

I don't give.

श्री संघ प्रिय गौतम : ठीक है, मैं नहीं बोलूंगा, लेकिन मेरी एक शिकायत दर्ज कर लीजिए ।

मैडम, आप जीरो ऑवर में एक मੈम्बर को तीन साल से काँस्टेंटली दस मिनट उसमें और स्पेशल मेंशन में देती हैं ।

I want to make some relevant points, particularly in regard to the down-trodden community of this country has been completely neglected.

इसलिए मैं रिकवेस्ट करूंगा आपसे ।

उप सभापति : गौतम जी, बैठिए । देखिए सवाल यह है कि मेरे अंदर तो बहुत सहन-शक्ति है, इसलिए आप मेरे ऊपर इल्जाम भी लगाते हैं—गलत या असत्य, तो भी मैं चुप हो जाती हूँ कोई दूसरा होगा तो वह यकीनन इस चीज पर आब्जेक्शन करेगा । मैं न किसी को जीरो ऑवर देती हूँ, न स्पेशल मेंशन देती हूँ । चेयरमैन साहब सबको देते हैं, जिसको देते हैं मैं उसे अलाऊ करती हूँ । . . . (व्यवधान) . . . एक मिनट चुप रहिए, खामोश हो जाइए । आप रिकार्ड गलत मत करिए । मैंने किसी को जीरो ऑवर नहीं दिया, मैंने किसी को स्पेशल मेंशन नहीं दिया, जो लिस्ट चेयरमैन साहब ने दी है, उसके बाहर मैंने अलाऊ नहीं किया है । अगर कोई मੈम्बर चुप नहीं हो रहा है तो मैं उसके मुँह में जाकर कार्ड नहीं लगा सकती हूँ, मैं रिकवेस्ट कर सकती हूँ जैसे कर रही हूँ ।

श्री संघ प्रिय गौतम : आपने श्रीमती वीणा वर्मा को 12 मिनट दिए आज ही जीरो ऑवर में . . . (व्यवधान) . . .

उप सभापति : मैंने कितनी दफा घंटी बजाई है ?

श्री संघ प्रिय गौतम : और आपने उन्हें रोका नहीं ।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: So, please behave properly in the House and next time, don't behave like this in the House. I warn you. (Inter-ruptions) There is a limit to your talking like this in the House I don't get angry. I take everything on me. Somebody else mistake I take on me. It should not behave like this. There is a limit to behaving with the Chair. I am not going to listen to it Mr. Md. Salim, please take over the charge.

[The Vce-Chairman (Shri Md. Salim) in the Chair].

Resolution Ret. Unprecedented rise in the Prices of Essential Commodities as a result of hike in Administered price—(contd.)

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (Pondicherry): Madam Deputy Chairman, thank you for giving me this opportunity to resume the discussion on the price situation prevailing in the country. The charges that have been levelled by the other side, especially the mover of this Resolution, Shri Mathur Ji, were that this Government has ruined the economy of this country. He was quoting various facts and figures for the last two years and stating that this Government has ruined the economy. The prices have gone sky-high and therefore, the common man is suffering. I also gave facts and figures and explained why the Government has forced to increase the prices of the administered items. It is the primary duty of the Government to see that the price situation is stabilised. There is a market force. If the Government allows the market forces to prevail and leave it to the market forces to decide the prices then hoarding and blackmarketing will be there. There will be no price control. Therefore, the Government takes the responsibility of controlling the price situation by supplying grains when

there is a heavy demand. And when the situation changes, when the prices start falling and more items of food are given to various States, they are retained by the Governments. Sir, the hon. Members were saying that this Government had increased the prices before the presentation of the Budget. Sir, I would very categorically mention that in the past also the prices of essential commodities were increased by the respective Governments—whether it was the Congress Government or the Janata Dal Government, supported by the BJP and the Communists. Whichever Government was there, it increased the prices of commodities, but only after the presentation of the Budget. This year, it is done a little earlier than the Budget Session and this has been done with a conscientious decision taken by the Government to see that subsidies are not continued eternally. Subsidies have to be given. But while giving subsidies, the Government has to keep a balance. As I mentioned earlier, the farmers want more prices for their produce, the Government servants want more salaries for their work, the farmers also want fertiliser subsidy and they also want all the benefits from the Government—electricity subsidy, seed subsidy and so on and so forth. When it goes to the market, all these things are added. Not only that; this subsidy of Rs. 6,000 crores that has been given by the Government for foodgrains is also added to that. And in spite of all this, the price situation could not be stabilised. Then, the Government has also brought about a real pricing system through fair-price shops. The hon. Minister was telling the House yesterday that more than 11,000 fair-price shops had been opened in the country in 2,300 blocks for making the supply of foodgrains available to the common man at reasonable prices. There is no appreciation from the other side when we say that the price situation has been stabilised by this Government in the

last two years and today if we go to a fair-price shop, we do not see any crowd there. The people are easily getting foodgrains in the market and also at the fair-price shops. In some States a situation has arisen when there are no buyers of foodgrains, but in some States the people are not getting regular supply of foodgrains at fair-price shops. They go to the market and purchase foodgrains. Sir, the prices have increased, whether it is rice or it is wheat or it is an item relating to petroleum products. It has been done on the conscious decision taken by the Government to see that the subsidies are kept at a low level. But one has to see for how long the Government can continue this system of giving subsidies. After some time, it will become counter-productive. Whenever the Government starts giving subsidies, the farmers do not show any interest in working in the fields and increasing more production because they know that they are getting all the facilities from the Government and they will not be able to get more price for their produce. So, the farmers are not at a loss but it is only the Government which is at a loss. It is only the public money that is being rolled back as a subsidy to be given to farmers in various forms. Therefore, the Government has taken a decision to increase the prices of these items. It has been openly done. Not only that, in the last two years the price situation has stabilised. It is a great achievement of this Government. Whenever the Government finds a deficit in the oil pool account, it has to compensate that. For compensating that, it has to mop up more than Rs. 2,300 crores. They have increased the prices of petroleum products like diesel and petrol to compensate that amount.

There is a marginal increase in the prices of wheat, sugar and rice. But the common man finds it within its reach. For the purpose of criticis-

ing the ruling party, the opposition parties are raising these issues. They have forgotten the achievements of this Government the price front, on the economic front and on the import and export front. I would request, let us not politicise this issue. Let us see the reality. On the one side, the Government has to purchase bumper crop from the farmers at a reasonable price and, on the other hand, the Government has to distribute it to the consumers. The Government has to do both the jobs.

As far as the Food Corporation of India is concerned—though this Department belongs to some other Minister—there is a lot of wastage of foodgrain. According to an estimate, about 23 per cent of the foodgrains have been damaged. So, the Government is losing 23 per cent of the foodgrain by way of damages. It has happened because of the defective storage system. I would request the Minister to take care of the storage facility. Then a lot of complaints are coming about the poor quality of foodgrains. The hon. Minister knows about it. I want a dynamic Minister who takes keen interest in the Public Distribution System and strengthens consumer interests and voluntary consumer organisation in this country. The Minister should take care of it. When we compare rice and wheat which is sold in the open market with the rice and wheat which is sold by the fair price shops, we find that the quality of rice and wheat sold by the fair price shops is not up to the mark. It is because of the defective system. I am not blaming the Minister. It is the officials who have to take care of it. It is a general complaint from the people. The hon. Minister is fully aware of it. Sometimes people don't get their supplies from the fair price shops. The quality of certain items is poor. The hon. Minister has to take care of it.

Sir, I am glad to see that the tribal population has been very well taken care of. I think there is a marginal increase in the prices of rice and wheat in hilly regions. There is an increase of only Rs. 500 per quintal. As I told earlier there is a marginal increase in the prices of wheat, sugar, rice and certain other items. It has been noticed that the sugar sold by the Kendriya Bhandar and the Super Bazar is price a little higher. The price of sugar sold in the Kendriya Bhandar and the Super Bazar is Rs. 14.50, while the price of sugar sold in the open market is Rs. 14. The Kendriya Bhandar and the Super Bazar are Government controlled shops. Why is it that in the Government controlled shops sugar is being sold at a higher price? There is a defect in the system. It is surprising that in the Government-controlled shops, sugar is being sold at a higher price while in the open market it is available at a much cheaper rate. What is the rationale behind this? You cannot resort to increasing the prices for the purpose of mopping up funds. You have to strengthen the monitoring system. You should take care that there is no further increase in the prices of sugar, wheat and other items, whether they are sold in the open market or through the public distribution system. In the case of some items, there is an artificial increase because of the middlemen and the businessmen. That should also be taken care of. The price situation needs to be stabilised. The public sector units also play a vital role in controlling the prices. The prices of steel, coal and other items are controlled by the Government. The prices in the case of steel, coal and other items are fixed by the Government after taking into account the cost factor, the profit margin and the social objective. In spite of the increase in the prices of essential items, I found that the public did not even raise a murmur. This is so because it has been done after 2 years... (*Interruptions*)...

**SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MAL-
VIA** (Uttar Pradesh): Have you
visited Chandī Chowk?

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: I
have visited all the palaces in Delhi.
You are trying to tell me about the
businessmen who are protected by
the BJP. These businessmen from this
area are minting money and every-
body knows to which party these peo-
ple belong. It has become a fashion
with the businessmen to support the
BJP so as to get protection. This
needs to be removed. In a free eco-
nomy, the common man stands to gain.
I would like to tell the Minister
that he should not get compelled by
political considerations. People may
belong to any party, whether the BJP
or any other party, strict action should
be taken against them if they do
anything wrong. Hoarders and black-
marketers who suck the blood of the
common man should be punished.
They should not be spared. Con-
sumerism is being encouraged in the
country. The Government is trying to
bring down the prices. I would request
the Minister that he should have a
monitoring system so that foodgrains
are available to the people at reason-
able prices. Areas where there is scar-
city should be taken care of. The price
situation has been stabilised consid-
erably. There has been only a margi-
nal increase in the prices. This mar-
ginal increase is not going to affect
the people adversely. It is only the
politicians and political parties which
are trying to make an issue of it so
as to tarnish the image of the Congress
party and the Government. I con-
clude by saying that I oppose the re-
solution moved by them. Member
Shri Jagdish Prasad Mathur.

**THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD.
SALIM)**: Shri Naunihal Singh. Not
here. Shri Sarada Mohanty.

***SARADA MOHANTY (ORISSA)**:

Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I rise to
support the Resolution moved by my

**English Translation of Original
Speech delivered in Oriya.*

esteemed friend Shri J. P. Mathur
in this august House. Majority peo-
ple in our country are living below
poverty line. They get neither pro-
per food nor cloth to maintain their
livelihood. They suffer, both during
summer and winter due to lack of
proper clothing.

Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, the
foremost reason of poverty in our
country is the sky-rocketing prices
of different essential goods. The
financial condition of the poorer sec-
tions of our society is so bad that
they cannot even afford to purchase
medicine. Medicine too has become
very costly. It is unfortunate that
some times life-saving medicines are
not available in the government hos-
pitals. Many a time it is found that
the medicines of the government
hospitals are being smuggled out to
open market by the hospital staff.
Steps should be taken by the gov-
ernment to check this smuggling.

Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, the price
rise of essential commodities has
affected the farmers' daily wage ear-
ners and labourers very badly. They
are seriously affected particularly due
to the hike in the prices of paddy,
rice, wheat and sugar. They now con-
sider vegetables, fish and meat as
luxury items. But it is really unfor-
tunate that the prices of salt and
onion have increased. It is worth-
while to observe that the buying
capacity of the people has not in-
creased with the increase in the prices
of essential goods.

The central government has been
speaking in high-sounding words
about its commitment to protect the
interest of the poorest section of our
society by subsidising the prices of
different essential commodities. But
unfortunately the reality of the situa-
tion is totally different.

Sir, this fact must be borne in mind
that we are not producing all the
essential commodities at all places
of the country. We need to transport

various commodities from one place to the other. But when the prices of petrol and diesel are increased by the government, consequently it will have its adverse effect on the prices of different commodities which are transported to far-flung areas of the country. No government machinery can check this price-rise. The traders and businessmen will never lose. But unfortunately the whole burden will fall on the poor consumers. The pricing of different commodities are so much interlinked that if the price of one commodity increases it will have its adverse effect on others. It is unfortunate that the government has hiked the prices of all the essential goods in the pre-budget exercise.

Finally, I urge upon the government to protect the interest of the poor from this sky-rocketing price-rise by contemplating to contain it through a central legislation.

Thank you.

