

Half-an-hour Discussion Points arising: out of answer to starred question no. 1 given on 22nd February, *ISM* regarding the prices of cotton and cotton yarn

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI NATARAJAN) in the Chair]

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN: Now we take up the Half-an-Hour Discussion. ... *(Interruptions)*

May we have order in the House, please? I request Members kindly to maintain order in the House.

Dr. Sivaji.

DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI (Andhra Pradesh): Madam, the Minister is settling down.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTI NATARAJAN): The Minister will only reply. You will have to begin.

DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Madam, the Government yielded to the pressure of the textile lobby and banned the export of raw cotton on the excuse that it was needed to depress the rising prices.

Madam, there is a global shortage of cotton this year, and the shortage is reflected to be about 5 to 10 per cent internationally. The price-rise is the logical dictate of the market forces for any commodity, depending upon the demand and supply factor. As such, the mill sector should not have any grouse against the cotton prices alone. If the price had proved unviable, would they not have opted out of the market? The mills still consider buying cotton in the market as a workable proposition and no mill withdrew from buying cotton from the market. The Government not only banned the export, but it also announced duty-free import of 5 lakh bales of cotton. The duty-free import of cotton will not bring any relief because the international prices of the medium- and short staple cotton are higher than the domestic price.

In Taxes of the USA cotton equivalent to 24 mm to 26 mm count, works out to be Rs. 20,500 per candy as against the Indian price of only Rs. 17,000. Similarly, the lower Russian cotton variety, another medium staple cotton, costs from 74 cents to 78 cents a pound working out to around Rs. 19,500 per candy and the price of West African cotton equivalent to Indian variety ranges between Rs. 20,750 to Rs. 21,000 per candy, which are relatively higher than like price in India by 15 per cent. The equivalent Indian cotton price is only Rs. 17,500 per candy. There is no reliable data at the disposal of the Government regarding the mill consumption. The opening stocks as on 1st September, 1993 are estimated to be about 38 lakh bales. In one of the answers given by the Minister in the morning, he stated that the arrivals as on 2nd March, 1994 were round about 100 lakh bales. So, still the estimated crop yet to arrive is about 25,000 bales or so. Mill consumption for the whole year never exceeds 110 lakh bales. It is said up to the end of the last month the mills consumed less than 60 lakh bales. So, the remaining 70 odd lakh bales have invisibly disappeared. The Cotton balance sheet for the current year is this. Carry over stock is 30 lakh bales and crop sales taken by the Government is 125 lakh bales. The total availability of the crop in the country is 163 lakh bales. The mill consumption is about 110 lakh bales and the small spinning mills consumption is about 3.5 lakh bales. Other non-mill sector consumed 8 lakh bales and the exports is 1.5 lakh bales. It totals 123 lakh bales, it shows that we are still left with 40 lakh bales for the coming September 1, when the cotton season ends. The Government in their own wisdom introduced the selective credit control from 19th February, 1994 to minimum margins on advances against stocks of cotton and Kapas. At the decentralised level they have to invest about 45 per cent for borrowings other than mills and the rest of the 55 per cent has to be provided by the banks.

[Shri Yalamanchili Sivaji]

whereas such exemptions on the selective credit control is not there for the mills. This shows the bias of the Government as well as of the Reserve Bank of India is in favour of the textile mills and is against the cotton growers at the ground level. As a matter of fact, the current prices are more or less at the same levels which prevailed during August 1991 and in real terms, if we take into account inflation adjusted prices for 1990-91 season, the cotton prices in the current year are getting corrected from their unduly low level in 1992-93. Therefore, there is no necessity for the re-introduction of Selective Credit Control on cotton and kapas and the Reserve Bank of India should be advised to continue to see that necessary credit flows for the cotton purchasers.

Cotton crop is affected in all the States due to the prolonged drought and untimely rains pest attacks and other vagaries of nature. The average yield per acre this season is only about 5 quintals. The cost of cotton cultivation has gone up abnormally. It seems that with the policy of the Government the prices of the fertilisers as well as the pesticides also went up and the cost of production for each acre is coming to about Rs. 8,500 per acre. So, what I mean to say is that there is no coherent policy on the part of the Government. They are always acting in a quixotic and slipshod manner. On the 8th February, the Government has suspended the export of 2 lakh bales of cotton which was already contracted but yet to be shipped, "nils present order is the second in a span of less than six months. Earlier the Ministry of Textiles had disallowed the export of 1.3 lakh bales of cotton out of 5 lakh bales of the export quota. So, the actual export of cotton during the current year would be only 1.7 lakh bales of cotton against the targeted 5 lakh bales of cotton which was allowed by the Government.

Last year we have exported 17.88 lakh bales. The Government's policy on cotton exports is marked by delinking the domestic market from the export market, thereby periodically depressing the domestic prices to the advantage of the textile lobby.

Madam, it is a fact that the textile industry is the mother industry of the country. It is very difficult for any official to be at a respectable distance from the textile lobby. It is not such an easy thing not to be attracted towards the textile lobby. I hope that our hon. friend, Mr. Venkat Swamy will be at a respectable distance from the textile lobby. He being a labour leader, hailing from the State of Andhra Pradesh and always working for the welfare of the downtrodden I wish him to be away from the textile lobby; otherwise his image would also be tarnished as has happened in the case of several Ministers and several officials who were in connivance with the textile lobby.

Madam, what has happened on our export front. Suddenly the USSR has disappeared from the globe. Earlier the USSR was one of the major exporters of cotton. So, in the absence of the USSR, wisdom lies on the Government to see that they capture the markets for a dependable and staple export of cotton. In 1986, the then Minister for Textiles, Mr. Ram Niwas Mirdha had announced a new textile policy. He aimed at exporting about 6,00,000 bales of cotton each year. But in 1987 we could export about 14.3 lakh bales of cotton. During 1987-88 the textile lobby was at it. The Government has succumbed to their pressure and the export of cotton has declined from 14.3 lakh bales to 0.44 lakh bales of cotton. The same thing was repeated during the 1992-93 and 1993-94 also.

Madam there is a miniscule thinking and propaganda in this country with regard to handling of the export of cotton as well as importing of cot-

ton. At the sufietinie, they said that they have imposed selection credit control by giving lot more .reliet to the artificial fibre only to the ad. vantage of the handloom weavers. But it is not a fact. The textile labby wants to fight, by placfing their gims on the shoulders of the hadloom weavers headed by our honourable friend Mr. Pragada Kotaiah. If the handloom weavers want any cotton for their advantage let the Govsmment procure the necefisary quantity of 5 lakh bales or 6 lakh bales and siutp-ply it to the handloom weavers at a subsidised rate. Then, we would appreciate it. There are umpteen governmental agencies like the Cotton Corporation of India, NAFED, Maharashtra Monopoly Procurement of Cotton Scheme, State-owned and State-governed Marfed agencies in this country. But nobody is able to supply cotton or yam to the poor handloom weavers at a subsidised rate. They are transferring their burden to somebody else, that is, the gro. wer. The textile lobby is seeking all the advantages. The NTC could supply yam to them at a subsidised rate. The question is whether it is the Central Governmenit or the State Government agency, they can supply yarn at a cheaper rate or free of cost to the handloom weavers. But they are not doing that_ But they say that we are banning exporfe only to safeguard them interests of the handloom weavers. The Government finds it convenient to pick up a quarrel and to create some confusion between the handloom weaver and the cotton grower. Both cotton growers and handloom weavers are poor people. They are toiling to eke out their livelihood. Handloom weavers are second only to agriculturists in importance in this country. Neither of them is getting benefit. The Government wants to export cotton which is not feasible and which is not possible at all. Our friend, Mr. Venkat Swamy, knows it pretty well. When we go into the figiires. between 1980-81 and 1992-93, the J-34 cotton varierty which is comparable in texture, length and

strength to the Orleans Taxes 1" variety, was selling at a price 8.72 per cent higher than the domestic price. The international prices are much higher. And, the MCU-5 variety, the same variety as in any other country, was costing at the international market at rate 37.39—47.83 per cent higher. What does it mean? The Government knows it pretty well that it is not possible to import cotton because the intematto-nal prices are very high. In the cotton-producing countries like Pakistan, Sudan, Turkey, Egypt; China and the USA, the production went down at least by 10 per cent. When the insurance and other costs are added to it, it is next only to impossible to import cotton. But, Mr. Venkat Swamy and his officials want to give wrong signal to the farming community. They want to create a psychological fear among growers by giving a warning, "No, we are going to import cotton. Unless you part with your produce, it is very difficult. Prices are going to crash. You part with your cotton." The Minister for Textiles also has mentioned that cotton export is temporarily suspended and it is not banned. It gives the signal that after the entire produce reaches the middlemen, cotton export will, jolly well, go on. They want the advantage to be concerned by the textile lobby. It is not desir. able. Cotton import is not going to take place. I would like to say that the Government wants to benefit the textile lobby at the cost of the cotton grower. They want to supply cotton at a cheaper rate compared to international prices. Let them compete and purchase cotton. There is notblng wrong in it. But, at the same time, the Governmental agencies and the Government, 3n their wisdom, allowed the export of about five lakh bales of cotton in this country. No individual is allowed to export. No private trader fe allowed to export. only Government ag-encies like the CCI or the Maharashtra Marketing Federation or some other State-owned agencies are allo.

