

MESSAGE FROM LOK SABHA (Contd.)

The Metro Railways (Amendment) Bill, 2009

SECRETARY-GENERAL : Sir, I have to report to the House the following message received from the Lok Sabha, signed by the Secretary-General of the Lok Sabha :-

“In accordance with the provisions of rule 96 of the Rules of Procedures and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, I am directed to enclose the Metro Railways (Amendment) Bill, 2009, as passed by Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 6th August, 2009.

Sir, I lay a copy of the Bill on the Table.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Now, we will take up clarifications on the statement made by the Minister regarding import of raw and white/refine sugar. Shri Santosh Bagrodia.

CLARIFICATION ON THE STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Import of Raw and White/Refined Sugar

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA (Rajasthan) : Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA (Jharkhand) : Sir, when are we taking up the Short Duration Discussion on education?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : We will take it after this...

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA : We can have it tomorrow.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Mr. Ahluwalia, it was made very clear yesterday ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : Let us finish this first...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA : There should be no problem tomorrow. We have only the Metro Railways Bill. The Rubber Bill is not coming...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Please listen to me. Tomorrow, we have to take up all the pending Zero Hour Mentions because since the last two or three days, we have been having Calling Attention Motions. So, the whole of the morning will go for this. Of course, a decision has to be taken by the Chairman whether the Private Members' Bill has to be dispensed with or not. Then, we have the Metro Railways Bill, and we also have the farewell speech for some of the Members who are retiring. Then, our usual valedictory remarks and the singing of Vande mataram. So, time has to be fixed...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA : So, fix up a time for it tomorrow, Sir. That is exactly my point.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Mr. Ahluwalia, my only request is, when we took a decision yesterday ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA : At the fag end of the day, at 6.30 p.m., how can we discuss it?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Let me remind the House that it was decided yesterday that the House would not adjourn till we completed the last item on the agenda. That is what was agreed upon. Now, it is for the House to decide.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA : That is why I am requesting the House...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Let this clarification be over ...*(Interruptions)* I am sure you want the subject to be discussed.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : We are all concerned about the price of sugar.

श्री उपसभापति : आपका ही नहीं है, दूसरे मੈम्बर्स भी हैं। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MS. MABEL REBELLO (Jharkhand) : Sir, there is a lecture by Shri Rangarajan at 6.30 p.m. We want to attend that lecture.

SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY (Orissa) : We support you.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : So, you don't want the discussion on education, is it?

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : Sir, we are on the question of clarifications as the moment. Let us take up the clarifications.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : When the Lok Sabha can sit up to 10 o'clock, then, why should we not?

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : Those who want to go for the lecture can go and attend it...*(Interruptions)*... The House is guided by the discussion by Members, not by the lecture...*(Interruptions)*...

MS. MABEL REBELLO : The Minister has answered all the issues.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : He has not answered at all on the sugar issue. He has not at all replied on the sugar issue.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Please ...*(Interruptions)*... You see, let the House decide whether we should finish the agenda or not. That is a different thing. But one thing is...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI D. RAJA (Tamil Nadu) : Education next time, Sir...*(Interruptions)*...

MS. MABEL REBELLO : Education tomorrow. ...*(Interruptions)*..

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Then certain Members should give notice..

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : He said education next time, Sir...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI D. RAJA : Yes, next time, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : It is not for the Chair, Mr. Raja...*(Interruptions)*... First, you people force us to include all the subjects and we accommodate all that and, then, you ask us to...

SHRI D. RAJA : Sir, we are keen on discussing it. But, seeing the atmosphere, I am saying this; there has to be a better atmosphere. Take it up next time, not now. That is what I am saying.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : Are you taking about education or sugar?