श्रीमती सरला माहेश्वरी (पश्चिमी बंगाल) : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, आज तक एक बार फिर हम रोजमर्रा की जरूरत की चीजों के बढ़ते हुए दामों पर चर्चा कर रहे हैं। यह विषय एक ऐसा विषय है जो मनुष्य औपचारिक विषय नहीं है बल्कि यह हमारे समाज का वह कटु यथार्थ है, वह कटु सच्चाई है जिससे हम आँखें नहीं चुरा सकते। हालांकि यह प्रस्ताव एक नीतिगत सदस्य का प्रस्ताव है और एक ऐसी पार्टी की ओर से आया है यानी भारतीय जनता पार्टी की ओर से जो पार्टी अक्सर यह कहते हुए पाई ती है कि कांग्रेस ने हमारी नीतियों के हाईजेक कर लिया। यानी कांग्रेस की नीतियों के साथ महंगाई का अन्विचार्य संबंध है और उसी कांग्रेस पार्टी की नीतियों के साथ भारतीय जनता पार्टी अपने आपको जोड़ती है बहरहाल उसके बादजूद मैं माथुर साहब को धन्यवाद देना चाहूंगा कि उन्होंने उन मौजू विषय को उठाया और सदन में चर्चा के लिए रखा। (व्यवधान)

2.00 p.m.

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, जहां तक कांग्रेस का सवाल है, आजादी के बाद विकास का जो

रास्ता कांग्रेस ने अख्तियार किया, उस रास्ते पर चलते हुए महंगाई से हम आज तक मुक्त नहीं हो पाये। विकास और महंगाई के बीच का उनका नाता, विकास और महंगाई का रिश्ता जो कांग्रेस पार्टी के साथ है वह रिश्ता शायद पति और पत्नी का वह पवित्र रिश्ता है जिसमें कभी दरार नहीं आनी चाहिये। अगर दरार आ जाता है तो वह विकृति समझी जाती। इसलिये कांग्रेस पार्टी और महंगाई का चोली-दामन का साथ है। मैं जिस बात को रेखांकित करना चाहूंगा वह यह है कि हमारे देश की राजनीति और परम्परायें ऐसी रही हैं कि जिस पार्टी की नीतियों से महंगाई बढ़ती है, गरीबी बढ़ती है, वही पार्टी महंगाई हटाने, गरीबी हटाने का दावा भी करती है। हमारी राजनीति की यह विडम्बना है। शायद भारतीय जनता पार्टी के माथुर जी को भी यह विडम्बना रही है और शायद इसी विडम्बना के चलते, इस मजबूरी को समझते हुए उन्होंने इस प्रस्ताव को हमारे सामने रखा। उससभाध्यक्ष महोदय, जहां तक महंगाई का सवाल है, महंगाई के विषय में अगर हम थोड़ी सी गहराई से चर्चा करें तो हम यह पाते हैं कि महंगाई का जो विषय है वह हमारे समाज के असाध्य रोग को तो दर्शाता ही है लेकिन उसके साथ साथ यह विषय कांग्रेस की उन नीतियों को भी हमारे सामने अन्विचार्य रूप में रखता है, जिन नीतियों के चलते आज हमारे समाज का यह ढांचा निर्मित हुआ है। मैं यह कहना चाहूंगा कि 1991 में प्रिंस की यह सरकार बना और उसके बाद सितम्बर, 1991 तक जाते मुद्रा-नीति की दर 16 प्रतिशत तक चली गयी। हालांकि हमारे कांग्रेस के वंश हमें यह बताते हैं कि उन्हें विरासन में परिस्थितियां मिलीं, वह इसके लिए जिम्मेदार थे। लेकिन मैं यह कहना चाहूंगा कि विरासन में मिली हुई परिस्थितियां ही सिर्फ इसके लिये जिम्मेदार नहीं थी। जून महिना इन्की सरकार बनी और सरकार बनने के बाद इन्होंने जो कदम उठाये उससे मुद्रा-स्फीति अभूतपूर्व रूप में बढ़ गई? कौनसे वे कदम थे? सरकार ने आने के साथ ही दो चार रुपये का अवमूल्यन किया। 20 प्रतिशत रुपये का अवमूल्यन किया और इस अकेले कदम के चलते मुद्रा-स्फीति एक अभूतपूर्व ऊँचाई तक पहुंच गयी। इसके बाद के काल में मुद्रा-स्फीति की दर में थोड़ी सी रुकावट

आयी और हमारे कांग्रेस के बंधु अपनी पीठ थपथपाकर यह प्रचारित करने लगे कि उन्होंने मुद्रास्फीति पर काबू पा लिया है। यह हमारे कांग्रेस बंधुओं की पुरानी परम्परा रही है कि वे अपनी नीतियों से संकट पैदा करते हैं और फिर उस संकट को थोड़ा सा सुधार कर कहते हैं कि देखिये हमने संकट का समाधान कर लिया है।

महोदय, अब मैं मुद्रास्फीति के बारे में कांग्रेस के जो दावे हैं और जिनको नारायण-सामी जी प्रस्तुत कर रहे थे, उसकी तरफ सदन का ध्यान आकर्षित कराना चाहूंगी कि उनके दावों की असलियत क्या है। उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, जहां तक बजट से पूर्व गेहूं, चावल, चीनी, पेट्रोलियम पदार्थों के दामों को बढ़ाने का सवाल है, हमारे बहुत से लोगों ने उन आंकड़ों को उल्लेखित किया है। मैं फिर से उन आंकड़ों को यहां पर दोहराना नहीं चाहती। मैं मुद्रास्फीति से जुड़े हुये बुनियादी सवालों को यहां पर उठाना चाहती हूं। मुद्रास्फीति के बारे में, महंगाई में कमी के बारे में जो तमाम दावे हमारे कांग्रेसी बन्धु करते रहे हैं, मैं यह कहना चाहती हूं कि यह दावे अपने आप में सदेहास्पद होते हैं क्योंकि जिन दावों के आधार पर हमारे यहां थोक मूल्य सूचकांक और हमारे उपभोक्ता मूल्य सूचकांक तैयार किये जाते हैं, वह फार्मूले ही गलत हैं। हमारे यहां थोक मूल्य सूचकांक और उपभोक्ता मूल्य सूचकांक हाइपो-थिसिस पर, कल्पना पर आधारित है। यह मान कर चला जाता है, सरकार यह मान कर चलती है, हमारे मंत्री महोदय यहां बैठे हुये हैं, वे इस बात को अच्छी तरह से जानते होंगे कि जब थोक मूल्य सूचकांक तैयार किया जाता है या उपभोक्ता मूल्य सूचकांक तैयार किया जाता है तो इस बात के मान लिया जाता है कि सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली के जरिये इतने खाद्यान्न का वितरण किया गया अर्थात् कुल वितरण में सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली का कितना अनाज था और खुले बाजार से कितना वितरण किया गया। इस फार्मूले में हमेशा सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली से

जो वितरित किया जाता है और दाम बढ़ाने के चलते सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली जिससे प्रभावित होती है, उसको कभी भी थोक मूल्य सूचकांक या उपभोक्ता मूल्य सूचकांक में शामिल नहीं किया जाता है। यही नहीं, मैं मंत्री महोदय का ध्यान खास कर के आकर्षित करना चाहूंगी कि किस तरह जब आम खाद्यान्न के दाम बढ़ाये जाते हैं खास कर के राशन की दुकानों से वितरित होने वाली चीजों के दाम बढ़ाये जाते हैं तो हमारी सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली किस तरह प्रभावित होती है और आई०एम०एफ० के निर्देशों के अनुसार हालांकि हमारे मंत्री महोदय कहते हैं कि वह सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली को मजबूत कर रहे हैं लेकिन हकीकत क्या है, मैं उसकी और मंत्री महोदय का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहूंगी। पिछले तीन वर्षों में किस तरह हमारी सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली कमजोर होती चली गई है, मैं इसके कुछ आंकड़े देना चाहूंगी। 1991-92 में गेहूं और चावल जो वितरित किये गये, उनके आंकड़े इस प्रकार से हैं। 1991-92 में गेहूं 84.09 प्रतिशत, चावल 81.52 प्रतिशत। 1992-93 में गेहूं 79.86 प्रतिशत, चावल 81.44 प्रतिशत। 1993-94 में गेहूं 42.07 प्रतिशत और चावल 69.24 प्रतिशत। यह है वह आंकड़े। हमारे नारायणसामी जी कह रहे थे कि हमारी सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली मजबूत हो रही है। मैं यह कहना चाहूंगी कि आंकड़े कुछ भी सच्चाई बोलते हैं। हालांकि आंकड़ों को किस तरह से मनेज किया जाता है, व्यवस्थित किया जाता है, इससे मैं परिचित हूं लेकिन फिर भी जितना भी व्यवस्थित किया जाय; आंकड़े सही रूप में निकालने वाले लोग भी होते हैं। मैं यह कहना चाहती थी कि किस तरह से सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली कमजोर होती जा रही है। हमारा जो आर्थिक सर्वेक्षण इस वर्ष का आया है, उसमें जो बताया गया है, मैं उसको उद्धृत करना चाहूंगी। उसमें यह कहा गया है—

“प्राथमिक वस्तुओं ने वार्षिक मुद्रा स्फीति की दर में काफी अधिक योगदान

दया क्योंकि गत वर्ष की 2.5 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि की तुलना में उनकी कीमतों में 8.1 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि हुई।

प्राथमिक वस्तुओं के समूह में ही खाद्यान्नों में गत वर्ष 2.1 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि की तुलना में वार्षिक बिन्दु प्रति बिन्दु आधार पर 11.6 प्रतिशत अपेक्षाकृत अधिक वृद्धि दर्ज की गई।”

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, आर्थिक सर्वेक्षण में यह भी कहा गया है कि अच्छी फसल को देखते हुये यह वृद्धि कुछ आश्चर्यजनक है। यह वृद्धि मूलतः गेहूँ के मूल्य में 8.1 प्रतिशत तथा चावल में 6.9 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि के कारण हुई है। आर्थिक सर्वेक्षण में जिस बात को आश्चर्यजनक कहा गया है वह आश्चर्यजनक नहीं बल्कि हमारे समाज की सच्चाई को उजागर करने वाला सबसे बड़ा तथ्य है। यही सबसे बड़ी बात है कि आप हर क्षेत्र में कीमतों में वृद्धि करते चले जाते हैं। इस समय हमारे देश की हालत यह है कि एक तरफ हमारी सरकार प्रशासनिक मूल्य में वृद्धि कर रही है और दूसरी तरफ दावा यह कि हम महंगाई को रोक रहे हैं। मैं जिस बात को कहना चाहती हूँ कि हमारी हालत क्या है। आपूर्ति ज्यादा है, आपूर्ति में कहीं कोई कमी नहीं है, मांग में ज्यादा आपूर्ति हो रही है। आप के खाद्यान्नों के भंडार भरे हुये हैं लेकिन इसके बावजूद खाद्यान्नों की कीमतें बढ़ती चली जा रही हैं। क्यों ऐसा हो रहा है? हमारे औद्योगिक क्षेत्र मन्दी के शिकार हैं। लेकिन इसके बावजूद हालत क्या है? क्या हम लोग देख रहे हैं, हमारे देश की यह हालत है कि महंगाई जिस मूल्य वृत्ति पर टिकी रहती है, मांग व आपूर्ति, उस मांग और आपूर्ति के जो तथ्यांकित खांचे हैं, उन तथ्यांकित खांचों में हमारे देश की महंगाई को हम परिभाषित नहीं कर सकते हैं, हमारे देश की महंगाई को हम समझ नहीं सकते हैं। यह किस बात का संकेत है। कौन से वे कारण हैं जिनके चलते यह महंगाई बढ़ रही है। तो मैं यह कहना चाहूंगी कि हमारे देश के पूँजीपतियों, सामंतों और मुनाफाखोरों के

मुनाफे को दर बढ़ती जा रही है। जब आप उत्पादन में अतिरिक्त मूल्य के मुनाफे को बढ़ाते चलते हैं तब आप महंगाई को रोक नहीं सकते हैं और यहां आज हमारे देश में हो रहा है। जनता की रोजमर्रा की सामग्रियों में दी जाने वाली राहतों को समाप्त करके हमारी सरकार — क्योंकि जब आप एक नयी नीति को चालू करते हैं तो उसके लिये आपको पूरी पृष्ठभूमि भी बनानी पड़ती है, तो सरकार लगातार यह प्रचार कर रही है कि हम विश्व अर्थ नीति के साथ अपनी अर्थ नीति को जोड़ रहे हैं उसके साथ अपने आपको इंटेग्रेट कर रहे हैं और इससे हमारे देश का काया-पलट होने वाला है। हमारे देश में स्वर्ण युग आने वाला है कि इसके लिये लगातार प्रचार का प्रयास चल रहा है कि ये नीतियां हमारे देश को समृद्ध बना देगी। लेकिन हकीकत क्या है। हकीकत यह है कि हमारी यह सरकार इन नीतियों के चलते मुनाफाखोरों के, बड़े पूँजीपतियों के, इजारेदार पूँजीपतियों के, सामंतों के मुनाफे के पहाड़ को लगातार बढ़ाती चली जा रही है। हमारे समाज में, मैं यह कहना चाहूंगी कि महंगाई वह मैकेनिज्म है, वह व्यवस्था है जिसके चलते सरकार पूँजीपतियों के मुनाफे को बढ़ाती है और आम जनता के जेबों को काटती है।

