

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Crisis faced by Jute and Cotton industries due to fall in prices and failure of Jute and Cotton Corporations to purchase the commodities directly from the growers

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH (West Bengal): Sir, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Textiles to the crisis faced by the jute and cotton industries due to fall in prices and failure of the Jute and Cotton Corporations to purchase the commodities directly from the growers and the steps taken by Government in this regard.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): Sir, the Motion seeks to discuss the situation faced by the jute and cotton industries arising out of the fall in prices and the alleged failure of the Jute and Cotton Corporations to purchase the commodities directly from the growers and the steps taken by the Government in this regard.

I am not aware if the jute and cotton industries have been facing any crisis due to fall in prices of these fibres. On the other hand, the fall in prices has helped the two industries in reducing their losses.

The Jute Corporation of India stepped into conduct an all-time high procurement operation in 1985-86 jute year (July-June) when a bumper jute crop was harvested after a spell of several short crops. I may point out that the JCI intervened in the market in early August 1985 even before the prices touched the minimum support level.....

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PARVATHANENI UPENDRA (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, may I interrupt on a point of order?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, but there should be no point of disorder.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Sir, in the notice we mentioned the problems faced by the jute and cotton growers and the crisis in the jute industry. They are two different issues. Now it has been worded here "the crisis faced by the jute and cotton industries due to fall in prices" which gives the opposite meaning. As the Minister just now mentioned, because of the fall in prices, the industry has been benefited. But we wanted to raise the problems of the farmers, who are suffering because of the fall in prices of jute and cotton. Because of the clubbing of these two issues, the language has been changed ...

MR. CHAIRMAN: This was discussed with Mr. Dipen Ghosh.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: No, yesterday, as you may remember, we pointed out in your chamber how the language has been changed....

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. Your point has some validity. Hereafter we will see that it is properly worded.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE (West Bengal): Not hereafter. Unless it is modified, since the language is defective, the discussion can proceed. You permit the change of language. Otherwise it becomes a meaningless Calling Attention.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Madhya Pradesh): The Agriculture Minister must be here.

MR. CHAIRMAN: As I understood it, the Textile Minister is in charge of the procurement of cotton and jute. Therefore it is that he is answering the question of procurement.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: But he has taken umbrage behind the wording of the motion.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I permit you to put your question.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: There should be the conjunction 'and'; then it will be all right:

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): How can he reply on behalf of the Minister of Agriculture?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Jute Corporation and the Cotton Corporation are those which procure at floor prices. The question which has been raised by the honourable Members is that they are not procuring at floor prices and therefore the prices are falling. He is the Minister responsible for purchase at floor prices and therefore he is answering.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: But he is justifying the fall in the prices of jute and cotton.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, you continue with the statement.

[Mr. Deputy Chairman in the Chair]

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN: Sir, the Motion seeks to discuss the situation faced by the jute and cotton industries arising out of the fall in prices and the alleged failure of the Jute and Cotton Corporations to purchase the commodities directly from the growers and the steps taken by the Government in this regard.

I am not aware if the jute and cotton industries have been facing any crisis due to fall in prices of these fibres. On the other hand, the fall in prices has helped the two industries in reducing their losses.

The Jute Corporation of India, in 1985-86 jute year (July-June) when a bumper jute crop was harvested after a spell of several short crops. It may point out that the JCI intervened in the market in early August 1985 even before the prices touched the minimal support level and conducted a limited com-

mercial operation at a price above the statutory minimum. Subsequently, when the prices came down to the support level in mid-September 1985, because of increased rate of arrivals of raw jute in the market the JCI, along with the State Co-operative Organisations, conducted a massive price support operation. The total procurement made last year was a record 28.15 lakh bales as compared to only 10.14 lakh bales in 1984-85 and the earlier highest procurement of 17.61 lakh bales in 1981-82.

As a matter of policy, JCI purchases raw jute only from growers and not from middlemen or traders, so that the benefit of price support operation goes to growers. For identification of growers, JCI mostly relies on jute cards issued by the State Government and/or Panchayat slips.

I may further point out that during the preceding jute year ending 30th June, 1985, the following steps were taken to safeguard the interest of the jute growers:

(i) Announcement of minimum statutory price of raw jute and mesta;

(ii) Expansion of market coverage, by the JCI and the State Co-operatives;

(iii) Enlargement of storage capacity from 11 lakh to 22 lakh bales;

(iv) Sanction of credit on 'as required' basis by the Reserve Bank of India for undertaking price support operation, total credit sanctioned being over Rs. 100 crores;

(v) Issue of directive on 6th September, 1985 by Jute Commissioner to all working jute mills in the private sector to build up stocks of raw jute upto specified levels so as to step up purchases of raw jute by mills;

(vi) Use of mass media by JCI to advise the farmers not to make distress sale and bring their produce to JCI/Cooperative purchase centres.

So far as the current jute year beginning 1st July, 1986 is concerned, the Government has already taken the following steps to safeguard the interests of jute growers:—

(i) The statutory minimum price of raw jute and mesta were announced during February/March i.e. before the sowing of raw jute so that the farmers can take a view about the acreage to be held under jute. It was the first time that the statutory minimum price was announced so early.

(ii) I had written to Chief Ministers of jute growing States months back to issue growers' identity cards to all the farmers so that the traders and middlemen are not in a position to misuse facilities of buying raw jute at the statutory minimum price by the JCI.

(iii) The Jute Corporation of India purchase centres and sub-centres are already equipped with men, material and resources for beginning procurement of raw jute as and when the farmers offer raw jute to such centres at the statutory minimum price.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have been informed that the procurement operations of JCI in the markets in North Bengal, where the jute crops arrive early, is about to begin. As pointed out earlier, we have kept the procurement centres of Jute Corporation of India in complete readiness for the necessary operations. As stated by the Hon. Prime Minister recently, the Jute Corporation of India will buy whatever jute is offered to it for sale by the growers at the statutory minimum price. The Government stand by this commitment.

So far as the interest of growers of cotton is concerned, it is a fact that prices have declined considerably as the country has harvested two successive bumper crops in the cotton years 1984-85 and 1985-86 (September-August). The crop was 101 lakh bales in 1984-85 and 107 lakh bales in 1985-86. The consumption within the country on the other hand is around 90 lakh bales per year. Therefore, there is surplus. To overcome the situation, the Government have released 11.02 lakhs bales of cotton for export through Cotton Corporation of India, State Marketing Federations and private trade. Till date, 5,12,348 bales have been registered for export. To increase exports, the minimum export prices have been done away with and private

trade has also been associated with export as indicated earlier. In addition, a long term policy of export of yarn has been announced and cash compensatory support is being given for export of yarns. It may be mentioned here that cotton situation in the international market is also of a large surplus due to bumper crops in other parts of the world.

To help the farmers, the Cotton Corporation of India has been directed to undertake price support operations whenever prices of raw cotton (kapas) fall below minimum support prices announced by the Government of India. The Corporation purchased 11.97 lakh bales under the price support operations during the current cotton season as against 78000 bales during 1984-85. This is the highest quantity ever purchased by the CCI. Cotton season has come to an end in most cotton growing States except Tamil Nadu where summer crop is being marketed.

The Cotton Corporation of India does not operate in the State of Maharashtra where Monopoly Scheme of the State Government of Maharashtra was being implemented. The Maharashtra Federation has so far purchased approximately 30 lakh bales from the growers in the State. Similarly, other State Federations in Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and Punjab have been purchasing cotton from the cotton growers. Thus, more than half of the total production of cotton in the country during the current year has been purchased by State agencies. All these purchases have been made directly from the growers.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH (West Bengal):
Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I am sorry that the honourable Minister of State, for textiles could not do much homework overnight because he had made a Statement yesterday in the Lok Sabha on the jute issue alone and, today, he has to make a statement on both jute and cotton. As regards the jute issue, Sir, he is simply repeating what he has stated yesterday in the Lok Sabha. He could not even incorporate what he had said at a later stage of the debate, rather at the concluding stage of the debate, in the Lok Sabha. While incorporating the issues connected with cotton, he has messed up the whole thing, particularly when he has said in his today's state-

[Shri Dipen Ghosh] ment that he could not understand how the jute and cotton industries could face a crisis due to a fall in the prices of raw jute or cotton. On the contrary, he has drawn solace that because of a fall in the prices of these two cash crops the industries have got a booster or they could reduce their losses. But, Sir, here in lies the whole thing. So far as cotton is concerned, what is the main reason for the fall in prices of raw cotton? I am asking this question because there was a time when India used to import raw cotton, particularly the long-staple and superior quality cotton, from other countries. Now, India has not only been self-reliant but also is exporting, and there has been a bumper crop. Even the figure, which the Minister has given is not absolutely correct, I should say. Even in today's Statesman some figures have come out about cotton, and the production this year, in 1985-86, is around 107 lakh bales. Out of 107 lakh bales of cotton produced in India during 1985-86, the CO could purchase only about 15-16 lakh bales and about 22 lakh bales could be exported so far. This is the figure which has come in today's Statesman. You can check up which is the correct figure, because this was also perhaps released by the Department. This is the position. The reason is not low capacity of weaving or spinning of the textile mills, but the failure to off-take by the cotton mills of the raw cotton. Naturally, there is a conspiracy on the part of the textile magnets also to keep the production of cloth of yarn at a low level so that they could reap benefit out of the low price of raw cotton also. So here there is nothing to draw solace as the hon. Minister has tried. But here Sir, the price of raw cotton has gone down like anything. According to one estimate, according to the official wholesale price index in 1984-85 there has been a decline of 24 per cent in the price of raw cotton, while between September 1985 and April 1986 it has gone down further by another 21 per cent. In fact, particularly the long staple and superior variety of cotton go begging. One cannot imagine at what price they are to sell, and that is because of the inadequacy of the support

price operations. Actually in the textile policy which was announced in June last year it was assured that offtake of the produce will be done at the very remunerative prices. I think here also the question of textile policy comes up, because when we discussed the textile policy we had pointed out that consumption of the affluent people was going to be met while the powerloom sector has been completely ignored. Naturally the textile policy has also to be reviewed.

Before I put my questions, I want to say categorically that in the statement an attempt has been made or is sought to be made to draw certain solace about the Government arrangements being made to augment the cotton prices. But it is not the correct thing. It is not that way. Actually the cotton price is crashing, and mostly the long staple and superior quality of cotton are going abegging. That is because of the inadequacy of support price operation. The C. C. I., has stated that they do not have adequate storage facilities and they do not have adequate funds. Naturally, the Government has nothing to draw solace from. On the contrary, there are points for the Government to be criticised.

Before I put the question, I would like to say certain other things about jute. The jute scenario is also very gloomy. You know, Sir, that on jute depends the economic survival of West Bengal, partly Tripura, partly Bihar and partly Andhra Pradesh. Jute is the only cash crop in the State of West Bengal and provides livelihood to some 25 lakh growers. The industry also employs about 2 lakh workers. The Centre is also a beneficiary. They are getting foreign exchange of the order of Rs. 300 crores every year. Therefore, a vigorous attempt has to be made by the Government to protect this industry and to solve the problems faced by the people connected with jute crop, both at the cultivation level and also at the level of industry. Here also, the Centre's failure is apparent. While our Prime Minister visited Calcutta recently, there was an announcement in the press that he had committed to buy the entire produce of the State in respect of jute. Later, of course, in the Lok Sabha he denied having said so. On the contrary.

he rectified himself as having said that the Centre would buy whatever will be offered to JvC.I. Even our Minister of State for Textiles had also stated like that while taking the cudgles on behalf of the Prime Minister. I think the difference between aU produce to be bought and purchase of whatever is offered is little because jute is a cash crop and unlike foodgrains, a portion of it is not kept back by the farmers for consumption. Whatever jute is grown is reported to market for sale. Only the unsold stock is kept behind. Naturally the entire produce or whatever is offered sale is almost the same. Even if I accept for argument's sake that there is some difference between the two, what is the picture? This year, the estimate is that about 40 to 45 lakh bales of jute will be produced. The production will come around 40 lakh bales. Even if 50 per cent of this production is offered to the J. C. I., it comes to 20 to 25 lakh bales. But the JCI Chief has declared that it will be buying only 7 lakh bales up to the end of November. I want to know who runs the country. Is it the Prime Minister or the J- C. I. Chief? The Prime Minister has stated, even after rectifying his own statement, that the J.C.I. will be buying whatever would be offered to it. There is a snag in it. It is not that the farmers would go abegging to the J.C.I., saying: 'Please buy my goods, please buy my produce'. Our estimate is that the total production is 40 lakh bales this year, and a most part of it would be reported to the market for sale. It may go up also. Naturally, it is the responsibility of the JCI to reach, the farmers, to reach the growing centres and buy whatever is produced in the State. But the JCI has said that it would only buy 7 lakh bales of raw jute up to October/November. It is on record. I am (O quote all these records because then I will ask for a denial from the JCI Chief vis yesterday also the Minister stated in the Lok Sabha that no such statement could be given by the JCI Chief. Every newspaper has reported. Even there is an editorial in today's 'Statesman'. But there should be denial. A denial should go from the Ministry. But this is on record

that the JCI has to buy 7 lakh bales* of raw jute by the end of October. They have stated categorically that the JCI would buy only 300 quintals a day from the rural market. But a larger quantity will be reported for sale in the market. Naturally, I want to ask as to what steps the Government is going to take to implement even whatever the Prime Minister has said because this is not simply the remaking of one statement be taken into confidence. Let it would be bought. But what steps have they taken? Let Parliament be taken into confidence. Let us know the concrete steps that the Government has taken to ensure that whatever comes to the market would be bought. And at what price, I want to know. The price which has been fixed by the Agricultural Costs and Prices Commission is too low. Perhaps, it is between Rs. 200 and 300 or so. *(Interruption)* It will depend upon the variety. But the farmers' organisation have demanded Rs. 600 a quintal for a better variety and Rs. 400 or more. Naturally, we want to know what steps the Government is going to take to see that whatever jute is bought by the JCI is bought at a remunerative price. What steps the Government are-going to take to see that the farmers demands are met.

Thirdly, Sir, in the statement, the Minister has stated that the JCI will start buying by the end of this week. But does he know when the jute arrives in the market in North Bengal? It arrives in mid-June. Our people coming from North Bengal are here. Jute arrives in the market in North Bengal in mid-June. And already most of the farmers had to resort to distress sale. They have to make distress sale because your JCI has not yet arrived in the market in North Bengal to buy. It is now the end of July. Still the Minister says that by the end of this week they will go to the market in North Bengal. To buy what? By that time the Farias and mahajans have bought that. This is the

[Shri Dipen Ghosh]

machination of the JCI. Here lies the nexus between the JCI and the farias or middleman. JCI people do not present themselves to buy the crop and in the mean time the peasants are forced to make distress sales. In this way they keep the prices low. This is also a machination and this is done by the farias or middlemen who are mainly Jute mill owners in benami business.

I want to draw your kind attention to another thing before I conclude for my other colleagues. This is the problem of jute growers that they are not getting proper prices. Here also it is the failure of the JCI to arrive in the market on time, to reach the growers with infrastructure facilities and ensure remunerative prices to jute growers. And that they do only to give some benefit to middlemen who are actually the benami businessmen of jute magnates.

