

[श्री: निशिथ कुमार]

भेजिए। कहा गया है कि अब विस्तृत रिपोर्ट बनाकर के भेजिए।

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं बता देना चाहता हूँ कि कितने करोड़ रुपए का केलेमिटी रिलीफ फंड है, गुजरात का यह केलेमिटी रिलीफ फंड 85 करोड़ रुपए का है और वहां की सरकार अपने रिलीफ मैन्युअल के मुताबिक सहायता पहुंचाने में सक्षम है। केन्द्र सरकार का जो केलेमिटी रिलीफ फंड का 75 प्रतिशत रुपया है, वह केन्द्र सरकार देने की तत्पर है। गुजरात सरकार चाहे तो वह अपने नार्मस के मुताबिक नको मुहैया करा सकती है। इसी तरह उड़ीसा की सरकार कर सकती है, यह तमिलनाडु की सरकार कर सकती है। उसमें कोई दिक्कत नहीं है। केलेमिटी रिलीफ फंड इसीलिए बना है।

महोदय, यह 25 हजार रुपया प्रति मृतक परिवार को देने के संबंध में कहा गया। मैं बताना चाहूंगा कि उप-प्रधानमंत्री ने घोषणा की थी, जो पीपुल ट्रस्ट है... (व्यवधान)...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री भुवनेश चतुर्वेदी) : आप क्लेरिफिकेशन तो मांगते हैं, फिर जवाब मुनते नहीं हैं। मंत्री महोदय, माननीय सदस्य संतुष्ट हो चुके हैं।

श्री निशिथ कुमार : महोदय, इसको कहकर खत्म कर देता हूँ। इंडियन पीपुल नेचुरल कैलेमिटी ट्रस्ट से माननीय उप-प्रधान मंत्री और कृषि मंत्री, जो कि उसके पदेन अध्यक्ष भी हैं, उन्होंने घोषणा की थी कि 25 हजार रुपया हम प्रति मृतक के परिवार को देंगे। उसके बाद प्रधानमंत्री वहां गए और उन्होंने दो करोड़ रुपया प्रधानमंत्री राहत कोष से दिया। उसमें से 10 हजार रुपया प्रति मृतक परिवार को देने का प्रावधान है यानी 10 हजार रुपया प्रधानमंत्री राहत-कोष से मिलेगा और 15 हजार रुपया इस ट्रस्ट के पैसे से मिलेगा और दोनों को मिलाकर 25 हजार रुपया प्रत्येक मृतक के निकट संबंधी या मृतक परिवार को मिलेगा, जो अब तक साइक्लोन के मामले में सबसे अधिक दिया जा रहा है।

अंत में, हम माननीय सदन से इतनी दरखास्त करेंगे कि हम सभी इस विपत्ति से दुखी हैं और आंध्र प्रदेश या दूसरे जो साइक्लोन से प्रभावित इलाकों के लोग हैं, उनकी तकलीफ में हम लोग उनके साथ हैं, दुखी परिवारों के प्रति गहरी संवेदना प्रकट करते हैं। हम चाहते हैं उनको इस तकलीफ से मुक्ति मिल सके और जल्दी उनका रेस्टोरेशन हो सके, रिहैबिलिटेशन हो सके, इसके लिए हम सभी चिंतित हैं। दलगत भेदभाव से उठकर केन्द्र सरकार, राज्य सरकार और दूसरी जो संस्थाएं हैं, कुछ स्वयं सेव संस्थाएं, जिनका मैंने जिक्र किया वहां कार्यरत हैं। अगर समय रहता तो मैं उन स्वयं सेवी संस्थाओं का नाम भी गिना देता, तो सभी की मदद से इस विपत्ति का मुकाबला किया जा रहा है। वहां के लोगों ने जो यह गंभीर नुकसान झेला है, इसके प्रति हम सभी लोगों की हमदर्दी उनके साथ है और हम सभी लोगों का सहयोग उनको मिलेगा। धन्यवाद।

श्री राम नरेश यादव : महोदय, स्वयं सेवी संस्थाओं ने जो अनुदान दिया है...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI) : No. No more speeches. Please pardon me. Yadavji, please pardon me. Please sit down. Now, reply to the debate on price-rise.