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं माननीय मंत्री महोदय का ध्यान आकषिप्त करवाना चाहूंगी कि 1980 का वह दशक है, 1980 का वह अकेला दशक है, एक ऐसा दशक है जिस दस वर्षों में, मात्र दस वर्षों में हमारे देश के इजारेदार पूँजीपतियों की पूँजी में 50 से 60 गुना तक वृद्धि हो गयी। कल्पना कर सकते हैं। एक दशक में 50 से 60 गुना वृद्धि हो जाना। हमारी सरकार कौन-सा चेहरा लेकर जनता के सामने जायेगी। इसके अलावा मुद्रास्फीति की जब हम आज जनता के जीवन के संदर्भों में देखते हैं तो आपकी मुद्रास्फीति के आकड़े, आपके मुद्रास्फीति के कम होने के दावे जनता को जिन्दगी से इतने दूर होते हैं जितना कि जमीन और आसमान दूर होते हैं।

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, कुछ भी क्यों न हो, लेकिन फिर भी मैं यह कहना चाहूंगी कि अभी हाल ही में सरकार ने खाद्यान्नों जैसी आवश्यक वस्तुओं पर दाम बढ़ाकर, हमारी गरीब मेहनतकश अवाम पर किस तरह से मुसीबत का पहाड़ तोड़ दिया है उसकी शायद कल्पना हमारी सरकार को नहीं है। मैं उद्धृत करना चाहूंगी। नारायणसामी जी शायद नहीं हैं। वह किस तरह बता रहे थे। इस प्रस्ताव के साथ अपनी असहमति जाहिर कर रहे थे। सरकार के आंकड़ों के अनुसार हमारे देश में 40 प्रतिशत लोग गरीबी की सीमा रेखा के नीचे रह रहे हैं यानी 27 करोड़ लोग हिन्दुस्तान में ऐसे हैं जो गरीबी की सीमा रेखा के नीचे रह रहे और इन 27 करोड़ लोगों के प्रति सरकार का क्या रवैया है। सरकार की वे सभी की सारी योजनाएँ जो गरीबी उन्मूलन के नाम पर सरकार चलाती रही है, प्राई.आर. डी.पी., जवाहर रोजगार योजना के नाम पर जो चला रही है उनके बारे में हमारे योजना आयोग का क्या कहना है। सरकार के ये प्रकल्प क्या वास्तविक रूप से हमारे देश की गरीब जनता को लाभान्वित कर सकते हैं। इसके बारे में योजना आयोग के वक्ताओं की मैं उद्धृत करना चाहूंगी। योजना आयोग ने कहा है कि "इस तरह के प्रकल्पों से मिलने वाली सहायता अस्थायी होती है"। योजना आयोग के अनुसार "इसका खतरा है कि सहायता पाने वाले गरीब परिवार अपनी परिसंपत्तियों की अलाभकारिता के चलते या आगे सरकार जो मर्यादा मिलनी चाहिये थी उसके अभाव में थिमक कर फिर गरीबी की सीमा रेखा के नीचे पहुँच जाते हैं" तो यानी हमारी सरकार दावा करती है कि हमनइतन लोगों का गरीबी की सीमा रेखा के ऊपर ला दिया लेकिन सरकार इस बात का फलन नहीं करती कि कितने लोगों को उगने फिर गरीबी की सीमा रेखा के नीचे उतार दिया।

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं यह कहना चाहूंगी कि थोक मूल्य सूचकांक में जब खाद्यान्नों का दाम सरकार बढ़ाती है...

तो इसका असर हमारे थोक मूल्य सूचकांक तथा उपभोक्ता मूल्य सूचकांक पर किस तरह पड़ता है। थोक मूल्य सूचकांक के खाद्यान्नों तथा पेट्रोलियम उत्पादों का कुल हिस्सा 24 प्रतिशत होता है। लेकिन इनके मूल्य में वृद्धि से अन्य मालों की कीमतों में जो वृद्धि होती है उसके कारण पूरे सूचकांक की वृद्धि नियंत्रित होने लगती है। उदाहरण के तौर पर जब पेट्रोलियम पदार्थों की कीमतों में एक प्रतिशत की वृद्धि होती है तो पूरे मूल्य सूचकांक में 0.25 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि हो जाती है। इसी प्रकार जब खाद्यान्नों की तरह की बुनियादी चीजों में एक प्रतिशत की वृद्धि होती है तो मूल्य सूचकांक में 0.32 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि हो जाती है। इस गणना के आधार पर यदि हम सरकारी आदेश द्वारा हाल में जो वृद्धियाँ की गई हैं, हाल में जिस तरह प्राथमिक वस्तुओं के दाम को बढ़ाया गया है, उसमें यह जाहिर हो जाता है कि मुद्रा-स्फीति को रोकने के हमारी सरकार के उपाम दावे को बेनकाब करने हुये, तमाम दावों को असत्य करने हुआ मुद्रा-स्फीति की हमारी दर, इस बात का खतरा है कि मुद्रा-स्फीति की हमारी दर 15 फीसदी से भी आगे चली जायेगी। यानी 1991 में जब मुद्रा-स्फीति की दर अपने चरम पर पहुँच गई थी, अब फिर उसी दिशा में हमारी मुद्रा-स्फीति की दर बढ़ती हुई दिखाई दे रही है। यह हमारी आज की वास्तविक स्थिति है। उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, सरकार ने पहले प्रणामनिक आदेश के जरिये खाद्यान्नों के प्रणामनिक मूल्यों को बढ़ाया। फिर रही-सही कमी हमारे रेल मंत्रों ने पूरी कर दी हमारे रेल मंत्री ने अपने बजट के जरिये खाद्यान्नों की दुलाई में जो रियायत दी जाती थी, जो राहत दी जाती थी उस रियायत और उस राहत को भी खीन लिया। तो ये प्राथमिक वस्तुएँ, जो ऐसी वस्तुएँ हैं जो हमारे जैसे देश, जिस देश की 50 प्रतिशत से अधिक आबादी अपनी आय का 70 फीसदी से अधिक हिस्सा इन प्राथमिक वस्तुओं में खर्च कर देती, प्राथमिक वस्तुओं में लगता है उस जनता

पर अगर आप इस तरह का बोझ डालते हैं, प्राथमिक वस्तुओं उसके लिये दुर्लभ से दुर्लभतर होती चली जाती हैं। तो मैं यह कहना चाहूंगी उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, कि आज जिस प्रस्ताव पर हम चर्चा कर रहे हैं वह प्रस्ताव एक बहुत ही महत्वपूर्ण प्रस्ताव है। हमारी सरकार तमाम दावे कर रही है हमारे वित्त महोदय लगातार हमें इस बात के लिये प्रेरित कर रहे हैं हमारे प्रधान मंत्री जो दावों में जाकर एक तरफ तो यह दावा करते हैं कि किसी भी सरकार को यह अधिकार नहीं बगता कि वह अपनी जनता को मुसीबतों में झोंक दें। लेकिन दावों में जाने से एक दिन पहले वह दावों खाना हो रहे होते और दूसरी ओर हमारे यहां प्राथमिक जरूरत की चीजें गेहूं, चावल, चीनी की चीजों का दाम बढ़ाया जाता है। एक तरफ हमारे वहां के भारतीयों को कहते हैं कि नहीं, हम अपनी सार्वभौमिकता की रक्षा करेंगे, संप्रभुता की रक्षा करेंगे और दूसरी तरफ वे विदेशी बहुराष्ट्रीय कम्पनियों, वे विदेशी राष्ट्र हमारे से यह पूछते हैं कि आप ऐसी पालिसी किस तरह लागू कर रहे हैं, आप किस तरह और ज्यादा उदारीकरण कर रहे हैं और हमारे प्रधान मंत्री वहां पर जाकर आश्वासन देकर आते हैं जर्मनी में बान में जाकर भाषण देते हैं कि आपको किस तरह की जरूरत है, आप किस तरह का उदारीकरण चाहते हैं। हम आपकी नीतियों के अनुसार अपने देश की पूरी की पूरी व्यवस्था का कायाकल्प करने को तैयार हैं। जैसे आप हमें बतायेंगे वैसे ही हल करेंगे। क्या यह हमारी सार्वभौमिकता पर कोई प्रश्न चिन्ह नहीं लगाता, क्या यह हमारी संप्रभुता पर प्रश्न चिन्ह नहीं लगाता?

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, विश्व अर्थ नीति से भारत की अर्थ नीति को जोड़ने और विश्व अर्थ व्यवस्था की अर्थ नीति से जोड़ कर हमें जो आज यह सपना दिखाया जा रहा है कि उत्पादक पूंजी इतनी गतिशील होती है कि उसे किसी दरवाजों में बन्द करके रखा नहीं जा सकता और इसलिये अगर हम अपने

दरवाजों को खोल दें तो हमारे यहां पूंजी का इस तरह फ्लड होगा, इस तरह से पूंजी हमारे यहां तूफान की तरह आयेगी कि रातों-रात हम बदल जायेंगे, रातों-रात हमारी गरीबी दूर हो जायेगी। रातों-रात हमारी गरीबी दूर हो जायेगी, लेकिन क्या यही सच्चाई है? क्या माकट इकोनोमी की यही सच्चाई है? उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, सच्चाई तो आज यह है कि उत्पादित पूंजी इतनी गतिशील नहीं है, प्रोडक्टिव कैपिटल उतनी गतिशील नहीं है। फिर गतिशील कौनसी कैपिटल है? फायनेंस कैपिटल गतिशील है, वित्तीय कैपिटल गतिशील है। तो उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, हमारे मंत्री महोदय इस बात को अच्छी तरह जानते होंगे कि इस उदारीकरण के बारे में हमारे हिन्दुस्तान में कौन सी पूंजी आयी, कितनी पूंजी आयी, किन्ना निवेश हुआ और कौनसी पूंजी का निवेश हुआ? हमारे यहां डायरेक्ट निवेश या प्रत्यक्ष निवेश की तुलना में पोर्टफोलियो मैनेजमेंट ही सबसे ज्यादा हुआ है और फायनेंस कैपिटल के चलते हमारे यहां हो क्या रहा है? हम उन को ज्यादा से ज्यादा ब्याज दे रहे हैं। हमारे देश में बेरोजगारी बढ़ रही है। हमारे देश के जो उद्योग हैं उनकी मन्दी दूर नहीं हो रही है। परसों ही मेरे एक प्रश्न के जवाब में अर्थ मंत्री महोदय ने बताया कि बेरोजगारी लगातार बढ़ रही है। तो हम कौनसी दिशा में जा रहे हैं? क्या हम उन्हें विदेशी आकाशों के हाथों में उनके मुनाफे के लिये अपनी अर्थ-नीति को छोड़ रहे हैं? मैं समझता हूं कि यह हमारी अर्थ-व्यवस्था के लिये बहुत ही खतरनाक है। इसलिये उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं इस प्रस्ताव का समर्थन करते हुये यह कहना चाहूंगी कि हालांकि हमारे वित्त मंत्री महोदय इस बात का दावा कर रहे हैं और अपनी पीठ ठोक रहे हैं, सत्तारूढ़ पार्टी के लोग पीठ ठोक रहे हैं, लेकिन उपाध्यक्ष महोदय "लमहोने गलती की थी, सदियों ने सजा पाई" यह तो इतिहास ही फैसला करेगा कि गलती कौन कर रहा है? इस नयी उदारीकरण की नीति के चलते आज हिन्दुस्तान ने जो रास्ता अपनाया है, मैं समझती हूं कि वह दिन दूर नहीं जब आपके चेहरों पर हवाईयां उड़ेंगी और

वह दिन हमारे देश की जनता के लिये, हमारे देश की गरीब और मेहनतकश आयाम के लिये बहुत ही दुर्दिन होगा। वह एक ऐसा दिन होगा जब हम देखेंगे कि हमारे देश की गरीब जनता अपना सब कुछ गंवा देगी। हमारे देश में भी वैसी ही परिस्थितियाँ तैयार होंगी जिनका हवाला देते हुये आय०एम०एफ० के एक भूतपूर्व अधिकारी ने जिसने कि आय०एम०एफ० में दस वर्षों तक नौकरी की थी, उस अधिकारी ने आय०एम०एफ० से त्यागपत्र देते हुए कहा था कि, "उसके ये हाथ सारी दुनिया की गरीब जनता के खून से रंगे हुये हैं।" उसने कहा था कि, "आय०एम०एफ० के नुस्खों को सारे विकासशील देशों पर थोपते हुये मैंने जो अपराध किया है, अगर मैं उन अपराधों को धोना चाहूँ, अगर उन पापों को धोना चाहूँ तो सारी दुनिया की नदियों का पानी भी आ जाय और सारी दुनिया का साबुन मुझे मिल जाय तो भी मेरे इन हाथों का पाप धूल नहीं सकता।"