The other thing which is crippling the jute industry is the import of PVC granules. Sir, you know that these PVC granules are imported under the OGL, open general licence, and it is imported by actual users for the manufacture of synthetic bags and this unrestricted import of PVC granules for the purpose of manufacture of synthetic bags is completely crippling the jute industry. And, now, even the railway board has decided to, encourage transport in synthetic bags instead of gunny bags on the specious plea of damaging the wogons. You are aware, Sir, that jute bags have been used for most bulk commodities for many decades without the railways having ever raised this issue or complaint of damage. So, naturally one can conclude that the latest decision of the railway board has got nothing to do with the protection of wagons from damage. This is also connected with the total Government policy because the Government is allowing import under OGL, the unrestricted import of PVC granules. Therefore, the Government and other agencies like the railway board

are rather encouraging the use of synthetic bags and as a result the jute industry is suffering from a crisis. Even though the jute industry has claimed that it has lost one-fifth of its 70 per cent share of the market in cement bags due to this synthetic substitute. So, Sir, it is not that simple.

Sir, the use of synthetic bags also cause health hazards. Even in the western countries a new thinking is coming up because of the health hazards. They are reverting to the use of jute bags. But in this country, the country which is foremost in the manufacture of jute bags, this country under the patronage of the Government's policy, switches to synthetics. Naturally in other countries the domestic consumption of jute goods is increasing and when in other countries the domestic consumption of jute goods can be increased but what prevents us from increasing domestic consumption. Now, Sir, I want to put certain specific questions. As regards cotton, the CCI states whether the Government is going to take steps or not so that the CCI can buy more cotton direct from the growers whether the Government is making adequate storage facilities for the CCI or releasing funds for that and what steps the Government is going to take to develop power loom sector so that domestic consumption can be increased, and also whether the Government is prepared to review the whole textile policy in the present context of the gloomy situation in respect of cotton.

Regarding jute, I want to make clear one thing. Actually what the Prime Minister had stated and even if that is taken what! he had made out in the other House rectifying himself, and even what our Minister of State for Textiles has stated that the JCI would buy, or rather the Centre would buy, all the jute produced and all that would be offered to JCI it almost means the monopoly buying of jute. So, I want to know whether the Government is prepared to ensure monopoly purchase of jute by the JCI and for that whether the Government would release adequate funds and create storage facilities for the JCI. I also want to know whether the Government is considering or is pre-

pared to review the iraporf policy particularly in regard to PVC granules and to restrict it in the interest of growth of jute industry.

Finally, I would say, the only remedy I nationalisation of jute industry because this nexu_s has to be broken. The entire jute industry has to be nationalised and I want to know whether the Government is prepared to nationalise the jute industry. I would bs glad if the Minister replies in positive, in affirmative, to my questions.

SHRI CHITTA BASU (West Bengal): I think you will appreciate my predicament when I am required to confront a Mini who is very sober, who is very soft-spoken. I am also in a predicament that under his very disarming smile, he conceals more than he should reveal.

Now, the motion before the House is to consider the crisis of the jute industry and cotton industry. As time is very limited, I would concentrate.

SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH (Gujarat): Plight of the farmer is forgotten.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: I would request th_e hon. Member to listen to the last point of my speech and then come to the conclusion. ...

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY (Tamil Nadu): He wants to kindle your speech.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: As a Member representing the State of West Bengal, naturally it is expected that I concentrate more on jute because West Bengal produces about 60 pe_r cent of th_e total jute production of the country. Since the mation is on the crisis in jute industry,' at the outset, let me point out one thing. There is no doubt that jute industry is in deer> crisis and the major or rather the basic reasons for this crisis in the iute industry today are two-fold. One is the continuing policy of discrimination or the part of this Government pgainst th_e industry. Secondly, the criminal activities of th_e jute mill-owners. These are th_e two basic reasons. One is, your discriminatory attitude and another is. the criminal prac- I

tices of the jut_e mnl-ow,ner_s m the country. Theve are the two major reasons for the present crisis in the jute industry.

So far as the policy of liscrimination is concerned, I would like to make it clear that the Central Government have not taken proper fiscal and economic steps to provide protection and sustenance to the industry. So far as the criminality of the jute millowners in the country i_s concerned, their major criminal practice i_s to siphon away the capital and the fabulous profits ihey have amassed through exploitation of the jut_e workers and through under-pricing of the raw r>ite. This is how they have been exploiting the broad masses in West Bengal, not noly the people of West Bengal, but th_e people of Tripura, the people of Orissa, ihe people of Bihar, the people in some parts of U.P., the people of Assam and the people of Andhra Pradesh 'as well. They have been cheating the growers and earning tremendous profits by way of underpricing of the raw jute. Therefore, thes_e are the two basic reasons for the current crisis in the jute industry. Unless the crisis is presented in its proper perspective. Government cannot take 'action Therefore, Sir, I deem it my duty to put the crisis in its proper perspective.

Let Us understand the importance of the jute industry in our country. About 2.5 lakh people are directly and indirectly connected with the jute industry. There were about 80 jute m_i's in West Bengal very recently. But now, due to the wrong policies, it has come down to only 59, I think, the Minister might be aware of that. There were about 2.5 lakh industrial workers engaged in the jute mills. But my dear friend may lik_e to know that the number has now beei reduced to n'- 1 1 lakh. This industry en-ns about Rs. 300 crores annually by way of foreign exchange. This is a milch cow -nd now th? row-l^ver has decided to kill the cow which gives milk

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN: Nobody will kill a sacred cow.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: Bu(I know, you treat the Bajorias and the Kanorias. the six monopoly houses, es your sacred cow although they exported cow at the time of

[Shri Chitta Basu] war. Jute industry-owners generally say th'at there i^s shrinkage in the international market for jute goods. This is one of the plea tken by them. For the information of the hon. Minister, I would like to point out to him that this is ^{not} a fact_ I have the figures with me. In 1950-51, the jute manufacture in 'he country was worth Rs. 8.71 lakhs- In 1984-85, it reached Rs. 13.18 lakhs. There has been an increase of about 50 per cent in spite of the fact that captains of the industry say that there has been shrinkage ?_n the international market. Does the hon. Minister think that the captains of the industry manufacture only to incur loss? I have the figure with me. I think, the Minister can help the country. During thfe period, 1950-51, 1984-85, they have earned Rs. 700 crores by way of profits. That i_s because manufacturer of jute goods has become a profit earning process. Even if, for argument sake, I admit that there has been shrinkage due to competition in international market, the volume of jute goods in the domestic market has increased. Nobody can deny and the hon. Minister should not conceal this fact under a discerning smile. Would he be glad to know the figure of 19*55-66? The volume of the internal market, that is domestic market, of jute goods within this country was 4.48 lakhs and now in 1983-84 it is 9.47 lakhs, it is more than double. Therefore, there is scope for jute goods in the external as well as in the domestic or internal market.

In this connection, I would like to mention that Bangladesh, on_e of ou_r competitors, has started diversifying of the product mix. If even a small country like Bangladesh can survive by resorting to diversification of the product mix, why can't India? Why can't the jute industry in India survive? The great energetic and young Prime Minister is leading us to the successful transition to the 21st century. If that is so and if a small country like Bangladesh has been able to have stability in the jute industry, why can't we have the same stability

n India? (Interruptions). I think you will agree that there is a scope of diversification of the product mix. It is not the occasion to advise him, but if he wants, I can tell him how diver- A sination of the product mix can ae achieved. Again, our trade of jute is always in t_{ne} traditional market_ **Why** can't we make a thrust to enter into non-traditional markets so far as exports are concerned? If these steps are taken, there will be no crisis in jute industry. Jute industry will become realiy a •mdlk cow. It will be in. the interest of the whole country, not only for West Bengal, not only for any part of the country, but for the national cause as a whole.

Now comes the question of procurement. In this area the jute groweis are helpless. I am a little emotional in the charge when I say that our farmers are crying, shedding their blood in the green fields of West Bengal. Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Assam and Tripura and still they are being deprived of their legitimate share of their toil, I am reminded of the indigo planteis. I am constrained to say that exploitation of indigo planters was very much resented. Our peasantry rose in revolt, rose in arms, fought against tht British imperialism, and now the jute growers plead, for the country's sake, for the nation's sake, do not exploit us to the extent as was being perpetrated during the British regime. Now the Minister, in his statement, has claimed a great progress in procurement through JCI. JTe says that in the last jute season he has been able to procure through JCI 28 per cent of the total production. He will admit it, it is in his own statement. Then wha** remains of this 72 per cent of the total yield? And this incapacity of JCI to purchase the entire raw jute creates the conditions for distress sale. Distress sale has become a permanent phenomenon and this permanent phenomenon is due to the permanent attitude of the Governmlnt—i.e. perpetuating this incapacity of the JCI to pur chase more than a fraction of the total

yield. Even in today's statement, I think the Members are intelligent enough to know the implications of it, he says that the Government has taken steps to enlarge the storage capacity from 11 to 22 lakhs. Now, look, the cat is out of the bag. The Government could provide a storage capacity for 11 lakhs in the past. And what have they done? They have decided to enlarge it to 22 lakhs. That means the maximum storage capacity with the JCI is only 22 lakhs.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: No, only 11 lakhs.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: The question is, how could they store 28 lakhs last year? I know it that they stored in the open fields, they patronised certain private parties and raw jute was also destroyed by rain and other climatic conditions. Therefore, if the Government comes here to make a claim that they are very much sympathetic towards jute growers and they have made adequate arrangements for protection of their rights through procurement by the JCI, I will be mild in making a statement that it is nothing but falsehood, this is nothing but a false promise. Coming from that part of the country, I refuse to be led by this falsehood.

Now coming to West Bengal, the Prime Minister is very happy to always give some promise. But he does not know what he is promising. This is the unfortunate state of affairs. The Head of the State should, know every minute detail of it. Does he know that Government has got a storage capacity of only 22 lakhs?

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Not 22 lakhs, but only 11 lakhs. They are enlarging it to 22 lakhs.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: Even accepting that, my weakness also... I have seen it, but even accepting their statement that it is my weakness also. I have seen it, but even accepting that they have been also to en-761 RS.—6

large it to 22 lakhs as I have mentioned in this House, 72 per cent of the total yield is beyond the scope of purchasing capacity of the JCI. There, he made a promise. He made a promise only to woo the West Bengal electorate because the election is coming very soon. He said, the entire jute stock will be purchased by the Government. But when he was confronted by the JCI Chief in West Bengal, he had to correct himself. This is immaturity.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: That also betrays his ignorance.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: I met the Chief of the JCI, I know him because I saw him in the field, he said'.... Just a minute, he made it clear to me that with the infrastructure that he has got at the present moment, he cannot purchase more than 300 quintals a day. And you add it ' up till November. Even by extending, stretching, all the efforts of the JCI, it cannot purchase more than seven lakh tonnes, that is one-sixth of the total for the current season estimated by the West Bengal Government. What is the statement of the Prime Minister? He said that everything to be offered will be taken. The quantity to be offered is 40 lakh tonnes. According to estimates, four lakh hectares of land is likely to produce 40 lakh tonnes of jute. This is the amount to be offered because jute is not eaten, because jute is only used for some kind of manufacture. The Prime Minister or the Minister himself cannot eat jute. Therefore, jute is always offered in the market and the entire amount in West Bengal is 40 lakh tonnes. But you have got the capacity of purchasing only one-sixth of it—17 lakh tonnes only—and again you shed your tears.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Don't forget to address the Chair occasionally at least.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: Sorry, Sir. Therefore, this is all bunkum; this is nil false talk. Parliament cannot be led to this position.

[SHRI Chitt_a Basu]

Coming to support price, they have decided that Rs. 225 per quintal would be the support price for the current season for W-5 Assam Bottom.... *{Interruptions}*.. I am a little conversant with the subject although I am a Member here.

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN:
You know much more than us.

SHRI CHITTA BASU; I say all this because you should also have some understanding of the problem. So, it is not a support price. Sir, permit me to say, it is 2 "kill" price. This price does not support the existence or sustenance of the growers. It kills the growers; it kills. According to the estimate of the Government of West Bengal—a Government which you do not like, but they will be there because people like them because they tell the truth, and you don't like it because that Government tells the truth and you want to keep people on falsehood—the production cost for one quintal of jute comes to Rs. 414.67, which is the actual cost of production. If you add something by way of transport costs and by way of some marginal profit, it comes to Rs. 550 per quintal. Poor men like us, working in the fields, have demanded only Rs. 600 as the minimum price.

Now there has been an encouragement of invasion of synthetics. I deliberately use the word "invasion", of synthetics. As has been pointed out by my distinguished friend, Comrade Dipen Ghosh. PVC granules are imported. Open the door as much as you like. It has been your policy; yours has been an open-door policy. Through the OCM you have allowed liberalized import of PVC granules. It takes away about Rs. 80 crores of foreign exchange. You are importing PVC granules worth Rs. 80 crores to deprive the country of Rs. 300 crores of foreign exchange by way of our jute exports. This is how the transition to the twenty-first century is taking place. According to the study of some authoritative agencies, synthetics have already replaced 16 per cent of the jute bags and the Government has taken an initiative in this matter through the Railway Board and other agencies*.

Sir, I have got two letters from the honourable Minister on this very subject. I would just quote only to remind him. But I have got the fear that he may stop writing. Please do not stop writing letters, knowing that they may be used sometimes on the floor of the House. Then we, poor Members in this House, will be deprived of the privilege of having a letter from you. He had given: 1 P.M.

In so far as competition from synthetic substitute is concerned, I may mention that the Government is taking all possible steps to protect the interest of jute industry and to ensure that there is harmonious development between the HDPE bag manufacturing Industry vis-a-vis jute industry. SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN; I did not mean any offence.

SHRI CHITTA BASU; You did not mean. It cannot be harmonious. Mr. Minister, if you encourage synthetics, the jute industry will have to suffer. You want to harmonise the relation.

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN; You can use "balance".

SHRI CHITTA BASU; I am very much in rather discomfort to put you in this compartment,

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN; You have taken a lot of time. Please conclude now.

SHRI CHITTA BASU; Lastly, Sir, specific question is whether, in the background of what I have stated, the Government would nationalise the jute industry as a whole comprising of (1) manufacture, (2) purchase of raw jute and (3) export because these three aspects are integrated with each other. If not, why? Don't do it in anger. But this is the logical conclusion. This is the logical conclusion of understanding the problem, and this is the only resort.

Secondly, would the hon. Minister assure the House that special arrangements would be made to expand the purchasing capacity of the JCI. Coming from West Bengal. I can tell you that there are only 59 purchasing centres in the districts. Would you expand? And to what extent can you expand? How do you want to eliminate? You

cannot eliminate . How can you reduce the scope of distress sale? Does the Government propose to ban— not harmonises, but ban—the import of granules? Don't harmonise. Do you like to have a complete ban on the import of granules?

The last point, Sir. I know [he hon. Minister has issued instructions to certain departments etc. etc. My charge....

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN; I have done much more than what your Bengal Ministers have ever done for jute.

SHRI CHITTA BASU; We are grateful to you.

Then Sir, I feel that much of the crisis can be overcome if the Government issues a strict instruction to all the Government Departments and public sector industries to stick to 'one hundred per cent' use of the jute bags for packing materials.

I know that you shall say "no" to nationalisation because you are wedded to a different economic philosophy. I know you have taken the road to capitalist development of our country. I know that you are wedded to the American system of economy in our country. Therefore, "no" is bound to come from you.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH; Nationalisation is not alien to capitalism.

SHRI CHITTA BASU; Don't raise that thing.

"Would you kindly do this grace to the people of the jute-growing States to ban the import of granules and issue strict orders for cent-per-cent use of jute bags for packing materials in the country?"

Thank you, Sir.

