा से नीचे रहने वाले हमारे जो भारत-वासी हैं उन्हें ग्राम उपयोग में आने वाली जीवनोपयोगी वस्तुयें सही समय पर और सही मूल्य पर मिल सकें। यह सुनिश्चित करने का काम सरकार का है। पिछले दिनों हमारे प्रधान मंत्री श्री नरसिंह राव जी ने इस मूल्य वृद्धि की बहुत गंभीरता से लिया है। उन्होंने इस के लिए एक कमेटी का भी गठन किया है। वित्त मंत्री से, खाद्य मंत्री से और नागरिक आपूर्ति मंत्री से भी उन्होंने सलाह भर्बिरा किया है और हमें विश्वास है कि आगे आने वाले भविष्य में जो एसेंसियल कामोडिटीज है, उनके मूल्यों में वृद्धि न हो पाएगी, प्राइस राइस पर नियंत्रण हो पाएगा और ग्राम इन्सान को उप-भोग्यता-वस्तुएं उपलब्ध हो पाएंगी। धन्यवाद।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): Shri Govindram Miri. Not here. Shri O. P. Kohli. Not here. Shri Dipankar Mukherjee. Please be brief.

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE (West Bengal): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, while supporting the Resolution many Members have spoken in many ways. I give some figures and let those figures speak for themselves. The prices of essential commodities under the Public Distribution System in Delhi is as

follows: On 28.12.1991 wheat price	was
Rs. 2.96 and on 1.2.1994 it was	Rs.
4.27. On 28.12.1991 rice price	was
Rs. 3.93 and on 1.2.1994 it was	Rs.
6.90. On 28.12.1991 sugar price	was
Rs. 6.10 and on 1.2.1994 it was	Rs.
9.53	

"Hi., prices of the same commodities in the Kendriya Bhandar is Delhi are: The price of rice today is Rs. 7.60 while it was Rs. 6.50 in 1992. Two years back the price of sugar was Rs. 9.55. Today the price of sugar is Rs. 14.20. Today the price of atta, 10 kilograms, is Rs. 53.50. It was Rs. 47 two years back. Today the price of chana is Rs. 13.30. Two years back it was Rs. 8.95. Now, what do these exactly mean? It is clear that in spite of the repeated assurances the Government has not been able to control the prices. It is also clear that the worst affected are the weaker sections of the society. Under these circumstances, the rapid deterioration in the living conditions is either an accepted part of the Government policy or the Government is not able to control the prices in spite of its best intentions. The whole thing seems to be the result of the transition to a globalised economy. Whatever discussion is going on, the inflation rate is going up and down and it is misleading. It is a basic fact, whether the rate of inflation goes down or up, that the prices of essential commodities keep on shooting up inexorably. The rise in the prices of petroleum products, and charges for transportation, power, etc., are all there. I don't understand how the prices of these commodities could be controlled unilaterally. So, the Government should admit one of its follies, that is, either the steep rise is an accepted fact of the new economic policy or the Government is unable to control the prices. Thank you.

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES,
CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC
DISTRIBUTION (SHRI A. K.

ANTONY): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to all the hon. Members for the anxiety which they have shown for the most important area. Price stability is the goal of the country and also it

is the goal of the Government. I don't want to score tiny point over any of the Members sitting on this side or that side because this is not a matter to be debated on political lines. All of us are equally concerned about the betterment of the life of the common man. Unless there is price stability it will be difficult to assure a better life to the common people. Our Government is very much concerned about it. I don't want to say that other Members are not concerned about it. That is why I don't want to have any dispute with anybody. All of us are equally concerned about certain trends that we are seeing on the price-front. There is a tendency of price rise in certain areas. We are very much concerned about that. All the Members, who participated in the debate, gave very good suggestions to improve the situation. I don't want to give a detailed reply to all these suggestions. But I would like to assure the House that the Government would take serious note of all the suggestions and criticism made by the hon. Members irrespective of their party. We will consider all the suggestions very seriously. We will take more stringent action, more practical action, to bring down the prices. At the same time, I would like to place certain facts for the consideration of the House and also for the consideration of the hon. Members. In fact Mathurji has done great service to all of us by moving this Resolution. Once again he has brought the point of containing price rise to the main agenda of the House. I am thankful to him. While discussing the price situation, we should take serious note of some of the points. All of us are very much concerned about the rise in prices. But, at the same time, when it comes to the question of giving support to the producer section, then also all of us are very much concerned. But where to strike a balance? That is the real problem. We have to be with the farmers and we don't want to harass the traders. At the same time, we are concerned about the common people, the consumers. So, in a matter concerning the common people, while protecting the common people we have to protect the Indian farmers as well. Even in the