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं चाहूँगी कि हमारे लिये यह एक बहुत बड़ा सबक होना चाहिये, सीख होनी चाहिये। इसी के साथ मैं इस प्रस्ताव का समर्थन करती हूँ।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री मोहम्मद ग़लीब) :
श्री अनन्त राम जायसवाल-अनुपस्थित।
श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय :

श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय : माननीय उपाध्यक्ष जी, भारी सहयोगी श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर ने जो यह गैर-सरकारी संकल्प रखा है, बहुत बत ही समायिक क्योंकि मंहगाई के कारण आज देश में करीब-करीब 90 प्रतिशत जनता तस्त है। उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, जिस मंहगाई का जिक्र श्री माथुर ने अपने प्रस्ताव में किया है, वह मंहगाई तो ऐसे कारणों से ही हुई है कि जिन आद्यभ्यक चीजों की कीमतें तय करने का अधिकार भारत सरकार के पास है। इसीलिये श्री माथुर ने अपने प्रस्ताव में कहा है कि चावल चीनी, गेहूँ, और पेट्रोलियम उत्पादों की

निर्देशित कीमतों में वृद्धि किये जाने के परिणामस्वरूप अवस्था दर्शन के क्षेत्र में अभूतपूर्व वृद्धि हुई है।

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, अभी जब 22 फरवरी को राष्ट्रपति जी का अभिभाषण हुआ तो राष्ट्रपति जी ने अपने अभिभाषण में जिसमें कि वह किसी योजना की चर्चा कर रहे हैं उसमें उन्होंने स्वीकार किया कि देश में 1752 सर्वाधिक पिछड़े यह दूरवर्ती इलाके हैं, जिसमें 17 करोड़ लोग रहते हैं। यह जो स्वयं भारत सरकार का आंकड़ा है, उसके हिसाब से इस देश में करीब हालांकि उस आंकड़े को मैं सही नहीं मानता हूँ, लेकिन उस आंकड़े के हिसाब से करीब करीब इस देश में 24 करोड़ लोग ऐसे रहते हैं, जो गरीबी की रेखा के नीचे रहते हैं, जिसमें 4 करोड़ शहरी इलाकों में बसते हैं और 20 करोड़ लोग ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में बसते हैं।

महोदय, माल यह है मंहगाई का। इस बार तो बजट के पूर्व ही सभी चीजों की कीमतों में वृद्धि कर दी गई है। गेहूँ की कीमतों में वृद्धि की गई, चीनी की कीमतों में वृद्धि की गई, प्रत्येक प्रकार के चावल की कीमतों में वृद्धि की गई, जो खाना पकाने की गैस है उसकी कीमतों में वृद्धि की गई और जो सेल हैं, मशीन अथारिटी, इसने भी जो लोहे के गायरन होते हैं उसमें भी 5000- रुपये प्रति टन की वृद्धि कर दी और फिर रेल मंत्री जी ने 24 फरवरी को जो बजट रखा तो उसमें न केवल इतिहास के यात्री भाड़े में वृद्धि की बल्कि बहुत से माल भाड़े में भी वृद्धि की। इसके फलस्वरूप और जो सरकार ने निर्देशित वस्तुओं की कीमतों में वृद्धि की उसके फलस्वरूप भी कीमतों में वृद्धि हुई है। यहां पर इस बात का भी चर्चा हो रही है कि जो सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली है उसमें कुछ सुधार की आवश्यकता है। इसमें मैं बहुत विस्तार से नहीं जाना चाहता, लेकिन आज इस देश में जो चर्चा हो रही है आर्थिक सुधारों को लेकर या डंकल प्रस्तावों को लेकर, इसके द्वारा

भी इस देश की बहुतायत जनसंख्या महंगाई में और गरीबी से पिसी जा रही है। यह भी सही है कि उनके जीवनयापन का सहारा नहीं है, नैकिन जो कुछ भी थोड़ा बहुत अपने जीवन यापन के लिये आर्थिक स्रोत वह लोग बनाते हैं, उससे अपने परिवार का और बच्चों का भरण-पोषण भी वह नहीं कर पाते। इसलिये मेरा सरकार को यह सुझाव है कि सरकार को इस संबंध में एक निश्चित दाम नीति तय करना चाहिये और दाम नीति से भरा आशय यह है कि एक तो सरकार को इस फैसले पर आना चाहिये कि जो कभी भी बजट प्रस्तुत करने के पूर्व ऐसी चीजों की कीमतों में वृद्धि नहीं की जायेगी, जिन आवश्यक वस्तुओं की कीमतों को तय करने का अधिकार सरकार के पास है। वैसे यहां तो निरन्तर कीमतों में वृद्धि होती रहती है, रोज कीमतों में वृद्धि होती है, हर महीने कीमतों में वृद्धि होती है। मेरा सरकार से यही आग्रह है कि एक निश्चित दाम नीति सरकार को तय करनी चाहिये। इसके लिये जो सांसद लोग हैं, जो विशिष्ट सार्वजनिक पब्लिक सेवाओं में हैं, जो एक्सपर्ट हैं, उनसे विचार विमर्श करके सरकार को एक निश्चित दाम नीति तय करनी चाहिये।

दूसरा, जो मैं आपका ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूं वह यह कि किसी भी राज नीतिक पार्टी का जो चुनाव घोषणा-पत्र होता है, वह बहुत ही पवित्र डाक्यू-मेंट होता है, पवित्र दस्तावेज होता है। जब सन 1991 में चुनाव हुए और जिसके जरिये वर्तमान सरकार सत्ता में आई, उसमें इस पार्टी का जो घोषणा पत्र था, उस घोषणा-पत्र में सरकार ने यह वायदा किया था मई या जून, 1991 में, कि यदि कांग्रेस पार्टी सत्ता में आती है तो बहुत सी आवश्यक वस्तुओं की, जिनके नाम गिनाये थे इन्होंने अपने घोषणा-पत्र में उनकी, कीमतों में वृद्धि को केवल 'फोका' नहीं जायेगा बल्कि उसके एक साल पूर्व, जुलाई, 1990 में उन आवश्यक वस्तुओं की जो कीमतें थीं, उन दरों पर उनको ले जायेंगे। तो मैं

उसी घोषणा-पत्र की याद अपने मित्र श्री एंटनी को दिखाना चाहता हूं कि जब आपने इस प्रकार की घोषणा अपने घोषणा-पत्र में की थी तो कम से कम ऐसी आवश्यक वस्तुओं की कीमतों में क्यों वृद्धि करते हैं, जिसका इस्तेमाल आम आदमी, आम जनता रोज अपने दैनिक कार्यों में करती है? क्योंकि जैसा मैंने शुरू में निवेदन किया कि घोषणा पत्र किसी भी राजनीतिक पार्टी का एक पवित्र दस्तावेज होता है, इसलिये कि उसी घोषणा-पत्र को लेकर के आम जनता के बीच में उस दल के लोग जाते हैं और जब उनकी पार्टी सत्ता में आती है तो उस दल की जिम्मेदारी होती है कि उनके घोषणा-पत्र में जो आश्वासन दिये गये हैं, उन्होंने मतदाताओं को जो आश्वासन दिये हैं, वायदे किये हैं, उनको पूरा करने की कोशिश करनी चाहिये। तो उस घोषणा-पत्र का उल्लंघन हो रहा है, इस बात को भी मैं जानना चाहता हूं।

इसी बीच में श्री माथुर ने मुद्रा स्फोति की भी चर्चा की, उसके विस्तार में मैं नहीं जानता चाहता हूं, लेकिन जैसा मैंने शुरू में कहा कि यह जो डकल प्रस्ताव है, यह एक गुलामी का दस्तावेज है, इसके चलते हमारी आर्थिक आजादी दूसरी बार इस देश में नष्ट होने जा रही है। आम जनता भी उसका विरोध कर रही है, संसद में भी उसका विरोध हुआ है, बड़े-बड़े जो विद्वान हैं, जो आर्थिक विशेषज्ञ हैं, वे भी उसका विरोध कर रहे हैं लेकिन सरकार न जाने क्यों डकल प्रस्तावों पर हस्ताक्षर करने पर तुली हुई है।

दवाओं की कीमतों में वृद्धि हुई। गरीब आदमी, साधारण आदमी इस देश का जब बीमार पड़ता है तो बिना दवा के ही मर जाता है। जो भी उसकी थोड़ी-बहुत आय है, उसके अन्तर्गत वह मामूली दवा भी नहीं ले पाता था, लेकिन दवाओं में भी वृद्धि हो गई। केन्द्रीय वित्त मंत्री जी ने जो हाल ही में बजट पेश किया है, उसके कारण न केवल एलो पैथिक दवाओं में वृद्धि हो रही है बल्कि

जो आयुर्वेदिक औषधियां हैं उनकी कीमतों में भी वृद्धि हो रही है। मेरा सरकार से यही आग्रह है कि कम से कम जितनी भी उन्होंने निदेशित कीमत में वृद्धि की है, वह उसे वापिस ले ले और उन्हें वापिस लेकर के इस देश के जो गरीब लोग हैं, जिनके लिये गांधी जी कहा करते हैं कि कोई भी व्यक्ति जब कोई कार्यक्रम बनाये तो गरीब के आंसूओं का उसे अवश्य ध्यान रखना चाहिये। मैं यही निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि बराबर इस प्रकार की सरकार की नीतियों से, चाहे कीमतों में वृद्धि करें या डंकल प्रस्ताव के संबंध में इनकी जो नीतियां हैं या जो उदारीकरण के नाम पर इन की नीतियां हैं, इससे देश के आम आदमी का भला नहीं हो रहा है। इसलिए मैं चाहूंगा कि सरकार इस संबंध में अपनी नीतियों में परिवर्तन करने की कोशिश करे और जिस तेजी से साथ वह प्रयास कर रही है, जिसके संबंध में कल यहां चर्चा भी होने जा रही है इस सदन में, कम से कम उस पर हस्ताक्षर करने से अपने को बचाएँ क्योंकि इससे किसान के ऊपर भी बड़ा संकट आने वाला है। बीज के संबंध में स्वयं जो कामर्स मिनिस्टर हैं श्री प्रणव मुखर्जी, उनके वक्तव्यों को भी मैंने पढ़ा, उनके विचारों को सुनने का भी मुझे मौका मिला, उन्होंने स्वयं इस बात को स्वीकार किया है कि इस देश का किसान जो बीज बचाकर रखता है कि अगली फसल में वह उस को बोने के समय में लायेगा, अगर यह समझौता लागू हो जायेगा तो उस बीज को इस देश का किसान अपने घर में, अपने खेत में, खलिहान में, गांव में नहीं रख पायेगा, उसको शायद सरकार के गल्ला गोदाम में जमा कराना पड़ेगा और भविष्य में अपने ही बीज को उसे ज्यादा दाम देकर खरीदना पड़ेगा। अगर वह ऐसा नहीं करेगा तो आपराधिक कार्नेन के अन्तर्गत उसके ऊपर मजिस्ट्रेट के न्यायालय में जमुकदमा भी चल सकेगा, उसको सजा दिलाने का इंतजाम भी किया गया है।

मैं यह भी निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि जब गेहूँ और चावल की कीमतों

में वृद्धि हुई तो उस समय यह स्पष्टीकरण दिया गया कि जो समर्थन मूल्य है, शायद 40 रुपये प्रति क्वटल की उसमें वृद्धि की गई, ऐसी घोषणा की गई थी जहां तक मुझे याद है। लेकिन आपने वृद्धि क्या की है ? गेहूँ की कीमत में 72 रुपये प्रति क्वटल आपने वृद्धि की है और इस प्रकार से जो गेहूँ की कीमत 330 रुपये प्रति क्वटल थी, उसको बढ़ा कर 402 रुपये प्रति क्वटल कर दिया और प्रति क्वटल में आपने 72 रुपये की वृद्धि की। तो जब आपने स्वयं स्वीकार किया है कि सपोर्ट प्राइस में केवल 40 रुपये प्रति क्वटल मुझे अधिक देना पड़ रहा है तो 62 रुपये प्रति क्वटल की आपने वृद्धि क्यों की ? किसानों को उसी हिसाब से आप सपोर्ट प्राइस देते।... (व्यवधान)