SHRI D. RAJA : Education ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री उपसभापति : तो क्लैरिफिकेशन्स तो पूछो भई।

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : Sir, it is very well understood that prices depend on demand and supply. The hon. Minister has himself said that, this year, supply of sugar will be about 43 per cent less. I would like to give small information here. In 2003-04, the average sugar price was Rs. 1271 per quintal whereas the production was 139.95 lakh tonnes. Now, in 2005-06, it is 192.67; in 2006-07, 283.28; it is 263.28. Now, the hon. Minister has just mentioned that 100 lakh tonnes of sugar was in stock; the demand is 230 lakh tonnes; the total production is 150 lakh tonnes. Where is the security? In view of this, I want to make a few suggestions quickly. He has mentioned a limit on import of ten lakh tonnes. Ten lakh tonnes of sugar import is neither here nor there. If you want to have the sugar stock, you should give complete freedom; let any amount of sugar come into the country because, today, when the price of sugar is Rs. 25 or Rs. 26 per kilogram, we can also stop it.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : This is not a clarification.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : I am suggesting, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : No suggestions. You should seek clarifications.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : That is the clarification I want. He has mentioned ten lakh tonnes. I say I don't want ten lakh tonnes. I want to know whether he would like to increase it. He has talked about the quantity here. He should make it unlimited. Another thing, Sir, is that this SMP is introduced after the commencement of the season. Why should people produce sugarcane? SMP should be announced before the season; if necessary, even five years' SMP should be announced

because sugar production is a long-term thing. Then, the last thing that I want to suggest is that the hon. Minister should constitute a committee, to be headed by an eminent economist, having representatives of following sectors - farmers, consumers, labour, industry -- to prepare the sugar policy which will remain in place without any change for a minimum of five years. Then, act upon the recommendations of the committee! Thank you, Sir.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT (West Bengal) : Sir, I hope the hon. Minister who knows so much about sugar, will agree that today prices of sugar are very high -- not what he said in the previous discussion that there is no price rise.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : I said price rise.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT : Anyway, Sir; price of sugar is Rs. 28.50 per kg in the सरकारी भंडार and anywhere between Rs. 30 and 35 in the market, depending upon the State in which you are buying sugar. Unless the Government wants to make entire India a victim of diabetes so that nobody wants sugar at all, the Government should be thinking of a policy, both short-term and long-term. I believe, Sir, the statement given by the Minister on the issue of import of sugar shows a complete failure of Government policy on this whole question of self-sufficiency in sugar production. As my hon. friend has said, two years earlier, we had so much of sugar that we were exporting. Two years down the line, we are so low that now we are importing. So, there is obviously something very wrong in the Government's approach and policy. That is helping whom? This is the question. Now, Sir, the first point atht I have is this. Why is sugar production low today? Do kisans have something to do with it or not? The first question I want to ask from the hon. Minister is this. What are the arrears of sugarcane farmers in the States? Please don't blame the States, saying this is a State matter; we have nothing to do with it. You have just said how much you are doing for the farmers of this country. Please inform us, at present, because last year, I saw your answer in Parliament, in which you said, something like Rs. 1,100 crores arrears for the sugarcane farmers in U.P. That was one answer I saw. You said, Rs. 87 crores have been added, in the last three months.

श्री उपसभापति : वृंदा जी, आप clarification पूछिए न।

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT : Sir, this is the clarification because the kisan is not mentioned here...(Interruptions)... As though sugar supply has nothing to do with the farmers.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : See, in the garb of seeking clarifications, we again start another debate...(Interruptions)...

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT : Okay, Sir, my first question is about the farmers. What are the supplies and what are the arrears?

Sir, my second question is this. First, you allowed import of raw sugar in January. And the import of raw sugar in January is going on right up till now. Sir, what I want to know from the hon. Minister is this. What happened to the imported raw sugar; how much of it was processed; what are the stocks with the industry and how much of it is coming to the market? What my information is, Sir, whether it is right or wrong. I don't know, that there is a sugar scam brewing. I don't know; these are some of the reports, which I have got, and the details of which I am giving before the House. It says that import has been done; raw sugar has been processed; and some of the millers and some of the other people involved in this have made a killing in the last six months, but it is not coming to the market. **(Time bell rings)** I don't know whether it is right or wrong.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT : Sir, the third thing is this. Sir, let me complete. Now, we are saying we are importing not only raw sugar but also white sugar.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : If clarifications take five minutes, then, what can I do?

