

this element of spurious drugs should be very seriously dealt with. I therefore, draw the attention of the Government to these two important aspects.

REFERENCE TO THE NEED TO WITHDRAW FREIGHT EQUALISATION SCHEME IN RESPECT OF INDUSTRIAL COMMODITIES

SHRI CHITTA BASU (West Bengal): I draw the attention of the House and of the Government to a very important issue of Freight Equalisation policy. The national Transport Policy Committee, under the Chairmanship of Shri B. D. Pandey, in their report submitted to the Government, in 1980, recommended that the freight equalisation scheme in respect of industrial commodities like steel should be gradually phased out, since it has not served the objective of regional development but has led to the non-optimal location of industries. The Government of India have accepted this recommendation in principle. In line with this recommendation, the Government also decided that the subsidisation of transport cost in the case of remote, inaccessible and isolated areas like the North-Eastern Region should be continued. Sir, in reply to Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 736 dated the 30th July, 1985, it was stated by Shri K. Natwar Singh, the then Minister of State in the Department of Steel, that the modalities and the time-phasing of the withdrawal of the freight equalisation scheme were being worked out in consultation with the Ministries concerned. It was stated that the modalities would be worked out within three months. This is very important. 'Within three months'. The period of three months ended on the 29th October, 1985. The period was further extended by another three months, up to 29th January, 1986. In reply to Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 997, on the 26th November, 1985, it was stated that the modalities and the time-phasing of the withdrawal were still to be worked out. In reply to Rajya Sabha Starred question 292 on the 14th March, 1986, the Minister of Steel and Mines said and I quote:

"A number of representations have been received from States located far-

ther away from steel plants against phasing out of the freight equalisation scheme in respect of iron and steel. The views will be taken into account while working out the modalities."

Then, Sir, the Prime Minister is reported to have assured representatives of the Chambers of Commerce and trade union representatives at Calcutta only on the 1st July this year, that they would examine the question and expedite the decision. Sir, in view of all these facts—I do not want to quote other facts—this should be accepted as an assurance given by the Minister to the House. This should not be treated merely as an information. According to me, this is not a mere information. As I said earlier, this constitutes a definite, concise and precise assurance. Therefore, this assurance has to be implemented. Sir, I demand, a statement, on behalf of the Government, should be made in the House to explain the position, as to how and when this decision of the Government would be implemented.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. P. KAUSHIK): Shri Vishvaiah Prithvi Singh. He is not here. Shri Satya Prakash Malaviya. He is not here. Shri Thangabalu.

REFERENCE TO THE CAUVERY WATER DISPUTE

SHRI THANGABAALU (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, with your permission, I would like to bring to the notice of the Government a matter of urgent public importance, through this august House. Sir, for the last sixteen years, there have been discussions and meetings in regard to the Cauvery water dispute, between the States of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala. Now, the Chief Ministers of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala met last month and they decided after the meeting that the talks had failed and that there was no other way out for them but to refer the question to the Centre and accept its verdict. At this juncture, I would like to point out, as per the 1924 agreement, Tamil Nadu has to get 40,000 crore cubic feet of water yearly. (Interruptions)

[Shri Thangabalu]

But due to the slackness and lethargic attitude of the then DMK Government, the 1924 agreement was not renewed in 1974

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY (Tamil Nadu): You are wrong. (*Interruption*). You are spoiling your own case. You are spoiling the case of Tamil Nadu, to gain political ends. The agreement was there. There was no necessity to renew it. The agreement still stands. There was no necessity to renew it. When you speak something, you should not....

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. P. KAUSHIK): Please sit down. (*Interruptions*). Nothing to go on record. Yes, Mr. Thengabalu, please complete.

SHRI THANGABAALU: Thereby Tamil Nadu is suffering to a greater extent. Within the 16 years period the agriculturists in the Cauveri delta have lost more than one thousand crores and in electricity production Tamil Nadu lost about 800 crores. In spite of the fact that the Central Government has taken a lot of pains and given assistance, the talks have continuously failed. From 1970 onwards the Central Government is taking initiative to settle the dispute. In 1972 Mr. K. L. Rao, the then Union Irrigation Minister called a meeting. Then he called the meetings in 1973 and 1974 but the talks could not be fruitful.

SHRI K. G. MAHESWARAPPA (Karnataka): At whose instance?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN: (SHRI M. P. KAUSHIK): Please, let him complete.

SHRI THANGABAALU: But in contravention of the 1924 agreement while the talks were on, the Karnataka Government started construction of Hemavadi, Kabini and Herangi dams and without the prior sanction of the Central Government. At this juncture to protect the interests of Tamil Nadu the Tamil Nadu Government went to Supreme Court to

stop the construction of the dams in the Cauveri area of Karnataka State. In 1972 at the instance of the then Prime Minister, Shri. Indira Gandhi, the Tamil Nadu Government withdrew the suits, that paved way for Karnataka to continue the construction of dams in Cauveri area.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: You say, to continue the talk and dialogue. When you put something, you should put it rightly. This is a very sensitive and very important matter.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. P. KAUSHIK): You can have your say at the proper time. (*Interruptions*). It is a special mention. He has to mention whatever he has to mention. (*Interruptions*). Please, no discussion.

