

[Shri Yashwant Sinha]

sorry that Mr. Maran though it fit to raise this matter again in this House. He might have a constituency to cater to....

SHRI MUKASOLI MARAN: Sir, he has several interpretations..

SHRI YASHWAT SINHA: But we cannot become parties to the violation of the norms and the conventions of this House. We have had a discussion in the Chamber, Sir. The Deputy Chairman was present there. We have decided that we would discuss this matter again in the Business Advisory Committee at 4 o'clock and it is only after that that the announcement about the programme would be made in this House.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): Let us now proceed with the Special Mentions.

SPECIAL MENTIONS

Failure of Pepsi Foods Private Limited to meet Export Obligation

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH (West Bengal): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Government, through you, to a very important issue, particularly in the presence of the Leader of the House who happens to be the Finance Minister. He and I, when we were on the same side, had the opportunity to raise this issue when the Congress-I was in power or when Mr. Sinha belonged to the ruling party and I belonged to a party, supporting the ruling party at this time. I remember when this issue was raised, I and the present Finance Minister were in the Opposition. I raised this issue and the Finance Minister himself supported me. It was regarding grant of permission to Pepsico for setting up a project here for manufacture of soft drinks and some prepared foods like potato chips etc. I would like to draw the attention of the present Finance Minister to his own statement when

he said, recalling the Cola episode—at that time Mrs. Gandhi was the Prime Minister—: “Mrs. Gandhi’s Government went and with the going of Mrs. Gandhi’s Government, Cola was also going”. He himself said that at the time when Mrs. Gandhi was in power. Later, he again said: “Mr. Gandhi would go and with his going, Pepsi would also go.” But unfortunately, despite all our protests and opposition, pepsico was given the permission and licence on certain terms for setting up its unit at Punjab. And this was done during the previous Government’s tenure when Mr. Yashwant Sinha himself was in the then ruling party. And at that time though we were supporting the then Government, but from our party side we opposed that. From the agreement which they entered into and the commitments which Pepsico made, it is observed that none of the provisions, none of the commitments that they made, has been fulfilled, whether it is about the export obligation, whether it is about the percentage of manufacture of soft drinks and other products, whether it is about the cost of projects or anything else. So, Pepsico failed to meet all the commitments, including the export obligations which they have made or which they had been told to do by the Government while granting the licence. Pepsico had failed. Recently, a Committee was set up after a discussion in the consultative Committee of the Food Processing Ministry and the Committee was set up by the Ministry of this Government of which Mr. Yashwant Sinha is the Finance Minister and that Committee had submitted its report to the Government. And that Committee in its report has concluded that Pepsico has failed to meet its export obligations and they have found that Pepsico has not procured the plant for extraction of pure juice and has not made any arrangement to acquire the fusion technology for concentrating fruit juice to save energy and to retain flavour, though Pepsico in its project proposal had stated that pure concentrate would be used in the manufacture of the soft-drink which is

marketed by Pepsi in the U.S. The report says that the construction cost of the building and other equipments has also gone up from Rs. 22 crores to Rs. 75 crores. The number of people they were supposed to recruit an appointment, they have not done. So, on all counts Pepsico has failed to fulfil the obligations and the commitments made. Now, the Government says that report is under consideration. I do not know, how long it will remain under consideration, because, according to the statement of my hon. colleague, now the Finance Minister, Mr. Yashwant Sinha, Rajiv Government had gone but Pepsico did not go, it stayed. Now, Mr. Yashwant Sinha himself is the Finance Minister. And may I request the Government, through you....

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): You please conclude. This is a special Mention.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH ...that before this Government goes—this Government is found to go as the situation obtains today—at least, the report which has been submitted to the Government about the failure of Pepsico to meet the obligations should be pursued by the Government and action taken against Pepsico. That I want to know from the Government and, I hope, since Mr. Yashwant Sinha himself is the Finance Minister of this Government, he would take all the steps to expedite the Government action against Pepsico for not fulfilling the commitments and obligations they had made in their proposal. Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): Mr. Kalmadi, do you want to associate with this?

SHRI SURESH KALMADI (Maharashtra): No.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): On this very same subject.

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: I do not know what subject. I came late.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): This is Pepsi Foods.

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: I gave a Special Mention. But I do not want to support Mr. Dipen Ghosh.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): But your name is specified.

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: That is up to the Secretary-General.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): All right. Go ahead.