Shri A. K. Anthony)

earlier periods, we had faced food shortages. The Governments led by great leaders like Panditji also were compelled to take aids from countries like the United States and we used to receive aid under PL-480 and similar other schemes. It used to be humiliating at times when they helped us in our difficulties with contempt. They used to say that the Indian rulers were always going to them with a begging bowl. That was the state of affairs at that time. After year of experience, we came to the conclusion that we should not be at the mercy of foreign powers, whoever they might be, as regards food items, that we must be self-reliant that we must have food security. Just as defence is essential for national security, food security is more important for national security, social security, peace and tranquility in the country. For that, we cannot depend on foreign powers. So, out-of our experience, we realised that we must encourage our farmers. And, unless the Indian farmers are enthused, we will not be able to improve the agricultural production in Our country. In the earlier years, what was the support price that used to be given to the farmers? For instance, in the years 1984, 1985 and 1986, the increase in the support price for common paddy was Rs. 5, Rs. 4 and Rs. 4, respectively. Year after year the increase in support price used to be only Rs. 5, Rs. 4 and Rs. 6 respectively. For superfine paddy also, the increase was like Rs. 5, Rs. 4 and Rs. 4; and for wheat, it was Rs. 5, Rs. 5 and Rs. 4 respectively. In view of this, the farmers were agitated that we were giving them only a very little increase in their support prices, and the net result was that we were forced to face shortages. And we were even compelled to import foodgrains. So this experience taught us that we must support the farmers, we must enthuse them and we must give them all facilities and only then will they produce more. So, in the last two or three years, there has been a steep increase in the support prices. As compared to 1984, 1985 and 1986, when the increase used to be only Rs. 5, Rs. 4 and Rs. 4 respectively, in the last

three years, the increase in the support price for common paddy has respectively been Rs. 25, Rs. 40 and Rs. 40. As regards wheat also, when the increase was Rs. 5, Rs. 5 and Rs. 4 in 1984, 1985 and 1986 respectively, the increase in the support price for wheat last year was Rs. 55. Similarly, can years back, the increase in support price for paddy was Rs. 5. but now it has been increased from Rs. 40 to Rs. 60. The result is that the farmers are enthused and now the granaries are full. The FCI is finding it difficult to procure all the foodgrains. They have got 24 million tonnes of foodgrains in their godowns. So, we are self-sufficient in foodgrains. But the point is when we give more support price to the farmers, naturally the Government is compelled to increase the issue price also. The Government increased the issue price not because of any compulsion from the IMF or from any outside agency or because of its anxiety to reduce the food subsidy. The food subsidy is also increasing year after year. In the last year's Budget estimates, the food subsidy was Rs. 3,000 crores. In this year's estimates it is Rs. 4,000 crores. It may increase. So, every year the food subsidy is increasing. It is increasing, not because of the reduction in the food subsidy. The issue price is increasing because of the steep rise in the support price. So, when we are helping the farmers by increasing the support price, that portion of the increase is passed on to the consumers. Now, we have come to a point when all those persons who are interested in the well-being of the farmers as well as that of the consumers we must strike a fair balance between the various interests. We have to strike a fair balance between the farmers' interests and the consumers' interests. For that I need the cooperation of all the Members of Parliament. Then only we can give the essential commodities at an affordable price to the common people. Regarding sugar also in earlier years the support price increase was very very limited. Now, its price is also increasing steeply. As a result we have to increase the sugar price also. Likewise in every area the

same is the situation. So, I do not want to go into further details. My point is that in our anxiety to attain food sufficiency, in our anxiety to be self-reliant on the food front, we decided to give maximum encouragement to the farmers. So, we have achieved our targets. As a result we are forced to increase the issue price steeply. Now, the Government expect the cooperation of all sections to strike a fair balance between various interests. We cannot allow the price of foodgrains to go up steeply. On this point I agree with you. I do not minimise the sufferings of the common people. Whenever there is a price rise the Government is taking all possible steps to ensure that they do not go beyond their means. Every week we are monitoring the price of 12 essential commodities. Whenever we find that there is a steep increase in their prices or whenever we find there is shortage we are taking urgent measures. Take the case of edible oil, sugar and cotton. When the Government found cotton prices were shooting up, it immediately took a decision to import cotton. When it found that there was a real shortage of sugar, it took a decision to allow import of sugar under OGL. That too, with zero point duty. When we found that at 3.000 p.m. is not advisable to depend on traders only, the Government took another decision also for the import of sugar because even after the announcement of the decision to import sugar under OGL, still the prices were going up. Then the Government took a decision that along with the traders, the STC should also enter the world market to import sugar under OGL. We will feel its impact very soon. I am sure the sugar prices will come down very soon. And this month, we are going to increase the free sale sugar also. I feel, as a result of the decision taken by the Government, we will be able to bring down the sugar price also. When we found that