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wed to export cotton. If any benefit comes, it goes to the State agencies and thereby to the Government. The Government does not want to get benefits. But it wants to get some advantage to the trade.

Madam, here are penal provisions. And, once we enter into a contract, if we cannot fulfil our commitment, the importers will naturally feel that India is not a dependable ally. They will switch over to other partners for their imports. That gives a signal that India cannot be depended upon for supply of cotton. So, I would like to advise the Government. The Minister is also from our place. He visited Guntur on 24th April last and addressed a cotton-growers' conference also at Guntur. He knows the misery of cotton growers. During 1987-88, about 1000 cotton growers committed suicide in two districts of Andhra Pradesh. Some handloom weavers also committed suicide. (Interruptions) . If the Government wants to help handloom weavers really, let it supply yarn to them free of cost. There is nothing wrong in it. You are doing it in umpteen number of ways in several sectors. For heaven's sake, don't take a decision to ban the exports. After the entire produce is parted with by the growers and it reaches the middle man, you can ban it, but not at this stage. According to my information, about ten to fifteen lakh bales of cotton are yet to be pressed and ginned. In spite of these efforts, cotton prices are not going to decline. This is a fact of life. When it is not adjusting to its needs, why are the textile mills purchasing cotton? I do not know. There is invisible voting in this country and everybody in the market says that one of your colleagues in the Council of Ministers cornered about 5 lakh bales of cotton and one of the nationalised banks advanced more than 200 crores of rupees to

corner than quantity. It is a fact and everybody knows it in the trade. The CCI knows it every governmental agency knows it and the Government is not serious to unload those 5 lakh bales of cotton cornered by one of your colleagues in the Council of Ministers. I hope you will take courage and see to it that the huge quantity of five lakh bales of cotton that is cornered in Punjab, in Haryana and in parts of Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan, may be unloaded. Thank you very much.

DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR (Maharashtra) Madam, we are also the mover. We want to speak now.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): You can speak after the Minister's speech only.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): Madam, let them speak first.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): That is not the procedure. The procedure in Half-an-Hour Discussion is that the person moving it will speak first. The Minister will then speak and the others are only supposed to actually ask clarifications.

SHRI SHRIKANT RAMACHANDRA JICHKAR: Madam, we are also the movers.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): Mr. Kotaiah, I am going to call you.

DR. SHRIKANT RAMACHANDRA JICHKAR: But the communication received from the Rajya Sabha does not say that. (Interruptions)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): Dr. Jichkar, please sit down. It is only the first person who makes the speech and then you can speak after the Minister has spoken.

DR. SHRIKANT RAMACHANDRA JICHKAR: Madam, we will abide by your ruling. But we are also the movers.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): I am going to allow you to speak. (Interruptions).

SHRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH: (Andhra Pradesh): Madam, better allow us to have our say. Then the Minister will be able to reply.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): The procedure is that the Minister should speak and then only the Members should speak. I am bound by the Rules of Procedure. That is the rule. I will permit people to make brief speeches. We cannot change the rules. (Interruptions).

DR. SHRIKANT RAMACHANDRA JICHKAR: The citation itself says that all these people are to raise a discussion. . • ■

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): I know what the citation says. But I know that according to the rules, only the first name there is called to speak and then the Minister gives the reply and the others speak after that. Always in the List of Business, all the names are given together. (Interruptions)

श्री अमन्तराय देव शंकर दवे (गुजरात) :
उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदया, हम जो सवाल करेंगे, उनका जवाब वह नहीं देंगे ? मैं क्लेरिफिकेशन चाहता हूँ, माना उन्होंने जवाब दे दिया, जब हम क्वेश्चन करेंगे उनको, तो क्या वह हमारे क्वेश्चन का जवाब नहीं देंगे ?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): He will give a reply again after that. Mr. Minister.

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY: Madam Vice-Chairman, I am grateful to all the hon. Members who have so actively taken part in this discussion. (Interruptions)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): What is the problem? (Interruptions) He can correct his speech.

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY: Okay, I will say only one Member, Dr. Yelamanchili Sivaji has spoken.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): What is the problem? I do not understand the Members' problem. I have already explained the rule. He is going to reply again after the Members raise their points.

SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL (Gujarat): Members have no problem. The problem is with the Minister.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): He is going to reply again.

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY: I withdraw that.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): He has made a small mistake. He has withdrawn it. Why are we spending time on all these minor things?... (Interruptions) .. Mr. Gautam. Please understand the rule.

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY: The wealth of experience and insight that is available has been fully brought to bear upon the deliberations very constructively and useful suggestions have been made during the course of the discussion. I would

[Shri G. Venkat Swamy] i'ixe to assure the hon. Member that we would examine and consider all these suggestions very carefully and take action wherever required.

Madam, before coming to some of the specific issues and points raised by the hon. Member, I would like to mention briefly the cotton scenario which has been prevailing during this year. During the cotton year 1992-93, i.e. 1st September, 1992 to 31st August, 1993, we had a very comfortable cotton situation due to a bumper crop. There was an opening stock of over 32 lakh bales. The production was 135 lakh bales with a small quantity of imports under the Advance Licensing Scheme. The total availability of cotton was in excess of 168 lakh bales. As against this availability the total domestic demand was a little over 124 lakh bales. In this situation the domestic prices remained at a level which was 10 to 25 per cent above the minimum support price level. This provided a reasonable return to the farmer as well as made available cotton to the textile industry and yarn to the weaving sector, which is largely in the decentralised sector, at remunerative prices. Taking advantage of this situation, the Government announced an export quota of nearly 18 lakh bales out of which 13.76 lakh bales are physically exported.

The cotton year 1993-94 thus also started with a comfortable opening stock of 30.74 lakh bales. Initially, the expectation was that the crop would be of about the same size, i.e. 135 lakh bales, as last year. The Government, therefore, announced an export of 5 lakh bales at the beginning of the season as per the requirement of the cotton export policy. According to the estimates, as late as November 1993, after fully meeting the domestic requirements and the export commitment a closing balance of over 32 lakh bales was expected.

However, since then, a few factors came into play. There was a serious

crop damage in Pakistan and some other major producing countries. Which led to a contraction in global availability of cotton. International prices started rising rapidly. A similar situation arose in the case of domestic prices. In India, also in a number of cotton-growing States, particularly in the Northern region, due to pest attack and bad weather, cotton production declined.

Thus creating a sentiment of scarcity in the market. This led to aggressive and speculative buying by trade and industry. The prices, therefore, started moving up steeply. This, consequently, led to an increase in prices of yarn, both in hank and cone and a very large number of our powerloom and handloom weavers started going out of employment.