I hope you have listened to me and would answer me appropriately.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA (West Bengal); Sir, since the Minister is not aware of any crisis in the jute industry, let me have the honour of informing him of some cold statistics of the state of affairs in West Bengal particularly, although jute is not a problem of West Bengal alone. In 1965, of the total number of mandays lost, 98 per cent was due to a lock-out and in most of the cases the lock-outs were due to the declaration made by the jute mills. If this is not a sign of crisis or if this is not a sign of a problem, I am really afraid where the Minister sits

and with whom the Ministers talk. Anyway, the statement read out by the Minister has definitely been prepared by bureaucrats sitting in Delhi, having no knowledge about the economic problem now looming over the country as a whole.

At the outset let me put a number of questions. May I ask the hon. Minister whether under his stewardship the jute of this country shall be forced to go the indigo way and the jute growers will face the same fate the indigo growers had when the country was ruled by the British imperialism? May I ask our hon. Minister to tell us whether he is going to preside over the liquidation of the jute industry in our country under the blessings of the multinationals like the Hoechst-Union Carbide, under the blessings of the importers of synthetic granules, under the blessings of the manufacturers of artificial fibre containers. This is important because the situation the jute industry faces today is a situation of total crisis and liquidation. And since the Minister seems to be not knowing the crisis of the industry, let me remind him when he was in Calcutta, he issued a statement—I have a paper-cutting with me—he had told the Press Conference that the crisis in jute industry was a crisis made by man. I believe the crisis in jute industry is created by jute industrialists. They are resorting to deliberate lock-outs; they are resorting to deliberate suspension of production; they are resorting to misappropriation of the Provident Fund contributed by the workers; they are resorting to suspension of production just to have more profit. Imagine in 1984-85, 15 jute mills were closed down in West Bengal for a long period of time. Even then the total production of jute was not less than the previous year, not to speak of their profit. Therefore, the whole mechanism of the jute industry in West Bengal is not to produce less, but to put the factory under lockout occasionally and produce more with less number of people and lower mandays and increase their profit. And our poor Government in India and our amiable Minister sitting in Delhi, while looking at the problem does not feel where the crisis lies.

[Shri Gurudas Das Gupta]

Let me ask the hon. Minister in charge of Textiles to tell us why there is so-called over-production of cotton, when the per capita consumption of cloth in the country is perhaps one of the lowest in the world.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: It is on decline.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: It is perhaps one of the lowest. When we are having the minimum quantity of consumption per head, the country is facing so much over-production.

Then, Sir, this is a crisis not of plenty; this is a crisis of poverty and our hon. Minister is not aware of the crisis.

I was just looking through the statement that the hon. Minister has released just now. I am not quite sure the Minister himself has taken note; what he was reading. What do statements say? The statement itself says that procurement has not yet started in North Bengal. He says it will begin when the crop arrives. It means procurement has not started. Secondly, he has said that the price has not reached below the minimum price fixed by the Government. Thirdly, he says that the JCI is all prepared to come out as a saviour for the distressed jute producers of West Bengal.

Now, what is the situation? We have been discussing jute over the years and over the months. I had moved a Calling Attention motion when Mr. Chandrashekhar was there. Now Mr. Chandrashekhar Singh is dead. Now, we are discussing about jute when Mr. Khurshid Alam Khan is there. I wish Mr. Khan a long and prosperous life so that we can pester him with more questions about jute problem.

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN: Don't kill me.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: While discussing the jute over the years there has not been any change in the attitude of the Government of India towards jute growers. The attitude of the Government of India is anti-jute. They would like to make the jute industry totally ill and jute production to suffer. Sir, only last Sunday.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI (Maharashtra): We are not anti-jute.

SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Sir, whether it is 'anti-jute' or 'anti-jhoot'? *{Interruptions}*

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, for the knowledge of our hon. Member on that side, may I tell the spelling. It is 'jute'—a commercial crop. It is one of the principal crops of India and a very good export earning crop. I hope I have been able to convince him.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: They are obsessed with 'jhoot'.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: We are not anti-jute. SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: You are living world of 'jhoot'.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Government of India anti-jute. From the very beginning their attitude is anti-jute.

Now, I had been to a place called Ramnagar which is a little away from Calcutta. Let the Minister take note of it. Just to inform him I beg to tell this fact that I have been to Ramnagar which is situated 80 KMs away from Calcutta. That is a jute producing area. While I was going to the village, I saw people coming with head load of jute. I just stopped my car and enquired of them: 'Have you started harvesting the jute and taking it to the bazaar for sale?' They said: 'Yes, Sir'. What is the price they are getting? The poor Bengali farmer told me in Bengali which in English means Rs. 100 per maund. It means Rs. 250 per quintal. Therefore, it is not only in North Bengal that distress sale has taken place, but in South Bengal also that distress sale has set in. This distress sale is taking place only less than 100 KMs away from the city of Calcutta where the Jute Corporation of India head office is situated. I saw with my own eyes. Therefore, the point is distress sale has started taking place. Now, coming back to Calcutta. When I was looking through a newspaper may be an English newspaper, I saw a small news item a very courageous statement by the able Chairman of Jute Corporation of

of India, Mr. Bhattacharya. He had very generously issued a statement that we are having a look at the movement of jute price and we shall be going into the market the moment jute price falls below the minimum. It is a very vigorous statement and very encouraging statement. What does it mean? It means Jute Corporation of India is not ready to accept that the jute has already started arriving in the market. Although jute season begins on the 1st July, they don't agree that the jute has started arriving into the market. They also don't agree that the jute price has fallen below the minimum, because it is Rs. 250 per quintal. The Government price in 24 Parganas is Rs. 285. Therefore, it is Rs. 25 below the statutory minimum price feed by the Government. So distress sale has started taking place not only in South Bengal but also in North Bengal. The Jute Corporation of India is sitting tight and only preparing its organisation and overhauling its organisation to be in readiness to jump in support of the distress sale of jute. When the situation becomes like that, what it means? It means the Jute Corporation of India has not started purchasing and the whole jute market has been handed over deliberately by JCI to the benamidaars, blackmarketeers and henchmen of jute industry. It has been done deliberately. The Jute Corporation of India is in collusion with the jute industry. The Government apparatus is very much in collusion with the jute industry. They will not go into the market. They will allow the price to fall. While the price falls the benamidaars make use of the distress sale and after distress sale is over JCI will go into the market with a fanfare telling the people we have purchased so much. How much have you purchased? Last year you have purchased 29 lakh bales. What was the commitment of your predecessor? Mr. IMpen Ghosh and myself had met Mr. Chandra Shekhar Singh and a news item appeared in the newspapers. Mr. Chandra Shekhar Singh made a commitment that 33 per cent of the total produce would be purchased by them. Even that was not purchased. Then why this drum-beat-

ing? You have purchased less than one-third of the total produce last year. The total production was 100 lakh bales. Therefore, Sir, the situation is that distress sale has started taking place and the JCI is sitting tight. Now, the most important question is, how much the JCI is going to purchase, when the JCI is going to purchase and wherefrom the JCI is going to purchase. To make a statement that "we shall purchase the entire quantity offered to us for sale" is fantastic nonsense because the JCI has not been purchasing like that, Sir, please remember the phrase "offered for sale". Where will it be offered? It will be offered for sale at the residence of the Textiles Minister or it will be offered for sale at the head office of the JCI or it will be offered for sale right at the place where the production takes place? The poor West Bengal farmers, the poor Assam farmers, the poor Purnea farmers do not have the capacity to carry the load to the JCI office which in some cases is a hundred miles away. Therefore, this phrase "offered for sale" is a misnomer. Jute must be purchased from the local bazar. Jute must be purchased from the place where the people live. But our babus and gentlemen, highly paid salaried people, will never take the trouble of going to the remote villages. Last year I had occasion to go to the cantonment of Murshidabad district, Berhampore. I was looking for the Manager. I asked his office people where he had gone. He said:

"कलकत्ता में बहुत बाजार आया। हमारा खाने-पीने के लिए होटल गया। कौन बाजार आया? पक्का बाजार आया।"

I was given to understand that the Purchase Manager had come from Calcutta and therefore, the local Manager had gone to look after him in a big hotel. People are only interested to be in cities and towns **ini to* stay in boudoirs. They send their *own* reports to the Ministers and *to* our hon. Ministers, believing the *re^w+s*, will make a long statement in Parlia-

[Shri Gurudas Das Gupta] ment as to how much they have done for the good of the jute growers. Let me remind our hon. Minister—he should be aware of it—that farmers had burnt their stocks of jute in Purnea district last year. It is not a problem of West Bengal alone. "We are not chauvinistic. Jute was burnt down by farmers in Purnea. ...

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: I would like to know from you as to how many purchasing centres are there.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: It is about 60 or it is 59. Whatever it may be, it is much less than the requirement. My point is that jute must be purchased from the villages, from the remote places. It should not be that jute will have to be brought in a bullock-cart to the place where the office is situated.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Whatever centres they have got, they do not open them.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: I have seen with my own eyes the jute purchasing centre in Bongaon. The purchasing centre was encircled by "dalals". The cultivators cannot go in. They have to sell to the "benatn-dars" or they will not be able to sell. The JCI people harass the jute growers on the question of grade, on the question of weight and on the question of moisture. The jute growers are cheated in every place. They are cheated by the "benamdars", they are cheated by the JCI people and they are cheated by the officials on the question of weight, on the question of moisture and on the question of grade. Therefore, my first question to the hon. Minister will be whether he is ready to arrange purchases in the remote villages and not in the offices where your people are sitting under an electric fan. Secondly, I would like him to tell us whether he is ready to take the cooperation of the panchayats and kisan organisations. Why can't the kisan organisations play their role? In a particular centre

they may have a committee with the representatives of the kisan organisation, with the panchayat representatives, with the BDO and with the Government officials and in that committee, let a detailed plan for jute purchase be drawn up. And the whole plan should be concentrated with the perspective that jute will be purchased in the places where production takes place, where production is made by the peasants. My point is the JCI has been very gracious to declare that it will purchase 7 lakh bales. I would like the Minister to restrain the chairman of the JCI of West Bengal. Who has given him the right to issue a statement to the press that he will purchase 7 lakh bales? If the Minister does not believe in our statement, we are ready to produce the newspapers to him. Who has allowed the chairman of the JCI to issue that press statement? The moment he made that statement, immediately the benamdars became jubilant, the entire jute purchasing machinery of the jute industry was jubilant because 70 lakh bales is the total expected reduction of which 7 lakh bales works out to only 10 per cent. Therefore, the benamdars were very jubilant with the understanding that they will be able to hold the jute purchasers to ransom. You have given them a handle by declaring the quantity you are going to purchase. This quantity must increase. If 7 lakh bales is the target, then it is totally incompatible with your position that you are going to purchase all that is being offered to you. On the one hand you are saying that you will purchase all that is offered, on the other hand the chairman of the JCI is declaring that he is going to buy only 7 lakh bales. Therefore, this is a situation to which you must give your immediate attention.

I would like the Minister to tell us why he is lavishly importing synthetic fibre. I want him to tell us why he is generously giving money to the jute industry for modernising. Don't

you remember when Mr. Pranab Mukherjee was the Finance Minister, he had advanced Rs. 100 crores to the jute industry for modernisation?. I am sorry to say that the jute barons, instead of modernising the machines, have modernised their own life style. The whole money has been eaten up. Can you tell me whether you have drawn up proceedings against a single jute baron for misusing Government money? You are using the police to realise petty loans from the poor peasants. Why are you so generous to the jute barons who have misappropriated Rs. 100 crores, who have not invested a single farthing for modernisation of jute mills? I beg of him to tell us why he is against nationalisation? If money stands in the way, I can give you a small figure, most of the jute mills are in serious debt. Therefore, in taking them over, you will not have to pay a single farthing. Most of the jute mills are so much in red. If you want to take them over, maybe, you will not have to spend a single farthing. They had already overdrawn from the banks. They had misappropriated Government funds. They had not deposited the provident fund amounts of their employees. They had eaten up the ESI • contributions. And it is they who are being relied upon by the honourable Minister! He is giving them money with the expectation that the money will be utilised for modernisation. Yes, they will definitely get him a certificate of utilisation. But that certificate of utilisation is going to be a false certificate. The Minister is only cheating himself, he is cheating the Government, cheating his purse, by this way of advancing money in the name of modernising the jute industry. Why is it so? Is he ready to ban synthetic granules? Is he ready to direct all Government departments that they must not make use of synthetic bags, that they must use jute bags? Is he ready to consider the question of nationalisation at least in those cases, of those mills for which he has not to

spend money? Fourthly, I want him to

take immediate steps to revamp the jute industry not with synthetic fibre but in a different way because there are many jute goods which have a market, internally and externally. I would like to ask him whether he is going to direct the JCI to start the operation immediately. I would like to ask him whether he is going to compel the private jute industry to make their jute purchases through the JCI. This is not, nationalisation. Please direct the jute. And, lastly, barons. Sir, I would like to ask him whether he is ready to recommend to the Government that the lock out in the jute mills should be stopped by means of a new law or through an ordinance.

I would only ... (Time bell rings) ... like to tell him that at this late stage he should not go in for a second wife because jute is old but jute is reliable. But it seems that he is going in for the synthetic fibre. But it is not reliable. The prices of petroleum may not be as cheap as they are now. Therefore, do not go in for an unreliable second wife my dear Minister.

श्री प्रमोद महाजन (महाराष्ट्र) :
उपसभापति जी, ध्यान आकर्षण सूचना समझने में थोड़ी सी कठिनाई होने के कारण केन्द्रीय सरकार की नीतियों का सत्य रूप सामने आया है । अपने वक्तव्य में माननीय मंत्री महोदय कहते हैं कि "मुझे इस बात की जानकारी नहीं है कि इन रेशों की कमियों में गिरावट के कारण पटसन तथा रुई उद्योगों को किसी संकट का सामना करना पड़ रहा है । दूसरी ओर, कमियों में गिरावट से दोनों उद्योगों को अपनी हानियों कम करने में मदद मिले है ।"

इससे दो सत्य सामने आते हैं कि भले ही जूट का उद्योग हो या कपास का उद्योग हो, उसका निर्माण करने वाले

[श्री प्रमोद महाजन]

किसान उस उद्योग के अंग हैं, यह मानने के लिये केन्द्र सरकार तैयार नहीं है। और इसलिए किसानों को अगर कहीं संकटों का सामना करना पड़े तो वह संकट उस उद्योग का संकट है ऐसा माना नहीं जाता। मजदूर को भी शायद इस उद्योग का अंग वह मानते नहीं होंगे। इस का अर्थ यह है कि इन उद्योगों के केवल मालिक एक अंग हैं और उनके राजनीतिक आका उस के दूसरे अंग हैं। लेकिन इन उद्योगों को चलाने वाला मजदूर और निर्माण करने वाला किसान इसका अंग नहीं माना जाता। दूसरा अर्थ इससे स्पष्ट निकलता है कि किसानों में गिरावट आने से दोनों उद्योगों को अपने-अपने काम करने में मदद मिले है। इस का स्पष्ट यह अर्थ है कि जब भी किसानों का शोषण होता है हिन्दुस्तान में तथा संबंधित जूट और काटन के उद्योग पतनते हैं। किसानों के शोषण पर ही इन उद्योगों को पतनाना यह पुराने अंग्रेजों की नीति का मरा अविशकार है। पुरानी अंग्रेजों की नीति में भी वह इंडिया में इंग्लैंड की कच्चा माल ले आ कर पक्का माल बेचते थे और इस शोषण से उन्होंने अपने राष्ट्रीय शक्ति पड़ा की। अब इस नीति प्राप्ति से यह स्पष्ट होता है कि भारत के किसानों का शोषण कर के इंडिया के जो भी बड़े बड़े उद्योगों के मालिक हैं उन को समर्थन देना सरकार की नीति होती।

किसान जूट बाले हो या कपास वाले, उनको जूट या कपास के समर्थन हैं। उसमें उन्नत की कीमत दुर्भाग्य से बाजार के घटने के बाद भी किसान को—जुट जूट वाले हो या कपास वाले हो, उस की मात्रा की कीमत बाजार के आधार पर निर्धारण करने की कोई शास्त्र शूद्र नीति आज तक सरकार ने अपनायी नहीं है। शायद दुनिया में किसान ही एक ऐसा आश्रित है जो बाजार से कम दर पर अपनी वस्तु बेचने के लिए मजबूर हो जाता है। भले ही वह ए पी सी हो या ए सी सी हो या ए सी पी सी बने, नाम आप कुछ भी

बदल लें शास्त्र शूद्र रूप से किसान की उपज का जो जूट है या जो कपास है उसकी कीमत तय नहीं होती। दूसरी किसान की मुश्किल यह है कि कीमत न्यूनतम समर्थन स्तर सरकार यदि दे भी दे तो उसके लिए खरीददार नहीं होते। जैसा अभी माननीय सदस्यों ने बताया कि जे सी आई हो या सी सी आई हो जब बाजार में काम आती है, जूट आता है तो कोई खरीदने के लिए नहीं होता।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Mahajan, you can continue after lunch.