श्री जगेश देसाई (महाराष्ट्र) : चावल में एक रुपया तीस पैसे की वृद्धि की है।

श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय : देसाई जी ने ठीक याद दिलाया। चावल के दाम में एक रुपये तीस पैसे से लेकर डेढ़ रुपये प्रति किलोग्राम की वृद्धि की, जो कि इस प्रकार से 100 रुपये से लेकर के 130 रुपये प्रति क्वटल की वृद्धि हुई। आपने प्रति सिलेंडर 10 रुपये की वृद्धि कर दी। चीनी के दाम में साढ़े आठ रुपये से लेकर के उसमें 75 पैसे प्रति किलोग्राम की वृद्धि कर दी। पेट्रोल में एक रुपया प्रति लीटर तथा डीजल में 50 पैसे प्रति लीटर की वृद्धि कर है। इससे न केवल डीजल, पेट्रोल के दाम ही नहीं बढ़े हैं, बल्कि इससे आम आदमियों की जो दैनिक उपयोग की वस्तुयें हैं जो कि ट्रक के जरिये, रेल के जरिये आवागमन कर दूसरे शहरों में भेजी जाती हैं, उनकी कीमतों में वृद्धि हो गई है। इसलिये मैं इन शब्दों के साथ अपनी बात बहुत अधिक न कहते हुये मैं तो यही कहना चाहूंगा कि श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर का जो सकल्प है और बहुत ही सामयिक है, यदि इस संकल्प को आप स्वीकार करते हैं तो इस देश की जो आम जनता है, गांधी जी के जो दरिद्र नारायण हैं और विशेष रूप से समाज

के जो गरीब, कमजोर वर्ग के लोग हैं, उनको आर्थिक बोझ और आर्थिक कठिनाईयों से बचाया जा सकता है। सरकार के बारे में तो मेरी राय अच्छी नहीं है, लेकिन कम से कम श्री एंटनी के बारे में मेरी राय बहुत अच्छी है।

He is a dynamic Minister. He is a very effective Minister. I hope that he would announce in this House today that he would accept the Resolution moved by Shri Jagdish Prasad Mathur.

*SHRI J. S. RAJU (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I rise to speak on the resolution moved by Shri Mathur urging upon the Government to bring down the prices of commodities. I wish to make certain points on behalf of DMK. All the Hon'ble Members of all political hues who ceded me, accused the Government of having hiked the prices of all essential commodities and wanted the Government to bring down the price. But I wish to begin my speech on a different note.

Sir, the duty of any Government is to live upto the expectations of the people. On that count, this Congress Government has lived upto the aspirations and expectations of the people in total. The Centre has that dubious distinction. Before the presentation of each Budget, people sit with lot of apprehensions about the price rise. So, by increasing the price of almost all the commodities in the Budget and even before, the Central Government have fulfilled the expectations of the people.

Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, there is a serious threat to the unity and integrity of the country by communal forces. But this Government are silent on such a matter of grave concern. The Centre have not taken effective steps to contain communalism. It has miserably failed in dealing with these forces. The Government has failed in checking the

price rise too. To top it all the Government has itself hiked the price of even essential goods. Even in the pre-budget exercise, the price of most of the commodities were hiked.

For example, the price of yarn was increased by 40 per cent and this has adversely affected the powerloom and handloom industries. Lakhs of people who are dependent on these industries have lost their means of livelihood. This is because, the Centre, without bothering for the domestic market exported cotton yarn in a big way. Wrong policies of the centre bring such miseries to people.

This Government did not spare any commodity. Price of steel was also hiked recently. The price of sugar too was increased. But what is amazing is the statement of the Food Minister, Mr. Kalpnath Rai. He has said that the States should not hike the price of sugarcane without asking the Centre. But the Centre had hiked the price of sugar some time back. The hon'ble Civil Supplies Minister is here. I think he will bear me out. The Government increases the price of sugar, but it does not pay a good price to the farmers. It won't allow the States to give good price for sugarcane. The reason assigned by the Food Minister is that the sugar Mills, the sugar industries will be badly affected. But the Minister is not bothered about the farmers who grow sugarcane.

Earlier the sugar mills had to give 50 per cent of the sugar produced for levy and only 50 per cent could be sold in the open market. But now the Centre has ordered that only 30 per cent of the sugar need to be given for levy and the rest of 70 per cent could be sold in the open market. This is the kind of concern the Centre has for the people.

Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, the Centre has not spared any area from price-hike. The rail fare too went up recently. The increase in rev-

*English translation of the original speech delivered in Tamil.

venue through this hike is to the tune of Rs. 997 crores. Probably they thought a figure of 1000 crores would have looked astounding. This is like pricing of Batta Chappal as Rs. 99.99 instead of Rs. 100. After having done this the Minister says, in 1992-93, the increase was Rs. 1200 crores and in 1993-94 it was Rs. 1848 crores, but now it is only Rs. 997 crores. This is the kind of statistics the Government is indulging in. Even State Governments do not lag behind. Whether a State is ruled by Mr. J. P. Mathur's party or any other party, the taxation has been very high in recent times. In my state of Tamilnadu, land tax and house tax have gone up. Even professional tax has gone up. States are proving they are no less to the Centre in hiking the price of commodities and increasing the taxes. Under these circumstances the Finance Minister presented the Budget for 1994-95 recently. Expressing opinion about the budget our D.M.K. President, my leader Dr. Kalaignar said,

"The budget has pushed to the background the plight of farmers and the condition of consumers. Even the middle class would be adversely affected. Generally the sound of bell announces the arrival of an elephant. But the price-hike came like an elephant which trampled on common man."

I wish to remind some of the election promises of Congress. When the country went to polls, both the A.I.A.D.M.K. and Congress joined hands and promised to roll back the price to level prevailed in 1989 in 100 days. I only ask, could you bring down the price of a single commodity in 100 days? Years have rolled by. The price has been raising every day. But I was amused to listen to the Hon'ble Member from Pondicherry Mr. V. Narayanasamy. He said that without having been affected by price-rise, people are thronging ration shops and markets

to buy goods. I don't know whether he was speaking about Pondicherry or the rest of India. May be he has a third eye through which he could see such rush in markets. We tour the country, we meet people every day. But to the eyes of lesser mortals like me, the situation is just the opposite. I wish to cite just one incident. In Madras, Saidapet is a place which was the assembly constituency of my leader. There are two markets known as Chinthamani market and Amundham market there. The ration shops there used to sell over 15 bags of rice every day. But today because of the price-rise only 3 bags of rice are sold. This is the situation in the country. It is easy to argue in favour of a cause we are espousing. But we should always remember that we don't cross parameters of reality. The Hon'ble Members belonging to the ruling party are trying to project as though nothing has happened because of price-rise. I wonder how could they shut their eyes to reality. Tamilnadu is witnessing lots of agitations because of this. Women have taken to the streets beating their chests. Mr. Antony knows what it symbolises. Women beat the chest only to mourn the death of some near and dear. But the sorrow inflicted upon them is so unbearable that they are doing this kind of agitation. People are agitating against the price-rise in a big way all over the State. But women are in the forefront because they bear the brunt directly. Since they manage the kitchen and the family, they know exactly where the shoe pinches.

But the Centre is unmoved by all this. The Centre is either happy because the Congress Party has managed simple majority in Lok Sabha after continued efforts for three years. You could do it because of the money power, and having done that you sit pretty. You encouraged crossing floors with the sole aim of getting

majority. On the one hand you speak against defection, but on the other hand you are a beneficiary of it. This is because you have political as well as money power. You have Tatas, Birlas and many more industrialists to give you funds. But unfortunately, poor people do not have enough money even to make both the ends meet. This is the true picture of Mother India. Majority people do not have the buying power. How can they buy anything? I ask a simple question. But for some brief intervals, the Congress has been ruling the country ever since independence. Yet, it could do nothing to improve the conditions of common man.

Sir, the Centre increased the administered price of rice on 1st February. Following its footsteps of the ADMK Government in Tamilnadu also increased the price of rice on 2nd February itself. When I say this, I can call back from my memory what my leader Dr. Kalaignar did when he was the Chief Minister of Tamilnadu. Even after the then Prime Minister late Mr. Rajiv Gandhi increased the price of rice and reduced the Central pool allocation to Tamilnadu, Dr. Kalaignar did not hike the price of rice in the state because he knew well the problems of common man. He could understand the difficulties of the masses. But today, the ADMK Government loses no time in effecting the price rise. Even the rice given through PDS is of poor quality and worm-ridden. Such inedible quality of rice is supplied these days.

Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, the price of agricultural products go up only when the production or the reserve falls. But the Government itself admits that the agricultural production went up by 3 per cent on Gross Domestic Product. It is likely to be higher in the current year. The food reserve too is good. Yet even, the prices are soaring every day. What is the reason? It is all because of

wrong policies pursued by the Centre. People from different walks of life have a guffaw of this riddle of new economics which is said to be Manmoharomics.

Sir, a kind of numbness creeps in when we think of the kind of famine prevailing in Kalahandi. The tribals, the scheduled caste people have nothing to eat for days and weeks. Many have died because of unbearable starvation. Therefore the tribals began eating anything they got. As a result many have died after having consumed poisonous roots and leaves. This is the sort of tragedy going on in Kalahandi. And what the Government has done? Only promises and promises...and nothing more.

Sir, I want to refer to an incident that has been bothering my mind for sometime. It happened in December last. A poor woman sold her infant for Rs. 20 at her door step. The press persons on hearing the news asked the Chief Minister of the State as to what he had to say about such an incident taking place in his State. I don't want to disclose the name of Chief Minister for the sake of political ethics. That Chief Minister said, "So what? I could pay 40 rupees instead." We have such Chief Ministers in this country. I am ashamed that such thing happen in the country.

I am only flabbergasted as to how the Government has been increasing the prices without any perceivable reason. There is no famine in the country. There is no war, no external emergency. There is nothing that warrants the Government to take this kind of drastic measure to increase the price. But somehow the Government could not restrain itself from doing so. According to the election promise, even if they could not roll back the price, they should not have increased it at least. But

the Congress Government never sees reason.

Sir, this is a Government where two Cabinet Ministers make conflicting statements. The Thapas Institute of Engineering and Technology at Patiala, conferred a honorary Doctorate on the Finance Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh. I have no grudge about it. He is an intellectual and deserves it. These days Doctorate is conferred on people who have no considerable merit. That is a different point. While speaking on the occasion Dr. Manmohan Singh said that this year Budget would not fuel inflation or price-rise and would not affect the common man. This is what he said in Patiala. On the same day the Union Minister for Agriculture Dr. Balram Jhakar said in Delhi that, because of the Budget the price of tractors has gone up creating problems for the farmers. He also said that he would take up the matter with the finance Ministry. Such conflicting statements are made by two Cabinet Ministers on a single day. Now, the question is, who is right and who is wrong. It is said that the Cabinet is going to be expanded. I don't know how many such conflicting statements will be made if the Cabinet is expanded.

Sir, the Finance Minister once said that because of the loan waiver scheme launched by the National Front Government, the economy went of the track. Now, the same Finance Minister said in Patiala that the matter of waiving of Rs. 700 crores loan lent to Punjab is under consideration by the Tenth Finance Commission and assured that would be waived. If the National Front does something it is wrong. But if Congress does the same thing it is perfectly in order. How can you have one yardstick for V. P. Singh and another yardstick for Manmohan Singh.

After having increased the price of all goods, the Finance Minister says, if we had not done this then the

price would have shot up according to market fluctuations and such increase would have been unbearable. I think this is the joke of the year. This is like saying that since death is certain why not die now? I don't understand this logic. If such things were to happen then why at all we have a Government at the Centre? What is your duty?

Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, this Government has deceived the common man. It has spared luxury goods but levied excise duty on items of necessity. Even the laundry soap used in most of the houses has not been spared. So far no excise duty was levied on these soaps. But now 10 per cent excise duty is levied on them. It is a pity that washing soap is becoming unaffordable by the poor people.

Sir, in 1991, while speaking in the National Development Council, the Prime Minister said that his Government would cut down the expenditure of the Council of Ministers. But according to the available figures, the Ministerial expenditure for during 1991-92 was 9.12 crores while for 92-93 it went up to a whopping 35.50 crores. This is an increase of 400 per cent over the previous year. This is the kind of austerity the Government is pursuing.

I have a word about the problem of Government servants. When asked about the constitution of Fifth Pay Commission, the Minister replied in the other House that it would be constituted soon. I don't understand what is the meaning of the word 'soon'. They are experts in making such statements. Dearness allowance is given twice a year to the Government employees. The DA for these having basic pay over Rs. 3500 is deposited in the Provident Fund. I don't know the very purpose of giving dearness allowance. I appeal to the Government to pay DA in cash to all employees and also constitute the Fifth Pay Commission soon.