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT : When we are discussing the import of white sugar, the international price of sugar is hitting a high; it is 494 dollars a tonne, which is almost as much as it was at the peak, two years ago. And, India coming into the market for sugar, obviously, these prices are going to go sky-high. Now, you are importing. You are going to import; the high prices are back into India. That is also very clear. My point with the Government is this. What guarantee is there that in the name of import, what the trade is going to get out of it, because it is OGL, it is duty free; there are no duties...**(Time bell rings)**... So, what the industry is going to get out of it?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Brindaji, if clarifications take five minutes, how am I to run the House? Please advise me...*(Interruptions)*... Does seeking clarifications take five minutes?

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT : Sir, what I want to know from the Minister is this...*(Interruptions)*.. Sir, this policy ..*(Interruptions)*... Sir, I am finishing.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : You may have questions. But on clarifications, if I go on allowing five minutes, I can't understand.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT : Sir, this is my last question..*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : If you start a debate, what can I do?

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT : What I want to say is this. Does the Government have any intention...*(Interruptions)*.. Sir, the statement does not say anything about it. What can I do, Sir? The statement does not talk about the consumer; it does not talk about the kisan..*(Interruptions)*... Sir, my last question is this. Does the Government have any intention of getting those stocks out in the market so that sugar consumers in this country can benefit?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : You may have points. But you should have participated and said all those things in the debate.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT : Can you bring the stocks into market?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : No, no; then I must stop allowing seeking clarifications.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT : Will the Government ensure that the cuts in sugar in the PDS*(Interruptions)*... In Tripura State, there is no sugar not one grain of sugar is available in the ration shops there ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Shri Vikram Verma.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT : Where will they get sugar*(Interruptions)*... So, will the Government ensure that sugar is put in the PDS at reasonable price? ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Brindaji, time management is very important. We should learn to put our points within a given timeframe...*(Interruptions)*.. I am not advising, but time management is very important; otherwise, we cannot run the House.