SHORT DURATION DISCUSSION

Steep rise in prices of essential Commodities—contd.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI) : The Government attaches the highest priority to containment of inflation and we fully share the concern of hon. Members of the House regarding the rising trend of prices as it hurts the common man, particularly the poorer sections of the community

whose incomes are not indexed to prices. Of course it is unfortunate that the reply to the price-rise debate has come up to the House at the fag-end of today's proceedings, not only today's proceedings but the fag-end of the current Session. It is well known that the present Government inherited a very difficult economic and fiscal situation. When this Government took office in the first week of December, public finances were in a shambles. Government expenditure was soaring beyond control and inflation was rampant. (Interruptions). Let me complete. I will answer. (Interruptions).

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI) : This is reply to the debate. (Interruptions).

SHRI ANIL SHASTRI : Facts will remain facts.... (Interruptions). Facts will remain facts.... (Interruptions).... Sir, the fact of the matter is that we had inherited a major problem and so, we have got to mention it on the floor of the House. We have to state that when we took over, the public finances were in shambles. The Government expenditures were soaring beyond control and the rate of inflation was increasing. The Budgetary deficit, at the end of December, 1989, touched Rs. 11,789 crores which was higher by Rs. 4,452 crores than the Budget Estimate of Rs. 7,337 crores. The Wholesale Price Index, by the end of December 1989, had recorded an increase of more than six per cent and the actual rate of inflation had already touched eight per cent. As soon as the National Front Government took over and assessed the deteriorating economic situation, it appointed a Cabinet Committee on prices under the chairmanship of the Finance Minister to monitor the prices and to take appropriate steps to check inflation. The annual rate of inflation during 1989-90 at 8.8 per cent was higher than the 5.7 per cent registered during the previous year. In terms

of the Consumer Price Index, the rate of inflation during 1989-90 at 6.6 per cent was significantly lower than the 8.5 per cent registered during 1988-89. This year, the Budget was presented on the 19th March and, during the eight weeks since the Budget up to the 12th of May, 1990, for which data are available, the Wholesale Price Index has increased by 2.4 per cent, as compared to an increase of 2.2 per cent during the corresponding period last year. In effect, the increase in the corresponding period is only to the extent of 0.2 per cent. Thus the price rise since the middle of March this year has been of the same order as in the previous year due to the normal seasonal pressures. It may be recalled that last year, the Budget was presented in February and the price increased by 2.4 last year and it does not include the immediate impact of the Budgetary deficit. It is, therefore, clear that while the price situation remains a matter of concern to all of us, the Budget itself has had only a marginal impact on the price-rise so far in the current year. And, therefore, it also seems that it is a myth that this year's Budget has been the main cause for this inflation.

It is also striking that despite the impact of budgetary levies, the price increase in the current financial year until now has been actually lower than during last year. I will give some illustrations.

The increase in the wholesale price during the first six weeks this year, up to the 12th of May, has been 1.7 per cent, when compared to the 2.1 per cent during the corresponding period last year. The behaviour of prices of essential commodities this year, until now, because of certain special action taken by the Government, is also more favourable than last year. For example, the Wholesale Price Index of food products as a whole has increased by 0.4 per cent, compared with the increase of 6.2

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per cent during this period last year. Sugar prices have declined by 2.4 per cent, compared with an increase of five per cent last year. Gur prices have increased by one per cent when compared to an increase of 9 per cent last year.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI (Maharashtra) : This is all right. But what are the steps you have taken to combat the increase in prices? This is not sufficient.(Interruptions)...

SHRI ANIL SHASTRI: I am only trying to explode the myth... (Interruptions)... that it is the National Front Government's Budget which has caused this inflation and the spiralling prices. I want to explode that myth first and then I will come to your point. I want to explode that myth first...

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA (Rajasthan): Your own Minister had admitted that.

SHRI ANIL SHASTRI: It is one of the factors. I have not contradicted that. That is one of the factors. This is all data. I will give you a few more illustrations. Let us take rice. The price of rice has increased by .5% when we compare it with the last year's increase of 3.3%. Groundnut oil prices have increased by only 3% this year as compared to 15.4% last year. Edible oil prices also have increased only by 3.4% compared with the increase of 6.5% last year. (interruptions) In respect of textiles there has been a small decline. We accept that—.8% compared with an increase of 3.5% last year. Tea prices increased by 7% compared to 9% last year. The prices of iron and steel have remained unchanged compared with the increase of 3.5% last year. The prices of basic metals and metal holdings have increased marginally, by .5% compared with an increase of 3.5% last year. The increase in

prices of some items like petroleum products is .6% compared with no change, the same in the last year and this year. Cement 8.5% this year compared to 7.7% last year. These are some of the items where the prices have been higher, but very marginally. I am making this statement to clarify that the price rise this year after the Budget is not abnormal as compared to the price rise in the earlier year during this period. Somebody mentioned that the price rise after the Budget this year is unprecedented. No, in the history of independent India it is not true. In the 1984-85 after the Budget the prices went up by 1.8% whereas this year they went up by 1.2%.. (interruptions)

