

स्वयं नियंत्रण अधिनियम का निरसन

*129. सरदार जगजित सिंह

प्ररोड़ा :

श्री राज जेठमलानी :

क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की ज़ुपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि स्वर्ण जेकरात उद्योग को बढ़ावा देने के लिए सरकार ने स्वर्ण नियंत्रण अधिनियम को समाप्त करने की घोषणा की है ;

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि अप्रैल, 1990 के दौरान देश में खुले बाजार में सोने की कीमत अंतर्राष्ट्रीय बाजार में उसकी कीमत से बहुत ज्यादा थी ;

(ग) यदि हां, तो अप्रैल, 1990 के दौरान स्वदेशी तथा अंतर्राष्ट्रीय बाजारों में सोने की कीमतें क्या थीं ; और

(घ) क्या सरकार ने देश में सोने की कीमतों को बढ़ने से रोकने के लिए कोई ठोस कदम उठाए हैं, यदि हां, तो उनका ब्यौरा क्या है ?

वित्त मंत्रालय में उप-मंत्री (श्री प्रो. नारायण) : (क) और (ख) जी, हां।

(ग) अप्रैल, 1990 के (पहले पख-वाड़े) में स्वदेशी बाजार (बम्बई) और अंतर्राष्ट्रीय बाजार (लंदन) में 10 ग्राम सोने की औसत कीमत क्रमशः 3400 रु० और 2081/- रु० थी।

(घ) चूंकि सोना एक अत्यावश्यक वस्तु नहीं है इसलिए सरकार ने सोने की कीमतों को बढ़ने से रोकने के लिए कोई कदम नहीं उठाया है।

SARDAR JAGJIT SINGH AU-RORA: Sir, I would like to know what the purpose of abolishing the Gold Control Act was because the

सभा में यह प्रश्न सरदार जगजित सिंह प्ररोड़ा द्वारा पूछा गया।

prices are not going to come down to international level. This means that smuggling will continue and it also means that the people can change their narcotic money into gold and they can keep it with greater facility than before. I am sure this is not the purpose of abolishing the Act and the Gold Control Order.

DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN RED-DY: Now black money can go into gold!

SHRI ANIL SHASTRI: Sir, the idea behind abolishing the Gold Control Act was to lessen the control over gold by the bigger goldsmiths and it was felt that by repealing this Act the situation in India would ease. The total demand in India of gold is estimated to be about 150 to 200 tonnes and most of the demand is met by recycling of gold in India itself. The main purpose was, as I said, is to ensure that the situation eases and the hold of the larger goldsmiths is reduced.

SARDAR JAGJIT SINGH AU-RORA: Sir, I really do not know how it works, but I accept what he has said.

Sir, the second point that I would like to mention is that they do help those people who export gold ornaments by keeping the price of gold at international level. Will you continue to do that?

SHRI ANIL SHASTRI: Yes, Sir. The MMTTC does import gold which is supplied to those parties who export gold ornaments. We do encourage the manufacturers of gold ornaments who use gold for export purposes.

SARDAR JAGJIT SINGH AU-RORA: Sir, it is the big jewellers who would still be getting an advantage because they are the ones who do the export. Therefore, I still

do not realise what we have gained by abolishing the Gold Control Act.

SHRI ANIL SHASTRI: Sir, in the matter of exports, the Government's policy has been to encourage anybody irrespective of who the party or the person is.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Morarka.

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Sir this is a very serious matter and I am surprised at the reply of the Minister. Two parts of the reply are totally unacceptable. One is this part in which the Minister says that the estimated annual demand for gold is about 150 to 200 tonnes and that most of the demand is met by recycling of the gold in India. It is a known fact that gold is smuggled into the country. The demand is being met by smuggling. Let the facts be straight. They should not run away from the facts. Out of 150 tonnes of gold that is smuggled into the country, the seizures are of the order of six tonnes. Those are our records and those are facts. The purpose of Gold Control Order abolition, as the Finance Minister stated in the Budget speech was to have some effect on stopping smuggling. That cannot be done unless the availability of gold increases. The Government will have to take steps to import gold. There was a proposal to allow the N.R.Is. to bring in gold with them, not against foreign exchange to be released by Government but against their own earnings abroad. There was a proposal before the previous Government to allow the N.R.Is. to bring 100 grams of gold or some such quantity. I thought that, as a sequel to the abolition of Gold Control Order, the Government will come forward and tell us that gold will be allowed to be imported. Now here is the question of General Aurora and we are told that the abolition of Gold Control Order by itself is going to ease the demand for gold. It will increase the demand of gold. Hitherto peop-

le were not allowed to hold gold. Now they will be allowed to hold gold legally and the demand will go up. But the supply will not go up. Therefore, gold prices will go up. It is not an essential commodity, I agree. Is the Government trying to tell us that the price of gold has no bearing on the economy; It is a very serious matter. I would request the Minister to please come out and give some more information to the House.