The House stands adjourned for lunch till 2.30 P.M.

The House then adjourned for lunch at thirty-one minutes past one of the clock.

The House reassembled after lunch at thirty-two minutes' past two of the clock. The Vice-Chairman (Shri M. P. Kaushik) in the Chair

श्री प्रमोद महाजन : उपरभाष्यक महोदय, भोजन के पूर्व अपनी बात को स्पष्ट करते हुए इतना ही कह सका हूँ कि माननीय मंत्री जो द्वारा दिये गये वक्तव्य में केन्द्रीय सरकार का यह खैया स्पष्ट हो जाता है कि वे किसानों की समस्याएँ उस उद्योग की समस्याएँ नहीं मानते, किसानों का संकट उस उद्योग का संकट नहीं मानते बल्कि किसानों की गतिने वाला नीति में गिरावट और उन्नत होने वाले शोषण से उद्योग का पतनना अच्छा मानते हैं यह स्वयं स्पष्ट है।

किसान जूट वाला हो या कपास वाला, उसका दो भूलभूत समस्या होती है एक उसकी उपज की कीमत जिसे बाजार के आधार पर निर्धारण करने में सरकार पूर्ण असमर्थ रही है। बंगाल की सरकार पसन्द न होने के कारण उनके बताये हुए जूट के न्यूनतम दाम न मंजूर करने की बात मान्य तो नहीं

हो सकती मगर समझ सकते हैं लेकिन जिन राज्यों में काप्रेस का ही शासन है उन द्वारा दी गयी कपास की कीमत भी केन्द्रीय सरकार मान्य नहीं करती। कीमत का दूसरा पहलू है सरकार जब न्यूनतम समर्थन स्तर की बात तय करती है, इससे खरीदने की व्यवस्था भी करना सरकार की कार्यवाही हो जाती है। लेकिन दुर्भाग्य से हम देखते हैं कि न्यूनतम समर्थन स्तर की दर निर्धारित होती है, घोषित होती है लेकिन किसान मंडी में जाता है तो खरीददार सी०सी०आई०हो या जे०सी०आई० हो वहाँ नहीं होती। इसलिए व्यापारियों को कम कीमत में बेचने के लिए किसान मजबूर हो जाता है। इसलिए मैं इसके द्वारा भत्ती महोदय से यह पूछना चाहूँगा कि निर्धारित स्तर हो उस स्तर से कम दर में कहीं भी और किसी ने भी, जूट, कपास या किसी भी उपज को खरीदा तो क्या सरकार इसे कागनीजिबल आफेंस घोषित करेगा? अगर सरकार इसे कागनीजिबल आफेंस घोषित करती है तो न्यूनतम समर्थन स्तर से कम दर में खरीदना किसी के लिए भी सम्भव नहीं होगा। और कम से कम किसानों को न्यूनतम समर्थन स्तर मिल जाएगा और इस लिए लागत के आधार पर अगर कीमत और खरीदने की व्यवस्था हो जाय तो दज की अर्थ व्यवस्था में एक चमत्कार आ सकता है जूट की किसानों की दुखभरी कहानी... (व्यवधान)

उत्तरभाष्य (श्री एम०पी०कौशिक):
आपके 10 मिनट हो गये हैं।

SHRI M. KADHARSHA (Tamil Nadu): This is his maiden speech. Let him continue.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN: (SHRI M. & KAUSHIK): This is not his maiden Speech. He spoke yesterday.

श्री प्रमोद महाजन : कपास उत्पादक किसानों पर आए अभूतपूर्व संकट का मुख्य कारण हमारी एक साल की पुरानी वस्त्र उद्योग नीति है। कपास के धागे

को पीछे धकेलते हुए कृत्रिम धागे को आगे ले जाने वाली नीति से गुजरात महाराष्ट्र, कर्नाटक आन्ध्र आदि प्रदेशों में किसान कपास का निर्माण करते हुए भी अपने आपको वस्त्रहीन महसूस कर रहा है। शफारी सूट को संस्कृति से निर्मित यह नई नीति भले ही सेल्फ रिलायन्स की बात करे, यह रिलायन्स के ही पक्ष में जाती है, यह स्पष्ट है। इस नीति से गरीब का कपड़ा तो सस्ता नहीं हुआ लेकिन किसान का कपास बहुत सस्ता हो गया है। यदि इस नीति में परिवर्तन नहीं लाया गया तो किसान, मिल-मजदूर, हथकरघा और बिजली के कर्यों पर काम करने वाले मजदूर समस्या में डूब सकते हैं। इसलिए मैं माननीय मंत्री महोदय से दूसरे मुद्दे पर यह स्पष्टीकरण चाहूँगा कि क्या इस नई वस्त्रोद्योग नीति के पुनर्रक्षण के लिए वे किसी समिति का आयोजन करने पर विचार कर सकते हैं या एक संसदीय समिति एक साल की इस नीति के कारण कपास उत्पादक किसानों, मिल मजदूरों, हथकरघा और बिजली के कर्यों पर काम करने वाले मजदूरों पर इसका जो असर हुआ है उसके प्रभाव पर विचार करें? विवाद के लिए यह माना जाय कि यह नीति रहेगी। अगर यह नीति रहेगी तो किसान डूबेगा। किसान का क्या होगा? सरकार इसके बारे में कोई जानकारी नहीं देती है। क्या किसान कपास लगाना छोड़ दें गुजरात के मुख्य मंत्री कहते हैं कि मैं किसानों से कह सकता हूँ कि यदि ऐसी आ जायेगी कि किसान कपास लगाना छोड़ दें। अगर किसान कपास नहीं लगाएगा तो फिर क्या करेंगे। जिस जमीन और हवा से वह कपास जैसी लकड़ पैसा देने वाली फसल नहीं ले सकता है तो फिर किसान क्या करें? इसलिए बोने से पहले सरकार कीमत निर्धारित करेगी? इस वस्त्रोद्योग नीति से किसानों पर क्या असर होगा, क्या सरकार इसका अन्वयास करेगी? सरकार किधर जा रही है? क्या सरकार किसानों का मार्गदर्शन करेगी? दुर्भाग्य से सरकार इसमें कुछ नहीं कर रही है। मैं महाराष्ट्र से हुं स्वाभाविक रूप से महाराष्ट्र के कपास

[श्री प्रमोद महाजन]

उत्पादक किसानों की समस्याओं को भी आपके सामने फिर एक बार रखना चाहता हूँ। महाराष्ट्र एक प्रमुख कपास उत्पादक प्रदेश है। महाराष्ट्र में कपास काली मिट्टी में निर्मित सफेद सोना माना जाता है। लेकिन कपास की कीमतें नीचे ऊपर होती रहती हैं। इससे कारण किसान मारा जाता है। मध्यस्थ, व्यापारी, बिचौलिये और बड़े कारखानेदार अपनी सारी हवेली जो किसान अपनी मूल्यश्रृंखला पर खड़ा होता है उसके विरुद्ध लगाते हैं। इससे किसानों को बचाने के लिए महाराष्ट्र में सन् 1972 में कपास एकाधिकार योजना का आरम्भ हुआ जिसके अन्तर्गत केवल महाराष्ट्र सरकार द्वारा निर्मित फैक्टरीज के द्वारा कपास खरीदा जा रहा था। इसके पीछे भी कड़े और मीठे दोनों अनुभव हैं। इसमें कीमतें बहुत कम थी। समय पर पैसा नहीं मिलता था। इस साल तो तीन महीने के बाद तीन महीने का बिनाश्वित घनादेश, पोस्ट डेटेड चेक, किसानों को अपना पैसा छः महीने में मिला। काडिंग और जिनिंग में भी बहुत भ्रष्टाचार है। रहस्यमय आग भी लग जाती है। लेकिन फिर भी यह जो नई वस्तुयोग नीति थी उससे अन्य प्रदेशों में कपास के जो भाव नीचे आए, उससे किसानों को राहत मिली। 30 जून, 1986 को इस योजना की अवधि समाप्त हुई। केन्द्रीय सरकार महाराष्ट्र सरकार पर यह शर्त लगा रही है कि वह हमारी ही निर्धारित कीमत पर खरीदे, जबकि महाराष्ट्र सरकार अधिक कीमत देकर कपास खरीदना चाहती है। मैं अपने आप में यह समझने में असमर्थ हूँ कि एक ही वजह में एक प्रदेश की सरकार अगर किसान को ज़रावा दाम दे तो इसमें केन्द्र को क्या आपत्ति हो सकती है। ये शर्त मानकर भी आज इस क्षण तक इसकी अवधि नहीं बढ़ाई गई है। इसलिए मैं मंत्री महोदय से तीव्र स्पष्टीकरण यह माँगता कि वह दो टुक शब्दों में यह कहें कि इसकी अवधि बढ़ाई जाएगी। कब तक बढ़ाई जायेगी इसका निर्णय, वह बिना बिनाम विचार करते हैं, इस प्रकार न कहते हुए यह कहें कि तुरन्त करें। मैं केवल

दो छोटे मुद्दे रखना चाहूँगा। महाराष्ट्र में इस योजना में इस साल 350 करोड़ रुपये का घाटा हुआ है। इस साल 45 लाख गांठ महाराष्ट्र में है। जिसमें से 28.31 लाख गांठें बेची गयी हैं और 16.69 अभी बाकी हैं। महाराष्ट्र में एकाधिकार होने के कारण सी० सी० आई० वहाँ कपास नहीं खरीदती। अगर सी० सी० आई० खरीदती है, अगर एकाधिकार नहीं होता तो महाराष्ट्र की सी० सी० आई० को 6 लाख गांठें खरीदनी पड़ती। महाराष्ट्र सरकार ने केन्द्रीय सरकार से प्रार्थना की है कि वह 6 लाख गांठें हमारी जो इन्होंने ज्यादा कीमत पर खरीदी हैं वह उनकी कीमत पर बेचने के लिए महाराष्ट्र सरकार तैयार है। लेकिन दुर्भाग्य से अभी तक उसके बारे में स्पष्ट रूप से निर्णय नहीं आया है और इसके लिए मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह चीथा स्पष्टीकरण पूछना चाहूँगा कि क्या यह 6 लाख गांठ खरीदने के लिए जो महाराष्ट्र सरकार की प्रार्थना है केन्द्र इसको कब स्वीकार करेगी? महाराष्ट्र की एक और भी शिकायत है। जब अन्तराष्ट्रीय बाजार में कपास की दरें उंची होती हैं तब हमें निर्यात की अनुमति नहीं देते और जब वह दरें कम हो जाती हैं तो केन्द्रीय सरकार महाराष्ट्र को निर्यात की अनुमति देती है। जैसा कि स्टेटमेंट में कहा गया है कि कपास की निर्यात नीति का निश्चित रूप से निर्धारण हमने किया है। मैं यह चाहूँगा कि इस निर्यात नीति को ठीक से लागू करें जिससे विदेशी फ़ाहकों में भी हमारी विश्वसनीयता बढ़े। किसानों को भी अपने नाश का पता चले और ठीक रूप से वह खरीद करे। ये पांच स्पष्टीकरण मंत्री महोदय से कब यह मेरी प्रार्थना है। धन्यवाद।

SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, the motion before the House is the crisis faced by jute and cotton industries due to fall in prices and failure of the jute and cotton corporations to purchase the commodities directly from the growers and the steps taken by the Government in this regard.

Sir, the hon. Minister's statement as to what steps the Government proposes or take in this regard is not at all clear. Sir, in all this the plight of the farmers whether in West Bengal or in Gujarat or in Maharashtra is worst. I would like to concentrate on cotton because cotton is one of the most important commercial crops of Gujarat.

Sir, with the introduction of hybrid varieties of the long-staple cotton, productivity and production of cotton has increased substantially in the past few years. There is every reason to believe that this trend will continue in the coming years because the country on the whole is likely to produce around 100 to 105 lakh bales of cotton every year, which is much in excess of the present demand within the country. It is, therefore, Sir, my request to the Minister that it is imperative, that it is necessary, that a long-term cotton policy encompassing all aspects of production, usage and export is evolved and announced at an early date.

Sir, in this context some issues need to be looked into by the Government of India and suitable long-term solutions evolved. As I referred to earlier, the country is in a position to produce more than 100 lakh bales of cotton every year. In fact, these levels can go up further with the improvement in production technologies and better pest control measures. The current experience shows that the internal demand is likely to remain in the range of 85 to 90 lakh bales of cotton and the excess supply over demand has put severe pressure on the prices and millions of cotton growing farmers are facing serious problem. Unfortunately, the new textile policy has only helped in wider usage of manmade fibre. Sir, this development along with changing consumer preference for blended fabrics has affected the prospects of cotton. Policies will, therefore, have to be evolved to stimulate demand for cotton, particularly in the organised sector. We shall

also have to absorb the substantial production levels if the farmers are to get reasonable prices; otherwise, steps will have to be taken to reduce cotton production and as my colleague, Mr. Mahajan just referred to, we shall have to divert the farmers to other alternate crops. But this will, however, not be an easy task since cotton is traditionally grown in soils and agro-climatic areas where chances for other crops are not too bright. In fact, during the severe drought in Gujarat, cotton was the only crop which survived the ravages of drought in our State. It is, therefore, more appropriate to design national policy to increase utilisation of cotton, within the country as far as possible, particularly in the organised sector of the industry. Since the country has emerged as a surplus producer of cotton, it is absolutely necessary to design a mechanism which would save the cotton growing farmers from crashing prices.

Sir, for the last two years, Government of India have organised procurement operations through Cotton Corporation of India at the support prices announced. While the Cotton Corporation of India have procured nearly 4.7 lakh bales this year in Gujarat, there are constant complaints that prices paid by the CCI were generally less than the support price announced by the Government of India. While it is possible that some cotton of poor quality cannot fetch the support price meant for fair average quality cotton, but as a general rule, the CCI should also procure cotton at the support price as far as possible. Moreover, CCI refused to purchase full pressed bales though these bales have been produced by cooperative societies from the raw cotton procured from their farmer members. In view of all these problems, the Gujarat Government had to step in and supplement the purchases of CCI by Gujarat State Cooperative Cotton Federation Limited. These problems can be avoided if the procurement

him that although the cotton prices
id 25 per cent, the textile
price i Hy increased.
But the cotton price index which was 223.8 in
September, 1985, has further dropped to
172.7 in April, 1986, a fall of 51 points or 23
per cent. On the other hand, the textile price
index increased by 2.5 per cent. All the
benefit of low prices of cotton has not helped
the textile industry to help the performance.
Even the expectation of lowering the cost of
both has been belied.