There were reports of closure of powerlooms and handlooms from different parts of the country causing great distress among them. Hon. Members are well aware that this is an extremely vulnerable section of our society and most of these handloom and powerloom weavers live below the poverty line. Concerned with this trend of rising prices, the Government took a number of steps to reduce pressure on cotton and yarn prices. Some of the measures that have been taken are: (a) decision to permit duty-free import of cotton up to 5 lakh bales by spinning mills; (b) stopping of unutilised export quota of 5 lakh bales of cotton released for export during 1993-94; (c) suspension of export on 9-2-94 in respect of the quantity of cotton already contracted for export but not yet shipped; (d) re-introduction of Selective Credit Controls on cotton; (e) requesting the State Governments to take steps to check hoarding of cotton; and (f) arrangement for supply of hank yarn by spinning mills at prices which are almost Rs. 8/- per kg. cheaper than January 1994 prices. With these measures, the steeply rising trend in cotton prices has been arrested and for the last 2 weeks or so the prices have become comparatively stable. We are taking further measures to

make hank yarn available to weavers at cheaper prices and I am happy to say that deliveries of cheaper yarn have already commenced.

As regards suspension of cotton exports
... (*Interruptions*)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): Let him finish. Everybody is going to be given a chance. There is no need to make the same point again and again.

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY: There are two aspects to this question. The first involves suspension of exports of such quantities for which contracts had been entered into. We are aware that there is a commitment on the part of the Government to fulfil these contracts. There is also the question of international credibility. We do hope that once the situation improves, the Government will be in a position to review the suspension. The second aspect is the demand about allowing fresh exports for quantities which had not been contracted. It is also a general feeling that in the interest of the farmers we should allow cotton exports to continue. I would like to state that there is no legal commitment for such quantities and it is also a fact that most of the cotton has now gone out of the hands of the farmers and is with the trade. Further release for exports is not likely to be of much benefit to the farmers,

The farmer has got a very good price for his produce this year as prices of major varieties of cotton have been ranging between 65 to 115 per cent above the minimum support price levels for most of the season. As compared to the last year, in most varieties, the difference is between Rs. 600 and Rs. 800 per quintal of Kaps. Therefore there has been no hardship to the farmer as far as the prices are concerned.

I would now touch upon some of the specific issues raised by the hon. Members.

Madam Vice-Chairman, I have briefly tried to satisfy the hon. Members on the various issues raised during the discussion. I do hope that their doubts have been clarified. The Textile Ministry has the difficult task in trying to create and maintain a harmonious balance between the interests of the cotton growers on the one hand and the textile industry, handlooms and the powerlooms on the other. It is our endeavour to try and manage the cotton situation in a manner which while providing an adequate and remunerative price to the cotton growers, will also make raw materials available to the consumers at a reasonable price. With these words, Madam Vice-Chairman, I would once again thank you for providing me this opportunity for such a detailed and useful discussion on this very important problem confronting us and to all the hon. Members who took part in the discussion and who made very useful and important suggestions. These will guide us in taking further action in this regard.

Thank you, Madam.

Madam, the Minister is partially right in making the statement because he had given time to the Members like us to put up our points of view before him. I would like to place on record my deep sense of appreciation for the hon. Minister who had come all the way from Delhi to Nagpur, two or three weeks ago to hear the cotton growers. He met the cotton growers, he met the representatives of the cotton growers. He addressed a conference of the Maharashtra Cotton Growers' Association and heard from the cotton growers their problems. Therefore, he is right in saying that the Members had given him suggestions earlier to which he has responded in his speech. There is a feeling in the official and also in the society—that the pri-

[Shri G. Venkat Swamy] ces of cotton are directly related to the prices of yarn or the prices of cloth. So, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister, through you, to point out to him that in the present case, it is not so. Even if the prices of cotton are rising, there is no reason why the prices of yarn should rise and there is also no reason why the prices of cloth should rise. Some time ago, there was a Committee in the Government of India which was known as the Cotton Link Price Committee and that Committee had made an extensive study and had formulated the standards for the cost on conversion from cotton to yarn and from cotton to cloth. Madam, take the case of the present price of cotton. Now, take this high price of Rs. 1800 per quintal of cotton. Rs. 1800 per quintal of cotton means Rs. 18 per kilogram of cotton. That is raw cotton. And three kilograms of cotton is required for producing one kilogram of rui because there will be two kilograms of cotton seeds. In three kilograms of cotton, there will be one kilogram of direct 'rui', that is linked cotton, and two kilograms of what is known in our part as 'cirki', the cotton seed. It means, one kilogram of 'rui' costs Rs. 54. From one kilogram of 'rui', that is linked cotton, the total cloth produced will be 10 square metres. Ten square metres of cloth is produced from one kilogram of 'rui'. Now, there are standards. These are not my own standards or the Members' standards. These are the standards which have been published by the relevant fora of the Government of India from time to time, the standards which have been accepted by all the textile research associations like SITRA, etc. Now, 60 per cent is cotton, and 40 per cent is the cost of conversion to cloth. If Rs. 54/- is the cost of one kilogram of 'rui', 40 per cent would be Rs. 36.1. It means for producing the cloth which is equivalent to ten square metres, the cost of conversion, according to the

present standards, would be Rs. 36. So, at today's higher price of cotton, 10 square metres of cloth would be produced for Rs. 90 which includes the production of yarn. Now this 40 per cent cost of construction includes the cost of yarn, the cost of all the processes which are included up to the stage of cloth. Now, add 50 per cent profit of the mill-owners, and the excise duties. Madam, today the fine variety cloth of 34 count—34 count is supposed to be the very fine variety—should be available to us at Rs. 10 per metre. Now do we get cloth anywhere in the market at this rate? No. It is because a huge amount of profit is taken away for one reason or the other by the mill-owners.

Madam, I would like to point out to the Minister that in 1981, the Government of Maharashtra appointed me as a High-Power Committee to go into the finances and the financial structure of the 60 textile mills in Bombay, just a few days before the great textile strike began in Maharashtra. It began on the 19th of January. Just 15 days before the textile strike, I was appointed as a High-Power Committee to go into their finances. Madam, we came out with our findings after a great amount of study. And we found that these 60 textile mills in Bombay, according to the January, 1981 figure, used to take away Rs. 150 crores from their mills to their homes. So, the prices of yarn are high not because the prices of cotton are high. The prices of yarn are high because the mill-owners who produce the yarn put a huge amount of profit and siphon off a large amount of money from this. Madam, if they want to bring down the prices, I am in favour of bringing down the prices of yarn. I am in favour of bringing down prices of cloth because the farmers who constitute 80 per cent of the population of this country are the maximum consumers of cloth. Madam, 40 per cent of our population is below the poverty-line. And still thousands and lakhs and crores of people are almost naked in this country.

try. The paradox is that the people who produce cotton, the people who deal with yarn, the people who weave on the handlooms are themselves living naked. This is the great paradox in our country. This is only because the mill-owners' lobby is very strong. When I was the High-Power Committee; I knew how strong was the pressure the mill-owners lobby used to put this Committee to toe their line.

Madam, the hon. Minister has stated the five steps which he has taken to bring down the prices of yarn. If they want to bring down the prices of yarn, stopping the export of cotton is not the remedy because now they will say that in spite of stopping the exports, the prices will not come down. The remedy was to stop the export of yarn. We want cheap cotton. We want cheap yarn. We want cheap cloth. But we not stop the export of textiles although crores of people in this country do not have the cloth to wear and still we do not stop export of yarn. The handloom weaver are dying. They are committing suicide. But we are not stopping the export of yarn. What we have done is, we have stopped the export of cotton. The hon. Minister, while making his speech, said and rightly so—that because cotton has already gone out of the hands of the traders, giving permission to export; now may not help the actual cotton growers because the cotton has come into the hands of the traders. But, Madam., as far as Maharashtra is concerned, the situation is different there. We have a Raw Cotton Procurement and Processing Scheme popularly known as Monopoly Purchase Scheme. But word monopoly is a misnomer because it means monopoly of production. But there is no monopoly of production. There is monopoly of purchase and it should be rightly named as monopoly. Now, as far as Maharashtra's raw cotton scheme is concerned, the cotton of the farmer is in the hands of the federation. If permission to export is given, the money will

finally go to the farmers. As far as the traders are concerned, you can take a decision whether you feel like. But as far as Maharashtra's cotton scheme is concerned, I sincerely urge upon the Minister to take a decision right now because under the Maharashtra scheme, we have already signed contracts with foreign parties and our credibility is at stake. Only on the penalty count, Maharashtra scheme will have to pay about Rs. 14 crores. Permission was already given for export of 50 thousand bales and that permission was withdrawn. If that permission is restored, the money will not go to traders because in the form of bonus, the money is directly going to farmers. So I request the hon. Minister to at least clear the Maharashtra scheme issue because that scheme is a Government scheme. The money does not go anywhere. It goes to the farmer.