Before I conclude, I wish to say what Sadhvi Rithambara has said about the Prime Minister. She said, "If the Prime Minister ever visits your house, don't ask him whether he would have tea or coffee. Because he would take six months to decide and you can't cook anything in the kitchen till then." This only reflects the way of functioning of the Government.

As I conclude, I appeal to the Government to take steps to bring down the prices of goods and save the common man.

3.00 p.m.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I am very much thankful to Mathurji for having brought in this Bill as this has given me an opportunity to express my views on the rising prices. Sir, what were the reasons for it. The rising price phenomenon was there earlier also, that is, when the Janata party Government was in power. I don't want to criticise them. But let us analyse the reasons for the rise in prices. In my view, one of the reasons for it is hoarding. Actually, 'supply' and 'effective supply' are quite different things. Here it is being said that supply and demand determine prices. But, actually, it does not happen to be so because supply is restricted and demand is inflated. This is one of the reasons why the prices are going up. Secondly, we have seen that in the industrial production side, the growth rate in the 1980s up to 1990 was 8.9 per cent; in 1991-92, there was a decrease of 0.5 per cent; in 1992-93, it went up by 1.5 per cent and, last year, up to December, 1993 it has gone up by 4 per cent. But these figures also do not show the correct picture. In 1993-94, that is, up to December, 1993, even though the increase was about 4.5 per cent, let us see the composition of the production. We will find that the growth in the manufacturing sector has gone up by only 1 per cent

whereas in the white goods production, it has gone up by 14 per cent. That is why there has been a 4.5 per cent increase in the growth rate. Now are we going to encourage white goods production or are we going to encourage production of goods of mass consumption? This aspect has to be looked into. It is because the margin of profit is very high in the white goods industry and also since the people can take advantage of the liberalised policy, this type of industrial growth is going on in this country and, that, I think, raises a red signal. Sir, we have to encourage those industries which manufacture goods of mass consumption. If this cannot be done, I would rather go to the extent of saying that we should discourage the setting up of the other kind of industries, at least for some time. Later on, we can switch over. For the present, there is no way out except for manufacturing mass consumption goods. How can it be done? Sir, unfortunately, there is power shortage in our country and the amount of power that is available in our country is not sufficient for even the existing industries. We are not able to utilise more than 60 or 65 per cent of our capacity and 35 per cent of the capacity remains idle for which we have even provided the infrastructure. As a result, the prices are going up and the cost of production is going to go up. So, the present Government must see to it that they supply adequate power to the industries. If the Government feels that it cannot set up more industries, for some time, let it not. Whatever funds are available at the Government's disposal, let them be spent for power generation. If that is not possible, that is, if that much of funds cannot be used for this purpose, then this unit may be passed on to the private sector or even the multinationals. I am not against it. If that is not done, then the persons who are pro-public sector like me feel that the public sector units are being killed. I don't want

the public sector to be killed... by not giving them power. I don't want our small scale industries to be killed for lack of power availability. As such, the first item on the agenda of the Government should be to provide whatever funds are available with it for the generation of power and allow the other sectors to progress. If this is not done, I don't think we will be able to produce more goods. If we are able to produce more goods, then the cost of production will come down. Then, naturally, the prices will come down.

There are other factors such as revenue deficit, increasing money supply, etc. If the growth in money supply does not match with the industrial production, then the prices will go up. As on 31st December, 1993, the money, which in economic terms is called M3, has gone up to 15 per cent and when the industrial production has gone up by only 1 per cent, naturally the prices will go up. As such, the Government has to see that the fiscal deficit is under strict discipline. Unfortunately, that has not happened in spite of all the efforts put in by the Finance Minister. What is the picture in 1993-94? The picture, I should say, is a very, very bad picture which I myself was not prepared to believe. During the course of the year, when I was getting the figures of the revenue collections, I was also shocked. The picture is that and revenue deficit which was Rs. 18,000 crores in the year 1992-93 has gone up to Rs. 34,000/-, almost a two-fold increase. Same is the case with fiscal deficit. If we are not able to generate sufficient revenue income, naturally you have to borrow. If you have to borrow, you have to borrow it from the Reserve Bank of India. And they have to print the money. Thus, the money supply will increase. As such, the Government has to ensure strict fiscal discipline. But I am sorry to say that in the year 1993-94, we have not been able to do that. There may be some compelling reasons. But those reasons should not

be the excuse. In the current budget year, I am happy that—we have to note that the industrial production in the year 1991-92 was only 0.1 per cent—we have aimed at a growth rate of 6 per cent in the industrial production. Though the 6 per cent rate will not be sufficient, even then if we achieve this 6 per cent growth, I think the prices can be stabilised.

Thirdly, so far as administered prices are concerned, I am not against the raising of the administered prices on economic grounds. But we have to see the common man. How he is going to be affected is to be seen. What has happened in the public distribution system? The level of procurement has gone up. The procurement in 1992-93 was 10.6 million tonnes. In 1993-94, it has gone up to 18.5 million tonnes. But what is the offtake? Unfortunately, in spite of the 18.5 million tonnes of procurement, the offtake is only 9.5 million tonnes. Earlier, the procurement was 10.6 million tonnes and the offtake was 11.7 million tonnes. It means that the foodgrains are not reaching the people. If the food-grains are not reaching the people, if the State Governments are not taking the stock allocated to them, then you discipline the State Governments. You have to ensure that whatever allocations are made to the State Governments, those are lifted by them. I would like to request the hon. Civil Supplies Minister to find out why the offtake is less even in the year 1992-93 as compared to the year 1991-92. You do that exercise and find out the reasons why the off-take is not there. Is it because people have no capacity to buy or is it because they are not reaching the ration shops and in between something is happening? Sir, I had also handled the Department in Maharashtra in the worst days. What was happening? From the Government godown, before they reached the shop they went to the market. So, I would like the Government to inform all the State Governments that when the goods are sent to the ration shops,

in that particular village, they should announce;

आज माल आ गया है

People should know that the goods have reached there. If that is done, if the people know that the goods have come to the ration shops, they will be able to take goods from the ration shops. Otherwise, the goods will go to the black market.

Sir, I am not in favour of fixing the prices. I am not at all in favour of fixing the prices. If you fix the prices, then the goods will disappear. For example, take the case of pulses. In Maharashtra and Gujarat, we do not that much production of pulses. They come from Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. And if the prices of pulses are less than what they are in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh who is going to bring them to Maharashtra and Gujarat? I would not like to starve the people of Maharashtra and Gujarat. But I would like that the industrialists should live the businessmen should live, and the consumers should live. Fix a reasonable margin of profit on ten essential articles, even in consultation with the trade—I do not mind it—both at the real level and at the consumers level. Call them. Discuss with them. If they come round and do it, well and good. If they do not come, then you have to utilise your stick. We are very happy that we have a Civil Supplies Minister who is a dedicated person, who wants to do something. What can he do if the price of sugar is raised by 75 paise, if the price of wheat is raised by 72 paise, if the price of rice is raised by Rs. 1.20? What can he do? He cannot do anything. What he can do is that he should monitor the prices. Sir, yesterday, I did not get the opportunity. I was surprised that in the Super Bazar, in the months of June and July, 1993, the price of sugar was higher than in the open market, which has never happened. Always we prefer to buy from the co-operative stores and the Super

Bazar because the prices are less there. And when I saw the price of sugar higher, I said, "What is this? How did it happen? You should make an enquiry as to why the price has gone up. The sugar prices are daily quoted in the newspapers, the open market price and the Super Bazar price are daily quoted in the newspapers. The sales are affected. So, why the prices are higher by one rupee in these two months of June and July?" The Super Bazar price was Rs. 11.50 and the open market price was Rs. 10.50. Why is it so?

PROF. SOURIN BHATTACHARYA: It is Super Bazar!

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: My own experience is that always the prices are less in the Super Bazar. You purchase 'turdal' or any article. The price is always less. Unfortunately, this has happened. You should take necessary corrective steps. As I have said earlier, we have to increase the production. For that purpose, we should give assistance to small scale industries who are manufacturing these goods. I was in the Lobby. He has rightly pointed out about the washing soap. The same thing was told to me. They might not have gone into it at the time of the Budget. The price of washing soap would go up because of the higher excise duty. I hope the Finance Minister would look into it and see that corrective action is taken.

Lastly, I would like to say that we should not blame the Government. We should all give constructive suggestions to the Government. We should all give constructive suggestions to the Government. We should see as to how we can help the Government...

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: In containing prices.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: As I said earlier, you have to take strong action against the hoarders. There was one State — I do not want to name the

State—where there was the highest number of raids. I do not want to give any political colour. There were 14,000 raids carried out in that State. Not a single drop of oil not a single grain, was seized. Had they gone for collecting *haftas*? Sir, we should see that the Essential Commodities Act is implemented in the spirit in which it was enacted. If that is not done, whatever your good intentions may be, they would not be translated into action.

I would not like to take more of your time, but we are all very much worried about this. Prices have been going up since the last six weeks. The price index does not reflect the actual position. It is not the correct barometer. The rate of inflation—it may be 7 per cent or 8 per cent—does not give the correct picture. If you go to the market and purchase things, you will find that it is much higher. You have to ask the common man. My wife tells me daily. Some years ago, I met a former Prime Minister. He was saying that it was not possible to balance the budget because of the increase in prices in those days.

Therefore, please see that you discipline the trade; you discipline the industry. When you give reliefs, when you give concessions in excise and customs duties, they have to be passed on to the consumers. You have said it on several occasions. Even the Finance Minister had promised; he gave an assurance. He said that if the industry did not behave, he would take back the concessions. I do not think it has happened.

When the Janata Dal was in power, there was a discussion in the House regarding enrichment. The benefits which accrued to the industry by way of customs and excise duty reliefs were not passed on to the consumers. Prof. Madhu Dandavate was the Finance Minister at that time, I had put

a question. If I remember correctly, we were given an assurance. The amount involved Rs. 500-600 crores. The assurance was that the amount would be collected and, since they would not be able to pass it on to the consumers as they could not be identified, it would be put in a consumers' fund so that it could be utilised for the purpose of giving some relief, or, for the purpose of, what is called, the consumer card and other things for which we have no finance. What has happened to that assurance?

I would like the hon. Minister of Civil Supplies to take it up with the Finance Minister. If this is done, I think you will have no problem in regard to funds. I know you have the problem in regard to funds for the purpose of giving the consumer card or some such thing by which you want to distribute essential commodities. If this is done, you will be able to get more funds.

I would once again suggest that the Government should pay adequate attention to see that the prices are kept under control. You should also see that the fiscal deficit is kept in check. As I said earlier, you should give concessions only to those industries which produce mass consumption items and not to those industries which produce wage goods.

डा० नौनिहाल सिंह (उत्तर प्रदेश) :
थैंक्य वाईस चेयरमैन साहिब जो मल पोइंट था वह मिस कर दिया है जगेश देसाई जी ने । हालांकि उन्होंने डिमांड एंड सप्लाई की बात को बहुत अच्छी तरह सपोर्ट किया था । उन्होंने इण्डस्ट्री पर ज्यादा जोर दिया । मगर जो हमारा एग्रीकल्चर का वाइटल सेक्टर है उसको वह बिल्कुल ही भूल गए । इंडस्ट्री और ट्रेड कोई भी नहीं चलेगी अगर एग्रीकल्चर का डवलपमेंट नहीं है जबकि एग्रीकल्चर को बिल्कुल इग्नोर किया है । सारी प्लॉस आप देख लीजिए एग्रीकल्चर को बिल्कुल इग्नोर किया है । वहां पर यह सब चीजें एग्रीकल्चर से ही आती हैं । राईस व्हीट शुगर यह सब चीज एग्रीकल्चर से आती हैं । यह तो उन्होंने