Therefore, the problem is much deeper "than the availability of cotton or the price of cotton which is suppose! to be the main fibre of the textile industry.

Sir, considering the overall cotton situation, the export quota of 10 lakh bales of long-staple cotton should be immediately announced for the year 1986-87 as well as for the (1987-88 cotton year and all restrictions regarding shipping and other formalities should be removed if you want to save the farmers of this country.

V. GOPALSAMY: Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, the Government has tota! the plight of the farmers, pa ol the cotton growers. Whenever they go to the polls, they talk, about them, they give them promises that their conditions will be improved, but after the elections are over you do nothing for them. The worst affected are the cotton growers in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh, particularly because of the textile policy. About farmers there is a saying that they are born in debts, they live in debts and they die in debts,

Sir, cotton is one of the valuable cash crops -in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh but when you have a look at the fall in prices of cotton over the recent years, it is of a grave concern to us. There is a 25 per cent fall in the previous year and again 21 per cent fall this year. No effort has been made to wipe the tears of the cotton growers. You are responsible for creating a glut in the cotton market. You have not taken any serious steps to find an export market. In your statement you have stated that some steps have been taken regarding export to overcome the situation. He has said, "To overcome the situation, the Government have released 11.02 lakh bales of cotton for export through cotton Corporation of India, State Marketing Federations and private trade. Till date, 5,12,348 bales have been registered for export." But you did not announce a long-term policy

previously. In a haphazard manner this type of hit and run policy is being undertaken which will not work. That is why you have failed to find an export for cotton. The prices of cotton have terribly fallen. For example, in Tamil Nadu our cotton growers used to cultivate a particular variety MC-5 cotton. The price of one quintal of this MC-5 cotton varied from Rs. 800 to Rs. 900 but now it is hardly Rs. 500 or Rs. 550. So, they are very much affected. Why are the farmers subjected to such a desperation and frustration? The reason is that the cost of cultivation has gone very high. The price of cotton has risen ten times. The spares, which are used by the farmers have become very costly. The price of pesticides has 3 P. M. ten times, the prices all have gone up; the of diesel has gone up. In Tn: Nadu, very often, due to power cut they have to irrigate their fields with the help of diesel engines. The prices of other items have gone up many times. From dawn to dusk they toil in their fields. Even during night times, braving the scorpions and snakes they go there but they have to throw up their hands in despair because nothing is being done to solve their problems. Therefore, I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether Government will review the textile policy because that has set the ball in motion to harass the cotton-growers. Your textile policy has classified the manufacturing process into three stages — spinning, weaving and processing. While this classification has been welcomed, it should be pointed out that spinning sector has had hardly any encouragement in the implementation of the policy. The textile policy has equated the organised sector mills and the powerlooms on the assumption that powerlooms have an inherent strength. That is a wrong assumption. Powerloom^ have a disadvantage of 8.5. to 12.5 per cent in the cost of yarn bought by them as against the weaving mills. That has been substantiated by a recent study done by STMA.

Because the time at my disposal is very short and I know that you will be ringing

[Shri V. Gopalsamy]

the bell, I would like to ask the Minister: will you review the textile policy which is responsible for all these things, particularly in South India. It has very badly affected the cotton-growers of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu and unless you solve their problems, one day they will leave their fields. Already they are in despair and you have totally forgotten the cotton-growers and farmers. So I would request the Minister to take serious steps to monitor the working of Cotton Corporation of India and other institutions, to find an export market and to frame a longterm policy towards that end.

With these words, Sir, I conclude. Thank you.

श्री राम नरेश कुशवाहा (उत्तर प्रदेश) : माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, मैं समझ नहीं पाता कि यह सरकार आखिर चाहती क्या है। (व्यवधान) ऐसा है कि सरकार मजदूरों को बोनस देती है, तस्करों को भी बोनस हमारे वित्त मंत्री जी दे रहे हैं यानी जो पकड़-धकड़ करने वाले क्या-क्या करते रहते हैं उनको भी इनाम के नाम पर बोनस दे रहे हैं। बार-बार किसान को कहते हैं कि उत्पादन बढ़ाओ। जो उत्पादन नहीं करता उनको भी बोनस दे रहे हैं, लेकिन हम उत्पादन करते हैं तो हमको सजा देते हैं। जब कहते हैं गेहूँ की उपज बढ़ाओ, गन्ने की उपज बढ़ाओ तो बढ़ा देते हैं, लेकिन दाम गिर जाता है। हम अगर एक मन का कट्टा पैदा करते हैं तो भी उतना दाम पाते हैं, डेढ़ मन का कट्टा पैदा करते हैं तो भी उतना ही दाम पाते हैं। उत्पादन बढ़ाकर हम सजा भोगते हैं वजाय इसके कि इनाम मिले। आलू बढ़ाते हैं, गन्ना बढ़ाते हैं, इसी तरह कपास बढ़ाते हैं। कपास पहले बाहर से आता था। अब हम उसमें आत्मनिर्भर ही नहीं हो गए, बाहर भेजने लायक भी हो गए। तो भी नहीं जाने देंगे और इतना ही नहीं कृत्रिम धागे का उपयोग कराकर उसका दाम और गिरवा देंगे यानी लाभकर मूल्य दिलाने की जगह घाटे का इंतजाम करते हैं। यही हालत जूट का भी है।

मैं आप से निवेदन करूँ कि 1979 के पहले दवाओं का दाम क्या था और आज क्या है। दो, तीन नमूने मैं आप को बता दूँ। बोरोलूटन एक इजेक्शन है जिस का दाम 1979 में 12.11 रुपये था और अब हो गया है 64.70 रुपये। इस के अलावा पेंजीनाम नाम की एक टेबलेट है जिस का दाम 79 में था 23.53 रुपये और अब हो गया है 68.00 रुपये। यह मैं आपको दामों की लूट बता रहा हूँ। दवाओं के दाम में 5 गुने की वृद्धि हुई है। दूसरी चीजों में भी 3-4 गुना दामों में बढ़ती हुई है। अब हार्डर जोन टेबलेट है उस का 5 गुना दाम बढ़ा। नेप्या का दाम 79 में था 756 रुपये और अब हो गया है 2124 रुपये पर टन। इसी प्रकार गैस 138 रुपये प्रति हजार घन मीटर थी अब हो गयी है 1790 रुपये। बिजली जो 27 रुपये प्रति किलो यूनिट थी अब हो गयी है 54 रुपये प्रति किलो यूनिट और गेहूँ जो 1974 में था 210 रुपये प्रति बिबंटल वह अब भी है 210 रुपये आप की राशन की दुकानों पर। तो हम जब खरीदने जाते हैं तो पहले के मुकाबले 4, 5 या 10 गुना अधिक दाम देते हैं और जब हम अपना माल बेचने जाते हैं तो 12 वर्ष के पहले का दाम ही पाते हैं। तो आप हम लोगों को सजा दे रहे हैं अधिक उत्पादन करने की। हर चीज का दाम बढ़ा है, हम उसको और बढ़ाना नहीं चाहते लेकिन हमारा कहना है कि पदावार जब हो रही है तो खेती की जो लागत है उस में पेस्टीसाइड का दाम है, फर्टिलाइजर का दाम है, बीज का दाम है, किमो भी चीज का दाम हो जो हम खरीदते हैं वह कई गुना बढ़ गया है लेकिन हमारे माल का दाम लगातार घटता गया।

जहाँ तक रई और जूट का सवाल है, मैं अपने आंकड़े आप को नहीं दे रहा हूँ। चंद्रशेखर आजाद कृषि विश्वविद्यालय के आंकड़े दे रहा हूँ और यह 1983-84

के हैं कि लागत मूल्य रुई का 635.03 रुपया प्रति क्विंटल आता है और समर्थन मूल्य रखा गया 400 रुपये। जूट का 235.02 रुपये लागत मूल्य आता था और समर्थन मूल्य रखा गया 185 रुपये। आज आप ने उसे 285 रखा है जब कि 350 रुपये के आस पास उस की कास्ट आफ प्रोडक्शन चली गयी होगी। (व्यवधान) 400 रुपये के आस-पास भी हो सकती है। जूट का हिसाब मेरे पास नहीं है लेकिन वह 400 जरूर चली गयी होगी। तो आप कौन सा हिसाब लगाते हैं। एक तरफ घाटे पर बोनस देते हैं, बिना उत्पादन के बोनस देते हैं, तस्करों को भी बोनस देते हैं और दूसरी तरफ हम से कहते हैं कि उत्पादन बढ़ाओ और जब हम उत्पादन बढ़ाते हैं तो आप हम को सजा देते हैं। तो मैं सरकार से पूछना चाहता हूं और वित्त मंत्री जी तो यहां नहीं हैं, कि यह डंडी आप कब तक मारेंगे? कब तक आप किसानों को लूटेंगे। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं कि जिस प्रकार से आप ने मूल्य सूचकांक अन्य पदार्थों के लिये बनाया है उसी प्रकार क्या आप कृषि पदार्थों के लिये भी सूचकांक बनायेंगे?

श्री गुलाम रसूल मट्टू : भाषण करने पर जी 25 से 75 कर दिया है।

श्री राम नरेश कुशवाहा : तो मान्यवर, यहां 1 रुपया मेटाडोर का किराया था, अब उसे बढ़ाकर दो रुपया कर दिया गया है। खीर का दाम 1.05 था जो बढ़ाकर 2.10 कर दिया गया और यहां वह देना होगा। तो हमारे माल का दाम घट रहा है। तो मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि क्या अब भी आप कोई प्राइज लिबिंग फार्मूला लायेंगे या दाम बांधने का यत्न करेंगे और कृषि मूल्य सूचकांक तय करेंगे। ठीक है, आज तक हम को बहुत मारा गया, लेकिन आज भी क्या आप कोई सूचकांक तय करेंगे और उस को कारखानों माल के साथ और मजदूरों के साथ जोड़ेंगे? तीनों को यह क साथ जोड़िये नहीं तो एत सरकार का हालत वही होगा तो उल्टा सो पड़ाइन का हुई थी। एक कहानी है हमारा तरफ का कि एक पंडित जो थे। वह जो कुछ करते थे उन

को पंडिताइन ठीक उस का उल्टा करती थी। उन को अच्छा खाना खाना होता तो कहते हैं कि खराब खाना बनाओ और जब खराब खाना होता था तो कहते थे अच्छा खाना बनाओ। एक बार उन का साला उन के यहाँ आया। उस ने कहा कि पंडिताइन का विदा कर दो पंडिताइन घर में आ गई और उसने कहा कि हम आपको भोज ले जायेंगे जब कल तो रास्ते में नाला पड़ा तो पंडित जो जब बाँध धार में गये तो पंडित ने कहा कि पंडिताइन पूछ अच्छे हंस से पकड़े रहना नहीं तो डूब जायेंगे, पंडित जो ने जब पूछ पाने का बात कही तो उसने पूछ छाड़ दो और वे डूबकर मर गये इस तरह से यह सरकार भी डूबकर मरेगी अगर किस नों का इस तरह बंटो धा करेगा। आपको इन्हीं नक्तियों के कारण हो गांवों में आज तबाही मची हुई है। गांवों में इससे विषमता बढ़ती जा रहा है। तो मैं आप से कहना चाहता हूं कि आज तक जितना तबाही हो गई है, जितना गांव दिया गया है जाने दो। लेकिन क्या माननीय मंत्री जी आज भी किसानों माल और कारखानों माल में समन्वय स्थापित करेंगे? एक बड़े तो तीनों बड़े, एक घटे तो तीनों घटे, इस तरह का संतुलन आ सके, आगे से हमारा लूट रोकने के लिये तैयार हैं कि नहीं?

मान्यवर, जहाँ तक हमारे माल का सवाल है, जब कोई हमारे पास पर्याप्त है और डाक्टर लोग यह बताते हैं कि जो कृत्रिम धागा है जिसका आप अपना कगड़ा बनाते हैं तो इससे कर्म रोग होता है, तो आप कृत्रिम धागा पहनाकर यह रोग पैदा कर रहे हैं? यह हनुमन्त आप करने जा रहे हैं। और रोग पाल रहे हैं और साथ ही साथ हमारे माल का दाम घटाने का भी इंतजाम कर रहे हैं, उसको क्रय शक्ति कम करने का इंतजाम कर रहे हैं, तो ये ये दो चीज माननीय मंत्री जी महोदय से जानना चाहता हूं कि क्या आप मूल्य संतुलन का कोई फार्मूला बनाने जा रहे हैं और दाम बांधने का प्रयत्न करेंगे और दूसरे कृत्रिम धागे के बारे में आपको नति क्या है?

SHRI SANKAR PRASAD MITRA (West Bengal); Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, the two subjects, viz. jute and cotton, have been exhaustively dealt with by the previous speakers, and as far as possible I shall try to avoid repetitions.

Sir, the first point I would like to make is that the Prime Minister went to Calcutta. He made a statement with regard to purchase of jute from the growers. It is possible that the statement was misquoted by the press. But it is indeed surprising that the statement was also misquoted by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. On the television I heard that the Prime Minister had stated that all the jute that is produced in West Bengal would be purchased by the Jute Corporation. On the following day I hear a statement on the television by the Chairman of Jute Corporation of India that the P did not •
jute th jute that is oilered for sale.

And that is exactly what has been repeated by the hon. Minister in the last three lines of Paragraph 7 of his Statement.

Now, I want to know clearly as to what the policy of the Government of India is, was the policy correctly announced by the Prime Minister to start with or is the policy later on declared by the Chairman of the Jute Corporation of India correct? Secondly, assuming that the Jute Corporation is correct, from the figures given by the hon. friends who have spoken before me, it appears that the total approximate production of jute in West Bengal alone is nearly 40 lakh bales, but the Jute Corporation, in fact has promised to purchase up to October November 1, 1986 only seven lakh bales. If that is the position, then even the subsequent modification made by the Chairman of the Jute Corporation is not being adhered to. What precisely is the policy of the Government of India should be clearly and categorically stated by the hon. Minister on the floor of this House.

Then, Sir, my learned colleague, Shri Satya Prakesh Malaviya had asked an Un-

starred Question on the 22nd July, 1986* being Question No. 249. In answer to this Question, the hon. Minister has given certain answers. He has ruled out nationalisation already demanded by other speakers, but he has given a seven-point formula for giving encouragement to jute Industry and supporting the jute industry. In this seven-point formula, I find there are reasons for specific objections to three of the points. No. 1, imposition of Excise Duty on DDPE/PP tapes and marginal Increase of import duty on granules in the present Union Budget. Now, by marginal increase of import duty, how do you propose to give encouragement to jute industry or to support the jute industry?

The second point stated by the hon. Minister is persuading other department to encourage use of more jute bags instead of synthetic substitutes for packing fertiliser* etc. and compulsory use of one hundred per cent new jute bags by the cement industry. By giving encouragement only, do you really hope that the jute industry will survive or prosper? What is your difficulty in making it compulsory for the other departments of the Government to rely on jute bags for the purpose of packing instead of using synthetic materials which are either produced with ingredients imported from abroad or imported in toto. These synthetic materials will last you so long as petroleum is cheap. But petroleum become rare after the next 30 years. By that time these synthetic materials would be outdated. Moreover throughout the world if you go through medical journals published both in England and in the United States these synthetic materials are discouraged by medical scientists for health purposes.

DR. R. K. PODDAR (West Bengal): They are cancer producing agents.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: Yes.

SHRI SANKAR PRASAD MITRA: It is a cancer producing agent also. Already many people in this country are suffering from different varieties of cancer and you are importing more and more cancer by encouraging synthetic materials.

