

क्षेत्र जहाँ कापर के 65 वर्ष के डिगजिट प्राप्त हुए हैं मध्य प्रदेश के बालाघाट जिले में मलाजखंड है मैं यह जानना चाहती हूँ कि क्यों न उस क्षेत्र में कापर स्मेल्टर प्लांट लगा दिये जायें, क्या इस तरह की कोई योजना सरकार के पास है ?

श्री सभापति : मलाजखंड में क्या आप प्लांट लगाएंगे, यह छोटा सा सवाल है (व्यवधान)

That is what she wants to know.

SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR: There is no such proposal at the present moment. But, we are.... (Interruptions)...

मलाजखंड के बारे में जो पूछा गया है वह सरकार के जेरेगौर है। (व्यवधान)

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र : सभापति जी, मैं सरकार से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि जब हमारी लेबर कास्ट दूसरे देशों के मुकाबले में बहुत कम है तब हमारे यहाँ कापर का दाम ज्यादा क्यों है अंतर्राष्ट्रीय दाम के मुकाबले में। दूसरी बात इससे सम्बंधित यह है कि जो कापर प्रोड्यूसिंग क्षेत्र है वहाँ बैंक का इन्ट्रेस्ट रेट क्या है। क्या यह सच है कि हमारे यहाँ अन्य देशों के मुकाबले में इन्ट्रेस्ट रेट तिगुना है, क्या यह सही है या नहीं है ? इन दो बिंदुओं पर माननीय मंत्री जी स्पष्टीकरण दें।

श्री माखन लाल फोतेदार : यह बात सही नहीं है कि लेबर कास्ट यहाँ ज्यादा है, अलबत्ता यह बात सही है कि लेबर फॉर्स ज्यादा इम्प्लाय किया गया है (व्यवधान) मैं आनरेबल मंत्री को यह बताना चाहता हूँ कि खेती कापर काम्प्लेक्स में 8 हजार लोग काम कर रहे हैं, इंडियन कापर काम्प्लेक्स में 15 हजार काम कर रहे हैं, मलाजखंड कापर प्रोजेक्ट में जो कि एक बहुत बड़ा प्रोजेक्ट है उसमें सिर्फ दो हजार लोग काम कर रहे हैं। (व्यवधान)

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र : मेरा यह प्रश्न नहीं है। मेरा प्रश्न यह है कि labour cost component of the total cost of production is less compared to the other developed countries in the world.

And second part of the question is about the bank interest rate. ये दोनों हैं (व्यवधान)

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is the (Interruptions).

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: What is the total component?

श्री माखन लाल फोतेदार : आनरेबल मंत्री को मैं यह बताना चाहता हूँ कि अफ्रीका में जो कापर का कटेट है वह ज्यादा है यहाँ कम है। यहाँ लेबर ज्यादा इम्प्लाय होता है, उन देशों में कम होता है। वहाँ मल्टी नेशनल्स काम कर रहे हैं यहाँ अपने देश के लोग काम कर रहे हैं।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question, No. 62.

Import of sugar by the S.T.C.

*62. **SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:** Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Sugar Industry had recently expressed its concern for the import of sugar by the State Trading Corporation in view of the large scale production of sugar in the country; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA):

(a) and (b) The Sugar Industry is not in favour of import of sugar. The Government is also working towards phasing out import of sugar completely. The policy is decided taking into consideration indigenous sugar production, adequate availability for meeting internal requirements, trend of international prices etc. The interests of the consumers and sugarcane growers as well as those of the producers of sugar are always kept in mind while evolving the policy.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Mr. Chairman Sir, the hon. Minister has

stated that the Government is reviewing the policy. Sir, in early 70s we were the exporters of sugar. Now the trend is that we have to import sugar to the tune of one million tonnes. Sir, last year the Cabinet has approved the question of importing sugar to the tune of 3 to 5 lakh tonnes. And because of the large scale import of sugar the indigenous production is not increasing and the sugarcane growers are put to a loss because they are not getting remunerative prices for sugarcane. The production now is expected to be 85 lakh tonnes to 87 lakh tonnes, it will definitely meet the local demands of our population. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether they are going to review the policy of completely banning imports because otherwise we will be losing foreign exchange.