श्री राम नरेश यादव (उत्तर प्रदेश) : महोदय, आंकड़ों के जाल की जरूरत नहीं है। आप क्या कदम उठा रहे हैं यह बताइए।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री भुवनेश चतुर्वेदी) : आपकी संतुष्टि जरूरी नहीं है। मंत्री महोदय का जवाब आपको संतुष्ट न कर सके, वह बात अलग है। आप जवाब तो सुन लीजिए।

श्री राम नरेश यादव : जनता जानना चाहती है कि प्राइस को कंट्रोल करने के लिए आपने क्या कदम उठाए हैं। यह केवल हमारा सवाल नहीं है, पूरे देश का सवाल है, इसलिए हम जानना चाहते हैं (व्यवधान) ...

[उपसभापति पीठासीन हुईं]

उपसभापति : मंत्री जी को जवाब देने दीजिए।

SHRI ANIL SHASTRI: Madam, I have been trying to give some data and then I will also mention about the steps that the Government has taken. I was just trying to clarify that the price rise this year after the Budget is not abnormal as compared to the price rise in the earlier year during this period. But I do not underesti-

mate the gravity of the current price rise. I am dealing with the observations of the honourable Members of this House that the current prices of some essential commodities like sugar, tea, edible oils, salt, cement, etc. are high and need to be kept under strict monitoring. The price rise is mainly due—I will give some of the reasons—to (a) fiscal imbalances resulting in higher liquidity growth and thereby raising effective demand; (b) supply and demand imbalances of basic commodities commonly experienced in developing countries like ours due to so shortfall in production; and (c) inflationary expectations signalled by even a marginal shortfall in the production of essential commodities.

All of us know, Madam, that there has been a shortfall in the production of cement, of sugar..

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: Sugar?

SHRI ANIL SHASTRI: I will give you the figures. I will tell you what has been the shortfall....
(Interruptions)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There is no guarantee that whatever the Minister is going to say would satisfy you. The Minister is replying with his note. Please let him finish his reply. If you are not satisfied, that is a different matter. But whatever figures he has, he can only read that. Whatever figures you had, you read out. You have spoken. (Interruptions)

SHRI ANIL SHASTRI: Madam, I am also not satisfied that this matter which concerns the common man has been taken at the fag-end of the session.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: All of us are dissatisfied with so many things. I would request Mr. Desai to have some patience. थोड़ा सीटी जवान में बोल दीजिए, शर्कर

की बात अच्छी है... (व्यवधान)....
बोलिये शास्त्री जी, अभी कोई बीच में नहीं बोलेंगा।

SHRI ANIL SHASTRI: Madam, I will give you the figures.

Madam, during 1989-90 broad money supply recorded an increase of 19.4 per cent compared with 18.1 per cent during the previous year. The net RBI credit to the Government recorded even higher increase of 20.4 per cent compared with 15.2 per cent during the previous year. Apart from higher growth rate of Broad Money Supply, high level of budget deficit has also contributed to the growth of liquidity. The budget deficit which was programmed at Rs. 7337 crores for the year 1989-90 is expected to have gone up to Rs. 11750 crores.

To check inflation Government has taken several steps: One, we are trying to maintain supplies of essential commodities through public distribution system; two, we are trying to import wherever it is absolutely essential; three, we are trying to stick to strict monetary discipline, including monitoring of government expenditures and deficits and action against hoarders and black-marketeers. Steps have also been taken to orient the monetary policy in the current year towards bringing about a sharp reduction in the pace of overall monetary expansion. On April 12 this year the credit policy for the first half of 1990-91 was announced. The statutory liquidity ratio is being raised from the present 38 per cent to 38.5 per cent of the demand and time liabilities of the banks with effect from September 1990. Further statutory liquidity ratio of 25 per cent in respect of Non-Resident and foreign currency is also being raised to 30 per cent effective from 28th July, 1990. Moreover, the RBI has raised the minimum margins on bank advan-

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ces against oilseeds and vegetable oils by 15 percentage points across the board with effect from May 4, 1990. For the current year, the budget deficit is programmed at Rs. 7026 crores. In order to ensure that the budget deficit is actually contained at this level, the Government has decided to monitor and review budget deficits on a continuous basis and we shall keep the Parliament informed once in four months. It has also directed all the Departments to have a cut in avoidable non-plan expenditure.