My last point is point No. 7 announced by you. It pertains to the minimum statutory price of raw jute on the basis of recommendations of the Commission of Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP). And the continuance of price support operations for protecting the interests of growers. This is one of the policies announced by your Government. But it has already been pointed out by a previous speaker who is better acquainted with the subject perhaps than myself that your support price is only Rs. 225 per quintal whereas the cost price is Rs. 500 per quintal or near about it was my hon. Friend, Mr. China Basu who claimed to be an expert on the subject.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: I have not claimed.

SHRI SANKAR PRASAD MITRA: I do not know whether he is in the jute trade. But he has said that the price of juts per quintal is between Rs. 450 to Rs. 500.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: I have said on the basis of some analysis who have studied, agro-economics and particularly in relation to the cultivation of jute, I am not at all interested, I have never been interested, in the jute trade.

SHRI SANKAR PRASAD MITRA: I have cast no aspersions on Mr. Chitta Basu. I have merely said that he claims to be an expert on the subject. I gave him a certificate to that effect. Now, he is disowning my certificate. Rs. 450 is the figure quoted by Mr. Chitta Basu and the support price seems to be Rs. 225. My hon. friend, Mr. Gurudas Das Gupta from his personal experience has said that growers are *trying to* sell in the village areas at Rs. 250 only. This is the position of your support price. So, what is the use of announcing your item No. 7 in the programme? Are you prepared to review and reconsider the support price in the near future so that jute growers can survive? These are my questions.

SHRI PRABHAKAR RAO KALVALA
(Andhra Pradesh): Mr. Vice-Chairman,

761 RS—7

Sir, much has been said by our colleagues regarding cotton and jute. But I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister for Textiles and also the Ministers for Agriculture and Commerce to certain things. It would have been better if the Minister for Agriculture could have been here. Then he could do some justice for the agriculturists because the Agriculture Minister fixes the targets for the production of foodgrains and commercial crops all over the country, but when the produce comes to the hands of the farmers, the Agriculture Minister is not guaranteeing a proper price for the produce. In this regard, as a representative from Andhra Pradesh, I want to inform the House that the State stands second in the production of cotton and the State stands first in producing long staple and export quality cotton also, but the Cotton Corporation of India has entirely failed to purchase the produce brought to the market. In this connection I want to mention that in 1983-84 the price for cotton was about Rs. 700 per quintal, in 1984-85 it was Rs. 530 and in 1985-86 it has been reduced to Rs. 400. In this connection, our hon. Chief Minister Mr. N. T. Rama Rao was constantly in touch with the Central Government for procurement of the produce, specially cotton also, but the Cotton Corporation of India, Andhra Pradesh is the State which stands first in producing export quality cotton. It had been asked to give priority for the export of at least 50,000 bales. But now this opportunity is being given to

Maharashtra and Gujarat for the last five or six years. This is the attitude of the Central Government. It was asked by the State Government to procure at least one lakh bales from Andhra Pradesh. But it was not done. On the contrary, near about 70,000 bales have been imported from Pakistan. This is the attitude and outlook of the Central Government. Nearly six crores of cotton growers in the country are suffering, trying to get rid of their produce since the last two years. But nothing has been done by the Cotton Corporation of India.

[Shri Prabhakar Rao Kalvala]
[Shri Prabhakar Rao Kalvala]

As far as jute is concerned, in Andhra Pradesh it is grown mainly in three districts, namely, Srikakulam, Vijayanagaram and Visakhapatnam, in the rain-fed areas by small farmers in about one lakh hectares. The anticipated production in 1985-86 is about 10 lakh bales. The Jute Corporation of India has purchased only 13,000 bales against the procurement target of one lakh bales during 1985-86. Regarding these Commercial crops if the Commerce Minister and the Agriculture Minister could have been here, these problems could have been sorted out because it seems that there is no coordination among these Ministries. I feel that most of the hon. Members of this House are coming from the farmers' community. And when the farmer is put to such a miserable position, this House must feel very sorry for it. Crores of people, nearly 75 per cent of the people, come from the farmers' community in this country. They are in miserable and helpless position. We are entering into the Seventh Five Year Plan. Nothing can be achieved unless you solve the problems of the farmers. Ours is an agricultural economy. If this is the plight of the farmer in this country, God alone knows what the future holds for this Government for this country. I would appeal to the Government, I would appeal to all the honourable Members of the House, let us not cheat ourselves; let us first thrash out the problems of the farmer. We have been pledging for the last thirty-nine years that we are going to do a lot for the farmer of this country. Unfortunately Sir, the farmer in this country continues to be in a miserable position. Our learned friend has aptly put it, the farmer in this country is born in debts, lives in debts and dies in debts. We should all be sorry for this state of affairs. We must all strive to alleviate the sufferings of the farmer. Just because the farmer cannot take to any other occupation, just because he has no other means of livelihood, his helpless situation should not be exploited, should not be allowed to be exploited. We know a k.g. of cotton can produce a dhoti or a sari. But what is the price we are pay-

ing for a kg of cotton? No more than Rs. 5/-. An industrialist makes a profit of more than 100 to 150 per cent on his investment. He is never prepared to reduce even a bit of his profits whereas the poor, innocent, farmer is squeezed further and further. I, therefore, request the Government to come to the aid of the farmer, eliminate the middlemen eliminate the dalari, and, protect the interests of the farmer. Once again I urge upon the Government to give a serious thought to the pitiable condition of the Indian farmer and take such measures as would enable him make a reasonably decent living from out of his produce. Thank you.

श्री राम चन्द्र विकल (उत्तर प्रदेश) :
उपन्यास्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आपका आभार है कि आपने मुझे किसानों के जूट और कपास के विषय में किसानों की आर्थिक कठिनाई पर सदन में जो दृष्टिकोण व्यक्त किया जा रहा है उस पर अपने विचार व्यक्त करने का अवसर प्रदान किया है। यह बात सच है कि किसान चाहे जूट पैदा करने वाला हो, चाहे कपास पैदा करने वाला हो उसकी हालत और महानत के अनुसार उसको मूल्य नहीं दिये जा रहे हैं। इस में जो बातें नतीति है वह यह है कि अभी पिछले दिनों कृषि मूल्य आयोग की घोषणा सरकार की तरफ से की गई और उस समय के कृषि मंत्रों सरकार बूटा सिंह ने इसकी घोषणा करते समय यह कहा था कि अगरले सब तक कृषि मूल्य आयोग का गठन कर देंगे। एक बहुत छोटा सा सवाल है कि कृषि मूल्य आयोग का भी अभी तक गठन न हो सका बाजूद इन सदन में वायदा करने के। यह बहुत जरूरी है कि कृषि मूल्य आयोग का गठन किया जावे ताकि वह उन सारे बातों पर जिन पर आज सदन में चिन्ता व्यक्त की गई है गम्भीरता से विचार कर के सरकार का निर्णय देने में सहायक हो। उसकी शीघ्र घोषणा होने का हिन्दे, मेरे यह हमारा है। यह बात सच है, माननीय मंत्री जी के वक्तव्य की मैंने बहुत ध्यान से पढ़ा है उसमें बहुत कुछ आश्वासन दिये गये हैं केन्द्र खोलने के और जूट और हैं

कपास निगमों को भी आदेश दिये गये कि वह जरूर खरीद करेंगे। मैं जानता चाहता हूँ कि जो आदेश आपके इस वक्तव्य में दिये गये हैं वह अमल में आ सके हैं या नहीं आ सके हैं? जो घोषणाएं आपने अपने वक्तव्य में की हैं वे जरूर आशजनक हैं लेकिन उन पर अमल कब से शुरू हुआ है, किन किन पर आपने अमल करा दिया है जो आपने घोषणाएं की हैं। अभी और माननीय सदस्यों ने भी कहा है वे भी इस बात सहमत हैं कि किसान के लिये जो घातक नीति है वह यह है कि अगर वह पैदावार बढ़ा दे तो बाटे में आ जाता है। होना तो यह चाहिये था कि जिस चीज की पैदावार किसान उसको बढ़ाये इसके लिए इनाम मिलना चाहिये, उसको प्रोत्साहित किया जाना चाहिये, उसका सम्मान किया जाना चाहिये। माननीय मंत्री जी ने जो कपास के आंकड़े दिये हैं, उन में लिखा है कि 1984-85 में कपास पैदा हुई 101 लाख टन। 85-86 में 107 और खपत हो गयी 90 लाख टन तो यह सिद्ध किया अपने आंकड़ों से कि खपत कम और पैदावार ज्यादा हो गयी तो हम दाम कहां से बढ़ाते। इसमें यही बात है कि किसानों की पैदावार के मुताबिक उनको दाम मिलने चाहिए लागत और मेहनत के मुताबिक। चाहे जूट के किसान हो या कपास के। जूट प्रायः भारत के पूर्वी भागों में होती है जैसे बंगाल, उड़ीसा, आसाम, इन दिनों बिहार में भी पैदा होती है, आंध्र के हिस्से में भी होती है और कपास ज्यादातर हमारे उन क्षेत्रों में पैदा होती है जहां वर्षा कम होती है। इसमें गुजरात महाराष्ट्र, आन्ध्र, मध्य प्रदेश है, हरियाणा का भी कुछ भाग आता है, राजस्थान का भी है और उत्तर प्रदेश में बहुत कपास पैदा होती थी अब पता नहीं क्या वजह है, जमीन को क्या हो गया, लागत या भाव में क्या हो गया या वहां के किसान को क्या हो गया है कि उत्तर प्रदेश जैसे कृषि प्रदेश में भी किसान कपास नहीं पैदा करते हैं इन बातों। यह सारी बातें मैं इसलिए कह रहा हूँ कि किसानों को उचित मूल्य मिले। किसानों की फसल के बीमों का खाल कब नहीं उठा, पता नहीं कब से उठ रहा है,

उस पर अमल नहीं हो रहा है। जो किसानों के लिए उपयोगी नीतियां हैं उस पर जल्दी अमल हो यह मेरी मांग है। साथ ही किसानों के लिए घातक आयात और निर्यात की नीति, किसानों के समय के मुताबिक कि कब उनको मुताफा मिल सकता है, उसके मुताबिक होनी चाहिए। लेकिन इसका उल्टा यह हो रहा है कि वह चीज जब किसानों को सस्ती पड़े उसकी पैदावार के मूल्य अच्छे न मिल रहे हों तभी हम बाहर से आयात करेंगे और उसी समय निर्यात की भी इजाजत देंगे जब कीमतें अच्छी नहीं होंगी।

इसलिए पैदावार के लागत और मेहनत के मुताबिक दाम मिलें, आयात और निर्यात की नीति किसानों की मूल्य वृद्धि के मुताबिक हो ताकि उनको प्रोत्साहन मिले, साथ ही कृषि मूल्य आयोग का गठन हो और किसान की फसलों का बीमा हो। इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ मैं मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहूंगा कि वे बतायें जो नुद्दा कृषि मूल्य आयोग का मैंने उठाया है और कृषि मंत्री का इस सदन में आश्वासन है तो उसको कब तक गठित किया जायेगा साथ ही आयात और निर्यात की नीति किसानों के उपयोग में होने के लिए आप सिद्ध करने का प्रयत्न करेंगे कि नहीं करेंगे तथा फसल बीमा के बारे में आपकी क्या राय है? आज जो महाराष्ट्र, गुजरात, कर्नाटक, आंध्र प्रदेश, राजस्थान या हरियाणा का किसान कपास पैदा करने के बाद तबही के कगार पर खड़ा हुआ है उसकी मदद क्या आप कर पाएंगे? राष्ट्रीयकरण की बात को अगर सरकार मानने में असमर्थ है तो एक समर्थन मूल्य पर किसान की चीज को खासकर कपास को क्यों नहीं खरीद करने के लिए तैयार होते हैं। समर्थन मूल्य पर किसान की कपास को खरीदें तो किसान को थोड़ा बहुत आश्वासन मिल जायेगा और भविष्य में आर्थिक संकट में घिरे हुए जूट और कपास के किसान की मदद हो सकेगी। इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ मैं समाप्त करता हूँ।

डा० बापू कालदास (महाराष्ट्र):
उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, तीन ही सवाल मैं

[डा० बापू कालदास]

मंत्री महोदय से पूछना चाहता हूँ । एक तो बार-बार हमें यह लगता है कि इस सरकार की बख्शी और करनी में सिर्फ कर्क ही नहीं है बल्कि यह सरकार बख्शी के बिल्कुल उल्टा करनी करती है । क्योंकि जब वित्त मंत्री जो ने इस सदन में बजट पेश किया था तब किसानों के बारे में जो भी 2-3 परिच्छेद उसमें हैं उनमें यह लिखा गया था :

"The Government is committed to giving remunerative price to the farmers."

सरकार इसको बंध्य है कि किसानों को लागत पर आधारित मूल्य मिलना चाहिए । आज तक हम देखते आये हैं कि लागत पर मूल्य मिलने की बात छोड़ दीजिए, जो भी समर्थन मूल्य प्राप्त होता है वह भी उतना जो खर्चा है उसके नंदर्भ में देखा जाये तो समर्थन मूल्य नहीं है वह बिल्कुल असमर्थन मूल्य है । एक बात बिल्कुल साफ है कि सरकार अपनी नीति को बिल्कुल सफ करे क्योंकि आप सब गौरव करते हैं कि किसानों ने उत्पादन बढ़ाया लेकिन किसान के उत्पादन बढ़ाने पर उसके हाथ में अगर कीमत कम आयेगी तो जो परचेजिंग पावर है जिसके जरिए आवश्यक खरद हो सके, खुद की अपने परिवार की अच्छी देखभाल कर सके हिंदुस्तान की सारी प्रगति में शक्ति प्रदान कर सके, वह बात नहीं होगी ।

What is the incentive for producers in this country?

होगी, क्या उनके लिए इन्सेंटिव होगा कि जिसके कारण किसान पैदावार बढ़ाते रहें ? एक तरफ कपास का मूल्य कम हो रहा है, लेकिन कपड़ों का मूल्य कम नहीं हो रहा है । यह दोहरा शोषण इस देश में चल रहा है । एक तरफ ग्राहक का शोषण और दूसरी तरफ उत्पादकों का शोषण—इन दो शोषणों के जरिए इस देश की जो अर्थव्यवस्था है जो कैपिटलिस्टिक सिस्टम है, वह ज्यादा से ज्यादा मजबूत होता रहा है

सरकार को इसके लिए एक संतुलित स्वरूप की नीति जिसमें उत्पादकों को उचित दाम मिले और ग्राहकों को भी उचित दर से वस्तु मिले, चीज मिले, इस दृष्टि से सरकार को सोचना चाहिए ।

मैं यह बात साफ कर देना चाहता हूँ कि जो मंत्री महोदय ने बयान दिया है, उसमें लिखा है कि 1984-85 में 101 लाख बेल्ट और 1985-86 में 107 लाख बेल्ट सरकार के पास आ गई, यह प्रोडक्शन हो गया और आपकी जो सी०सी०आई० है, उसने सिर्फ 11 लाख बेल्ट खरीदा है । इसका मतलब यह है कि देश में काफी उत्पादन कपास का हो रहा है । अगर कपास का उत्पादन देश में हो रहा है, इंटरनेशनल प्राइसेज गिर रही हैं, तो सीधी बात यह है कि उत्पादकों को बचाने के लिए और देश को बचाने के लिए सरकार का टेक्स्टाइल पालिसी खत्म कर देनी चाहिए ।

You please scrap the textile policy which has no links with the producers in the country.