कहा कि इनको कंट्रोल रखा गया है इनको कैप्ट करके रखा है। ये इसी वजह अनाॅरेबिल मेंबर श्री माथुर के इस रिजोल्यूशन को सपोर्ट करता हूँ कि असली चीज—राईस व्हीट शूगर जो किसान से आती है उस किसान के लिए कुछ भी सुविधाएं नहीं दी गई हैं। सबसे बड़ी सुविधाएं क्या थी? एक तो थी—जो इनके इन्पुट्स हैं फर्टिलाइजर हैं पावर हैं सीड हैं इरिगेशन है लेबर है उन सबके ऊपर उनको जो कीमतें बढ़ रही हैं और मोर देन इण्डेड परसेंट कीमतें इन्पुट्स की बढ़ गई हैं। मगर कितनी बढ़ी हैं? जो लोग चिल्लाते हैं कि सीड की कीमत बढ़ा दी। किसान को एक्ज्यूज करते हैं कि किसान को ज्यादा दे रहे हैं। मगर इन्पुट्स की प्राइस जो है वह कितनी बढ़ गई है। कॉस्ट आफ प्रोडक्शन इतना बढ़ गया है कि उसकी तरफ किसी का ख्याल नहीं है। अगर कॉस्ट आफ प्रोडक्शन को आप रेग्युलेट करें और कम करें तो यही एग्रीकल्चर यही फार्मस इस देश में अपने पुराने तरीकों से तीन गुना पैदा कर सकता है। सप्लाई की बात जो जगेश जी ने कही है अगर सप्लाई ज्यादा होगी और इनको गवर्नमेंट के लिए फोडम दी जाएगी कि हर जगह जाकर बच सकते हैं और गवर्नमेंट का उम पर कोई रेस्ट्रिक्शन नहीं रह गई है। हालांकि अभी कहा है कि रेस्ट्रिक्शन नहीं होगा मगर एक्ज्यूअली रेस्ट्रिक्शन है क्योंकि सारी गुड्स ट्रेन को सारी रैम को हाॅयर करना पड़ेगा। हमको चाहिए एक डिब्बा परन्तु वे नहीं देंगे। तो फिर हम पूर्ण ट्रेन कैसे हाॅयर कर सकते हैं बड़े-बड़े व्यापारी भी नहीं कर सकते हैं। तो यह कहना कि किसान का मूवमेंट फ्री कर दिया है तो बिल्कुल ही गलत है। एक तो प्रोडक्शन उसकी बढ़े। यह तब बढ़ेगी जब इन्पुट्स की प्राइसेज कम हों कॉस्ट आफ प्रोडक्शन कम हो तो फिर अपने आप किसान तीन गुना पैदा कर सकता है। जब किसान तीन गुना पैदा करेगा तो प्राइसेस अपने आप डाउन हो जाएंगी और वह हमेशा हर जगह बेच सकता है।

अब प्राइसेज भी गवर्नमेंट तय करती है। कहीं दुनिया में ऐसा नहीं देखा कि चीज कोई पैदा करे और उसकी प्राइस

कोई फिक्स करे। मैंने तो देखा नहीं, मैं भी संसार में काफी घूमा फिरा हूँ, मगर ऐसा कहीं कभी भी नहीं देखा है। दूसरी बात, यह है कि किसान दो चीज पैदा करता है। एक तो वह अनाज पैदा करता है। धरती का सीना फाड़ करके आधी और तूफान के बीच वह अनाज पैदा करता है, जिससे हमारी जीविका चलती है। दूसरे, वह राॅ मैटीरियल पैदा करता है, जिससे कि मिल्स और इंडस्ट्री चलती हैं। तो इस प्रकार असली धुरी तो किसान है। परन्तु किसान की तरफ कोई ध्यान नहीं दिया गया है। इस बजट में भी आप देखिए कि उनके ऊपर कितना ध्यान दिया गया है। उसके अंदर जो हाई प्राइसेज हैं, जो इन्फ्लेशन है वहीं कंज्यूम कर जाएगा जो कुछ दिया है। तो किसान को कुछ नहीं मिलेगा, सारा इंडस्ट्री को दिया है। सभी इण्डस्ट्री के बारे में बात करते हैं, मोस्ट आफ दि मेंबर्स को मैं देखता हूँ कि वे इंडस्ट्री के बारे में बात करते हैं, इंडस्ट्रीज की रिचनैस के बारे में बात करते हैं, चाहे वह कस्टम ड्यूटी को कम करना है, चाहे एक्साइज ड्यूटी को कम करना है। सारे इण्डस्ट्रीज के बारे में बात करने हैं, एग्रीकल्चर के ऊपर कोई बात नहीं करता। अगर एग्रीकल्चर के बारे में सोचें तो प्राइसेस को जो सबसे बड़ी प्रोब्लम मुल्क के अंदर उठ रही है और जिसके ऊपर ग्रानारेबिल माथुर साहब जी रिजोल्यूशन लाए हैं और करीब-करीब सभी ने उसको सपोर्ट किया है। तो उसकी जड़ देखिए, मैं गांव की भाषा में कहा करता हूँ।

Do not kill the thief, but kill the mother of the thief.

जिससे कि चोर पैदा ही न हों। और हो बरा रहा है? ग्राम तरीके से कि

We are treating the symptoms but not the causes.

काॅज की तरफ आप जाइए कि क्यों, यह प्राइसेज राइज कर रही हैं, तो आपको उसका हल मिल जाएगा और हल मैंने बतला दिया है कि आप इन्पुट्स का कॉस्ट कम कीजिए। फर्टिलाइजर है, आप उसको सब्सडी दे रहे हैं। मगर सब्सडी पास

ग्रॉन नहीं होती है, वह अपनी जेब में डाल देते हैं। फिर भी झूठी-झूठी कॉस्ट दिखाते हैं कि हमारी कॉस्ट आफ प्रोडक्शन यह है, हम क्या करें। कभी किसी ने एक्जामिन किया है सही तरीके से कि क्या कॉस्ट आफ प्रोडक्शन है। किसान की हालत क्या है? किसान मिलों को शुगरकेन देता है। अब पैसा भी उसको टाईमली नहीं मिलता है। छः महीने में, साल भर में उसको पैसा मिलता है। आपको मालूम है, उसका कितना पैडिंग रहा है। उसकी इनकम का एक ही सोर्स है। वही छः महीने में आता है। इतनी देर में कर्जा हो जाता है। पैसा भी उतना ही मिलता है जितना गवर्नमेंट उसकी प्राईस फिक्स करती है।

क्यों नहीं उसकी इनकम को रेज किया जाता है, यह किसी ने सोचा है आज तक? अगर आप किसान की इनकम को रेज कर दें, ऐसा तरीका निकालें तो सारे भसले हल हो जायें और सारी कीमतें नीचे चली जायें और वह कैसे होगा, वह भी किसी ने नहीं बताया। मैं आपको बताता हूँ नयी बान आज और वह इस हाउस को कंसीडर करनी चाहिये। शुगरकेन दिया शुगर फैक्ट्रीज को, उससे बाई-प्रोडक्ट्स बने। एक तो मेन बाई-प्रोडक्ट है शुगर, उससे उसने पैसा ले लिया। खोई निकली, बगास निकला। बगास को बेचा उससे कार्ड बोर्ड बना। मालेसेज निकले, उसको बेचा, उससे आमदनी हुई। फिर एल्कोहल बनी, उससे आमदनी हुई। तो यह जो सारा सीरीज आफ बाई-प्रोडक्ट्स है, जिसका फायदा केवल मिल-मालिक पाता है और उसको नहीं मिलता जितने रा-मैटीरियल दिया था, तो क्यों नहीं सारे बाई-प्रोडक्ट्स के प्राफिट में उसका शेयरिंग हो? और क्या तरीका है मुझे बताया जाय कि उसकी इनकम को रेज करने का।

महोदय, यह शर्मनाक बात है कि 170 मुल्कों के अन्दर 10 मुल्क हैं जो सबसे ज्यादा गरीब माने जाते हैं और हिन्दुस्तान का नाम आज भी उसमें स्टेड है। इससे ज्यादा शर्मनाक बात

क्या है? यह कितनी बुरी बात है, कितने दुख की बात है कि मिलियन्स आफ टन्स गेहूं, राईस वगैरह बाहर से मंगाते हैं जबकि हमारा देश खेतिहर देश है। सबसे गरीब कौन है—किसान है। अगर आप उसके बारे में सोचेंगे, उसके प्रोडक्शन को बढ़ायेंगे, कास्ट आफ प्रोडक्शन आफ इनपुट्स को कम करेंगे तभी यह समस्या हल हो सकती है। जो चीजें वह लेता है, वह तो मनमानी कीमत पर मिलती है। उसकी काटन को ले जाता है अहमदाबाद का मिल-मालिक सस्ते दामों पर और जब कपड़ा बेजता है तो ऊंचे दामों पर। उसके आयलसीड्स को ले जाता है, सरसों को ले जाता है कानपुर का मिल-मालिक और तेल बेचता है अपनी मनमानी कीमत पर। यह कोई तमाशा है? इस तरह से थोड़ी चलेगा। तो जो चीजें वह पैदा करता है उसकी कीमत कैसे बड़े, वह आपके हाथ में नहीं है। उसकी जो चीजें हैं, जो बाई-प्रोडक्ट्स हैं, उसकी कीमत आप बढ़ा दीजिये, उसके प्राफिट्स में शेयरिंग कराइये, तब उसकी आमदनी बढ़ेगी। फ्री मूवमेंट होगा उसका, अपने आप फ्री मार्केट में आयेगा, और वह पैसा कमायेगा और आपकी कीमतें नीचे आ जायेंगी। आपको सस्ते प्राईस पर गेहूं, चावल और शुगर, ये सब चीजें मिलेंगी। ये है इसका तरीका हल करने का। मैं माथुर साहब के रेजोल्यूशन को पूरी तरह सपोर्ट करता हूँ और चाहता हूँ कि इस पर सारा सदन ध्यान दे।

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI (Tamil Nadu): Sir, this Resolution has been brought before us for discussion to express our concern at the rise in the price of essential commodities and to urge the Government to take necessary steps to contain the prices and thereby protect the common man, particularly the weaker sections of the society from undue financial hardships.

I suppose that most of the Members have already dealt with what Mr. Ma-thur wanted to say in this regard. I have to deal with various other points, but the time at my disposal is not

adequate for me to deal with them thoroughly.

Thank you. I have been blessed by Matnurji now.

Sir, the Treasury Benches have expressed two opinions. One argument is that when the whole House wants to raise the support price for the agricultural commodities for the farmers, how we expect that the issue price will come down. This argument has actually come from the Treasury Benches. A gentleman from the Treasury Benches said that this was an issue concerning all the Members cutting across the party-lines. Therefore, he requested that all of us have to sit together to put our heads together and find a solution in co-operation so that we are able to hear the Treasury Benches and they are able to hear us. About the first argument, I say, yes, we say that the support price for the farmers should be increased. When the support price is increased, they ask how it is possible without raising the issue price. Then they say that the Opposition people are supporting the demand to give subsidy as if the subsidy is a donation as they think. I have already explained in the House what the subsidy is. Again I want to remind this. The subsidy is not a donation that we are giving to the poor people.

It is nothing but the transfer of income from one section of the society to another section of the society. Take for example the subsidy given for wheat or rice production. After having given the concession on power tariff or fertiliser subsidy, you calculate how much total subsidy on power or fertilizer per tonne would be out of the total additional production. Suppose, if you decide to stop the subsidy or power concession, you calculate how much production will come down. If the Government cuts down the subsidy or power tariff and the production in the farm sector is re-

duced thereby, we may have to go to a foreign country for purchase of Wheat or rice from America or Canada. At that time if we are domestically buying at Rs. 320 per tonne for the same amount we may have to shell out Rs. 550 to America or Canada. That means we have to shell out not in rupee term, put in the dollar term. Therefore, even after having allowed the concession or after having given the subsidy, actually the Government of India is saving the foreign exchange. Therefore, the argument put forward by the hon. Member that given subsidies and concessions on tariffs, is not good does not hold good. I would say the Government should consider the point of saving the foreign exchange. So, our argument is that giving subsidy is not wrong. Another argument put forth by Shri V. Narayanasamy was that we should cooperate with the Treasury benches. Yes, we have cooperated with the Government several times and still we are ready to cooperate. But at the time of discussion on the disinvestment by financial institutions and the public sector units, we had clearly told them that they can increase their revenue by some other methods. For example, I said to increase its revenue, the Government should revamp its system. Instead of depending upon some bureaucrats, you should find out how much of power particular factory or industry has utilised it. For example most of the items in India cannot be produced without the utilisation of power. We can find out that for producing one hundred units of a commodity, how much of power is utilised. Of course, we have to deduct the amount of power consumed by using the bulbs tube lights, refrigerators etc. in the offices. Then we can find out the balance of power utilised for production purposes. If for production of one hundred units, certain amount of power is used by calculating the total power utilised and the total number of commodities produced, you can calculate how much excise

duty is to be collected. I feel the Government of India can collect an additional revenue of Rs. 4,000 crores as part of the excise duty. But the Government is not agreeing to adopt this system because of some lobby which is not in favour of it. This is not an advice from an individual, but from the whole country, but they do not want to follow it because of certain lobby which is exercising its pressure on the Government. Therefore, the two argument so far put forth by the Treasury benches have been smashed by the points that I have made.

Now, I come to the point on price rise.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: I think you don't say there is a lobby for price rise.