The Minister has one misunderstanding and I also joined him when he came to Nagpur; and I checked up on the same issue. The Minister felt that accounts of that Monopoly Cotton Purchase Scheme were not audited. Although I have no connection now with that scheme; I would like to point out that I checked it up. There is a mandatory and statutory provision in the scheme under the Act that every year they have to lay their accounts before the two Houses of Legislature in Maharashtra. There is a Legislature Committee which sits over the scheme. They have got audited all their accounts under the Act. Appointment of auditors is done by the Co-operative Department of the Government of Maharashtra. All the audited accounts are laid before the Houses of Legislature. However., the Minister said that some enquiry is required to be made and I join the Minister on this issue. Earlier the enquiries are made, the better it is.

So, while concluding, I would like to urge upon the Minister on two or three points. Please do not stop ex-

[Shri G. Venkat Swamy]

port of cotton because it has no connection with the yam prices or the cloth prices. If at all you take any decision to export cotton at a later date, please give an early decision as far as Maharashtra is concerned because the money is directly going to the farmers. Thank you.

श्री अनन्तराव दवशकर दब : महाशया, उस हाफ एन आवर डिक्लेशन का उद्भव मेनली 22 फरवरी को जो क्वेश्चन नम्बर एक था या उससे हुआ है। जब वह क्वेश्चन यहाँ हाउस में डिस्कस हो रहा था और उस वक्त जब पूरा जवाब नहीं आया तो उसके लिंक में ही मैं यह सवाल उठा रहा हूँ। मैं मंत्री महोदय से दो-तीन-चार प्वाइंट जानना चाहता हूँ जिनको वे यहाँ क्लैरीफाई करें। एक बात तो मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि उन्होंने कई स्टेप्स जवाब में दिये थे कि हमने वे स्टेप्स उठाये हैं और होर्डिंग न हो पायेगी। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट ने अपने कितने स्टेप्स आज दिन तक उठाये हैं। यह एक बात बतायें। दूसरी बात मैं आपके पास से यह भी जानना चाहता हूँ कि काउन् एड-बाइजरी बोर्ड की जो मीटिंग जनवरी, 1994 में हुई थी उन्होंने यह काउन् प्राइस के लिये जो प्राइस बढ़ा रही है उसके लिये आपको क्या सजेशन दिये? तीसरी बात, जो मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि हमारे पास, आपने वही उसी दिन स्टेटमेंट में कहा है कि गुजरात, हरियाणा, महाराष्ट्र सब यह पर काउन् प्रोडक्शन कम हो गई है। Particularly, may

I know what is the production in Gujarat, during 1992-93; decline in production?

क्या है वह मुझे बता दें। एक बात मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि आपने जवाब में बताया था कि 12.5 मिलियन बेल्ट आफ काउन् फार डोमेस्टिक यूज 1992-93 में हुआ था उसी वजह से उसी ईयर में 17.5 मिलियन की प्रोडक्शन हुई थी। तो हमारे पास तो सरप्लस है तब भी आपने एक्सपोर्ट बन्द कर दिया। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि आपने एक्सपोर्ट बन्द क्यों कर दिया? अब जो

काउन् प्राइस किसानों को मिल नहीं पाती है, आपके पास काउन् प्राइस, परचेज प्राइस क्या है, सपोर्ट प्राइस क्या है और मार्केट प्राइस क्या है, यह भी तय करने के लिये आपके पास कोई बेस नहीं है, तो यह सब मैं आपके पास से जानना चाहता हूँ। एक बात मैं आपसे यह भी जानना चाहता हूँ कि विशेषतया गुजरात में एन.टी.सी. की जो मिलें हैं, वे सब बन्द हो गई हैं। एक मिल तो चार दिन पहले ही बन्द होने जा रही है। राजनगर नाम की मिल है, अभी भावनगर में मिल है, एक राजकोट में है, बीरम गांव में है, अहमदाबाद में एक मिल है और एक मिश्र बन्द होने जा रही है।

आपका एक सवाल था, लेकिन वह सवाल जो भया नहीं है वह भी आप क्लैरीफाई करिये? एक्सपोर्ट बन्द मत करिये। हमारे पास एक्सपोर्ट के लिये काउन् है। आप जो प्राइस किसानों को दे रहे हैं वह कम है। आप किसानों को पूरी प्राइस दीजिये और मैंने जो 3-4 सवाल आपसे उठाये हैं उनका भी जवाब मुझे दे दीजिये।

SHRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH: Madam, it is a very difficult task for the Minister of Textiles to satisfy the different sectors of the textile industry. However, he has been trying to help them.

Now, the decisions which the Ministry of Textiles has taken I am explaining. One is, stopping the export of cotton and allowing import of cotton. I am not able to understand as to how it is going to help the handloom weavers. It is going to help only the mill-owners. You are stopping the export of cotton even when there is surplus cotton in the country to feed the textile mills, to feed the Khadi Commission and also to meet the domestic needs. There is a lot of hoarding somewhere. Hoarding is punishable, according to our Minister. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether any hoarding has

whether any case has been registered, and whether any prosecution has been launched. There is no point in saying that there are hoarders, they are hoarding cotton and, therefore required quantities of cotton are not available to the textile mills. Is there any textile mill which has stopped its production activity due to shortage of cotton? No. I do not find even one mill in the whole country which has slowed down its production activity or has stopped its production activity. On the other hand millions of handloom weavers have slowed down their production activities or have stopped their production activities. So, the action taken to allow the spinning mills to import cotton is directly helping the textile mills because no conditions have been imposed. If at all they are going to import 5 lakh bales of cotton free of customs duty, will they supply the cotton yarn produced out of these 5 lakh bales at a fixed price to handlooms? In 1991-92 the Government announced import of 2 lakh bales on the condition that the yarn produced out of 2 lakh bales shall be made available to the handloom weavers at a price fixed by them, but there is no such condition now. Even the import policy is directly helping the mills. Where is the yarn? Whenever there is an increase in the price yarn, the mills immediately start complaining about increase in cost of cotton, increase in labour charges, increase in higher administrative charges, power cuts, So on and so forth. This is how the mills are mercilessly exploiting the mute millions of handloom weavers. But unfortunately, we are not politically powerful. We have no voice politically. We are weak in all respects. The textile mills lobby is very powerful. That is why they are able to make the Government suspend the export of cotton and allow import for their benefit. In what way are we being benefited? Our Minister says that we have allowed the (import of viscose staple fibre. For what purpose? For blending? The Govern-

ment has already permitted the spinning mills to import viscose staple fibre free of customs duty, free of excise duty. Why? For the benefit of the mills? They want of the viscose staple fibre be imported into the country free of customs and excise duties for blending. Did they impose the condition that the yarn produced out of the viscose staple fibre, blended with cotton will be made available to handloom weavers at a price fixed by the Government? No, it is for the benefit of the mills. The import of viscose staple fibre free of customs duty and excise duty is for the benefit of the textile mills.

Coming to the question, our friend is fighting for cotton alone. He comes from Guntur. He must be knowing about the miserable conditions of the handloom weavers. He wants that yarn may be supplied free of cost. How it is possible I do not understand. No Government can do that. So, let us have some practicable solution. According to the Supreme Court judgement of 17th March the handlooms in the country require 5,610 million kgs. of yarn. For one month the handloom industry, as a whole, requires 467.5 million kgs. of yarn. For this our Minister took interest and convinced the Indian Cotton Mills Federation to supply at least 10 million kgs. of yarn at reduced prices

That is how the price would be reduced by Rs. 8 and it would be Rs. 8 less than the price prevailing in January. There are 600 textile mills. Nobody knows, what was the invoiced rate of these 600 textile mills on January?

Who knows at what price they are going to offer it? Who will verify it? What fits the machinery to verify it? Here is a letter. This is a letter from the National Handloom Development Corporation addressed to the Andhra Pradesh State Handloom Weavers Co-operative Society Ltd., which reads:

"With reference to the supply of yarn under Price M/s Sree Akkam-ma Textiles have informed over phone that they can supply following quantities;

"60s combed—20 bales—Jan Ex-mill rate less Rs. 4.00 per kg."