तालमेल नहीं है । यह सिर्फ कपास की ही बात नहीं है, जूट में भी वही है । कपड़े को आप सिंथेटिक प्रोडक्ट्स गंवा रहे हैं । जब आपके पास जूट है, जब आपके पास कपास तैयार है, कपड़े के लिए मैन-मेड फाइबर्स आप मेंगवा रहे हैं ? आप कह रहे हैं कि कपड़ा-बज्र कम दाम पर मिलेंगे, लेकिन खरीदने की शक्ति हो, तो खरीदेगा ना—अगर किसानों के पास खरीदने की शक्ति न हो, जो खरीदने की शक्ति उसके अनाज बेचने से उसको मिलती है, उसकी कपास से मिलती है, उसकी जूट से मिलती है, अगर वही दाम घटाते जाएं From where will the purchasing power come? अगर उत्पादकों के साथ मैं ही परचेजिंग पावर न हो, तो भले ही अन्य वस्तुओं के दाम, कितने भी घटाते रहे, इस

उत्पादन का कोई भी फायदा उन लोगों को नहीं मिलने वाला है। इसके लिए मैं तो यह मानता हूँ, क्योंकि हमको यह लगता है कि टैक्सटाईल पॉलिसी में अग्रज का कोई खाल ही नहीं दिया गया है। टैक्सटाईल पॉलिसी चलती है टैक्सटाईल मिल से, एग्जीक्यूटिव मिनिस्ट्री काम बाँधने का काम चलाती है। दोनों में कोई संबंध ही, दोनों में कोई संतुलन ही, दोनों में कोई कॉन्फ्रिडेंशन ही, हमको नहीं लगता है।

इसके लिए मैं चाहता हूँ कि टैक्सटाईल पॉलिसी पूरी की पूरी स्कैंप करें और इस देश में जो उत्पादन बढ़ रहा है, उसको मद्देनजर रखते हुए एच. वेल्लेस्व टैक्सटाईल पॉलिसी आप बनाइये। यह मेरी पहली मांग है।

इसके बारे में आपका रिएक्शन मैं जानना चाहता हूँ।

उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, मैं एक और बात की ओर आपका ध्यान दिलाना चाहता हूँ। महाराष्ट्र हमेशा अग्रसर राज्य रहा है कि जो विचिले किसानों का शोषण करते रहे हैं, इस शोषण से मुक्त करने का पहला प्रयास महाराष्ट्र सरकार ने सानोपली परचेज के द्वारा किया। 1972 से हम प्रयास कर रहे हैं, लेकिन हमको लगता है कि सरकार नहीं चहती कि जो सानोपली परचेज पैटर्न को स्कीम महाराष्ट्र सरकार चला रही है उसको मजबूत करें। सरकार यह चाहती है कि विचिले रहें, किसानों का शोषण चलता रहे, ऐसा केन्द्रीय सरकार के रवैये से लगता है। केन्द्रीय सरकार जो महाराष्ट्र सरकार इन सलों से लगातार यह स्कीम चलाती रही है, उसमें वधा डलने का ही प्रयास मध्यवर्ती सरकार करती है, ऐसा मुझको लगता है। बार-बार हमको आपके पास आना पड़ता है—

for request of continuation of that monopoly purchase scheme.

हम जो यह सानोपली परचेज स्कीम चला रहे हैं, इसको आप दस-पन्द्रह साल तक लंबी अवधि तक करें कि पन्द्रह साल तक हम आपको इसे चलाने की इजाजत दे रहे हैं। अगर हम हर साल आपके पास आते रहे, सरकार आती रही, तो किसानों के मन में एक आशंका पैदा हो जाती है कि क्या अगले साल यह स्कीम चलने वाली है या नहीं चलने वाली है—यह आशंका किसानों के मन में पैदा करें, या वहाँ का हमारा जो फंडरेशन है जिसके जरिए हम काम खरीदते हैं, उनके मन में रहे, तो यह हो सकता है कि यह सारी स्कीम अलग-अलग कारणों से उस पर हमला तो होता है, उसमें कुछ खामियाँ भी हैं, उसके काम भी हम कभी-कभी नहीं दे सकते हैं, यह बात मैं जानना चाहता हूँ, लेकिन खामियों की ही मद्देनजर रखते हुए कुछ लोग जरूर हमला करेंगे जो चाहते हैं कि विचिले कायम रहे, स्कीम खत्म हो जाए कि उनके शोषण का रास्ता खुला हो जाएगा, यह सारे लोग इस स्कीम को खत्म करने के पीछे हैं।

हम चाहते हैं कि अगर सरकार तहेदिल से, मन से चाहती है कि विचिले को खत्म करना आवश्यक है किसानों के लिए, तो जो एक अच्छी बात महाराष्ट्र सरकार ने की है, उसकी सरकार को मदद करना चाहिए।

तो मेरी यादसे सीजी मांग है और मैं आपसे इसका जवाब चाहता हूँ कि महाराष्ट्र सरकार ने आपसे यह प्रार्थना की है कम से कम 10 साल तक इस स्कीम को जारी रखेंगे इसका आन्वयसन आपको हमको देना चाहिए। दूसरी बात यह है कि सी.सी.आई. जो काटन खरीदता है, हमारा तो सानोपली परचेज है इसलिए आपको हमारी मदद करना चाहिए, मैं आपको यह कहा था कि 16 लाख बल्स, आप हमारी ले लीजिए लेकिन आपने अभी तक नहीं ली। इसका मतलब यह हुआ कि हमारी कई लाखस आप बल्स, टन्स आफ बल्स वहीं रहेगी। फिर यह बात आयेगी कि सरकार के

[श्री बापू कालदाते]

पास किसानों को देने के लिए पैसा नहीं है और इसके बाद यह बात चलेगी कि इस स्कीम को स्क्रैप किया जाए। जो अच्छी स्कीम है, किसानों को मदद देने वाली है जो सरकार चलाती है उसको सरकार को मदद करनी चाहिए और जो सी०पी०एम० को बेचने का प्रयास चल रहा है महाराष्ट्र में, उसको मध्यवर्ती सरकार, केन्द्रीय सरकार को मदद करनी चाहिए इसके बारे में आपकी राय मैं जानना चाहूंगा।

श्री रफोक आलम (बिहार) :
उत्सवभारत महोदय, मैं बिहार के उस इलाके से आता हूँ जहाँ जूट बहुत पैदा होता है और वह पूर्णिया जिला है। लगभग 15 लाख बेल पूर्णिया जिला पैदा करता है। मेरा कहना यह है कि किसानों का 1984 में 400 रुपये मन जूट बिका यानी एक हजार रुपये क्विंटल और 1985 में 60 से 70 रुपये पर मन बिका लगभग डेढ़ सौ रुपये क्विंटल कहीं एक हजार रुपये क्विंटल और कहीं डेढ़ सौ रुपये क्विंटल। यह एक ही साल के अन्दर है। जिसका नतीजा यह हुआ कि अगले साल पूर्णिया जिले के लोग जूट की मंडी में न ले जाकर जूट को उन्होंने जला दिया। काश्तकार की यह हालत है और हमें अफ़स है कि आजादी के 39 साल के बावजूद आजादी की रोजनी जूट पैदा करने वालों के घर में अब तक नहीं पहुँची। जो जूट पैदा करते हैं, मैं आपको एक मतेबा दावत देता हूँ कि आप चल कर देख लें हमारे इलाके को। एक जो जूट पैदा करता है उनके घर में तो खाने को अनाज नहीं, छप्पर पर घास नहीं है, पहनने को कपड़ा नहीं और जो जूट मिडिल मैन खरीदते हैं वे पक्के मकानों में सोते हैं, इलेक्ट्रिक ट्रेन चलाते हैं और जो मिल आनर्स हैं उनको तो कुछ कहना ही नहीं, वे नाइट क्लब में घूमते हैं। इसलिए यह सिचुएशन पैदा हो गई है। उनके लिए जूट कैंस क्रॉप के अलावा कोई दूसरा चारा नहीं है। बिहार ही दूसरा ऐसा इलाका है जहाँ सबसे ज्यादा जूट पैदा होता है। लेकिन चाहे कोई भी प्रदेश हो जहाँ

भी जूट पैदा करते हैं लोग उनकी माली हालत रोज-ब-रोज खराब होती जा रही है और ये बिल्कुल अंधेरे में रहते हैं जब कि late lamented हमारी प्रधान मंत्री ने 1970 में हमारे कहने पर दो जूट मिलें पब्लिक सेक्टर में देने का वायदा किया था। एक किशन गंज में और दूसरा वहीं के दूसरे इलाके फारविसगंज में। जमीन तो ले ली गई है लेकिन जूट मिलें अभी तक खुली नहीं हैं। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या ये दोनों जूट मिलें सरकार खोलेगी या नहीं खोलेगी? क्या जूट मिल आनर्स, उनकी लाबी काम करेगी या हमारी सरकार काम करेगी? इस सरकार को चुनौती है किसानों की। इसको सरकार को स्वीकार करना चाहिए। दो जूट मिलें बिहार में खुलने की बात है। ये दोनों आप बनवा दीजिए ताकि कि काश्तकार मिडिलमैन और जूट मिल आनर्स के चुंगल से बच सकें।

दूसरी बात यह है कि समय कम है इसलिए एक ही बात कहना चाहता हूँ। सरकार को अगर आब्जेक्शन नहीं है तो जितनी जूट मिलें हैं उनका नेशनलाइजेशन अगर सरकार नहीं कर सकती क्योंकि पैसा नहीं है या पैसे की कमी है तो कम से कम सपोर्ट प्राइस यानी कॉस्ट प्राइस जिसे प्राइवेट प्राइस भी कह सकते हैं उसको तो आप फिक्स कर दीजिए ताकि छः सौ रुपये प्रति क्विंटल खरीदना होगा, जिसे चाहे जे० सी० आई० खरीदे या मिडिल मैन खरीदे, जो भी खरीदे। चाहे जे० सी० आई० खरीदे चाहे मिडिलमैन खरीदे, अगर आप 600 रुपया क्विंटल मान जाते हैं तो काश्तकार की हालत अच्छी हो जाती है। इसलिए आप से हम लोगों की गुजारिश है कि काश्तकार की तरफ ध्यान दें और काश्तकार को मिल-आनर्स और उनके एजेंटों से बचाएं। हमारी सरकार काश्तकारों की सरकार है, काश्तकारों के वोट पर आई है, इसलिए काश्तकारों की तरफ

ध्यान दे। मैं प्राईम मिनिस्टर को मुबारक बाद देता हूँ जिनके दिल में गरीबों की जगह है, जिन्होंने कहा है कि हम जूट को खरीदेंगे। मैं मंत्री महोदय से कहूंगा कि आप पूरा जूट खरीद लें और मिडिलमैन से बचाएं जो हमको लूटते हैं। जो हालत ब्रिटिश टाइम में थी वही अब भी है। इसलिए आप जूट और कपास के काश्तकारों की तरफ ध्यान दें जैसे गेहूँ और गन्ना पैदा करने वाले किसानों की तरफ दिया है। इन शब्दों के साथ मैं मंत्री महोदय से आग्रह करूंगा कि आप काश्तकारों की तरफ ध्यान करें और काश्तकारों की जो मजबूरी है उसको दूर करें।

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: I congratulate the Congress Member...

(Interruptions)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. P. KAUSHIK): Please take your seat.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: You don't accept even congratulations from the Opposition. You are so rigid?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. P. KAUSHIK): You please speak when your chance comes.

SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN: Sir, I think, they have all answered the questions and they do not want to hear anything from me. *(Interruptions)* You want? All right.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, there is only one point. The Transport Minister is also present now. There is one point that the Railway Board I have issued an instruction that salt and I other...

SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN: I have sorted out that.

Sir, in the first instance I would like to thank the hon. Members who have participated in this debate. And some very useful contribution has been made. Since the debate has been predominantly covered by the jute industry, in the first instance, I would like to say that we realise the importance of the jute industry in the economic life of the eastern region. We also realise that about two lakh workers are engaged in the jute industry and that about 40 lakhs of families are engaged in jute growing in the eastern region. Therefore, I would like to assure my hon. Member, particularly from West Bengal that there cannot be any discrimination and there is no intention of discrimination on the part of the Central Government and we will do everything possible to assess and encourage the jute industry, and I would not like to indulge in self-praise but certainly I would like to mention that what little I have done, I can assure you, I have done much more than what your representatives from Bengal had done when they were in my place... *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: You should explain...

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Is it inpropose?

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: You are making a political insinuation...

SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN: No. If you would not listen, I will sit down. I have said only what I have done. I will tell you what I have done. No insinuation is meant.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Why do you compare?

SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN: I don't compare even with you... (*Intemptions*) My friend is quite excited. So, I want to tell him.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: We want to give you credit...

SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN: I do not want any credit. Whatever is assigned to me, whatever is my assignment, I must do my duty.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: We do not mind giving you the credit.

SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN: First of all, I would like to mention that it is estimated that for the year 1986-87, we will be able to procure not only 40 lakh bales but a little more than that. But still I would like to assure you that even though the Chairman, Jute Corporation, has stated that upto October/November he will purchase so much of jute, the purchases do not stop by October/November. The purchases continue up to April/ May. Therefore, the purchases will continue. There is no question of stopping the purchases after October/November. You can rest assured that it is not going to be only 7 lakh bales up to October/November and not beyond... (*Interruptions*)

{THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU) in the Chair

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: By October/ November, 50 per cent of the produce will

come in the market and out of that they will purchase only 7 lakh bales.

SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN: Th.* JCI will be there.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: It is in perpose a denial from the Ministry. You issue a denial from the Ministry that he is only an ordinary officer. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN: This is not the way. If you do not want to listen to me then I will sit down.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU): Let the Minister speak.

SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN: What I have said is that purchases will continue up to March/April. There is no

difficulty about that.-g-q^

श्री राम अवधेश सिंह (बिहार) : मैं बोल रहा हूँ कि...

SHRI K. MOHANAN (Kerala): We would like to hear what Mr. P. K. Bansal has to say.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU): Let the Minister speak. You please answer.

SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN: Sir, JCI has been purchasing every year up to March/April and it will continue to do so this year also. There will be no decision to stop it at any point of time in between.

श्री राम अवधेश सिंह : मंत्री महोदय ने कहा कि अगले अप्रैल तक वह खरीदारी होता रहेगी। तो मैं यह पूछना चाहता हूँ कि किसान ने पैदा किया है (व्यवधान) वह अपने सामान को किस तरीके से खरीदेगा? अगर अपने जूट को वह अपने घर में जमा करके रखेगा तो वह सामान कैसे खरीदेगा।

श्री खुरशेद अलम खान : आप सुन तो लीजिए। बैठिये तो।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU); No cross-talk please.

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV (Maharashtra); Why are you disturbing the Minister?

SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN: Sir, jute prices are fixed on the basis of W5 prices which are fixed by the Commission for Agricultural Prices and Costs and when the Agricultural Commission takes into consideration all the factors then they come to the conclusion and fix the prices. Once the prices for W5 variety are fixed, then the Jute Commissioner takes into consideration the market position in the various sectors and in the various States and fixes the prices of other varieties. Sir, I would like to mention that in order to avoid the wide fluctuation in the pricing, special arrangements have been made for starting the buffer stocking with six lakh bales and if necessary we would also see that some slight improvement is made in the buffer-stocking if justified by requirements in due course. Today we have the storage capacity of about 27 lakh bales available with us and if need be the capacity can be increased further. But we have to see that jute is not kept in open spaces because it is a very highly inflammable material and, therefore, it has to be kept in godowns. Total number of purchase centres is 577. In the cooperative sector, there are 380 such centres; JCI's main centres are 125; JCI's sub-centres are 72. Thus there are 577 centres which will be in operation and if need be, we can assure hon. Members that we would add more centres, if necessary.