there was some shortage in the production of groundnut because of the failure of crop in Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat, and even though the mustard production is good, the Government immediately took a decision to allow import of palm oil with 65 per cent duty. You have to strike a balance between the interests of the farmers and also the consumers. That is why, the Government decided that the import should be at 65 per cent duty. My point is, whenever we feel that there are shortages in this country regarding essential commodities, the Government, without hesitation, will enter the world market and import the essential commodities. But, at the same time, we do not want to dampen the spirit of the Indian farmer also. We are always taking a balanced view. But, luckily, now we have enough foreign exchange with us. So, whenever we feel that there are shortages in the availability of essential commodities, the Government will not hesitate to import them after a careful study, so that the supply position gets increased. I would like to bring to the attention of the hon. Members that even if we increase the supply of essential commodities through increased production and through imports, at times there will be shortages. And immediately, within one or two days, we will not be able to find a solution. And our experience is, whenever there is some dislocation in the market, whenever there is a delay in the monsoon by one week or a two week delay whenever there is some transport or strike or some dislocation in the railways, immediately, some section of the traders I do not say all the traders will shoot up the prices.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI (Maharashtra): In festivals.

SHRI A. K. ANTONY): During the festival time, a section of the traders will shoot up the prices. It is not good. We are against harassing the

(Shri A. K. Antony)

traders. We have already advised the State Governments not to launch prosecutions for small offences on technical grounds. But, at the same time a Government worth the name should take stringent action against serious offences, whoever the persons may be irrespective of their other loyalties. That is the duty of the State Governments. The Central Government extended the Essential Commodities (Special Provision) Act by another five years with the approval of all the State Governments. Now, it is the responsibility of the State Governments that whenever there is hoarding when ever there is blackmarketing, they should come down heavily against those people who are engaged in blackmarketing. As a Minister of Civil Supplies, what I find today is I seek your co-operation also that there is a tendency now on the part of some State Governments to too, much pamper the traders. That is not good. We should not harass the traders; we should not harass the business community; we should not should not pamper them also because harass the manufacturers but we should not pamper them also because they are doing business for profit not for social service. So, whenever we find that these people are exploiting the situation it is the duty of the State Governments to see that the black-marketers and profiteers are arrested and prosecutions are launched. Some of the State Governments are hesitant to take action against them under the E.C. Act. That creates a problem. I do not want to name any State Government because our approach is not for confrontation. With the co-operation of the State Governments only we want to take action against those who indulge in black-marketing and profiteering. We have requested the State Governments again and again to act in such cases. Even last month I wrote a letter to all the Chief Ministers to see that action is

taken against, the Offenders at the same time advising them not to harass the traders on minor and technical offences. So, along with administrative action to increase production and increase supply through production and through imports, we ' take strong action against all those who indulge in black-marketing and profiteering. Unless we do this, we will not be able to contain prices. To contain the prices and to contain inflation, is one of the foremost priorities of the Government. The Prime Minister himself is taking personal interest and on his initiative in the last two weeks we have taken certain decisions to correct the imbalance. I hope we will be able to take these: administrative actions. The Ministry of Agriculture and other Ministries also are drawing up some contingency plans for increasing the production of pulses and other things because we are having a shortage on this front. We will take more practical steps to increase the production of essential foodgrains and pulses. On the other hand, we have also said that whenever there are shortages, we will not hesitate to import the essential commodities from outside to keep our supply position, comfortable We will not even hesitate to reduce the stock limit. This also we have done through various means. We' are trying our level best to bring down the prices

About sugar, the production has not been enough. That is why, at the moment there is a price rise. We are taking emergency measure, to import sugar under OGL. I do not claim that all our attempts will be successful. We are working in a country where we have to move along with liberalisation. Government is very clear on this. In that atmosphere, unless we open up and unless we liberalise our economy, we will not be able to compete in the world. We have to open up and support the industry, agriculture and exports. For people, liberalisation means abandoning Govern-

ment con Iroi and makig it free for profiteers which is not good. We have to act heavily against such people. There may be some slip-up on our side also; I do not dispute it. We are all human beings. Whenever we find that things are getting out of control, whenever we find that there is shortage and prices are going up, we are trying to take stringent action.