SHRI ANIL SHASTRI: Sir, the import of gold will cost Rs. 3000 crores in foreign exchange. I am sure that the hon. Member is aware of our balance of payment position. Under no circumstances, the Government afford to allow import of gold at the moment. It will mean an outflow of foreign exchange to the extent of Rs. 3000 crores.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He says that the N.R.Is. may bring in gold. Are you permitting the N.R.Is. to bring in some quantity of gold?

SHRI ANIL SHASTRI: N.R.Is. are even today permitted. We will consider whatever suggestions the hon. Member has given.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are they permitted now? Can the N.R.Is. bring in gold?

SHRI ANIL SHASTRI: They can bring gold by making payment abroad. There is no problem.

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: I can correct the hon. Member. There was a Rangarajan Committee appointed under the Deputy Governor of Reserve Bank. It has given a report to the last Government suggesting that the Government should allow the N.R.Is. or people who go abroad to bring limited quantity of gold out of their earnings abroad when they return. That matter was pending when the Government changed. The matter is still pending.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Without duty?

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: No, Sir. Even with duty gold should be allowed to be imported by regular channels. We cannot shut our eyes to the fact that gold is being smuggled. Government wants us to believe that gold is being recycled within the country and that there is no smuggling taking place. This we cannot accept.

SHRI ANIL SHASTRI: I have not said that there is no smuggling of gold. Gold is being smuggled and we are trying to curb smuggling through various Customs Acts that we have.

श्री अनंतरे देवशंकर शर्मा : माननीय सभापति महोदय, मैं मंत्री महोदय से यह जानना चाहूंगा कि जब सरकार ने स्वर्ण नियंत्रण अधिनियम एबोलिश किया तो उस वक्त सरकार के पास कस्टम द्वारा कितना गोल्ड जमा था और क्या यह सोना खुले बाजार में बेचने का सरकार का संकल्प है ?

SHRI ANIL SHASTRI: I do not have this information. I will let the hon. Member know about it.

श्री यशवन्त सिन्हा : सभापति महोदय, मंत्री महोदय ने अपने जवाब में कहा था कि गोल्ड कंट्रोल आर्डिंस को एबोलिश करने का एक मुख्य कारण यह था कि जो बड़े गोल्ड स्मिथ हैं, उनके हाथ से कंट्रोल छोटे गोल्ड स्मिथ के हाथ में चला जाए । यह अपने आप में एक ठीक चीज मालूम पड़ती है । लेकिन इसके बारे में एक पूरी योजना मंत्रालय को बनानी पड़ेगी क्योंकि अगर बड़े गोल्ड स्मिथ के हाथ से छोटे गोल्ड स्मिथ के हाथ में कंट्रोल जाता है तो इसका मतलब यह होगा कि छोटे गोल्ड स्मिथ ज्यादा आनमिटेड बनायेंगे । इसी के साथ जैसा कि जनरल अरोरा ने अपने सवाल में गोल्ड ज्वेलरी के एक्सपोर्ट के बारे में चर्चा की है, इससे उसमें वृद्धि होगी । तो मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहूंगा कि क्या वित्त मंत्रालय इस एक्ट को एबोलिश करने के बाद, रिपील करने के बाद इस प्रकार की योजना बनाने के बारे में सोच रहा है

कि जो उनका लक्ष्य है, वह सही ढंग से पूरा हो जाय ? और दूसरी जो बात है, माननीय वाणिज्य मंत्री जी भी यहां पर बैठे हैं क्या वित्त मंत्रालय और वाणिज्य मंत्रालय मिलकर इसके बारे में सोच रहे हैं गोल्ड ज्वेलरी के एक्सपोर्ट को बढ़ाने के लिए वह कुछ कारगर कदम गोल्ड कंट्रोल को खत्म करने के बाद उठाने वाले हैं ? अगर उठाने वाले हैं तो उनकी योजना क्या है ?