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Sir, as you are aware, when the Pepsi proposal came in, there were various views in the Parliament—some were against it and some were for it. I, for my part, opposed it tooth and nail. But the party took a different line. We were given to understand that Pepsi is generally interested in promoting the cause of the farmers of Punjab, that it firmly believed in setting up food processing units in Punjab, that it would export the produce from Punjab, that it will set up an Agricultural Research Institute in Punjab and on all these counts commitments were made by Pepsi and, therefore, people like me, did forgo our objection. We said all right, this is going to happen in the interest of Punjab, there will be more job opportunities. We said it is all right and Pepsi did come into the country. They gave a lot of commitments, but, as Mr. Dipen Ghosh said, they are backing out of their commitments. This action of Pepsi will undermine many more projects which might be coming to India. If they are not going to keep up to the export commitment, if what all they promised to this country is not going to come up, it is indeed a very bad thing and severe action must be taken against

[Shri Suresh Kalmadi]

this particular company. The three-member committee constituted... (time-bell ring) I am not going into the details. Why are you impatient? I am just mentioning it. I am not going into the details...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): You know the rule, that you need not repeat what he has said.

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: I am just saying I am not going into details because you have already said it. At least allow me to say that.

The only thing they did very well was the soft-drink plant. That plant they did very well. And the cost of the project has gone up three times. I do not know where the money has gone, where the money has been spent. All the equipment seems to be overinvoiced, all the billing overinvoiced. I think a thorough inquiry must be held by the Government. It is clear that the trust and confidence of the Government of India and the country in Pepsi has been betrayed. It was said that Pepsi would bring in a flood of foreign investment. In fact, Pepsi has done a great deal of damage to the multinationals. It is now clear that Pepsi has no intention for food processing and Pepsi has no expertise or knowhow in food processing. Their only interest was soft drinks and potato chips. With these words I would request the Government to look into the matter and make sure that Pepsi keeps up its commitment; otherwise till such time that Pepsi keeps up its commitment its soft drinks plant should be closed down, because they were allowed to manufacture soft drinks only on the condition that they would fulfil all the export obligation and export obligation means that the produce of the farmers of Punjab—not an item like trucks—their fruits and fruit juice alone from Punjab must be exported.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAIL MASODKAR): Shri Gurudas Das Gupta. Not here. Shri Shankar Dayal Singh.

Dismissal of the Governor of Bihar

श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह (बिहार) : मान्यवर, मुझे खुशी है कि इस विषय पर

हमको स्पेशल मेंशन के तहत कुछ कहने का मौका मिल रहा है।

मान्यवर, यह बिहार के राज्यपाल युनुस सलीम साहब की बर्खास्तगी का जो मामला है जिसने कल सदन में तुफान पैदा कर दिया, उसके संबंध में मैं कुछ अर्ज करने जा रहा हूँ। आप जिस कुर्सी पर बैठे हुए हैं वह भारतीय संविधान का एक सर्वोच्च पद है और साथ ही दुनिया जानती है कि आप स्वयं भी संविधान की मर्यादाओं को अच्छी तरह से जानते हैं, उसका पालन करते रहे हैं और करवाते रहे हैं। जिस ढंग से बिहार के राज्यपाल युनुस सलीम साहब को हटाया गया, जिसके बारे में कल के इंडियन एक्सप्रेस में जो उनका साक्षात्कार आया है, जिसको लेकर इसी सदन में इतना बड़ा होहल्ला मचा, उसके बारे में मैं बहुत स्पष्ट शब्दों में सरकार के सामने कुछ बातें रखना चाहता हूँ।

श्रीमन्, कल हमारे तमिलनाडु के सदस्यगण इस सवाल को लेकर उत्तेजित हो गए थे तो बड़ी भारी बेचैनी हो गई थी सत्ताधारी दल में। लेकिन तमिलनाडु के सदस्यों का इस संबंध में उत्तेजित होना और हठना बहुत जल्द ही था। अगर तमिलनाडु के मुरासोली मारन साहब और बालू साहब इस मामले को नहीं उठाते तो मैं समझता हूँ कि ठीक ढंग से उनके रोष का प्रकटीकरण नहीं होता इसलिए कि जिस तरीके से युनुस सलीम साहब को बर्खास्त किया गया है उसके लिए सबसे बड़ा कारण दिया गया है कि तमिलनाडु में जो राष्ट्रपति शासन लागू किया गया, उसकी उन्होंने आलोचना की थी।

मान्यवर, आप जानते हैं कि राज्यपाल केन्द्र का प्रतिनिधि होता है और राज्यपाल को वही भाषण पढ़ना पड़ता है जो काउंसिल आफ मिनिस्टर्स द्वारा तय किया जाता है। अगर युनुस सलीम साहब ने संवैधानिक मर्यादाओं का पालन करते हुए सही तथ्यों का उल्लेख किया है, तमिलनाडु में जो कुछ हुआ है उसकी ओर उन्होंने इशारा किया है, तो मैं समझता हूँ कि राज्यपाल ने संविधान के अनुरूप काम किया