From the house-top we are saying that the mills have agreed to supply yarn at Rs. 8 less than the invoice rate of January. This is a letter from the National Handloom Development Corporation, of which the Development Commissioner of Handlooms is the Chairman. The Akkamma Mills is run 'oy a big capitalist. He is not an ordinary person. He is a very big capitalist and a popular man. Therefore, he has openly defied what our Minister was saying all the while. He says, "I can supply yarn only at Rs. 4 less than that."

In 1992, the then Minister of Textiles assured on the floor of the House that the SIMA, South India Mill-owner Association would supply at reasonable rates 4,000 bales to the affected handloom weavers in Andhra Pradesh where 165 deaths had occurred due to unemployment and starvation-related diseases, but they supplied only 30 bales. Against 4,000 bales a month, the SIMA supplied 30 bales only and said, "We cannot supply yarn further because the prices of cotton had gone high."

Let an expert committee be appointed. How long will you allow the mills to exploit the millions of handloom weavers in the country? No doubt they are very powerful. Appoint a committee which will examine the price structure of cotton yarn, the rate at which they have purchased cotton, what their conversion charges are and how much they are earning. There is no point. Whenever there is a crisis in the country, the bigmen will take advantage of that and get concessions

from the Government in the name of the poor. Whenever there is a crisis, the big people will get the benefit, but the poor man will never benefit. Why should we talk to the mill-owners to supply yarn at Rs. 8 less? Why a high-powered committee can not be appointed to look into the conversion charges of the mills for yarn and arrive at a particular price?

When Mr. P. L. Sanjiva Reddy was the Secretary, MRTP Commission, I met him. He wanted all the particulars of prices of yarn to be given to him. He wrote to the Minister of Textiles to supply the prices of cotton yarn to him, but the Minister of Textiles was silent over the matter. I have supplied all these statistical data to the MRTP. Mr. P. L. Sanjiva Reddy was the Secretary. He said, 'Your Ministry is not coming forward. You file a petition before me. Engage an advocate and plead your case. Then only I can call for the necessary records from these monopolistic mills and examine your case, how they are exploiting mercilessly the poor handloom weavers because they have no voice anywhere.' Nowhere have they voice. That is how things are going on.

Why not should a dual-pricing system be adopted in this case when the Government is able to procure sugar, when the Government is able to procure paper for its consumption, when the Government is able to procure iron and steel and when the Government is able to procure cement under dual pricing to help the manufacturing concerns the big, big people, the rich people? Why can't the Government adopt a dual pricing system for yarn also? When for months 40 lakh handlooms in the country require 467.5 million kilograms of yarn, what is the good of supplying 10 million kilograms of yarn, particularly for cooperatives and corporations? What about 80 per cent of the people living outside the coopera-

lives? Are they not human beings? Is it not the duty of the Government to help the people who are outside the cooperatives? Are you spending only for the cooperatives and co-operations? You have set apart Rs. 12,000 crores for generation of employment. To whom are you giving it? Is it for members of the cooperatives and corporate bodies? No. You have been selecting the poor man. You are trying to provide employment to him by providing grants and by other ways. You levy a cess on the export of cotton. You levy it on exports of yarn. Our friend has rightly pointed out when we are suffering, when we are dying why the mill owners should export yarn and continue to do that. Last year they exported 166 million kilograms of yarn. That is half the requirement of the handloom. How long will you allow mill-owners to export yarn at the cost of the handloom weavers? Do you want handloom weavers to die because of starvation? You should not do like that. We know you are a labour leader. You are interested in the welfare of the handloom weavers and weaker sections. But the Government official machinery may be near to the textile mill lobby, not the Minister. The officials may be near the powerful mills lobby, but why should the Minister coming from the people for the service of the people, be influenced by the textile mills lobby? Therefore, you kindly consider how the monopolistic trade practices are exploiting the poor handloom weavers. You take the assistance of the MRTP. Yarn is covered in the essential Commodities Act. I have written a dozen letters not only to the Minister but also to Mr. Anthony, who is the Union Minister of Food and Civil Supplies. I have requested him to procure at least 50 per cent of the yarn requirement of the handloom at prices fixed by the Government. The Government is spending Rs. 5,000 crores for subsidising fertilisers. Can't you treat us at par with the agriculturists who are better than the

handloom weavers in all respects. How long have we to suffer? When the Minister like Mr. Venkataswamy is here, handloom weavers should not suffer. Therefore, you kindly be bold and take decision to help the handloom weavers. The National Handloom Development Corporation is run by the Development Commissioner. He is already overburdened with all the Plan schemes and non-Plan schemes extending to the entire country. He is also having administrative control over the Indian Institute of Handloom Textiles and over the Handloom Service Centres, power loom service centres and also over several other institutions. Why can't you change the constitution of the NHDC? You can appoint an experienced non-official person to run it for the benefit of the handloom weavers. You should consider this suggestion. You should also see that yarn is made available to the handloom weavers at the same price at which the mills are getting it for conversion to cloth. That can be done by way of subsidy and by stopping immediately the export of cotton yarn. Thank you (Ends)

SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: Madam, I was listening to the textile Minister today morning also. I was surprised at two things. When he mentioned about the hike in the price of cotton, he created an impression as if some dangerous thing might happen in this country. He should know that in the last ten years farmers were not getting even the remunerative price for their produce. I have been watching it. Only this year, when the price of cotton has gone up they are getting a little benefit. The Ministry of Textiles doesn't hike the farmers even to get that textile benefit. They have succumbed to the pressure of the textile lobby. He must try to study the problems of the farmers. His Ministry should try to know whether the farmer is getting the benefit or not and if so, how much he is getting. When the price of

cotton was less than Rs. 1000 per bale, at that time, nobody said that the farmer was getting a lesser price for his produce. So don't come into the clutches of the textile magnates. They have earned a lot of money. The textile mills are diverting their profits to other industries. They are cheating the Government. Please do not show any sympathy towards them.

The Minister has used another word "hoarding". Today nobody is hoarding cotton. Every variety of cotton is available with the cooperatives. There is no ban on keeping the cotton. So, don't use the word "hoarding". Let the market economy function here also. Why is the farmer not getting a better price for his produce? Why should there be any control? The Cooperative Societies also should get the market price. So don't think only you can hold the stock. Please don't ask the cooperative societies to sell their cotton at a lower price. Why should they sell it at lower price? The textile mills do not oblige the farmers. For God's sake don't say that they should sell their produce at a lower price. He also said that 26 lakh bales of cotton are yet to come to the market. You may say thirty lakh bales of cotton may come to the market. You can ask them to purchase it directly from the cooperative society in Maharashtra or Gujarat or the Cotton Corporation of India. These textile mills can purchase from anywhere. Regarding the import of 5 lakh bales of cotton, they are going to import it without paying any duty. It should not go to any private textile mill. You give it to the NTC mills without producing yarn. You can tell them to provide it at cheaper rates to the handloom weavers and others. But don't deliver it to the private textile mills. The import of cotton should be done only by the Cotton Corporation of India and not by any private body. You should see that it

doesn't go to the private mills. It should go to the mills run by the NTC. Even if you want to import cotton, you can hand over it to the NTC mills and do not allow export of yarn. Why don't you stop export of yarn? The price of cotton will come down automatically and it will benefit the weavers. So instead of doing a right thing, you are doing a wrong thing. You should put a ban on export of yarn. Then the price will come down automatically and it will benefit the weavers. Instead of doing the right thing you are doing the wrong thing. Your officials are advising you like this. Sometimes, you have to use your Own wisdom. Only that will benefit the country. Here, you simply put a 50 per cent cut on the export of yarn and your problem will be solved. Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI-MATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): Mr. Ganesan. Please be very brief. It is already past 6.30.

SHRI MISA R. GANESAN (Tamil Nadu): Madam, in Tamil Nadu, a strange thing is going on. The yarn produced in cooperative mills has to be given only to handloom weavers. But in Tamil Nadu, they are sending it to Bombay and they are selling it there. It is not given to handloom weavers in Tamil Nadu.