Since hon. Members have raised this issue in all seriousness, I assure the House that we would consider all the points made by them and from the Government side, whatever action, humanly possible, would be taken.

Regarding inflation control and prices control, our Government would give top priority and I am sure, within one or two months, as a result of the various measures taken by the Government, we would be able to bring down the inflation rate, we would be able to bring down the prices.

Sir, with these words, I request the hon. Member, Shri Jagdish Prasad Mathur, to please withdraw his Resolution.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: Very honest Minister. He has spoken from the heart.

श्री संघ प्रिय. गौतम (उत्तर प्रदेश) :
अच्छा हो, अगल सत्र में हमें प्राइज राइस पर प्रस्ताव लाना न पड़े।

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर (उत्तर प्रदेश)
कहने को बहुत कुछ है, लेकिन अगला जो प्रस्ताव है, मैं उसमें इन्टरेस्टेड हूँ, क्योंकि वह महिलाओं के अत्याचार पर है। मैं चाहता हूँ कि वह प्रस्ताव आ जाये। मैं केवल दो-तीन मिनट लूँगा। मंत्री जी ने दो-तीन बातों की तरफ इशारा किया। पहली यह कि कर्म होगी, तो हम इम्पोर्ट करेंगे, दूसरी यह कि होडिंग होती है, उससे प्राइस बढ़ रही है और

तीसरे यह कि क्योंकि हमें किसानों को पैसा देना था सपोर्ट प्राइस के लिये इस लिये बढ़ाई है। इन तीनों बातों से मैं सहमत नहीं हूँ। आप सपोर्ट प्राइस बढ़ाएँ, हमें कोई आपत्ति नहीं है। लेकिन किसान को देने के नाम पर रिश्ता वाले के ऊपर, तांगे वाले के ऊपर, गरीब आदमी का पेट काट कर प्राइस बढ़ाएँ यह जुल्म है, यह गलत है। आप कहते हैं, देने के बहाने से आपने बढ़ा दी, जबकि मेरा कहना है कि आपका उद्देश्य यह नहीं था। आपने बजट से पहले गेहूँ, चावल और चीनी और पेट्रोल की कीमतें बढ़ाईं। उसका उद्देश्य बिल्कुल यह नहीं था, बल्कि रेवेन्यू को अर्जन करना था। कई सौ करोड़ रुपये आपने कमा लिये। यह आपकी ईमानदारी नहीं थी, यह गरीब किसान के साथ धोखाधड़ी थी। मैं चाहूँगा कि अगर आपने वायदा किया तो मैं समझता हूँ -- हमने गुनाह किया, तेरे वायदे पर एतबार किया। फिर भी मैं चाहता हूँ कि आप इस बात पर विचार करें और जो आपने कम से कम खाद्यान्न पर प्राइसज बढ़ाई, उनका आप वापस लें। आप वापस लेंगे देश का भला होगा। इतना मेरा आपस निवेदन है। आम आदमी के खाने-पीने की स्थिति यह है कि हम खाना भी खाते हैं, नाश्ता भी करते हैं, मगर आपके आने के पहले, आपके जाने के बाद। स्थिति यह है। लिहाजा मेरा निवेदन यह है कि आप विचार करें। परन्तु जैसा मैंने कहा कहने को बहुत कुछ है, लेकिन मैं लम्बी लोड़ी बात नहीं कहना चाहता। यह भी मानता हूँ कि प्रस्ताव पास हो जायेगा। अगर प्रस्ताव को वांट के लिए रख दें तो आप पराजित हो जायेंगे, लेकिन पराजय और विजय का सवाल नहीं है। सवाल यह है कि कीमतें घटा कर आप आम आदमी की सहायता करना है। इसलिए मैं प्रस्ताव को मतदान के लिये रखकर समय को नष्ट नहीं करना चाहता। मैं अपना प्रस्ताव वापस लेता हूँ और यह उम्मीद करता हूँ कि आपने जो कृत्रिम रूप से प्राइसेज बढ़ाई है, उनको वापस लेंगे और इसके बाद मैं रास्ता खोलता हूँ, अपने मित्र श्री वीरन शाह जी के लिए। महिलाओं

[श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर]

पर अत्याचार बहुत हो रहा है, लेकिन कभी-कभी पुरुषों पर भी अत्याचार करते हैं। आप से निवेदन करता हूँ कि इस पर आप विचार कर लें। (व्यवधान)

इसके साथ ही मैं अपना प्रस्ताव वापस लेता हूँ और प्रार्थना करता हूँ कि वीरने शाह जी का प्रस्ताव विस्तार से विचार के लिए लिया जाए।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): Has the hon. Member the leave of this House to withdraw the Resolution?

SHRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH (Andhra Pradesh): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I would like to seek a clarification from the hon. Minister regarding yarn prices. This is a very serious matter because there has been an abnormal increase in the prices of cotton yarn. They have gone up...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): The mover of the Resolution is withdrawing the Resolution. (Interruptions)

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: Cotton exports have been banned.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): It has already been replied to. (Interruptions)

SHRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH: We have drawn the attention of the Minister of Civil Supplies as well as the Minister of Textile. The prices have gone up by more than 150 times. The weavers are in distress. The weavers are in misery. What arrangements have they made? That at least I would like to know from the Minister. Let him say what arrangements have been made. Cotton yarn is included in the list of essential commodities—No. 25. What is that the Government has done to bring down the prices of cotton yarn and make it available to

the handloom weavers at reasonable rates? That is what I would like to know from the Civil Supplies Minister.

SHRI A. K. ANTONY: Sir, the subject concerns the Textiles Ministry. However, I would like to inform the hon. Member that the Textiles Ministry has already taken some measures to give some subsidy to the weavers. I will convey his sentiments to the Textiles Ministry. Export is banned and import also is allowed under OGL... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH: It is a very serious matter affecting millions of people in the country. At least you should permit me to say one or two words... (Interruptions)

(The Resolution was, by leave, withdrawn)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): Shri Viren J. Shah to move his Resolution... (Interruptions).

SHRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH: I have made several representations to the Government. He says my representation has been passed on to the Textiles Ministry. I would like to know what he has done.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): Mr. Kotaiah, please. You cannot speak like that... (Interruptions).

SHRI M. A. BABY (Kerala): Sir, I would like to submit that considering the feelings of the hon. Member, you may direct the Government.

SHRI A. K. ANTONY: I have already said that considering the sentiments expressed by the hon. Member—he is committed to the cause of handloom weavers—I will convey his sentiments to the Textiles Minister. But the Government has already taken several measures—to ban the export of cotton and allow import of cotton. We are also giving some subsidy to the weavers... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH: Kindly permit me. I would like to know...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): On which matter are you speaking? The House has given him permission to withdraw the Resolution.

SHRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH: What are the steps they have taken? Have they resulted in the reduction of cotton yarn prices? And what are the steps I hey propose to take to help the hand loom weavers in distress?

.. (Interruptions)..

RESOLUTION RE. MEASURES TO TACKLE INCREASING CRIMES IN THE COUNTRY, PARTICULARLY AGAINST WOMEN

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH (Maharashtra): Sir, I beg to move the following Resolution:

"This House expresses its deep concern over the—

(i) increasing incidents of rape, molestation, abduction, kidnapping and atrocities being committed on women in various parts of the country and even in the police custody;

(ii) illegal detention and torture by the police which has become a way of life;

(iii) failure of Governmental machinery, coupled with judicial delays to protect the life, honour, self-respect and dignity of women in the country; and

with a view to improving the status of women, safeguarding their honour and dignity in the country, this House urges upon Government to take immediate steps to revamp the police and legal machinery to ensure that—

(a) our laws respect the principle of equality,

(b) our laws are written in the local languages of the people;

(c) they assume the responsibility for informing the citizens of their basic rights;

(d) our laws are made sensitive to the specificities of the local situation;

(e) most of the cases are decided locally so that people, especially women are saved from expensive commuting to seek redressal;

(f) every case is decided within a period of six months because justice delayed is justice denied;

(g) judges become intimately familiar with local customs and usages;

(h) police administration is reoriented and reorganised so that the police help the victims of atrocities and do not continue to be perpetrators;

(i) the persons involved and the police officials found guilty are given exemplary punishment;

(j) victims of atrocities and torture, etc, at the hands of police and other are adequately compensated; and

(k) women organisations and women Members of Legislatures are closely associated in making and implementing the laws relating to women."

During the last two years at least in this very House there were eight questions of mine on this very subject. The hon. Minister has given a lot of data. I am going to look at some specific points arising out of these. There is a rape every eighteen hours, molestation of women every seventeen hours and eve-teasing every four hours. This is the ugly face of Delhi, the crime capital of India. But, these are only the reported cases. Delhi has been described even in a newspaper article as "the sex-crime capital of India." These* are based only