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: My friend says there is no lobby for price rise. I would tell him that the issue price of sugar now is Rs. 9.05. When the present Government took over, it was actually sold at the rate of Rs. 6.10 per kilogramme in the public distribution system. Now the rate of sugar per kg is Rs. 9.05. Now they say that the sugar price has been increased, because the support price has been increased. How can we reduce the issue price? I suggest to add the amount realised by the decontrol of add the amount realised by the molasses. Did you show any increase with regard to this commodity? Did you give any information with regard to the sale of the molasses? If you add the sale price of molasses to the price of sugar without raising its issue price, even then, should have been adjusted. Therefore, I feel that the increase of Re. 0.75 paise per kg was a calculated move by the sugar barons as well as the people those who support them.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Now the sugarcane growers are getting Rs. 600 per tonne. Earlier they were getting only Rs. 350 per tonne. In

the State of Maharashtra, there is a court judgment that the sugarcane growers should be paid more than Rs. 700 per tonne. On the one hand, you want the Government to pay the sugarcane growers more price and on the other hand, you do not want the Government to increase the price of sugar. What is the logic behind your argument?

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Thank you for the information. Don't think that I do not know about it.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN (Maharashtra): He was giving the cost analysis of the price of sugar. He said that they should not calculate on the basis of the price paid to the sugarcane grower. He said that they should also calculate on the basis of what the sugar industrialists earn through molasses. If they calculate that price also, then, the cost of sugar would be cheaper. That was his point.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Decontrol ... (Interruptions)...

SHRI VIDUTHALAI S. VIRUMBI: I know that he wants to divert the attention of the House. But it will not be possible for him to do that.

So far as LPG is concerned, it has become costlier by Rs. 15. The increase was moderated to Rs. 10 from Rs. 15/-. Some 1 1/2 years back I was told that the Government gave a subsidy of Rs. 36 per LPG cylinder. Now they say that the amount of subsidy has been doubled. They say that they are giving a subsidy of Rs. 76 per LPG cylinder. But it is not so. I want to know how they have arrived at this subsidy amount. Nobody knows. They are giving some false information to the nation very intelligently. They wanted to share that information with us. But we cannot believe them. Even though the customs duty has been reduced in respect of the LPG, you have increase the prices for LPG cylinder.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: You are not able to understand it.

SHRI VIDUTHALAI S. VERUMBI: We are able to understand it. That is why we are arguing like this. Again you are trying to divert the attention of the House from the subject. It is not at all possible for you to do that.

Now the price of wheat has been increased from Rs. 330 per quintal to Rs. 402 per quintal thereby Rs. 72 more per quintal has been given. When this Government came to power, it was sold at Rs. 234 per quintal. It means within 2 1/2 years they have increased it by Rs. 168. That is why Shri Jagdish Prasad Mathur has brought forward this Resolution to show that the Government has increased the prices of various commodities abnormally. The poor workers who are working from dawn to dusk are not able to bear this burden. That is why this Resolution has come up before this House for discussion.

So far as the price of rice is concerned, it has been increased from Rs. 100 to 120 per quintal depending upon its variety. In Tamil Nadu we are consuming 20 lakh tonnes of rice per annum. Out of that 8 lakh tonnes of rice is being supplied by the Central Government. But what has the Government of Tamil Nadu done? They have increased the price of 20 lakh tonnes of rice... *(Interruptions)*... I am not yielding. If you want to quote from any record, I will sit for a minute and you can do so. Later on I will reply to that.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: You can raise that issue in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly but not in Parliament.

SHRI VIDUTHALAI S. VIRUMBI: In the last elections both of you were hand in hand and promised that you would reduce the price of essential commodities within 100 days of your coming to power. But you have

not reduced the price of even a single commodity in the last 2 1/2 years. ... *(Interruptions)*... In the name of incentive, in the name of bonus, whatever we have also has been stopped. Now the Government of Tamil Nadu has put the burden of Rs. 260 crores on the poor men's shoulders. Regarding the Railways, came to power—taking in this year's Budget also—they have raised, by way of fares and freight, Rs. 4,163 crores. When Shrimati Indira Gandhi was the Prime Minister, from 1980-81 to 1984-85, totalling all the increases of those five years, the amount raised was only Rs. 1,425.53 crores. In Shri Rajiv Gandhi's period, from 1985-86 to 1989-90, it was Rs. 2,359 crores. Even taking into account the total of those ten years from 1980 to 1990, the increase was only Rs. 3,784 crores.

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA (Karnataka): You also quote the amounts allocated for developmental work under this Government. You have to compare both.

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: When people from your party speak, they may quote them.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: About 6,000 kilometres of broad-gauge track was laid last year. You should not forget that.

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Whereas for ten years, the increase was only Rs. 3,784 crores, in these three years, in your regime, the increase has been Rs. 4,163 crores. It is more than the figure for those ten years!

When we come to the oil scene, petrol and diesel, where they are going to earn more than Rs. 2,300 crores, they say that only the rich are utilising petrol and diesel and not the ordinary people. Yes, they are not consuming directly. But if you increase the prices of petrol and

diesel, lorry charges, transport charges, will increase; if there is an increase in the transport charges, the prices of commodities transported will also increase and the man in the street has to bear the burden.

Coming to the price of steel, it was increased during the month of August, 1993. Again it was hiked in January, 1994. Within six months, the price of steel was hiked twice.

For sugar, rice and wheat, throughout the year, we had to shell out Rs. 1,600 crores and for, LPG, Rs. 400 crores, according to the estimate of the Government. By petrol and diesel, they have earned a further amount of Rs. 2,400 crores. According to the estimate of the Government, sugar, rice, wheat, LPG, petrol and diesel, all put together, are going to bring Rs. 4,300 crores from the public. Apart from this, Mr. Jaffar Sharief is going to take Rs. 1,000 crores. The total comes to Rs. 5,300 crores. They are going to earn that much.

Now, so far as the coffee is concerned I want to say that 70 per cent of the total production of products had been kept in India for domestic consumption. After the law has been changed recently, what is the present condition? The 70 per cent is being reduced to 50 per cent. That is, actually, 20 per cent of it, which was till now reserved for domestic consumption, is going to be exported. The prices of the commodities are also going to rise thereby sharply.

The growth-rate of labour force is 2.5 per cent. But the growth-rate of employment is only 2.2 per cent. In 2002 A.D., according to an estimate of the Government, 93 million people will be unemployed. It is nearly ten crores! Already extremism is there. And, one of the major causes for extremism is poverty. We have to keep that in mind. In the north-east of India, in the north-west of India, and, in Andhra Pradesh, pocket by pocket, extremism is being developed. Unemployment is the fertiliser for extremism. The Government has to bear this in mind. The

Human Development Index of the United Nations Development Programme... India came down to a lower position this year, that is, it came down to 134th position this year from 121st position last year. Its position has further gone down by another thirteen countries. As far as the per capita income is concerned, it ranks as the 141st State in the world. In this condition the prices have been increased, and in this scenario, the Budget has been presented. I do not want to go into the Budget right now.

I will do so when the discussion on the General Budget takes place. As far as the Plan expenditure is concerned, it is clear from the revised estimates of the Budget that it was enhanced by only Rs 4775 crores. But the non-Plan expenditure last year was increased by Rs. 7,774 crores. Therefore, now, the increase in the non-Plan expenditure is double than the Plan expenditure. It clearly indicates the direction in which the Government is going. Then, Sir, what is the fiscal deficit? What have you announced in the Budget? It was Rs. 36,959 crores. Now, it stood at Rs. 58,551 crores. That means it is Rs. 21,000 crores more than that announced by the Government. What type of economy are you giving? What type of administration are you giving today? Everything dealt with so far clearly shows that the prices have increased because of the mal-administration. The country is standing at the 141st place in the comity of nations. When this is the position and when a single person is looting our peoples' property in the name of purchasing shares and in the name of the Securities Scam, what type of administration we are having under the leadership of the hon. Prime Minister, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao? A warning has been given by Dr. Kabeenar in this respect recently. Last year, the deficit was shown to be Rs. 4,000 crores. It reached Rs. 9,000 crores. Now, we are saying that the deficit would be only 6,000 crores. But I feel the deficit would be Rs. 15,000 crores. In that case,

there would be no other go except to resort to printing more currency notes which would lead to inflation. Therefore, our income would be less. When our income is less, our saving will be less. When our saving is less, our investment will be less. When our investment is less, our production will be less. In this way, this vicious circle will go on. In order to take the country out of the vicious circle, you have to work on the right direction. But you are not the proper people to lead the nation. Therefore I request that you yourself should leave the citadel of power which you are occupying at the moment and allow those people to occupy it who are capable of governing the country. With these words, I conclude.

PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA (West Bengal): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I was just wondering why the BJP thought a particularly unencumbered Mr. Mathur fit to deal with this issue. This issue is a domestic issue, so to say. In every house, the problem is there. It is today more than at any other time. But what Mr. Mathur has pointed out is that it is because of their increasing the administered prices. But even without increasing the administered prices, the increase in prices has been effected. It goes without saying that the increase in prices is invariably related to the question of an efficient Public Distribution System, which is, perhaps, one thing in the major part of the country totally absent. I have been told in most of the areas of the country there are ration shops, fair price shops and other things. But the people get nothing from them. My own party for long had been demanding the essential commodities, that essential commodities should be made available, fourteen or whatever it is; perhaps the ruling party comes up with the ruling party comes up with seven or eight. But the question is that essential commodities should be made

available to all at a reasonable price and their supply should be the responsibility of the Central Government. It should be done through the Public Distribution System. But so far as the people below the poverty line are concerned—who are usually called the weaker sections of society—they should be given essential commodities at subsidised rates. Now this subsidy, in one sense, is a taboo. Of course, our Finance Minister made bold to announce a certain subsidy even higher than the earlier year; otherwise, in the Public Distribution System and other fields, subsidy has been taken off. But for the people belonging to weaker sections, a new distribution system is said to have been introduced. It has been claimed that about 12,000 shops have been opened from where the people belonging to weaker sections are having their daily necessities. I do not know whether there is any monitoring of it, whether things are really available and whether the people who go there have anything for their labours. Facts and figures they know, but the ground reality is something very different, fundamentally different. That is the problem. The prices of essential commodities should keep pace with the purchasing power of the people? What is the purchasing power of the people? It has been quoted today by a Member of the ruling party—I think it was Mr. Jagdish Desai—that when the present Prime Minister assumed office, sugar was sold at Rs. 6.10. Now the price of sugar—nobody knows what it is—is by no means less than Rs. 14/-. Even Jagdish Desai found it in the Super Bazar higher than in an outside shop. This speaks of a conflict in the field of distribution of essential commodities. Just now, Mr. Narayanasamy—it is between the Tamil Members of the House this is always happening—was telling that we were demanding higher prices for the agriculturists but we shout that even when while giving higher procurement price the issue price is increas-

ed. Now this dichotomy this question of comparability between an industrial price index and an agricultural price index, can be very well there. Agriculturists have to buy industrial products at a higher rate. Even those agriculturists who are getting higher procurement price have to buy other goods at a higher price, offsetting the higher procurement price. Therefore, these problems are all there—the question of adequate price management from the side of the Government. The function of the Government is, nowadays, all pervasive. But now this Government has been trying to shift most of field of essential commodities, privatisation in the field of consumer goods, privatisation in the field of the Railways, privatisation in the field of airlines and everything else. This overall privatisation will carry the price level, nobody knows, to what height. The commanding height of the Indian economy and the Indian industry is being dismantled to create a new price height. They hold that the people will have to bear the responsibility for it. We will have to bear the consequences of it. We will have to be the victims of it. And the Government is milk white. They have no blame, nothing of the sort. This is the position, which cannot go on like this. Time is sure to come when the Government will have to account for it. If the Opposition is unable to make them accountable for it, of course, that is the weakness on the part of the Opposition for which we will have to atone. But at the same time, let the Government not rest on its own, the real image. To save it in the mind of the people below the poverty line, do something. Let them make meaningful what is there in the name of the Public Distribution System, in the name of essential commodities at the reduced price for those below the poverty line, so that they serve really the good purpose and for that it is essential that something should be done to monitor the scheme, to make the scheme really what it is claimed to

be and not allow the people just to be duped by such talks.

The Deputy Chairman in the Chair

I would hope that tinkering with the question of prices should be abandoned. Holding the price rise is a very important thing and inability to hold the price rise led to many economic guilts. I would, therefore, say to the Government that inability to hold the price rise led to a continuous increase in the spiral of dearness allowances creating problems for the economy. Such problems have not been properly tackled, so far. My appeal, through you, to the Government would be — of course, the Opposition is there to criticise any lapse on the part of the Government—that from the side of the Government, when they try to meet the criticism of the Opposition, there should be a sincere effort to right the wrong that is going on in the name of increasing the procurement price and increasing the issue price and the question of making the Public Distribution System just for a section of the people without meaning it for the whole of the people because such distinction, perhaps, is such distinction, perhaps not also very feasible. Taking all these factors into account, the Public Distribution System should be strengthened and those who are below the poverty line should be helped. Only then it would be possible to make a dent on the price situation