श्री विक्रम वर्मा (मध्य प्रदेश) : माननीय उपसभापति जी, मैं केवल तीन बिन्दुओं पर माननीय मंत्री जी से थोड़ा सा clarification चाहूंगा। स्टेटमेंट में यह आया है कि 2007-08 में 263 लाख टन चीनी का उत्पादन हुआ था और 2008-09 में 150-155 लाख टन चीनी के उत्पादन का अनुमान है यानी 108 लाख टन चीनी का उत्पादन कम होगा। सर, चीनी एक साल की क्रॉप नहीं होती है। माननीय मंत्री जी कृषि मंत्री भी हैं और वह इस बात को जानते हैं कि गन्ने की एक साल की क्रॉप से पूरे दो तीन साल तक प्रोडक्शन लिया जाता है, चीनी बनाई जाती है। हर साल कितना गन्ना बोया जाता है, इसके फिगर्स भी आ जाते हैं, तब क्या आपको इस बात की जानकारी नहीं थी कि कितना गन्ना बोया जा रहा है? क्या आपका कृषि मंत्रालय राज्यों से इस बात की जानकारी नहीं ले पाया था कि हमारा इस बार का रकबा घट रहा है? रकबे के घटने के कारण क्या परिस्थिति पैदा होगी, क्या उसके बारे में कोई प्रिकॉन्सन्स लिए गए? रकबा कम क्यों हुआ? वह इसलिए हुआ क्योंकि वास्तव में किसान को उसकी कम कीमत मिली। शुगर जब 13 रुपये थी, तब भी आपका सरकारी रेट 88 था और आज जब 30 रुपये हो रही है, तब भी आपका सरकारी रेट 88 है। किसान को गन्ने का कोई लाभ नहीं मिल रहा है। मैंने स्वयं इसी कारण 25 बीघे जमीन में पिछले साल गन्ना उखाड़ कर फेंक दिया और उसकी जगह कॉटन चालू कर दिया, क्योंकि गन्ने की कीमत नहीं मिल पा रही थी। जब किसान डायवर्सन कर रहा है, तब क्या आपने प्राइसिज के बारे में कुछ सोचा? इस देश में अभी तक गन्ने के बारे में, शुगर की कोई लॉग टर्म पॉलिसी नहीं है। उसका कारण बताएं**(समय की घंटी)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Now, Shri D. Raja ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री विक्रम वर्मा : सर, मेरा सैकेंड क्वेश्चन यह है, आपने बोला है कि 1 अगस्त 2009 को आपने कच्ची चीनी को शुल्क मुक्त आयात शुरू किया था। आपने देखा होगा कि इसके प्राइसिज मार्च-अप्रैल से बढ़ने चालू हो गए थे। जब आपने 1 अगस्त को यह चालू किया था, इससे पहले भी आपके पास रॉ शुगर आ रही थी, तब आखिर आपके यहां कितनी रॉ शुगर आई? उस सारी रॉ शुगर में से कितनी शुगर को रिफाईंड किया गया, कितनी शुगर बाजार में गई और फिर बाकी का क्या किया गया, हमें इस बात की सारी जानकारी नहीं है। यदि रॉ शुगर आया, उसके बाद हमारा अपना प्रोडक्शन और फिर आपने जो आयात किया, इस सब को मिला कर कुल कितना हुआ? उसके बावजूद भी फिर यह कमी क्यों आई ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Now, Shri D. Raja ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री विक्रम वर्मा : लास्ट में मैं पूछना चाहता हूं, मेरा तीसरा क्वेश्चन यह है कि अब आप फिर इसे दे रहे हैं, इसके लिए आपने जो टाइमिंग दिया है, उसके अनुसार 31 मार्च, 2010 तक आपने इसे निजी व्यापार के लिए खोल दिया है। अब इसमें सफेद चीनी और रॉ चीनी दोनों आएंगे, लेकिन किसान का जो गन्ना आता है, वह नवम्बर से लेकर अप्रैल तक आएगा। यदि यह बाहर की चीनी मिल्स आ कर कहेंगी कि हम रॉ मैटीरियल को रिफाईंड कर रहे हैं, तो उस समय किसान का गन्ना कौन खरीदेगा? क्या तब आप किसान के गन्ने की खरीद की बात को सुनिश्चित करेंगे? इसके लिए आप सदन को एश्योर करें, नहीं तो किसान का गन्ना खेत में खड़ा रहेगा और मिल मालिक कहेंगे कि हमारे पास इम्पोर्टेड चीनी है। इसके कारण किसान का गन्ना बिना बिके रहे जाएगा...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री उपसभापति : अब आप बैठिए, आप बैठिए, प्लीज ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री विक्रम वर्मा : इस तरह तो एक नया क्राइसिज खड़ा होगा। माननीय मंत्री जी कृपया इन तीनों बिन्दुओं के बारे में बताने का कष्ट करें।

SHRI D. RAJA : Sir, thank you. Shri Sharad Pawar is a very able and experienced Minister and is looking after Agriculture as well as Food and Civil Supplies. My simple question is, the sugarcane growers are agitating to get a price of Rs. 2,000 per tonne for the sugarcane. Even the Agriculture Prices Commission has fixed a price of, I understand, Rs. 1,550 per tonne of sugarcane. I do not know what the stand of the Central Government is. It is an urgent issue. In Tamil Nadu, the farmers are agitating. I understand that in several parts, the sugarcane growers are agitating. What is the policy of the Government towards this? Will you consider their demand of Rs. 2,000 per tonne for the sugarcane?

SHRI MATILAL SARKAR (Tripura) : Thank you, Sir. I have 2-3 queries. Firstly, the sugarcane production has become less. This reason is not stated by the hon. Minister; I do not know why. The

sugarcane producer, the farmer, is moving away from production because he does not get the benefit of the prices and the mill owners also are depriving them in many ways. There is no remedy and that is why the production has come down. What would be the policy of the Government to raise production?

