

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: Madam, I introduce the Bill.

RE: DEMONSTRATION AGAINST RISING PRICES

SHRI SURESH KALMADI (Maharashtra): Madam, there is an agitation going on today throughout the country against the rising prices ... (Interruptions)...

SHRI JAGESH DESAI (Maharashtra): There is an agitation today by the Congress(I) people against the price rise... (Interruptions)...

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV (Maharashtra): Madam, about two lakh Congress(I) men are demonstrating today throughout the country against the rising prices ... (Interruptions)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Just a minute... (Interruptions)... Please sit down... (Interruptions)...

SHRI M. M. JACOB (Kerala): Madam, I want to draw your kind attention to a very important matter. When we were requesting the Government to take effective steps to prevent the rise in prices, we were also requesting the Government to come before this House and allow a discussion and we were requesting the Finance Minister to say what steps they had taken to prevent the rise in price... (Interruptions)... Today, Madam... (Interruptions)... millions of people in the country are demonstrating against the rise in prices and the people are really concerned. Even salt is costing three rupees per kilo... (Interruptions)... salt was a subject on which even Mahatma Gandhi had to undertake a fast and now salt is costing three rupees per kilo! The poor people do not know what to do... (Interruptions)... I would like to know what the Government is going to do to prevent the price-rise... (Interruptions)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Just a minute... (Interruptions)... The Leader of the House may say something... (Interruptions)...

SHRI VISHVJIT P. SINGH (Maharashtra): Madam, we have given notice... (Interruptions)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat... (Interruptions)... All of you, please take your seats... (Interruptions)... Please sit down... (Interruptions)... There is no point in making this point now if the Chairman has permitted it... (Interruptions)... There is no point in making these remarks because the Chairman is going to give permission... (Interruptions)... Just a minute... (Interruptions)... I understand that a Short-Duration Discussion on the price-rise is going to be there on the 16th... (Interruptions)...

SOME HON. MEMBERS: No, no... (Interruptions)... We want it today... (Interruptions)...

श्री सुरेन्द्रजीत सिंह ग्रहलुवालिया (बिहार): रोज रेडियो में बताया टी० वी० में बताया जा रहा है कि प्राइस राइज पर कंट्रोल कर रहे हैं (व्यवधान) यह डिस्टाइड हुआ था कि 14 तारीख को डिस्कशन होगा लेकिन जानबूझ कर इस तारीख को आगे बढ़ाया गया है। सारे मूलक में कांग्रेस (आई) की अध्यक्षता में इस प्राइस राइज पर अदोलन चल रहा है। (व्यवधान)

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY (Uttar Pradesh): I am on a point of order.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: We had said that the budget was inflationary. It has come out that the budget is inflationary. The petrol hike is the single factor responsible for the increase in prices.

(Interruptions)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have said that the discussion will be on the 16th and that is all about it. (Interruptions) It was discussed in the Business Advisory Committee. That was the decision. Mr. Shiv Shanker knows about it. It was decided that it is going to be taken up this week. The Chairman gave the time. The Minister was away. He has

got to move some bill. That is the reason it could not be taken up. It will be taken up on the 16th.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: I am on a point of order.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat. I have not allowed you. The Leader of the House wants to say something. I request you to please listen to him. (Interruptions) I will listen to you later. First, I will listen to the leader.

(Interruptions)

THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): Madam, the price situation is a very important issue. (Interruptions)

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: Then why don't you take it up today?

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: Why are you getting so impatient? I don't understand.

श्री सुरेशजीत सिंह अहलुवालिया
हाउस को क्यों नह बत रहे हैं। हाउस में
आज क्यों नह डिमकम कर रहे है।
(व्यवधान)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We had decided and agreed in this House that if the Leader of the House or the Leader of the Opposition is on his legs, you will please listen to him. Let him say what he has to say.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: Madam I share the concern of the House regarding the price situation. We discussed this matter, as you said, in the Business Advisory Committee, and we agreed to have a discussion on it... (Interruptions) Since the Demands for Grants are going on in the other House, the Minister could not be present here... (Interruptions) You do not want to go by the decision of the Business Advisory Committee? (Interruptions) Madam, may I know whether they want to go by the decision of the Business Advisory Committee? All these thing have been dis-

cussed. We fixed a time and date also... (Interruptions)

SHRI M. M. JACOB: So far no steps have been taken— effective steps. What you have done? (Interruptions)

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: On a point of order. The point is that it is a well-established convention that when Parliament is in session, no policy announcement will be made outside this House. The Prime Minister yesterday said that petrol rationing will be introduced in the country. Such an important statement should have been made in the House. (Interruptions) This is a violation of parliamentary ethics. The Leader of the House should apologize to the House for this violation. (Interruptions).