Now I shall come to some commodities. The hon. Member mentioned about sugar. The price rise in sugar, as I said earlier and I reiterate, is on account of shortfall in production of sugar from 92 lakh tonnes during the sugar year October-September, 1987-88, to 87 lakh tonnes in the sugar year 1988-89. *(Interruptions)*

Let me complete. The rising sugar consumption, the inflationary expectations generated and a low level of closing stock are responsible for pressure on sugar prices. In order to check the market price, the Government has released large quantities of sugar, free-sale sugar and levy sugar. In order to check the market prices, the Government has released larger quantities of sugar both for free-sale and levy and has provided incentives for higher production during off season. Total release of sugar during the financial year 1989-90 was higher at 105.09 lakh tonnes compared with 99.74 tonnes in the previous year. A quantity of 2.4 lakh tonnes of sugar was also imported during the year to augment domestic supplies. This was from September to October, 1988-89, which is the sugar year.

During 1989-90 sugar season, the total production of sugar up to 30th April this year has been 95.86 lakh tonnes which is substantially

higher than the production of 83.62 lakh tonnes in the corresponding period of the previous sugar year. For the month of May, 1990, a quota of 9.82 lakh tonnes has been released consisting of 6.50 lakh tonnes of free-sale and 3.32 lakh tonnes of levy sugar. This is higher than the quantity of 9.32 lakh tonnes released in April 1990.

Moreover, in order to provide incentive for increasing production of sugar, higher quota of free-sale will be allowed to sugar mills during 1st October to 15th November. This will ensure better availability of sugar during the critical period.

As was stated earlier by the Finance Minister in the Lok Sabha, we have also warned the sugar manufacturers that if they do not increase production and reduce the prices, we will take the stocks from them and put them on levy sugar. *(Interruptions)* Anyway, that threat has worked.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: You will see that in the last four days the sugar prices are going up by Rs. 50/- per quintal every day.

SHRI ANIL SHASTRI: The Minister of Civil Supplies has collected this information. The wholesale price index of sugar is ranging from Rs. 8/- to Rs. 8.80. This is the situation. *(Interruptions)* I will come to edible oils. The spurt in edible oil prices is mainly due to anticipated decline in production of groundnut seed by 12.72 per cent in 1989-90 over last year. The production of all the oilseeds is expected to have declined to 16.9 million tonnes from 17.89 million tonnes in 1988-89. There has been rising trend in the prices of edible oils including vanaspathi since the last week of December 1989. Up to January 1990, price rise was of the order of 2.4 per cent which increased to 4.8 per cent in February, 6.3 per cent in March and again to 10.15 per cent in April. Over

March end, rapeseed and mustard oil price index was higher by 7.80 per cent and that of groundnut oil by 3.0 per cent. Reduced supplies in the market following lower production and reduced allocation of imported edible oils through Public Distribution System has affected the price level. There has also been a seasonal increase...
(Interruptions)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN:
Please don't interrupt. You had your time to ask questions. This is a very bad habit of speaking in between. Don't do it.

SHRI M.M. JACOB (Kerala):
But the price is not going down.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN:
The price is not coming down and the time has gone higher.

SHRI ANIL SHASTRI: Madam, the wholesale price index of groundnut oil is Rs. 23/- to Rs. 29 per kg. Mustard oil is Rs. 23/- per kg. (Interruptions) I am telling you about the steps.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN:
Please take your seats. Neither your speaking in between nor his reply is going to help just now. Let us finish it. Let Mantriji read what he has brought.

SHRI ANIL SHASTRI:
Madam, now that I have missed my train... (Interruptions)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN:
Then, I suggest that instead of asking him questions and his reading such a big reply which is as big as the price rise, please ask him that he should work for the reduction of the prices, and that is all.

SHRI ANIL SHASTRI: Now that I have missed my train, I might satisfy the Members fully.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN:
Now he is going to satisfy you fully.