My second question is, in the Item No. 2, the Minister has stated that the Government has now decided to extend the terminal date. The terminal date is being extended. But it is not stated, within the date, the amount they have collected. What is the amount of their import? It is not stated. But they have extended the time. So, I think there is some hide-and-seek policy. I am saying hide-and-seek policy because what you have actually received by import is not mentioned here. Whether it is sufficient or not, we cannot know. Third thing is that my State Tripura is suffering seriously from the crisis of sugar. In item No. 5, you have extended the time up to the 30th November. But the Holi Poojas are performed within this period and during this period we need to get additional quota. We are not getting our normal quota, what to talk of additional quota. People of the North-Eastern Region, particularly Tripura, are suffering for the last four months because there is no supply of sugar. The State Government is compelled to reduce the quantity to ration cardholders. So, this is the situation. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the situation will be improved and what steps the Government is going to take in this regard. Thank you.

श्री महेन्द्र मोहन (उत्तर प्रदेश) : उपसभापति महोदय, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहूंगा कि देश में शक्कर की जो कठिनाई है, वह हर तीन-चार साल के बाद आ जाती है। इसके लिए जब तक कोई long term policy नहीं बनाई जाएगी, तब तक शक्कर की दुविधाओं से हम लोग अलग नहीं हट सकेंगे। यह बहुत short term policy होती है। माननीय मंत्री महोदय ने कहा कि 150 लाख टन शक्कर का प्रोडक्शन हुआ। उनके यह कहते ही शक्कर के दाम बढ़ने शुरू हो गए, जबकि हमारे पास starting में 100 टन शक्कर थी, 150 लाख टन का प्रोडक्शन हो रहा था और 220 लाख टन के करीब हमारे यहां consumption होता है, तो कोई ऐसी हालत नहीं थी, जिसके कारण इसके दाम 16 रुपए से बढ़ कर 30 रुपए किलो पहुंचा दिए जाते। लेकिन, इस प्रकार की जानकारी देने के साथ ही हमारी कठिनाई यह हुई कि उन्होंने जो इम्पोर्ट अलाऊ किया, उसमें यह सीमा लगा दी कि इसमें 10 लाख टन ही इम्पोर्ट हो सकता है। उस पर कोई सीमा नहीं होनी चाहिए। बाहर के दाम इतने अधिक हैं कि शक्कर वही मंगाएगा, जो यहां पर बेच सकेगा और सही दामों पर बेच सकेगा। लेकिन, इसमें जो असली बात है, जो मुद्दा है, वह यह कि इसकी कमी क्यों होती है? जब तक हम किसानों को गन्ने का पूरा मूल्य नहीं दिलवाएंगे, शक्कर के अंदर लगभग 73 प्रतिशत जो लागत है, वह गन्ने से आती है, इसलिए जब तक उसको सही मूल्य नहीं मिलेगा, तब तक किसान गन्ना पैदा नहीं करेगा। इसलिए अगर हमें इसे long term के लिए सही करना है कि शक्कर की कमी देश में नहीं हो और आम आदमी को सही दाम से शक्कर मिले...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसमापति : आप क्लैरिफिकेशन पूछिए।

श्री महेन्द्र मोहन : मैं इनसे सही जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या वह किसानों को गन्ने का सही मूल्य दिलवाने की कोई व्यवस्था कर रहे हैं? क्या वह यह चाहते हैं कि शक्कर का जितना भी अधिक से अधिक आयात किया जा सकता हो, बगैर किसी सीमा के, उसको अलाऊ कर दें, जिससे कि देश में शक्कर की कमी खत्म हो तथा आम आदमी को पुराने दामों पर शक्कर प्राप्त हो? जब तक वह इस प्रकार के कदम नहीं उठाएंगे, तब तक शक्कर की कमी रहेगी तथा इस प्रकार के शक्कर के जो scams इस देश में होते रहे हैं, वे और आगे भी होते रहेगें।