SHRI D. L. BAITHA: Sir, so far as the production is concerned, although we had very good production in the year 1986-87, in view of the drought and other conditions this year's production is not expected to be up to that level and there is every likelihood that in view of the other factors, as for example, internal consumption, prices, etc. import policy the question of completely banning the imports is not possible because many other factors are there which should be taken into consideration before deciding the issue.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Mr. Chairman, Sir now in the international market the price of sugar has gone to £ 300 in the London market. That is equivalent to Rs. 9 per kg if we add customs duty which is fixed by the Government. And they sell it at Rs. 6. The Government is losing revenue. To the consumers in the open market. Government's policy is to see that they go in for imports when it is advantageous for them. Under these circumstances, I would like to know whether they are going to review the policy because the Government is losing revenue.

Part (b) of my question is, the Government in the new policy is encouraging cooperative sector. The sugar factories are capable of catering to the needs of the people. I want to know whether the Government will allow concessions to sugar industry and also to the farmers with a view to increasing indigenous production.

SHRI D. L. BAITHA: I have already stated that while formulating the policy, we do take into consideration the interest of the consumers, the cane growers and the sugar producers. Therefore, we do keep in mind these aspects. About imports, I may say that it depends upon certain conditions. If the sugar is made available at a reasonable price, there is no question of going in for imports. But if the prices go up and production is affected naturally we cannot allow prices to rise and, therefore, imports will become necessary.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: I asked about encouraging the cooperative sector of sugar industry.

SHRI D. L. BAITHA: We certainly give all encouragement to sugar co-operative sector.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: While replying, the hon. Minister has said that the Government will always keep in mind the interests of the cane growers. Is it not a fact that lakhs of kisans are agitating today? As a matter of fact, they have been agitating in Meerut for the past some time and this went on for 28 days. They demanded rise in the sugar cane prices. But the Government has rejected their demand. The growers are still agitating. I would like to know what policy the Government has formulated to safeguard the interests of these kisans, the sugar cane growers. Secondly, by what time the country will attain self-sufficiency in sugar and stop import of sugar? Thirdly, what are the immediate steps that are being taken to check the price of sugar both from the consumer's point of view and from the point of view of the grower?

SHRI D. L. BAITHA: So far as remunerative prices to the cane growers are concerned het hon. Members are aware that we have increased the Statutory Minimum Price of sugarcane from Rs 17 to 18.50 per quintal linked to a recovery of 8.5 per cent and for the next season, we have already announced that the SMP will be Rs. 19. About self-sufficiency, it depends upon various factors. If production goes down we cannot say when we will achieve self-sufficiency. That depends upon various conditions.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: By What time? Is there any assessment by the Government as to the time by which they expect to attain self-sufficiency?

SHRI D. L. BAITHA: Government tries to avoid import but that depends upon various conditions. (Interruptions).

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Mr Chairman, Sir, he has not answered part (c) of my question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Reddy, I cannot force him to say what you want him to say.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: He has not replied to part (c) of my question. What immediate steps Government is going to take to check the price of sugar?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Part (c) he has answered, about self-sufficiency. He has said that he cannot say.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: That was part (b). Part (c) is about the steps contemplated by the Government to check the price of sugar.

SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV: Government is not making any efforts.

SHRI D. L. BAITHA: Government is making all efforts.

MR. CHAIRMAN: They are making all efforts.

SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Sir, last year the estimate in regard to sugar production by the Government was 75 lakh tonnes but we actually

ended up with a production of 85 lakh tonnes. In spite of this nine lakh tonnes of sugar were imported at a big loss of foreign exchange. This year, in spite of drought the condition of the crop is such that we can expect a production of 88 lakh tonnes. Now, Sir, the point is, would the Government give an assurance that before importing sugar, they will take in account firstly, the fact that we are short of foreign exchange? Secondly, Sir, sugar is being imported at a very high price which may result in sugar being sold at Rs. 9 per kg. as against Rs. 7 at present. Thirdly, in the month of April-May, we will come to know the actual production. Therefore, may I know from the hon. Minister whether the Government would give an assurance that these factors will be taken into account before the much-needed foreign exchange is spent on the import of sugar?