SHRI ANIL SHASTRI:
Madam, coming to edible oils, the Government have stepped up supplies through public distribution system since March, 1990. While 35,200 tonnes were allocated during March, 1990, 40,000 tonnes have been allocated during April and 50,500 tonnes during May, 1990. The other step that we have taken is that we have ordered lowering of stock limits of oils with effect from 26th April, 1990, and we have intensified dehoarding operations. Constant touch with the State Governments is being maintained. Gujarat State which had imposed an informal ban on movement of oil to outside the State has been requested to permit and ensure free movement of oil. In the wake of bumper oilseeds crop last year, margin for credit in the edible oil oilseeds sector was liberalised during the last year. The liberalisation was to the extent of 15 per cent. The Reserve Bank of India is being approached and it has restored the earlier higher margin for oilseeds credit by 15 percentage points. It has also decided to import a quantity of 2 lakh tonnes of oil to augment domestic supplies.

I will now come to tea. Tea prices registered a notable increase of 41.22 per cent during 1989-90 as against 41.39 per cent in the corresponding period last year. During the current financial year, up to 12th of May, tea prices rose by 7.03 per cent compared to 9 per cent last year.

The production of tea during January-December, 1989, was estimated to be about 684.14 million kilograms as against 701.09.

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million kilograms in corresponding period last year. The overall auction price during January-December, 1989 rose by about 50.37 per cent over the corresponding period of 1988. The total auction sales till the end of December, 1989, were about 437 million kgs. compared with 504 million kgs. in the corresponding period last year. Exports were lower during January-December, 1989 at 204.37 million kilograms compared with 215.42 million kilograms last year which seems to be easing pressure on prices at home. Madam, tea prices also have come down ranging between Rs. 40 to Rs. 60 per kilogram at the moment. In order to check the rise in tea prices, the Government has taken several steps such as staggering tea exports especially of CTC variety to the Soviet Russia which has a substantial domestic demand. The staggering will be done till May, after which the fresh tea crop will arrive in the market and the availability situation will improve. The foreign buyers of CTC tea have been told to postpone their purchases till May. As a result tea prices have stabilised.

Coming to pulses, prices of pulses have increased by 12.19 per cent in 1989-90 as compared to 11.12 per cent in the corresponding period of 1988-89.

श्री जगेश देसाई : राजवा की कीमत तो सौ रुपये बढ़ गई है ... (व्यवधान) ।

श्री अनिल शास्त्री : 9 रुपये से साढ़े 10 रुपये पर के जी. है। (Interruptions) The figures cannot be wrong. (Interruptions). On March 17, 1990, the price rise was 7.93 per cent which increased to 12.19 per cent on March 31, 1990. In fact, there has been a secular increase in the prices of pulses due to stagnation in production during the last two decades caused by lower yields and low profitability compared

with competing crops. The per capita availability of pulses has, therefore, declined from nearly 52 grams, per day in 1970, to about 33 grams, per day in 1988. From 52 grams, to 33 grams! Keeping this situation in view, import of pulses has been placed under OGL. During 1988-89, a quantity of 8.27 lakh tonnes of pulses was estimated to have been imported. During 1989-90 (up to December, 1989), 2.51 lakh tonnes of pulses were imported. Because of rising prices, the import duty on pulses has recently been reduced from 35 per cent to 10 per cent. This is one step we have taken. We have reduced the import duty.

I will now come to cement and then to petroleum products. I have information in regard to a few other commodities like raw jute, but I will not take the time of the House with those details.

Now, in the case of cement, the wholesale price index during 1989-90 has shown a rise of 6.73 per cent as against 11.18 per cent last year. Cement prices remained relatively stable up to the end of December, but thereafter, I agree that they have shown a persistent upward trend. The increase in cement price has been attributed to increase in the cost of inputs which have contributed approximately to an increase of Rs. 2 per bag of cement over the price prevalent in January-February, 1989. The Industry Minister has had dialogue with the cement manufacturers to discuss the rise in prices which is disproportionate to the increase in input costs. The cement manufacturers have agreed to effect appreciable reduction in cement prices to levels prevailing prior to March 31, 1990. The cement price, as of 15th May 1990, ranges from Rs. 77 to Rs. 95 per bag. The price of Rs. 77 is in the South. The increase in cement prices during April was also due to transport bottlenecks which have now been removed after detailed discussions between the Ministry of Industry, Railway and others concerned. The prices

of cement are beginning to soften and have come down.

In the case of petroleum products, the rise in the wholesale price index of 8.58 per cent during the year 1989-90 is due to increase in their prices. Petroleum prices had remained unchanged for over two years. I agree that this is one of the essential items where the prices have gone up, on account of the increases that were effected in the Budget.

Then, in regard to the growth in liquidity and the measures to curb the same...

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Are you going to fix petrol quota for different States as was announced by the Prime Minister?