SHRI K. G. MAHESWARAPPA: This is more important to Karnataka than Tamil Nadu.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. P. KAUSHIK): Please complete now. It is not a question of discussion or having a dialogue.

SHRI THANGABAALU: Again in 1974 in the meeting which took place the Chief Ministers agreed on the idea of forming Cauvery valley authority but the Centre did not bother at that time to form such an authority. In April 1975 again at Delhi the Chief Ministers meeting was convened. At that meeting the Tamil Nadu Government insisted to have a tribunal but afterward the State Government of Tamil Nadu did not bother to insist on the appointment of the tribunal. From 1977 to 1986 the Chief Ministers of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka informed the Centre that they would discuss mutually and come to an agreement. But no decision could be taken.

SHRI K. G. MAHESWARAPPA: You talk of the tribunal.

SHRI THANGABAALU: As per the 1956 Central Water Disputes Act the then DMK and the ADMK Governments of Tamil Nadu did not insist on the

Centre to appoint a Cauvery Valley Authority or a tribunal all these years. The State Government of Tamil Nadu at present wants a tribunal to be set up to sort out the Cauvery water dispute.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. P. KAUSHIK): Please wind up.

SHRI THANGABAALU: At this junction, I would like to mention that all our friends, including Mr. Gopalsamy and all the parties in Tamil Nadu, irrespective of creed and colour want to have a tribunal from the Centre.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. P. KAUSHIK): The time is over. Please sit down. Yes, Mr. Pramod. (Interruptions). Please take your seat. You have already taken more than six minutes. (Interruptions) No two minutes, please sit down. Nothing will go on record. Yes, Mr. Pramod.

SHRI THANGABAALU: *Continued speaking.

REFERENCE TO THE PROBLEM FACED BY MAHARASHTRA COTTON GROWERS

श्री प्रनोद महाजन (महाराष्ट्र) : इस विशेष उल्लेख के द्वारा मैं महाराष्ट्र के कपास उत्पादक किसानों की समस्याओं की ओर सदन का तथा केन्द्र सरकार का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ।

महाराष्ट्र देश का एक प्रमुख कपास उत्पादक प्रदेश है। महाराष्ट्र के विदर्भ, खानदेश, मराठवाडा और पश्चिम महाराष्ट्र के कुछ जिलों में लाखों किसान देश का लगभग एक तिहाई कपास निर्माण करते हैं। भले ही हम अपने आपको कृषिप्रधान देश कहें, किसान हमेशा उन्नत रहा है। किसान अपनी उपज को लेकर जब भी मंडी में जाता है, उपज के दर गिरने लगते हैं और जब वह घर लौटता है तब उसी उपज को बहुत दर में बेच कर बिचौलिया लाखों रुपये में खेलेते हैं। कृषि प्रधान अर्थव्यवस्था में शोषण का प्रारम्भ इन्हीं बिचौलियों द्वारा होता है।

*Not recorded.

किसानों को बिचौलियों के संगत स वक्त कर कपास की उचित कीमत दिलवाने की दिशा में प्रयत्न करने के हेतु 1972 में कपास एकाधिकार खरादी योजना का आरम्भ हुआ। गत 14 वर्षों से यह योजना महाराष्ट्र में चल रही है। यह नहीं है कि योजना पूर्णतः निरक्षर है। किसानों को कीमत कम दी जाती है, समय पर दी नहीं जाती, प्रशासनिक भ्रष्टाचार है, एकाधिक कपास में रहस्यमय आग लग जाती है। फिर भी गत वर्ष 6 जून को जो नई बसोबास नीति घोषित हुई, जिसने कपास के विगंध में कृत्रिम धागे को अधिक महत्व दिया उसके कारण कपास उत्पादक किसानों को जो कब खोदी गई है उसमें महाराष्ट्र गवर्नमेंट की इस योजना ने किसानों को थोड़ी राहत दी है। 30 जून 86 को इस योजना की अवधि समाप्त हुई। महाराष्ट्र सरकार इस योजना को और दस वर्ष के लिए चलाती चाहती है। इस प्रकार को अनुमति महाराष्ट्र सरकार ने केन्द्र सरकार से मांगी है। केन्द्र सरकार चाहती थी कि इस योजना के अन्तर्गत कपास की महाराष्ट्र में दी जाने वाली कीमत कम की जाय, ए पी सी की कीमत ही मानी जाय। अपने आप यह आग्रह गलत था। हम इस आग्रह से सहमत नहीं। किसानों को लागत के आधार पर ही अपनी उपज की कीमत मिलनी चाहिए। फिर भी महाराष्ट्र सरकार ने केन्द्र सरकार की यह शर्त भी मान ली।

लेकिन इस क्षण तक केन्द्र सरकार ने महाराष्ट्र सरकार को एकाधिकार कपास योजना आगामी दस वर्ष तक चलाने की अनुमति प्रदान नहीं की है। इससे महाराष्ट्र के लाखों किसानों में असंतोष और आक्रोश है। इस विशेष उल्लेख द्वारा मेरा केन्द्र सरकार से अनुरोध है कि वह महाराष्ट्र को एकाधिकार कपास योजना को आने वाले दस वर्ष के लिए तुरन्त अनुमति प्रदान करे।

Reference to the textile workers strike in Delhi

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN (West Bengal): Sir, twenty thousand textile workers of Delhi are on indefinite strike from 28th