SHRI D. L. BAITHA: Sir, we have already given the assurance that Government makes all efforts to see that, as far as possible, import is not resorted to. But as I said, that depends upon various factors. The hon. member has said that in his estimate the production this year will be 88 lakh tonnes.

SHRI GHULAM RASOOL MATTO: As against 85 lakh tonnes last year.

SHRI D. L. BAITHA: So far, our estimate is that this year it will be about 81 lakh tonnes.

SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: That is exactly my point. You estimate one thing but the production, actual production, turns out to be a different one.

SHRI D. L. BAITHA: It will be known only after some time. But I can say that Government is making

all efforts to see that import is not resorted to unnecessarily.

SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Have you already taken a decision to import?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri J. P. Yadvav.

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव : सभापति जी, एक बात समझ में नहीं आती है कि अनाज के मामले में भी हम कहते हैं कि हम स्वावलंबी हो गये, चीनी के मामले में स्वावलंबी हो गये और स्वावलंबी होने के बाद भी 20 लाख टन अनाज मंगाया जाता है। ... (व्यवधान)

श्री सभापति : आप शक्कर की बात करो।

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव : तो प्रश्न यह है कि मैं सरकार की इस बात को समझना चाहता हूँ कि देश में जब स्वावलंबी होने की स्थिति बनी हुई है और बनी हुई ही नहीं है बल्कि हम चीनी को निर्यात भी कर चुके हैं और अनाज को भी कई देशों को भेज चुके हैं फिर भी कौन सा षडयंत्र है जिस षडयंत्र के भीतर इतना विदेशी धन खर्च किया जाता है, वह कौन सी शक्ति है जो सरकार को बाध्य कर रही है बिना आवश्यक होते हुए भी वह चीनी का आयात करावे, सिर्फ यह कह करके कि आल कंसिडरेशन्स। What are those considerations? Particular consideration क्या है ?

जब चीनी का हमारे यहां पर्याप्त उत्पादन है और आज भी पर्याप्त उत्पादन होने की उम्मीद है और सरकार एक्सपैक्ट 81 लाख टन का करती है और जो चीनी उत्पादन करने वाले हैं उनका कहना है कि 88 लाख टन होगा। जब 88 लाख टन होगा ही जो कि उत्पादन करने वाले बता रहे हैं तो फिर सरकार को और क्या रिक्वायरमेंट है और इतना होने के बाद भी बाजार आप से नियंत्रित नहीं है तथा आज 9 रुपये किलो चीनी हो गई है आज आप कितनी भी फेयर प्राइस शाप्स खोलें, कितना भी आप कुछ करें लेकिन

वहां भी ड्यूल नीति में सरकार अण्डर कम्प्लेशन यह कहती है और सरकार अण्डर कम्प्लेशन यह चीनी विदेशी धन खर्च करके विदेशों से मंगानी है, यह षडयंत्र है या इसमें क्या भेद नीति छिपी हुई है ?

श्री डी० एल० बंठा : सर, सरकार इसमें कुछ षडयंत्र नहीं करती है। सरकार की पूरी कोशिश है कि देश के ही उत्पादन पर निर्भर किया जाय। लेकिन इस बात का ध्यान रखना आवश्यक है कि यह जो चीनी है, इसकी कीमत इतनी न बढ़ जाये कि आम लोगों को चीनी मिलने में कठिनाई हो... (व्यवधान)... यह सरकार की कोई नीति जबरदस्ती इसे बाहर से मंगाने की नहीं है बल्कि जरूरत है, इसलिये मंगा रही है।

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Sir, I do not know whether he will understand what I am going to say, which is a technical jargon. He is a new Minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has been Minister before.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: He is talking of a gunny bag which contains all efforts, but I would like to know the contents of those efforts, I am going to ask the details, one by one.

Sir, the problem here is, as we understand, the sugarcane grower, whether he is in the private sector or in the cooperative sector, is groaning under a very difficult price situation. Sugarcane growing has become high-cost agriculture. The fact is that your Ministry has defrauded this Government by agreeing to import sugar at a costly price. Is it a fact or not? You have contracted to purchase sugar at Rs. 3.00. That means it will come to Rs. 9 per kilo.

