

[Secretary-General]

passed by Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 6th August, 1991

(II)

"In accordance with the provisions of rule 96 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, I am directed to enclose the Jammu and Kashmir Criminal Law Amendment (Second Amending) Bill, 1991, as passed by Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 6th August 1991."

Sir, I lay a copy each of the Bills on the Table.

HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION

points arising out of answer to starred question No. 222 given in the Rajya Sabha on 30th July, 1991, regarding subsidy on Food and Fertilisers —Contd—

SHRI MOTRU HANUMANTHA RAO (Andhra Pradesh): When we asked supplementaries both the hon. Finance Minister and the Agriculture Minister were present. Both of them clarified that the old stocks would be sold at old rates and they would also see to it that the farmers will get the fertilizers at old rates. We took that assurance. But later when I went to my State I found that there was a circular sent by the Central Government that all stocks should be sold at new rates and the extra amount should be credited to the account of the Central Government. Is it true? How it has happened? Why this discrepancy has taken place?

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर : सौ करोड़ के घपले को इन्कवायरी कराये और जो घपला है, भ्रष्टाचार है उसको दूर करने के लिए पार्लियामेंट्री कमेटी के द्वारे में कुछ कहिए।

कृषि मंत्री (श्री बलराम जाखड़) : माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, जो माननीय सदस्य ने कहा था और अभी जो कह रहे थे कि पुराना स्टॉक पुराने दाम पर जाएगा, ऐसा मेरा कहना था। बिल्कुल ठीक था।

SHRI MOTURU HANUMANTHA RAO: Please speak in English.

श्री बलराम जाखड़ : वे हिन्दी में बोले इसलिए मैं बोले रहा था।

The hon. Member just said that I had assured the House that we have taken steps that the old stocks will be sold the old rates which were lying with the sellers. That was the circular sent.. {Interruptions}

DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: You categorically told that you do not discriminate between the whole-saler and retailer. Whatever stocks that are available with the sellers would be sold at the old rates. That was told in the House. {Interruptions}.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Because the fertilizer industry is not controlled by me. I told you that we are concerned with the distribution. That is why, when the Finance Minister announced this proposal in the House, immediately I took steps to see that whatever stocks are lying with the sellers, throughout the country will be sold at the old rates. I alerted the State Governments because that is the only agency through which I can reach them. That is the only avenue available to me. I cannot personally go. I just call all of them. This is for the first time that we are doing it. There are large stocks laying. At least, my farmers could not be put to {Interruptions}.

SHRI MOTURU HANUMANTHA RAO: You are saying "my farmers". We are all farmers.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: I am one of you. You are one of us. There is no difference. We are one. There is no distinction.

SHRI MOTURU HANUMANTHA
RAO: But my question is not answered.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: I had issued the instructions and I hope that the Governments in the States will take care of it. Tomorrow again I will call all the people from all the States to determine how to devise that mechanism by which we could adopt this formula which the Finance Minister has just evolved. We hope that nothing haky-panky takes place. There are lots of avenues; I am also apprehensive that some people with some evil intentions might take advantage of that. We must be aware of it and not only the Government but the whole people, the farmers, their organisations, must come together to save themselves and the country..

SHRI MOTURU HANUMANTHA
RAO: I am sorry: I am not concerned with the formula. I am not raising the issue of formula, of the small farmer or the big farmer. The question is, when we asked some supplementary question, you replied that the old stocks would be sold at old rates and..

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: I do not go back on that. I have got some reports.
..{Interruptions}.

SHRI MOTURU HANUMANTHA
RAO: You did not say then that a distinction will be made between the wholesaler and a retailer.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR:
The question is, the wholesaler is for the Government and the retailers had already given it their commission. That was it. You needed money for the Exchequer, and that is for the Government. That is that

I said.. {Interruptions}. The simple and straight way is, even now...

SHRI MOTURU HANUMANTHA
RAO: Even Government stocks are sold in the black market.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR:
It might be; I do not deny it. But that is for the State Government. State Governments look after the problems of law and order, fair distribution, and I think I have got only one instance from Andhra Pradesh, where there have been some problems. There have been riots; there has been a firing. That is the only State because there, the differentiation between the retailers and the wholesalers is not there, and that is the only place. We are trying to get in touch with them. I am getting in touch with the whole set up and I think in future also we have to take care of these things. . .

DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI:
With what effect?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR:
Let us see. You are there also; you are representing that State. We all should come together to find a solution. It is something of our own homogeneity which is to safeguard the interest of the farmers. I may complain today. I have to say something. I think as a farmer I would not have liked any subsidy cut. I have myself been espousing the cause of the farmers since I came in my senses in the farming profession. I know what it means to be a farmer. I know the hardships.

Now, this gentleman. ..{Interruptions} .. my Finance Minister, Hon. Finance Minister of today ..

SHRI S.B.CHAVAN : No, we all, not he alone is joint. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : Please listen, I am not saying that. I am only saying that the hon. Finance Minister, his persuasion.. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. UPENDRA : An innocent man is being made the scapegoat.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : I am proud of my Finance Minister. He has done the right thing. He has done the job. (*Interruptions*). Let me say something which must be recorded because what he has done under these trying circumstances, nobody else would have tried to do, and he did it with such simplicity, with the wholeheartedness, with openheartedness. He talked to me ; he told me that this is the position. Either you save the nation or the farmer. If the nation is saved farmer is saved. The farmer has saved the nation time and again. It is the farmer who brought this nation to the present stage. If the farmer had not come up, you would have been having a begging bowl in your hand. Now we are 85 crores. You were only 35 crore when we were importing million of tonnes of foodgrains and now we are 25 crores and the farmer has given us the unique position not only to feed ourselves but even to send something to others. Last time we sent one lakh tonnes for the Africa Fund and then also to Russia and to her friends. We helped them. And even now we can have the capacity to export, and that is what I am going to do. I know what it means to be a farmer. I know their hardships. That is why I said that I was against it when I realised the sacrifices to be made. People made sacrifices and laid down their lives to get independence for us. Can't we do something for the nation to stand on its own legs ? This is the prime time and the testing time for

all of us. The hon. Finance Minister assured me emphatically and also reiterated twice on the floor of the House that we would not allow the farmers to go with a begging bowl. We will provide them with all the facilities. Shri Bhupinder Singh Mann is a great friend of mine. He is from Punjab. He has been a farmer all along his life. I know how much we pay to the farmers. We have also to see to the conditions of the people who consume. We have to make both ends meet. I know what has to be done. I will reply in the House when the Grants for Agriculture Ministry are taken up. We cannot hurt the farmers. When the farmers are hurt, the whole country is hurt. We have to safeguard the interest of the whole nation as such. We will have to do whatever we can to enable the country to stand on its legs. This time we have used 24 times more of Nitrogen and 18% more of DAP. If we don't import the fertiliser, what will the farmer do in the next sowing season ? The sowing season begins in the months of October and November. We will have to safeguard their interests. Some people say that there are big farmers. They are big but length-wise. We have imposed ceiling not once but twice. Nobody owns more than 7/1-2 acres or 54 acres of dry land farming. We should be grateful to the farmers who are feeding this country. They should not be penalised. We are doing something which is tenable. We have to promote co-operative farming in times to come. There is more of load on the land. We have to take off this load on the land. We have to provide them the basic necessities which we have envisaged in our Budget. We have to start industries, agro-based industries, in the rural areas. We have to provide facilities for packaging, grading, marketing, processing, storage, transportation and refrigeration. I have a strong feeling and the confidence that given all the opportunities, the farmers can help in increasing the

export of agricultural products substantially. There is nothing daunting in this. This is a land which gives everything to us at every time and in every climate. We will be providing the technological breakthrough to compete in the world market. We will be doing something wonderful to the people of India and to the farming community in the near future. We will bridge the gap between the rural areas and the urban areas. We don't want

them to fight. We want them to live like brothers and amenable.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN
(SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR) :
The House stands Adjourned till 11 a.m.
tomorrow.

The House then adjourned at
fifty-five minutes past seven of the
clock till eleven of the clock on
Wednesday, the 7th August, 1991.