इसके अलावा एक बहुत बड़ा मुद्दा यह है कि जब चुनाव पास में थे, तब शक्कर के release orders शक्कर मिलों को release कर दिए गए। उस वक्त शक्कर traders के पास पहुंचा गया। ..(समय की घंटी)... Traders को यह जानकारी मिल गई कि इसकी कमी होने जा रही है, तो ट्रेडर्स ने उसकी hoarding कर ली। इस प्रकार traders के पास जो hoarding पड़ी है, यह कहेंगे कि होर्डिंग का विषय तो राज्य सरकारों का है, लेकिन, इसमें केन्द्र सरकार कुछ कदम उठाए और उस hoarding को समाप्त कराए। शक्कर की कमी देश में नहीं है, बल्कि इस वक्त उसकी hoarding है। इसके अलावा प्रोडक्शन में जो कमी हो रही है, उसका कारण केवल यह है कि किसानों को गन्ने का सही मूल्य ही नहीं मिलता।(समय की घंटी).. उस ओर ध्यान देना बहुत आवश्यक है। इस कार्य को किया जाए।

श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर (महाराष्ट्र) : सर, मैं सिर्फ एक ही सवाल पूछना चाहूंगा। दिसंबर, 2008 में जबकि सरकार को यह मालूम था कि देश में शक्कर का उत्पादन कम रहेगा और shortage आएगी, तब canalize import की बात की गई। उस समय दुनियां से, विश्व-बाजार से, 16 रुपए प्रति किलो के भाव में यहां आयात हो सकता था। आज आयात में इसका दाम 25 रुपए तक बढ़ गया है। यदि ऐसे में 25 रुपए में आयात करके उसे 30-35 रुपए में कोई बचेगा, तो राहत क्या देंगे? इसलिए मेरा specific सवाल यह है कि आम आदमी को राहत देने के लिए BPL को राशन पर 500 ग्राम देते हैं, APL को तो कुछ दे नहीं रहे हैं, तो क्या सरकार 15 रुपए किलो में 5 किलो शक्कर देगी या नहीं देगी?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : Sir, one should not forget about the sugar production and sugar availability. If we study its last 20 years, it is a cycle. The cycle is such that for three years you would see in India too much production, prices having been totally dropped, farmers facing problems and the mills becoming sick and in the other two years there is less plantation and availability of sugar in the market is less, the prices go up and the farmers get abnormal prices for sugarcane.

After two years he will plant like anything that the prices will drop. So, this is a cycle which I am observing for the last 20 years and these who know fate are fully aware of them. The sugar farmer immediately shifts from one crop to another crop if he feels he is not getting proper price. Recently, this is a regular phenomenon. A number of issues have been raised here. Firstly, why we had taken a decision of import.

7.00 P.M.

One point has also been raised that because it was disclosed that such and such production will be there, that is why prices have gone up. I have made the position absolutely clear today also in the House. Our assessment this year is : production will be 150 lakh tons. We have carry over stock of Rs. 100 lakh tons. That is last year's production. So, the total availability in the country is 250 lakh tons. Domestic consumption is between 223 to 225 lakh tons. That is why whatever the total domestic requirement maybe, we got more than the requirement. That is the overall position of the country today. Now, it was suggested that we should import more and, I said, that this year our plantation report shows that the production will be 160 or 170 lakh tons and that is why certain decisions have been taken. We have not encouraged to import refined sugar. If we encourage to import refined sugar, definitely, sugar will come here. It will be immediately available in the market. Instead of refined sugar, suppose we encourage to import raw sugar, raw sugar will come here. It will be immediately available in the market. Instead of refined sugar, suppose we encourage to import raw sugar, raw sugar will be imported, it is cheaper. It will be processed here. Mills can utilise their capacity. Workers can continue to work in the mills. They can get the wages and insted of importing finished sugar, raw sugar import is comparatively a better route and that is a conscious decision, with the consultation of industry and farmer, Government of India has taken. Now, it was asked what is the total availability and hat is te contract basis? Whatever information which I got, the raw sugar contract 29 lakh tons. Raw sugar arrive or in the process of arrivals is 18.40 lakh tons. So, it is just contracted and they have come. The process has not started. The process generally starts when the bagasse is availabe. Now, mills are not working. If anybody wants to start a mill it requires fuel. Unless and until normal season starts, bagasse is not available. Unless and until bagasse is not available we cannot run the boiler. So, in such situations mills are not working today. There might be some mills in South, particularly in Tamil Nadu and others, where particularly round the year there is a practice of season, otherwise, in rest of the country whether it is Uttar Pradesh, whether it is Maharashtra, whether it is Gujarat, whether it is Karnataka, whether it is Andhra Pradesh, not a single mill is working there, barring some there and there. But mills are not working. That is why whatever contracts on sugar which has reached here, my own impression is the process will start when the sugar factories will actually start crushing. We have put a condition that after importing and processing within three months they have to dispose of in open market. There is no other restriction. But, they have to make available in the open market.