I think you have defrauded this Government. By entering into these contracts to purchase sugar at a high price, whereas the price in this country is at a lower level, you have increased the subsidy quantum on the people of this country who are already under duress due to foreign exchange difficulties.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now come to your question.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: I am coming to the proper question now because

“सर्वे भवन्तु सुखिनः सर्वे भवन्तु निरामया”

I want him to give a specific reply. Is it a fact or not that by importing sugar, people and the Government of this country have suffered a loss of Rs. 3 per kilo, which is a staggering loss? Now you are saying that you are watching the conditions. Today, already February is over. Do you know when the sugar season ends? Perhaps you do not know that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He comes from sugarcane area.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: It ends by June. So, there is a large amount of sugar production still to come. Sugarcane crop is already ready. It does not require rainy season or anything else. So, in those conditions I would like to know whether he would commit here that whatever contracts are pending with the foreign countries will henceforth be stopped and cancelled.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: The question is not very sweet.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: साखर की, फाइनेंस कमिशन की प्रोब्लम नहीं है।

Import has to be stopped because indigenous cane grower is all along under duress, the consumer is all along under duress. For Heaven's sake you do this. Otherwise, what Government's right hand does the left hand does not know and what the left hand does the right hand does not know.

SHRI D. L. BAITHA: So far as the interest of sugarcane growers is concerned, the Government has the uppermost consideration, topmost consideration....

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: अरे भाई, क्या अपर मोस्ट कंसीडरेशन है।

What does he mean by uppermost consideration? Do you know what Mr. Tikait is saying, what Mr. Sharad Joshi is asking? There is no uppermost consideration. Perhaps he does not know what he is talking.

SHRI D. L. BAITHA: We have always been trying to keep the balance of interest of all these three categories, the sugarcane grower, the sugar producer and the consumer.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Sir, now you protect us.

SHRI D. L. BAITHA: So far as cancelling of contract is concerned, I have already stated that it depends upon various other factors.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Aladi Aruna.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Sir, are you satisfied? You are upholding the rights of the Members. I congratulate you. But are you upholding my right? Why don't you uphold my right?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I cannot force him.

कुछ मंत्री (श्री भजन लाल) : अगर इजाजत हो तो सभापति महोदय मैं शुगर केन के बारे में रोशनी डाल दूँ ?

श्री सभापति : शुगर का कार्य उन्हीं के पास है इसलिये उन्हीं को जवाब देने दीजिए ।

श्री भजन लाल : एग्रीकल्चर से ताल्लुक रखनेवाला सवाल पूछा है ।

श्री सभापति : नहीं, उन्हीं को जवाब देने दीजिए । Let us not start a new convention.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Either you force him to reply correctly point by point whether the imports will be stopped forthwith. Please ask him. That day you asked Mr. Faleiro. Today you ask the Minister—I do not know his name—whether he will stop the import and whether the Ministry has not been unnecessarily defrauded of foreign exchange. You ask him these two questions and then I will sit down.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Kulkarni, how can I force a Minister to say what you want him to say?

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: No, on that day why did you ask Mr. Faleiro? You asked him to reply. You only want to protect Mr. Vajpayee and not Kulkarni. You protect Kulkarni also.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Where is Mr. Vajpayee? Mr. Vajpayee is not there.

SHRI ALADI ARUNA alias V. ARUNACHALAM: Mr. Chairman.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Sir, is my question over?

MR. CHAIRMAN: You tell me, what can I do?

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Sir sometimes you show courage and at some other time you do not show courage. That is my difficulty.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He says I do not have courage. So I am asking. Now I am showing courage.

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR): Sir, in case the hon. Member is not satisfied by the answer given by the Deputy Minister, I think the Parliamentary Affairs Minister has the right to give the reply on behalf of Government.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Wait a minute. He says there is a convention that the Parliamentary Affairs Minister can answer this question.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): All the more because I was dealing with this subject before.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: I am happy that you are replying as the Food Minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no, he is today replying as Minister for Parliamentary Affairs.

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: With your kind permission, Sir I would like to tell the senior member, Shri Kulkarni, and the hon. Member, Shri Yadav, who had raised this question, that when Government decides to import sugar, it is as a matter of abundant caution so that the open market price should really remain stable. Sometimes when the open market price starts shooting up, the Food Corporation of India goes in for some imported sugar. It is not to fritter away foreign exchange or

to do any harm to the country. No, it is just to see that under the dual price policy, the price of sugar in open market remains stable. Secondly, it is done for open market consumption. The consumption also grows and it is done for that purpose also.