AN HON. MEMBER: It is not happening only in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI MISA R. GANESAN: But there is a strange thing happening in Tamil Nadu. They are getting commission. The Government is getting commission. Because of this, handloom weavers are not able to get their basic requirements of hank yarn. I can understand the excess of hank yarn being sent to Bombay. When there is a great need of hank yarn for the handloom weavers in Tamil Nadu to carry on, without fulfilling their requirement, they are sending it to Bombay. This thing is going on.

there New, for the last one month, as there in no supply of hank yarn, handloom weavers are suffering like anything. The price of yarn has gone up four times and the powerloom sector, the powerloom owners, are also not able to run their looms.

More than five lakh employees in Tamil Nadu are suffering because of this problem. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what specific programme he has in the Ministry to solve this problem. Firstly, they have to get yarn. Secondly, they have to get it at a reasonable price. The Minister may clarify these two things.

SHRI MOTURU HANUMANTHA RAO (ANDHRA PRADESH); Madam Vice-Chairman, thank you for giving me this opportunity.

The point is that the hon. Minister has already told us his views. But, as I understand, one section of the people cannot be pitted against another. So far as the Textile Policy is concerned, it seems to be in a big crisis now. In this crisis, the hon. Minister is going hither and thither promising everything, but not able to fulfil anything. He went to Guntur or Ongole and promised the farmers a fair price; he went to Warangal, his own place, where a textile mill is almost on the verge of closing down, the workers of which had represented the case to him, and promised that the mill would be opened and run and that too is not happening.

My senior colleague, hon. Member, Shri Pragada Kotaiah, has presented the plight of handloom weavers in the whole country in general and in Andhra Pradesh in particular. Our colleague, Dr. Sivaji, described how the interests of the farmers are going to suffer. I blame the Government for having pursued an *ad hoc*

policy and for changing its policy from time to time, reacting to either the cotton section or the handloom section. Otherwise, this could not have happened at all. It should not have happened. All these questions must be kept in view. Because of the failure of the policies of the Government, these things are happening. Only the other day, Mr. Balaram and Mr. Ganesan brought to our notice the plight of the powerloom workers. That is also there. All these sections are suffering because proper control has not been exercised over either cloth or yarn. The moment the price of cotton in the market has gone up immediately, the textile lobby has reacted and brought pressure upon the Government. Only the big profiteers are benefited by the liberalisation policy of the Government of India. But if the farmers get a little better price, then immediately the hurdles come and the export policy is subjected to all sorts of vagaries. The Government of India did not have any control over the big profiteers. The Minister promised to allow export and when the prices had gone up, he immediately responded to the cause of the textile lobby and curtailed the export. He not only stopped export, but also promised to import cotton. So, he is importing cotton now. The question is that the handloom workers have been at the bottom of this and they have been suffering. So many, starvation deaths were reported two years back. Similarly, the cotton growers are also at the lowest rung of the ladder. So many cotton growers had committed suicide in one district, that is, Prakasam alone. That also we have witnessed. All these people are suffering because the Government of India has not made it a policy to protect the interests of these people. The Government has been taking only *ad hoc* decisions and has been gambling with the import and export policy. That has resulted in this havoc. That is why I am interested in all sections of the society. I am interested in the textile mills because of the tex-

tile mills are in doldrums, the workers cannot be saved. If the NTC mills are in a big crisis, the workers cannot be protected. All these things are taking place and I put the same squarely on the square of the Government of India because they have not reacted properly. They have not adopted an integrated policy which would be helpful to all sections and they are subjected to the vicissitudes and vagaries of marketing. Demand and supply have come into play. There is no planning and there is no control. The Government gives up all the responsibility of saving the people. They have liberalised everything and the liberalised policy brings profits only to the big firms and not to the common people, the textile workers, the handloom workers, the powerloom workers as well as the farmers. This year the farmers have got some fair price. Why do you want to control it? The moment you bring in (imports, it may cut down the price of cotton and the fate of the cotton growers would be the same as it was in 1992. This policy is responsible for the sufferings of our people. So, I urge upon the Government to take remedial measures to solve the textile crisis and see that everybody's interest is protected, particularly the interests of the handloom weavers and the powerloom workers. You cannot expect other sections to grow at the expense of the farmers. If they produce more, they must suffer because they have produced more. If they have produced less, they must suffer because they have not produced enough. This why, things cannot go on and they should not be allowed to drift like that. I urge upon the Government to take a serious view of the whole thing and adopt an integrated policy in order to see that the textile crisis is avoided, is solved (ends)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): Shri K. K. Veerappan. Only one minute.

SHRI K. K. VEERAPPAN (TAMIL NADU): Madam, the Minister in his speech has said that by way of national production and a small quantity of imports, the total availability of cotton was 168 lakh bales. The domestic need is only 124 lakh bales. So we are having a surplus as per the statement. Then why is there a steep rise in the price of cotton and yarn? The Minister has said, because of crop failure in some foreign countries cotton price has gone up. The Minister has also said that we are in surplus. Then what is the reason behind this price-rise? Taking advantage of the price-rise in the international market, our mill owners have suddenly and arbitrarily raised the price of yarn and increased the load on the handloom and powerloom weavers. The Central Government has not taken any effective steps to control the steep rise in the price of yarn. The Minister has also stated in his speech that by taking various measures he has curtailed the export of 5 lakh bales of cotton and he has also requested the State Governments to take necessary steps to control the price of yarn. But the Tamil Nadu Government has not taken any steps to control the price. Instead, in Tamil Nadu the cooperative mills are allowed to sell yarn to Bombay mills. Madam, in Tamil Nadu, particularly in the districts of Salem, Dharmapuri, Periyar and in part of Trichy district, more than five lakh persons are employed in this sector. Because of the rise in the price of yarn, there is a strike going on for nearly one month. These people do not know any other work except weaving. Because of the strike by the powerloom owners, the families of the weavers have suffered a lot. From 1953 onwards, our DMK Party is fighting for the cause and welfare of the handloom weavers. So, I request the Central Government to take necessary and effective steps to control the prices of cotton and yarn used by the handloom and powerloom weavers and save the

lives of millions and millions of weavers .
Thank you.

श्री जी० बेंकटस्वामी : मैडम वाइस-चेयरमैन , आनरेबल मेंबर डा. शिवाजी को काटन का बहुत ज्यादा अनुभव है और वे जानते हैं कि काटन प्राइस बहुत ज्यादा हो गयी है। वे यह भी जानते हैं कि लास्ट इयर हमने बहुत अच्छा काम किया और सी.सी.आई. से परचेज कराके किसानों को काटन के प्राइस के काफी अच्छे रेट दिलाये और आनरेबल मेंबर ने इसके लिये मुझे कांफ्रेचुलेंट किया है। यही नहीं बल्कि जब मैं गुटूर गया तो सारे किसान बड़ी खुशी की लहरों के दौर में थे और उन्होंने मेरे गले पर बड़े बड़े हार डाले कि यहां किसानों को उनके काटन का अच्छा प्राइस मिला है। मैडम, लास्ट इयर से अब तक, मैंने फिगर दी कि सगोटे प्राइस 11 से 15 परसेंट तक इंक्रीज की है। इसके बाद भी यह हाई हाई क्यों फारमर्स में है, यह बात समझ में नहीं आ रही है। मैडम, हम जानते हैं कि फारमर्स को कोई नुकसान न हो और हम इसका ध्यान टेक्स्टाइल मिनिस्ट्री में रखते हैं कि फारमर्स को अच्छा रेट मिले और जो कपड़ा पहनने वाले गरीब लोग हैं, नीचे की आय के लोग हैं उनके लिये कपड़े का रेट न बढ़े।

सेक्रेट व्वाइंट, जो इस देश के लिये कपड़ा तैयार करता है... (व्यवधान)...