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: We have been given a reply to the question by an hon. Member of the House that there will be no rationing of... (Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Madam Deputy Chairman, the the position of the Prime Minister... (Interruptions)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He has a right to speak, if you have a right to speak, he also has the right to speak. I will allow him. Sit down. He has a right to speak. (Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Madam,... (Interruptions)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He is a Member of this House. Every Member... (Interruptions)... (Interruptions) Jayanthi Natrajan, you are a Vice Chairman: you know the Rules. Every Member has a right to speak. I cannot stop anybody from making his point. (Interruptions)

SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: We want to discuss the price rise today. (Interruptions)

SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE (Maharashtra): We can discuss it at 6 o'clock. (Interruptions)

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): Madam, the issue that has been raised by Mr. Jacob is a very serious one. It is true that this issue was taken up and the Leader of the House was pleased to observe in the Business Advisory Committee, and it was noted, that it was not possible for the Finance Minister to be in this House today. Therefore, the matter was posted for discussion on the 16th. But what we are seriously concerned is about the Government not taking any effective steps to curb prices. *(Interruptions)*. As it has been observed, in the State of West Bengal—what to speak of other States—even salt is being sold at the rate of Rs. 3/- per kg. The State Government has been trying to effectively control the prices there and in spite of it, the price rise is so high that even such an essential commodity as salt is being sold at Rs. 3/- per kg. in that State. This is an unfortunate state of affairs. The Central Government has not been taking any steps for curbing the prices. It is because of the hike in petroleum prices that the price rise has been so exorbitant. The way the budget itself has been presented, the consequence is what we are finding today. As a result of what has been happening in the country.... *(Interruptions)* You will have your say. Let me have my say. I am on my legs. I would like to speak it out. I must have my say. This is very unfair. I must be allowed to speak. Then you can speak. Nobody stops you from speaking. Madam, today millions of people are demonstrating against price rise all over the country.

(Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Madam, I am on a point of order.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: The Government is insensitive. In sympathy with the millions of poor people who are demonstrating today, we would like to walk out. I am sure that this House will show its solidarity with the poverty-stricken people of this country in walking out of this House.

(At this stage, some hon. Members left the Chamber.)

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH (West Bengal): Madam, I would like to speak.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We have not yet taken a decision to speak on this subject. If Mr. Jaipal Reddy wants to react, he is most welcome.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Madam, let it be put on record. The House will take up the issue of price rise on 16th. It was discussed in the two successive meetings of the Business Advisory Committee where the main opposition party is represented. It was discussed in the Business Advisory Committee the week before last. Everybody agreed. The Government side agreed that there will be a discussion. At that time it was decided that the discussion will take place as soon as the Finance Minister comes back from abroad. In the last meeting of the Business Advisory Committee it was decided that the issue of price rise will be taken up. Mr. Shiv Shanker himself was present and the other leaders of the opposition parties were also present. It was decided that this issue will be taken up on Wednesday. If they have any programme today to organise a demonstration outside Parliament, they could have made a Special Mention. I say that it is reprehensible that after agreeing in the Business Advisory Committee they have been allowed to waste the time of the House and to hold the House to ransom. It is reprehensible. Let it be put on record. Let the price-rise issue be discussed when the Finance Minister is present.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY (Andhra Pradesh): Move for privileges. They agreed in the Business Advisory Committee meetings...

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Madam Deputy Chairman, I tried to rise at that point of time itself on a point of order. The Leader of the Opposition was trying to lecture to us on the causes of the price rise and so on and so forth.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA (Bihar): Now, why is this point of order?

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: I am not referring to the point of order. I am not insisting on a point of order now. Madam,

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He said that he wanted a point of order. And what he wanted to say then, he wants to say now.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Then it was a point of order. Now it is a point of disorder.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let him say. I am permitting him to say what he wants to say.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: In my view, strictly speaking, Madam, what all the hon. Leader of the Opposition said should be struck off the record; though I would not insist upon it, I would rather leave it to your discretion. The point is that when the Government agreed for a discussion on the 16th, their walk-out today was politically pre-meditated. It was only a parliamentary gimmick.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Gurudasji, you want to say something more on it?

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA (West Bengal): Madam, I express my concern at the price position in the country. There can be no to opinions on the serious condition regarding the price rise. And there also cannot be two opinions on the question that the Government had not been taking the steps it was called upon to do by the situation. Therefore, on the question of price rise and on the question of anti-price-rise steps by the Government, there is quite a unanimity in the House and in the country. But, Madam, while expressing my concern on that and while really protesting against the Government's inaction, I should also like to dissociate from the inopportune political and parliamentary steps the Congress Opposition had taken today. Agreeing to something in a meeting of the Business Advisory Committee and deciding to do something else in the House cannot be considered to be part of a good parliamentary practice.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The discussion was not necessary because from the Chair, with the advice of the Secretariat, I had announced in the House that on the 16th we are going to have a discussion on the price-rise issue. So, that matter is closed. Now, we take up Special Mentions. Chowdhry Hari Singh—Not present; Dr. Thulasi Reddy.

SPECIAL MENTIONS

Reported tour of Pakistani Prime Minister to some Middle-East countries for support on Jammu and Kashmir

DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Madam, my Special Mention is regarding Mrs. Benazir Bhutto's tour for support on Jammu and Kashmir. Madam, on the one side we are hearing that Pakistani troops are moving towards our borders, and on the other side they are moving for getting diplomatic support. Madam, the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mrs. Benazir Bhutto plans a sweep of more than a dozen middle Eastern and North African countries. The Pakistani Prime Minister is set to complete an eight-nation tour beginning in Iran on Tuesday, that is tomorrow. That will also take her to Turkey, Syria, Jordan, North Yemen, Egypt, Libya and Tunisia. It will end on May 23. The second part of the journey, set for the first week of June, will include Qatar, Iraq, Kuwait and Bahrain. Discussions are in hand for similar visits to other countries. Madam, it is a new diplomatic offensive to get support for separatists and secessionists in Jammu and Kashmir. Madam, it is a very serious matter. The Government of India should be alert on this issue. The Government of India should watch the diplomatic move as well as the troops' movement towards our borders. Madam, the Government of India should take all the precautionary measures to prevent these things.

Reported remarks of External Affairs Minister on Kashmir

SHRI MADAN BHATIA (Nominated): Madam Deputy Chairman, I wish to