Thirdly, it is not the Food Ministry. This is imported through the STC. It is done from that angle. It is not done for the sake of harming the country or depleting its foreign exchange resources.

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव : एस० टी०सी० क्या फुड मिनिस्ट्री की अनुमति के बिना मंगाता है ?

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has said that this is a sort of buffer stock to ensure against exploitation of the consumer.

SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM: Mr. Chairman, the hon. Minister, in his reply, told that there was decline in the production due to the drought. Mr. Chairman, it is one of the causes; it is not the only cause. But the other factors are: Number one, there is no remunerative price to the sugarcane growers: Number two, the Government has totally failed to encourage the new entrepreneurs who come forward to start sugar industries. For example, in Tamil Nadu, in private sector and co-operative sector, we asked for nearly 40 sugar mills. But we have received letters of intent only for a few sugar mills. So, the policy of the Government is mostly responsible for the decline in the production.

SHRI D. L. BAITHA: Did they fulfil the criteria?

SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM: I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether, number one, the Government will come forward to enhance the price of sugarcane, and, number two, the Government will come forward to encourage new entrepreneurs in the sugar industry.

SHRI D. L. BAITHA: Sir, I have already stated that Government has already announced the rise in the minimum sugarcane price from Rs. 18.50 to Rs. 19 for the next year. Not only that, but there are State-advised prices. So, incentive is already there. Gradually we have taken other steps also to encourage the production. Therefore, so far as the sugarcane growers' interest is concerned, we have already taken that into consideration and increased the price.

SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM: New sugar factories?

SHRI D. L. BAITHA: Not sugar factories, but sugarcane growers.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He wants to know why you are not permitting new sugar factories to be opened in Tamil Nadu or any other State.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): It does not arise from this question. We require a separate notice.

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: Kindly permit me. I have very great respect for my hon. friend, hon. Member, Mr. Aladi Aruna. He raised this question. We are permitting new licences. We have sanctioned new licences for Tamil Nadu recently. We

have allowed expansion. We are doing this all over the country. You are not correct.

SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM: We have asked for 40. That is why I am asking.

*63. [The questioner (Shri Suresh Kalmadi) was absent. For answer vide Col. 32 infra.]

Scale of butter oil supplied by the USA

*64. SHRI N. E. BALARAM:†
SHRI GURUDAS DAS
GUPTA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the U.S. Government had recently supplied more than 5200 metric tonnes of butter oil to the National Dairy Development Board to assist the Government in drought relief works;

(b) if so, what was the landed cost of this butter oil per kilogram;

(c) the manner in which it is proposed to be utilised;

(d) whether a part of this butter oil had been sold through Mother Dairy outlets at high margins of profit; and

(e) if so, what are the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri N. E. Balaram.

Statement

(a) The US Government offered a quantity of 5200 MT of butteroil for drought relief, which will be monetised through erstwhile Indian Dairy Corporation (Now National Dairy Development Board) for the Prime Minister's Relief Fund. The shipments are in progress.

(b) Since the Butter oil is being received free of charge, there is no landed cost upto the port of landing.

(c) It is proposed to utilise the butter oil for direct sale as a cooking medium and for recombination of fluid milk by the dairy plants in the cooperative and public sector.

(d) The Mother Dairy, Delhi has not received the butter oil in question.

(e) Does not arise.

SHRI N. E. BALARAM: I would like to know how much quantity has been received so far, and how you distributed it. What is the basis? I understand that it is distributed to only one or two centres.

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV: Under this scheme, 5,200 metric tonnes of butter oil has been offered. Out of that, a part has arrived, and most of it is just in the pipeline.

SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Not yet distributed?

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV: You know, Sir, this is a drought relief gift from the USA. Out of this gift, some will be distributed for direct use by the consumers, and some will go to the National Dairy Development Board for recombination.

SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Sir, I understand this. We are getting it as donation, as a gift. That means, free of charge, we are getting it. According to the statement given by the Minister, they are thinking of selling it in the market. That means,