Now, I come to import of white sugar. White sugar is hardly contracted. It is 1.25 lakh tons and it has reached here to 0.61 tons. It is limited sugar but process has been started. A decision, as I said, was taken not to encourage import of refined sugar, but encourage raw sugar which I have already explained.

Now, Sir, one more issue was raised here. It is that the farmer is not getting a proper price. In fact, I have already briefed the House today. Last year's price was Rs. 81 per quintal. This year's price is Rs. 107 per quintal. There is a difference between the Minimum Support Price and the Statutory Minimum Price. The Government of India always announces the MSP for other crops, like wheat, rice, jowar, bajra, etc. If the market goes below the MSP decided and announced by the Government of India, it is the responsibility of the Government of India to enter into the open market, procure the same and provide that price to the farmer. That is not the case of sugarcane. The price which has been introduced in this country for sugarcane for many years is SMP, not MSP. It means, Statutory Minimum Price. We are not in a position to purchase sugarcane. What will the Government do with sugarcane if the price goes down? So, this is called the Statutory Minimum Price. We give one indication that mills should not pay below this. If mills want to pay more than this, they are allowed. In fact, States like Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Haryana have introduced the SAP -- State Advisory Price. They have passed a separate law in their respective States. As per that law, Uttar Pradesh is announcing a different price than the national price *i.e.*, SAP. They are giving more than the Statutory Minimum Price which the Government of India gives. So, from Rs. 81, we have gone to Rs. 105. Now, what is the meaning of 105? One should try to understand the economics of Rs. 105. Sir, Rs. 105 means, the farmer will actually get Rs. 1500 per tonne, plus Rs. 300 harvesting charges. That means, Rs. 1,800 per tonne is the cost of cane. We have to process the cane and convert it into sugar. The conversion charges are Rs. 500. That means, the total cost will be Rs. 2,300 per quintal. If Rs. 2,300 per quintal is the price, one should not expect that sugar will be available in the market for less than Rs. 24 or Rs. 25 per kg. Nobody should complain about that. In fact, the same thing I was telling in the House three years back that this will happen. I told the House, if you are going to insist that the price should be, somewhat, near Rs. 14 or Rs. 15, in another two years, the prices will go to Rs. 30 per kg. It is because the farmer immediately shifts. And, exactly the same thing happened in this country. So, today, Rs. 108, has been announced and the ultimate manufacturing price would be Rs. 2,300 and that is why the prices would be somewhat near to...