श्री अनिल शास्त्री : इस समय अभी इसमें कोई ऐसा विचार नहीं किया गया है, लेकिन माननीय सदस्य जी का जो सुझाव है उसको हम लोग मद्देनजर रखेंगे ।

SHRI K. K. VEERAPPAN: I would like to know the number of cases of smuggling during the last five years. Is the number increasing or decreasing?

SHRI ANIL SHASTRI : This question is outside the scope of the main question, because that question relates to the Gold Control Act and this relates to the total number of seizures against smuggling.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : माननीय सभापति जी, विदेशों में भारत में बने सोने के जेवरों की बड़ी मांग है । उसका एक कारण यह भी है कि यहां सोने की कारीगरी अच्छी होती है और सस्ती होती है लेकिन अब अमरीका ने जो प्रतिबंध लगाया है उसके कारण अमरीका में जो जवाहरात का व्यापार करते हैं उनके मन में चिंता पैदा हो गई है । दूसरा पहलू यह है कि यहां सोने की कमी है, कानून खत्म करने मात्र से सोने की प्राप्ति नहीं बढ़ेगी । क्या सरकार जो विदेश में जाता है उसको एक या दो तौले सोना, मुफ्त, मुफ्त का मतलब यह है कि बिना एक्साइज ड्यूटी के क्या लाने की इजाजत देगी जिसमें स्मॉलिंग रुके? अरबों रुपए की स्मॉलिंग हो रही है । लोगों को सोने का मोह है । वह सोने के मोह में फंस जाते हैं । सीता जी भी सोने के मृग के चक्कर में फंस गई थीं, तो आभ आदमी का कुछ कहना नहीं है, तो क्या एक या दो तौला सोना उसे लाने की इजाजत होगी ? ... (व्यवधान)

श्री दिनेश गोस्वामी : बाजपेयी जी को सोने की क्या जरूरत है।... (व्यवधान)

श्री अनिल शास्त्री : माननीय सदस्य जी का सुझाव बड़ा अच्छा है और इस पर हम लोग ध्यान देंगे।

SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Without making availability of gold for goldsmiths, a lot of trouble has come after this abolition. Will the Government consider forming co-operative societies of goldsmiths and supplying their requirements of gold through the Reserve Bank?

SHRI ANIL SHASTRI: I would like to inform the Member that this could be considered.

SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN: I want to know whether measures have been taken to revise the Excise law with regard to smuggling after gold control has been abolished.

SHRI ANIL SHASTRI: All-out efforts have been made by the Government to ensure that smuggling is reduced and the Customs Act, the Excise Act and various other Acts provide for curbing such smuggling.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.

*130. [The questioner (Shri Menjay Padmanabham) was absent. For answer vide Col. 44 infra]

Increase in the price of Aluminium

*131. **SHRI MOHD. KHALEELUR RAHMAN:** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item published in the Financial Express of 15th April, 1990 under the caption 'Major upswing in Alumi-

nium prices' to the effect that prices of Aluminium have shot up by a margin of Rs. 2000 to Rs. 3000 in the post few days in South India;

(b) if so, what is the percentage increase anticipated by the dealers and users of the commodity and the actual increase thereof;

(c) what is the estimated artificial shortage created during that last three months;

(d) whether Government have enquired into the part played in this regard by NALCO, HINDALCO and BALCO; and

(e) if the answer to part (d) above be in the negative, what are the reasons therefor and by when it is likely to be instituted?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL & MINES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) Various newspapers have carried news items regarding the recent increase in prices of primary aluminium by the producers.

(b) There is no price control of aluminium since 1-3-1989; the prices at which metal is available to dealers and consumers are determined by market forces.

(c) There is no shortage of aluminium metal. The country is surplus in aluminium.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

SHRI MOHD. KHALEELUR RAHMAN: Sir, in a quiet move, the aluminium producers have hiked up the basic price of the metal by as much as Rs. 2000 per tonne. According to the latest price revision, the price of CG ingots has gone up from Rs. 31,750 to Rs. 33,750 per tonne. Similarly, the price of CG rods has moved up to Rs. 33,450 per tonne. It is said that the major beneficiary of