SHRI MOTURU HANUMANTHA
RAO: You are not able to control the price of cotton.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): You please continue. You ignore the interruptions,

श्री जी० बेंकटस्वामी : यह हमेशा मिल आनर के बारे में कहते हैं। आन-आनरेबल मेंबर प्रागदा कोटैया साहब, डा० जिवकर साहब ने मिल आनर का कहा, अरे, वह फायदा कतना करते हैं। सिवाय हक यार्न तैयार करने के हमारे पास कोई रास्ता नहीं है। आप जानते हैं, पावरलूम में ही महाराष्ट्र में 70 लाख लोग हैं, मिलें बन्द हो गई हैं,

कपा करना चाहिये, यह आप ही बताइए, इनकीज आप काटन रेट की वजह से ट्रैक हैक यार्न का रेट 12 रुपये प्रति किलोग्राम हो गया। अब अगर 12 रुपये प्रति किलो ग्राम रेट बढ़ता है, तो बीवर को क्या करना चाहिये, आप बताइये। इससे मिल आनर का क्या ताल्लुक है। कास्ट आफ मैटेरियल जब बढ़ता है, तो नेचुरली यार्न का हैक यार्न का रेट बढ़ता है। जब यह रेट बढ़ता है तो क्लाय का रेट भी बढ़ता है। क्लाय इस देश के 90 करोड़ लोगों को मल्लाई करना है, उनका भी खयाल करना है, जिसमें फारमर भी शामिल हैं। फारमर को भी कपड़ा खरीदना पड़ता है। इसको आप अलग नहीं कर सकते हैं। इसलिये हमने यह कोशिश की यह बुनियादी बात है कि पिछले साल हमारे पास कपास अच्छा हुआ। 135 लाख बेल का काप हुआ। देश की आजादी के बाद इतना बड़ा एक्सपोर्ट कभी नहीं हुआ। हमारे आनरेबल डा० शिवाजी भी जानते हैं कि लगभग 18 लाख बेल का हमने एक्सपोर्ट किया है। इस बार एक्सपोर्ट के लिये एक्सपोर्ट, फारमर के लिये मैं चेलेंज के साथ कहना चाहता हूं कि होर्डर्ज के पास, ट्रेडर्स के पास, ट्रेडर्स के पास और कोऑपरेटिव फेडरेशंस के पास स्टॉकट्स हैं। जब तक यह बाहर नहीं निकलेगा, रेट नहीं गिरेगा, रेट नहीं गिरेगा। हैडलूम बीवर्ज की 1991 की मिसाल हमारे सामने है, जो स्टारविंग डेव्स हुई थी, आपको यह उसकी याद दिलाता है। मैं आपको साफ साफ यह कहना चाहता हूं कि गवर्नमेंट का यह उद्देश्य कभी नहीं रहा है कि फारमर्स को कोई नुकसान पहुंचे। फारमर्स को अच्छे से अच्छा रेट मिले, यह टेक्स्टाइल मिनिस्ट्री की पालिसी है और आइन्दा भी रहेगी। अगर साथ ही साथ हमने यह भी देखा कि जब 12 रुपये प्रति किलो ग्राम बढ़े हुए रेट पर बीवर नहीं खरीद सकता, तो मैंने सारी एसोसियेशंस को बुलाया। जैसे हमारे आनरेबल मेंबर डा० साहब, पटेल साहब, डा० शिवाजी साहब और श्री हनुमन्त राव जी ने सजेशन दिया कि मिल आनर्स को यार्न एक्सपोर्ट करने से रोकना चाहिये। आप समझते

हैं हमारे पास यह हथियार है, जब चाहे हम इसका इस्तेमाल कर सकते हैं। एक तो काटन के बारे में हमने पांच लाख वैन पहले से दिया है। यह तो आनरेबल मेंबरज को मालूम भी नहीं था। यह इसलिये दिया ताकि किसान को डायरेक्ट फायदा पहुंचे। सितम्बर में काटन एक्सपोर्ट के लिये हमने पांच लाख वैन का आदेश दिया। जब आपूर्ति आई तो दूसरे देशों ने वैन किया है। मैडम, पाकिस्तान, चीन और दूसरे देशों में एक बीमारी आई, जिसके बारे में मैंने अपनी रिपोर्ट में भी आपको बताया है उसकी वजह से 20 से 21 हजार कैंडी पाकिस्तान में बिक रहा है। अमृतसर उस के कंपीटिशन में जा रहा है। गवर्नमेंट को क्या करना चाहिए आनरेबल मेंबर श्री हनुमंत राव जी से मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ। क्या उसका फायदा सही मायने में फारमर्ज को जा रहा है यह मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ? यह होर्डर्ज और ट्रेडर्ज इससे फायदा उठाना चाहते हैं। मैं यह उम्मीद करता हूँ कि आनरेबल मेंबरज इसमें डीपली जायें और डीपली जाकर सोचिये कि सही मायने में हमारे देश में जो पैदा हो रहा है, उसका फायदा कौन उठा रहा है? क्या फारमर्ज उठा रहे हैं? (व्यवधान)

श्री विठ्ठलभाई मोतीराम पटेल : वह फारमर्ज को आपरेटिव है, ट्रेडर नहीं है।

श्री जी० वेंकटस्वामी : मुझे मालूम है। यह कोआपरेटिव फैंडरेशन ही मोनोपली एक साल का लेकर इस साल में कितना कमाया है और फारमर्ज को कितना गया है। आप इसका पब्लिक आडिट कराइये। हजारों करोड़ रुपये की कोआपरेटिव सोसाइटी हैं। एक इंस्पेक्टर जिसकी तनखाह दो हजार भी नहीं होती। उसको साइड करके आप पब्लिक चार्टर्ड एकाउंटेंट्स को बुलाकर कराइये। फिर मेरे सामने बात कीजिये कि कितने पैसे का फायदा हुआ, कितने सौ करोड़ का फायदा हुआ, कितने सौ करोड़ का फायदा फारमर्स को पहुंचा है। ओपेनली पार्लियामेंट के अन्दर रखिये, मैं मान लेता हूँ।

एक साननीय सदस्य : आप रखिये।

श्री जी० वेंकटस्वामी : मैंने यह बात भी कही थी और आज भी करता हूँ कि जैसे हजारों करोड़ का व्यापार होता है तो देश के सामने उसका पब्लिक आडिट भी

होना चाहिये। एक, हजार, दो हजार लेने वाला इंस्पेक्टर आडिट कर देता है और देश उस पर यकीन कर ले, मैं नहीं मानता हूँ। फिर देश की चार्टर्ड एकाउंटेंसी क्या कर रही है। ऐसे हजारों करोड़ का जो व्यापार होता है उसका सही मायनों में आडिट होना चाहिये। देश को सही स्वरूप बताना चाहिये। यही मैंने कहा और आज भी कहता हूँ..... (व्यवधान)

डा० श्रीकांत रामचन्द्र जिवकर : सी.ए. जी. का आडिट उसके ऊपर आप कराइये।

श्री जी० वेंकटस्वामी : मैंने सजेशन दिया। अगर कानून इजाजत दे तो वह भी हम करेंगे... (व्यवधान) मेरे को अधिकार है या नहीं है, मुझे नहीं मालूम। अगर मेरे को अधिकार है तो जरूर कराऊंगा। गवर्नमेंट आफ इंडिया को अगर इसका अधिकार है तो मैं जरूर आनरेबल मेंबर की बात को सुन लूंगा। मगर प्राइस राज जो हो रहा था उसको ओपेनली कोआपरेटिव के नाम पर नहीं होना चाहिये। ट्रेडर करता है तो मैं उसके ऊपर एक्शन ले सकता हूँ। कोआपरेटिव फैंडरेशन के ऊपर एक्शन कैसे लें, आनरेबल मेंबर मुझे रास्ता बतायें। मैं वह भी कम नहीं करूंगा। देश के अंदर कपड़े का दाम ऊंचा न हो लेकिन आज... (व्यवधान) जा रहा है। खरीद सकता है? वह किसान खरीद सकता है, मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ, जिसको आप और हम रिप्रेजेंट कर रहे हैं, एक बात।

दूसरी बात, पांच करोड़ वीवर्स इस देश में हैं। बिलो पावर्टी लाइन के नीचे है 40 परसेंट पापूलेशन। वह कहां से खरीदेगी। मैडम, आबिद हुसैन कमेटी की रिपोर्ट है, और इनकी मन्थली इन्कम तीन सौ रुपये है, जहां कि बिलो पावर्टी लाइन 11 सौ रुपये है। उनके लिये हम यह कोशिश कर रहे हैं यह चेंलेंज कर रहे हैं कि फारमर्स को बराबर ज्यादा मिले। मगर ये तड़प तड़प कर नामरें। जो वीवर्स हमारा देश का कपड़ा बुनता है उसकी रखवाली गवर्नमेंट आफ इंडिया और स्टेट गवर्नमेंट की रिस्पॉबिलिटी है। उसके लिये हम कोशिश कर रहे हैं।