SHRI ANIL SHASTRI: There is not going to be any rationing of petrol for the time being.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

I am asking about petrol quota for the States. I am not asking about rationing. Are you going to fix any quota?

SHRI ANIL SHASTRI: Nothing for the time being.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY :

(Pondicherry): Are you going to reduce the petrol price because there is a demand from all quarters, including people from your own party?

SHRI ANIL SHASTRI: The Finance Bill has been passed. That matter is closed.

DR. ABRAR AHMED KHAN (Rajasthan): Why did you raise the petrol price at all?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN:

Mr. Minister, you need not answer all these supplementaries. You can continue with your reply.

SHRI ANIL SHASTRI: Madam, apart from the price rise in specific

commodities mentioned above, the general level of prices has also been rising due to fiscal imbalance leading to higher liquidity growth and overhang of earlier years' liquidity growth. I have said about money supply. I do not want to repeat. I have said about budgetary deficit. The crux of the matter is, we all have to endeavour, the Government has to endeavour, to monitor the deficit because, if the deficit goes haywire, the result is going to be disastrous.

Madam, these are some of the points I wanted to mention. If there is anything else, depending upon the hon. Deputy Chairman's permission, I can reply. If there is anything by which I can satisfy hon. Members, I will be too happy. But I would like to assure hon. Members that I, personally, am doing my best and the Government is doing its best to bring down the prices so that the common man gets relief and is happy. Thank you.

श्री राम नरेश यादव : मान्यवर, यह जो बयान दिया है यह देश की जनता के साथ विश्वासघात है। आज रात को नींद नहीं आने वाली है पूरे देश की जनता को... (व्यवधान)... क्योंकि वह सोचती थी ऐसे कदम उठाये जाएंगे जिससे महंगाई पर अंकुश लगेगा... (व्यवधान)...

SHRI JAGESH DESAI : I have heard the Minister very patiently. Money supply which was 60 per cent (*Interruptions*). Price of sugar is increasing daily. In the last five days it has increased by Rs. 15 per quintal every day. Rajma in one day has gone up by Rs. 100 per quintal. Mustard oil has gone up by Rs. 50 in one day.

SHRI ANIL SHASTRI : Whatever suggestions the hon. Members have, they can give to me. (*Interruptions*). You are welcome to give suggestions.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI : Prices are not going down. Daily they are

[Shri Jagdish Desai]

going up. You have no plans to bring down the price. Prices are going up daily. They want to threaten only, but there is no result. Sugar prices are going up, mustard prices are going up, foodgrains prices are going up. This Government has not done anything to bring down the prices as such. We are not satisfied with the reply and we walk out.

[At this stage some hon. Members left the Chamber].

STATEMENT BY MINISTER— Licensing Policy on Steel—Contd.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : now I will call Mr. Narayanasamy. He is not here. He has walked out.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (Pondicherry) : Madam, I am here. I walked out and now I am here.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : What kind of a walk-out is it ? The Minister is still here.

PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTACHARJEE (West Bengal) : They have gone out and come back.

AN HON. MEMBER : Yes, price has come down.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : It is an exercise. Because we have been sitting the whole day, it is an exercise that he did.

Mr. Narayanasamy, be brief. Ask one question only, no speech.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : The statement by the hon. Minister of Steel has mentioned about the secondary steel sector. (Interruptions).

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : I think we can adjourn the House. There is no quorum.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : Why adjourn the House ?

एक मजिनोय सदस्य : हाउस को एडजर्न कर दीजिए।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : It is his suggestion.

SHRI VISHVJIT P. SINGH (Maharashtra) : Don't worry. You don't have to worry. I am here. I will hear your reply. Even I may ask some clarifications.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : I am not admitting any new names. I can advise the Members to listen peacefully. Let Mr. Narayanasamy make his point.

SHRI VISHVJIT P. SINGH : I will earnestly request you, Madam, this is a matter which is highly important. I was missing from the House because of other committee meetings. I have lost the opportunity of . . .

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Opportunity has not started yet.

SHRI VISHVJIT P. SINGH : I would request you with folded hands.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : I will allow you but not now. Let me finish. I will allow you when your name comes. It is not there on my Table.

SHRI VISHVJIT P. SINGH : Thank you, Madam.

श्री राम श्रवधर सिंह (बिहार) : मैडम, दो मिनट मुझ को भी दीजिएगा।

उपसभापति : आज आपने बहुत बोल दिया है स्टील पर।

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : The Minister was giving some concessions for the secondary sector in steel industry. The reason given