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT : Sir, I would like to know whether the Commission on Agriculture Costs and Prices has recommended a higher price of Rs. 125.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : Now, it is Rs. 108.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT : I would like to know whether CACP has recommended for Rs. 125.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : Sir, the CACP has recommended twice. I will tell you what happened. About two years back, initially, the CACP sent a Report for Rs. 81 for 12 months. After four months, CACP gave another Report. When the Government had accepted the recommendation of Rs. 81 of the CACP and communicated to all States, then, within three or four months, the CACP has given a fresh Report. In the fresh Report, it has recommended for something like Rs. 115. In that Report, the CACP had suggested that the Government of India should pay bonus. You see, in Uttar Pradesh, Bajaj is going to produce sugar. He is going to sell sugar there. He is going to earn money there...*(Interruptions)*... The Government of India has to pay bonus for this ...*(Interruptions)*... So, we, still, have to accept that. That proposal was not accepted; that proposal was rejected. This year also the proposal came and what he is saying is correct that it was a little more. They gave some calculations, but they were not according to the guidelines. In calculation, one of the conditions is, whatever the price will be fixed, it will be including the cost of cultivation, return to the farmers and the price for the consumer in the open market. The CACP has bypassed the third category. They have not paid any attention to that. That is why, that particular section was not accepted by the Government and the Government announced the price as Rs. 107/- with a proviso that mills have liberty to give more than this. This is the benchmark. This is the minimum price. So, they can give more also and there are many ways. I know that in Karnataka, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu, mills are paying much more than the price which the Government has announced. I am not sure about Uttar Pradesh, but this is the position. About Brindalji's question that after importing what they should do, I have replied that within three months, they have to make it available in the market; otherwise it will be taken for Public Distribution System. That condition has already been put.

One point was raised here why you could not get proper information about not reaching such and such level of production. Why have you not collected information from the States in this regard? Yes we are collecting information from all the States. All the States have given me, through the Government, different information within eight months. Initially, the State Governments, all together, had communicated in writing to the Government of India that production will be 220. Within three months, they communicated that the production will be 200. After two months, they communicated that production will be 185 and lastly, they have communicated that production will be 160. So,

wrong information was communicated. Secondly, this year, the sugarcane productivity was dropped because there was a delay of monsoon in a particular sugar belt. That is why, the production was less. When we realised this with the last information which we got from various State Governments, immediately, we took a decision to allow raw sugar and from that day, the process has been started. With regard to the last question which was asked by Mr. Javedkar as to whether such and such quantity will be available at ration shops, I would say that unless and until the new season starts, I will not be able to say anything. But we will make efforts to take certain decisions which will, ultimately, help to improve the availability in all the three categories of PDS, that is AAY, BPL, and APL. We would make available the sugar. The matter is under consideration. I do not want to give all the details, because, if I say something, suddenly, it will have some effect in the international market too. That is why, I have to be cautious, but we are moving in that direction. Without imports also, probably, we will be able to take some decision, which will make available sugar in the Public Distribution System. Thank you.

SPECIAL MENTIONS

Need to take measures for protection of life and property of train passengers in view of the increasing incidents of crime in trains

श्री जय प्रकाश नारायण सिंह (झारखंड) : महोदय, सरकार जहां रेलवे में यात्रियों की सुविधाओं के लिए, सुरक्षा पर प्रतिवर्ष करोड़ों रुपया खर्च करती है. वहीं रेलवे सुरक्षा को घटा बताकर रेलवे में लूटपाट, चोरी, डकैती की घटनाएं प्रतिवर्ष बढ़ती जा रही हैं। इसी क्रम में 1 अगस्त को बड़बिल टाटा-हावड़ा जनशताब्दी एक्सप्रेस (2022) में घाटशिला और गिधनी स्टेशनों के बीच सशस्त्र अपराधियों ने दुस्साहिस ढंग से दो वातानुकूलित बोगियों में लाखों रुपये नगद, मोबाइल, आभूषण लूट लिए और अपराधी चैन खींचकर आराम से चले गए। लूट के शिकार होने वाले लोगों में भाजपा युवा मोर्चा के राष्ट्रीय अध्यक्ष भी हैं, जिनकी सोने की चैन, अंगूठी, मोबाइल व नगदी लूट ली गई।

अतः मेरा सरकार से अनुरोध है कि रेलवे में बढ़ती हुई अपराधिक घटनाओं को देखते हुए, ऐसे स्थानों की पहचान की जाए, जहां पर इस प्रकार की घटनाएं ज्यादा होती हैं। रेलवे अधिकारियों की जिम्मेदारी तय की जाए तथा यात्रियों के जान-माल की सुरक्षा हेतु ठोस कदम उठाए जाएं। धन्यवाद।