अन्त में हम यह कहना चाहते हैं कि हमने जो भी एक्शन लिया है-पांच लाख

बेल को जब एक्सपोर्ट करने के लिये दिया देश के अन्दर प्राइस राइज इंकोज हो रहा था पाकिस्तान बैन कर दिया चाइजा बैन कर दिया एक्सपोर्ट तो हमने बैन नहीं किया टेम्पोरेरली प्राइस को कंट्रोल करने के लिये यह हमने सस्पेंड किया है। यह मैंने आनरेबल मेंबर को मुबह भी कहा और अब भी कह रहा हूँ। हमारा मकसद यह नहीं है कि हमेशा ट्रेडर्स को इसका फायदा जाय। अभी आप कह रहे थे कि कोआपरेटिव फेडरेशन ने आलरेडी आर्डर किया है... (व्यवधान) वह फायदा लेने के लिए लिया है। अगर प्राइज राइज को कम करने के लिये आप प्राइस गिराइये फिर ले जाइये। हम को क्या करना है। आपका कमिटमेंट पूरा कीजिये। पर जरा ओपेन करते वक्त कोआपरेटिव फेडरेशन को ट्रेडर्स से पहले कम करना चाहिये इंटररेस्ट आफ कंट्री और इंटररेस्ट आफ द फार्मर्स... (व्यवधान)

मैडम मैं यह बताना चाह रहा था कि इधर फार्मर्स को ठीक तरह से प्राइस मिले और दूसरी तरफ देश के अन्दर कपड़े का रेट इंकोज न हो इसका बैलेंस हो। जो बीवर्स हैं जो गरीब हैं मिनिमम वेज भी जिनको मिलता नहीं है महीने में तीन सौ रुपया कमाकर क्या वह फैमिली जी सकती है मुझे लोग हमारे पास हमारे देश में पांच कराड़ हैं और आखिर हमें उनका भी ईसाफ करना चाहिये उनको भी देखना चाहिये। तो हमने मिल ओनर्स को यह धमकी दी कि तुमको यार्न एक्सपोर्ट नहीं करने देंगे आप अगर गरीब बीवर्स के लिये मदद को नहीं आयेगे इस मुसीबत में और उनसे कहा कि आज 12 रुपये से 13 रुपये पर के.जी. इजाफा देकर भी यह जी नहीं सकता है तुम क्या दे सकते हो तो 8 रुपये पर के.जी. मिल ओनर्स से देने का तसकरा हुआ। अगर वे नहीं दे पायेगे तो मैं हाउस को वाईस चेयरमैन की तरफ से यकीन दिलाना चाहता हूँ कि यार्न को हमें बन्द करना पड़ेगा एक्सपोर्ट के लिये ताकि हूँकयार्न पूरी तरह से एकाडिंग टू सुप्रीम कोर्ट डिजिजन प्रोडक्शन के बाद... (व्यवधान)

SHRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH: Is it not possible to suspend the export of yarn?

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY: You just now -Jvanted to stop yarn export That is why I am mentioning this.

अगर वह अपने कमिटमेंट को पूरा नहीं करे। मैडम, मैं हाउस को यकीन दिलाता हूँ, हमारा इंटररेस्ट यहां के क्लॉथ रेट जो है, न बढ़े, गरीबों पर उसका भार न पड़े और बीवर्स के ऊपर कोई पैसा भार न पड़े, जो बीवर्स जिन्दा न रह सकें। इसलिये मैं आनरेबल मेंबर खास तौर पर हमारे शिवाजी, जो मेंबर आफ पार्लियामेंट हैं, उनको मैं याद दिलाना चाहता हूँ, आज भी मूटर् लास्ट ईयर से ज्यादा पर क्विटल 600 से ज्यादा हासिल कर रहे हैं, तो मैं उनको यकीन दिलाऊंगा कि मैं वहां के फार्मर्स को, वे फार्मर्स खुद आकर बोल रहे हैं, फार्मर्स खुद आकर सुना रहे हैं कि हमको अच्छा रेट मिल रहा है।

SHRI MISA R. GANESAN: We are not against the farmers. What are you going to do for the weavers?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JA'SANTHI NATARAJAN): Mr. Minister, please continue.

SHRI C. VENKAT SWAMY: Listen to the translation. I am mentioning the same thing.

तो मैं आपसे यह बताना चाह रहा था कि इस वक्त देश के अन्दर हम कंट्रोल करने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं, जो दूसरे देशों से हमारे इस एक्शन से कि हमने रिजर्व बैंक आफ इंडिया को भी लिख दिया कि होर्ड्स को आप लोन मत दीजिए। इमोडिएटली सारे चीफ मिनिस्टर्स को मैंने लिखा कि यह जो होडिंग करके प्राइस राइज हो रहा है, उसको कंट्रोल कीजिए।... (व्यवधान)

श्री विठ्ठलराव मोतीराम पटेल :होडिंग होर्डर कैसे करता है... (व्यवधान)...

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY: You are thinking about Maharashtra only.

MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: He is from Gujarat, Sir.

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY: What I am saying is this.

आपके पास तो कुछ है नहीं, मोनो-पली सिस्टम तो नहीं है, फिर क्यों आप बोल रहे हैं।

श्री बिठ्ठलराव मोतीराम पटेल :
कोआपरेटिव है... (व्यवधान)।

श्री जी. वेंकटस्वामी : हां-हां, वह कोआपरेटिव का मत बोलिए, मैं भी बोल सकता हूँ, बहुत कुछ है। अब ये सारी बातें मैं इसीलिए भी नहीं बोलना चाह रहा हूँ कि इस देश की कोआपरेटिव मूवमेंट को धक्का न लगे। मैं ज़बान बन्द करके बैठा हूँ। आप मत खुलवाइए।... (व्यवधान)

श्री बिठ्ठलराव मोतीराम पटेल :
आप खोलो... (व्यवधान)

श्री जी० वेंकटस्वामी : वक्त आने पर छोड़ूंगा नहीं, बोलकर रहूंगा।... (व्यवधान)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): Have you finish-ad, Mr. Minister?

DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: How about his colleague in the Council of Ministers who is hoarding five lakh bales?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): He has answered that part.

DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: That part he did not answer.

THE VICECHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN):

He has answered all the points raised.

DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: His colleague in the Council of Ministers is hoarding in Punjab and Rajasthan.

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY-, If my colleague-3 has done anything, you please give me in writing. I will ask my colleague first and then I will come to you.

मैडम, लास्टली आई बिज एगोर द हाउस कि मैं, हमारी गवर्नमेंट ऑफ इण्डिया और खास तौर से हमारे प्राइम मिनिस्टर वीवर्स के बारे में, फार्मर्स के बारे में सारे हमारे इस्टिमेशन्स देते रहते हैं और एडवाइस लेता रहता हूँ और उनको इन्फार्मेशन लाकर मैं ये सारी चीजें करता हूँ और यहाँ के आनरेबल मੈम्बर्स से भी मैं कन्सल्ट करता हूँ। शिवाजी से ज्यादा करता हूँ क्योंकि वह काटन ग्रीन्स प्लेस से आते हैं। वही नहीं, बल्कि जो लास्ट ईयर मर गए हैं, स्ट्राइक डेब हुए वीवर्स के वे प्रायदा कोटैया के गांव से, इनके गांव से आते हैं, मैं उनको याद दिलाना चाहता हूँ, न फार्मर भरे, न वीवर भरे, देश के अन्दर गरीब को सस्ता कपड़ा मिले, इस के लिये ये सब एक्शंस जो मैंने पढ़ कर सुनाए हैं, आनरेबल मੈम्बर्स उनसे सैटिस्फाई होंगे। अगर कोई नई बात होगी तो जरूर मैं आपके जरिए से आनरेबल मੈम्बर्स को बताऊंगा।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): The House now stands adjourned till 11 O'clock tomorrow.

The House then adjourned at nine minutes past seven of the clock till eleven of the clock on Wednesday, the 9th March 1994.