One thing is really important and that has been stressed by quite a few hon. Members. Jute industry is also one of the oldest in the country like the textile industry. In which modernisation is very necessary. We quite agree that no modernisation has been done in spite of the fact that facilities for soft loans were available to the mill owners but they have not been modernising the industry. Today one of the reasons of the crisis in the jute industry is lack of modernisation. Therefore they are

not in a position to compete in the foreign market; at the same time, they are not in a position to diversify their products. We have again tried to impress upon the industry that they must modernise the industry for which facilities are available.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE; Do you expect them to be impressed?

SHRI KHUREHID ALAM KHAN: Naturally, you would not expect me to force them.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: And you have failed all these years to impress them even though you say there is availability of soft loans from the IDBI. That is why, you must nationalise it.

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN: I will answer the nationalisation point. But I feel that today there is the realisation among the industry since they have not modernised it, they are in the crisis. I am sure they would realise that jute industry has to flourish in the country, particularly in the Eastern region and, therefore, I have every hope that they would modernise it.

As regards nationalisation, I think this point has been made clear more than once on the floor of this House as well as the other House that nationalisation is not the answer to the problem. It will not solve the problems of jute industry.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH; What is the answer then?

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN: The answer lies in modernisation, diversification. ...

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH; You yourself say soft loans are made available but the industry is not taking and not using this facility. What else can you do?

श्री कल्पनाथ राय (उत्तर प्रदेश) :
ये लोग हाउस में अव्यवस्था फैला रहे
हैं मंत्री जी को सुनिए ।

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH; Mr. Kalpnath Rai is raising his point of order from some other seat. That is my point of order...
(Interruptions)

SHRI K. MOHANAN: From where is he making his point of order?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU): I appeal to hon. Members. Let us hear the Minister and if there are clarifications, you can ask later. Let the Minister finish his reply.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: The Minister should reply to the points raised. He should not beat about the bush. He must tell us categorically why nationalisation of jute industry is not possible.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU): If you try to disturb in between, it will not help.

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN: I have said that nationalisation is not possible. That is all.

SHRI K. MOHANAN: Then what is the answer?

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN: Answer is modernisation and diversification. *(Interruptions)*.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU): Mr. Gurudas Das Gupta, please do not interrupt. Let the hon. Minister complete his speech. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: Sir, I would just put this question to the hon. Minister. Mr. Minister, you have said that the answer is modernisation. You have yourself said that in the last few years, during the last decade, the jute industry... *(Interruptions)* I have taken his permission. *(Interruptions)*

श्री कल्याण राय : मेरा प्वाइंट ऑफ़ ऑर्डर है। माननीय सभी दलों के सदस्यों ने श्रमनाटक प्रस्ताव पर अपने व्यूज रखे और उसका उत्तर हमारे माननीय मंत्री जी सरकार की तरफ से दे रहे हैं तो फिर बीच में बार-बार इन्टरप्शन करने की क्या बात है, मैं यह आपसे जानना चाहता हूँ ?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU): I have already told the House that after the Minister concludes his speech, if they want, Members can seek clarifications.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Punjab): Sir, they cannot be allowed to seek clarifications for a second time. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. MOHANAN: In a parliamentary debate, interruption is always allowed. This is not an elocution competition, *(Interruptions)*

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: Sir, I will just complete the point which I wanted to make. The Minister was listening to it. He is not objecting. My point is simply this.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU): You have already made your point.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: I entirely agree with the hon. Minister that the jute industry is troubled because they have not modernised in the past. The entire House agrees. The hon. Minister has also made the point that it is the refusal of the barons of the jute industry which has led the jute industry to this situation, despite all efforts, despite all the good intentions of the Government. I accept that. In the past decade, the Government has failed to impress upon the jute barons who have sucked money out of the industry and utilised it elsewhere. Therefore, the question is, if the jute barons do not behave, is there any other alternative but to nationalise and through nationalisation enter into modernisation and make it viable? Please answer this.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU): No more interruptions. The hon. Minister please.

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN: • Sir, it is a fact that some synthetics have replaced jute and in this connection, we have already taken up the matter with the concerned Ministries. For instance, the Railway Ministry had issued instructions that salt carried by the railways should

not be packed in jute bags, but it should be packed in synthetic bags. I wrote to the Railway Minister and he has very kindly agreed that salt can be packed in jute bags, as was being done previously. We have also made a request to the Industry Ministry to review the policy, their policy, of licensing in regard to synthetics; we have also suggested to them that they should issue instructions to the cement industry that one hundred per cent new jute bags should be used by the cement industry instead of old bags. Besides, Sir, in the last Budget, the Finance Minister has imposed, for the first time, custom duty on the import of granules and we have also made a representation to the Finance Ministry that there's need for a review in this regard.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: Need for increase in the duty.

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN: In the case of fertiliser, in certain cases of fertiliser, particularly, corrosive fertiliser, it has been stated by the Fertiliser Ministry that jute bags are not suitable for that kind of fertiliser and, therefore, they have to use synthetic bags. We are also making an experiment with the laminated jute bags. Actually that has been given for trials to the cement industry to see that there is no seepage. Another thing which I would like to mention for the information of the hon. House is that I have asked HRA to conduct research, particularly to improve the quality and also to see how we can produce better products. Also I have asked them to see how diversification can take place with the minimum possible time at our disposal. Special instruction have been given to DRA to do this. *{Interruptions}*.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: You must say what HRA stands for, I think it is India Jute Research Institute.

SHRI K. MOHANAN: Is it HRA or 'hijra'?

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN: Sir, the total installed capacity of jute is....

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: Who will utilise this capacity? These jute barons will refuse to utilize it.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: They are not utilizing even the services of IJRA.

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN: When I say that I have asked them to review the working of IJRA, that means that I have been taking some interest, particularly, in regard to this.

The total installed capacity of the jute industry is about 20 to 22 lakh tonnes while our production at the moment is about 13 to 14 lakh tonnes and it is a fact that about 300 crores of foreign exchange is being earned. Here also I have every hope that the exports will further increase. At the moment about 20 per cent of the total production is going in exports. Recently we had sent a high-powered delegation to America to find out, what was the difficulty in accepting the jute carpet backing cloth instead of using the synthetic yarn. We have got the feedback information that they are now willing to take the jute carpet backing cloth because they have found that the synthetic cloth has not been so useful for them for packing. *{Interruptions}*. I have also arranged with the Jute Commissioner to see that the jute carpet backing cloth gets special assistance for export so that we can increase our export of jute carpet backing cloth.

Then I will come to cotton.

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव : (बिहार) :
बिहार के जट के बारे में आपने कुछ नहीं
बताया है।

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN: Unfortunately, Bihar jute is very inferior in quality. I would suggest and I have already made a suggestion to your Chief Minister also that it will be in the interest of the State to improve the quality of jute. Otherwise, your jute will not fetch very good price.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will, you please tell us when the JCI will start purchasing, when will the purchasing operation start?

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN: Jute operation will start this very week.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY-, please come to the South from East and West.

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN: I am neither in the East nor in the West, I am in the Centre..

There were two successive bumper crops of cotton. That is, in 1984-85 there were 101.50 lakh bales and in 1985-86 107 lakh bales. No doubt, there has been a fall in the prices of cotton. The problem is that when there is a bumper crop of cotton in this country there is also a bumper crop of cotton in the neighbouring countries and the international market is over-flooded with the American cotton, the Pakistani cotton and the Bangla, bshi cotton. Therefore, we are finding a little difficulty in exporting more cotton these days. For the first time, I decided that we should export more cotton. I have allotted 11 lakh bales for export and I have also mentioned that the importing countries must know that they can import from the exporting countries in a sustained manner in the next few years. Therefore, I have given the assurance that in the next two years also, this year, next year and the next, at least minimum of 5 lakh bales will be available for export. I hope, there will be enough bales available and we would be able to provide more bales for export, because today, as I said, our total consumption comes to about 90 lakh bales in which the mills' consumption is 87 lakh bales and ex-mills' consumption is 4.5 lakh bales and 10 or 11 lakh bales we have got for export. More than 5 lakh bales have already been contracted for and I am confident that more effort will be made. Here I would like to mention that we had given 10 lakh bales to Andhra Pradesh but I am afraid not a single bale has been exported by the Andhra, Pradesh people. So your Federation has done nothing so far. Similarly we gave to Tamil Nadu also. And Tamil Nadu also has not exported anything. I hope they will make some effort in future.

SHRI PRABHAKAR RAO KALVALA.
70,000 bales were imported by you from Pakistan.

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SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN: Those 70,000 bales were imported from Pakistan more than a year ago when we were short of short staple cotton. Now we are not short of short staple cotton and nothing is being imported.

Apart from the export of cotton, we have also issued a long-term policy for the export of yarn which is a value-added thing. Recently we have also given a CCS of 5 per cent to the yarn. It has been stated that 1-40 counts can be exported to the extent of 20 million kg, 40-60 counts another 20 m. kg. and above 60 any quantity. This is value added. Our share so far in the export of yarn has been about Rs. 35 crores only in the global trade of about 750 crores, but I hope with this liberal policy, this year we will be able to increase our exports of yarn also.

The CCI purchased 15.37 lakh bales during this year and in spite of that we have been losing at the rate of about 400 to 800 rupees per candy. Still we will continue to make the purchases. Here I would like to mention one thing which I have written to all the jute-growing States and cotton-growing States also that they must issue identity cards to the farmers. Actually when the farmers bring their produce to the *mandis* or *hats* we should know exactly who is the farmer actual and who is not. For instance, in West Bengal, sometime- we have to depend on the certificate of the panchayat and this creates problems sometimes. I would again make a request to the Chief Minister of West Bengal that it will be very helpful if all these identity cards are issued to the growers.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: Will you finance the cost?

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN:
It has been done in the past by the State Government and I am sure the Chief Minister is a reasonable person and he will do it.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: But your people don't go to them.

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN: It is not possible for the GCI or the JCI to go to every village. Number one, there is no protection. Number two, they have to carry the cash with them and it is not possible to carry huge cash because cheques are not accepted. In cotton purchases cheques are accepted, but in the jute purchases only cash is accepted. Therefore you cannot expect them to take the cash over long distances with no protection, with no security.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Have you broached this issue to the State Government that only because of that you cannot approach the growers?

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN: How can I? What for these centres are there after all? Just like cotton, just like wheat, every thing has to be brought to the centre. Some centres have been fixed for this purpose. Therefore, they have to bring it and we will buy it there.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: The Minister's statement will only encourage the JCI people not to go to the country-side. In the past they used to go. If the Minister speaks like this, they will never go and the *benamdars* will hold to ransom the entire jute market of West Bengal and Bihar.

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN: All possible efforts are being made for the promotion of jute exports. We have done a lot of publicity and we will continue to do it. We have also impressed upon the jute industry that they should diversify their products, that they should produce more carpets and more of decorative materials. We have also asked the Jute Commissioner that this winter they should organize exhibitions of jute products in the metropolitan cities so that people in the metropolitan cities would know what type of decorative materials and carpets are available. This will help increase domestic consumption of jute. Sir, these are some of the important things about which I had to say.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI (Maharashtra): Sir, there is one point to be cleared. I asked whether the cotton monopoly scheme in Maharashtra will be continued. He

has not said anything about that I am waiting for that.

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN: Sir, when the matters are under the consideration of the Cabinet, I am not supposed to disclose what is there.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Is it a fact that the Chief Minister of Maharashtra has favoured the continuation of that scheme but it is the Centre which is standing in the way?

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN: Sir, I have said that the matter is under the consideration of the Cabinet and I am not supposed to disclose that here.. ..(Interruptions) . . .

SHRI CHITTA BASU: Sir, I put the question very specifically, that one of the steps to be taken immediately is to ban import of PVC granules. The Minister said that they are thinking in terms of imposing some higher excise duty. But what stands in the way of the Government completely banning the import of PVC granules?

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN: Sir, in the first instance [I would like to say that synthetics have come to stay in this country and it is not in my hands to impose a ban on the import of PVC granules altogether.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Sir, the statement of the Minister is wholly unsatisfactory because we wanted him to say that the JCI people will be purchasing that much amount which is necessary to prevent distress sale. It is not a question of seven lakh or ten lakh bales. The meaning of support price: policy is that they will be purchasing sufficient stocks to prevent distress sale. The Minister does not give us any assurance that the JCI will purchase sufficient stocks to prevent distress sale, and this step will only help the benamidars to take advantage of the distress sale. He is helping the benamidars.

(Interruption)

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Sir, I want to know this specifically. Here it is in the newspapers that the JCI chief has stated that the JCI would buy only seven lakh bales, and the Prime Minister had stated on the floor of the other House and the Minister has stated on the floor of both the Houses, that the Centre will be buying whatever would be offered to JCI. There is a difference between the two statements. The Centre will be buying whatever would be offered to the JCI. That is one thing. And the JCI chief says that the JCI has not given any state-seven lakh bales up to November. Who runs the country—the Prime Minister or the JCI? Tell us. If it is wrong, you say that the JCI has not given any statement like that. Then you issue a denial from the Ministry of Textiles that the JCI had no business to give a statement like that.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, on a point of order.

(Interruptions)

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN: If you read my statement, in the last paragraph you will find that we have said that we stand by the commitment of the Prime Minister.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: But that is not correct. Despite all these things, the JCI chief has stated as pointed out. It was the JCI chief, not Mr. Khurshid Alam Khan. The next day, when the Prime Minister left Calcutta, it was the JCI chief who had gone to the Agriculture Minister of the State and he had stated that the Prime Minister did not say that. The Prime Minister said that the Centre would buy whatever would be offered. He also said that the JCI would buy only seven lakh bales. So, it is not a question of the Minister saying that he stands by the commitment. The Minister will not say that. The JCI will go to buy. The

Minister should come out with a statement that the JCI chief's statement was wrong.

And what about the monopoly buying, what about the monopoly purchase? Tell us.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU): Please sit down.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: The Minister is making an unsatisfactory statement.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU): The Minister has said that he would stick to the Prime Minister's statement. So, that is all right.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Let him say that the JCI's statement is not correct.

SHRI K. MOHANAN: We want to know whether the JCI chief is above our Prime Minister or not.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU): The Minister has said that the Prime Minister's statement is correct. So, I think, in view of that...

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: He has not stated about the monopoly purchase.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU): He may give a direction to the JCI chief.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: What about the monopoly purchase?

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN: No monopoly purchase.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Why not monopoly purchase? What is the difference? *(Interruptions)* You are siding with the jute magnates. You are not allowing monopoly purchase. *(Interruptions)*

श्री राम प्रबोधशर्मा सिंह : उनको बचाइये मत उनको जवाब देने को कहिए ।

THE , VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU): If he is willing, he may say. He is not willing.

S.HRI DIPEN GHOSH: We are not satisfied. We are walking out.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: We walk out.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: We walk out.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: We are not satisfied with the statement regarding cotton growers. So I also walk out.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: We also walk out.

[At this stage, some hon. Members left the Chamber]

REFERENCE TO THE FLOOD AFFECTED AREAS OF PUNJAB

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Punjab): Sir, I rise to bring to the notice of the Government, through you, the alarming situation caused by the recent floods in Punjab.

Though the monsoon is yet to set in and show its might, two days of incessant rains in the Muktsar Sub-Division of Punjab has really devastated the area which is known for the production of cotton, the white gold.

Sir, 210 mm of rain really left a very devastating effect, much of -which is still visible in its furious form there. Ten thousand houses 'were affected, 40,000 persons were

marooned in villages numbering 40, out of which 20 v.;r., in fact, marooned for a number of days. Sir, the total area of the land affected is 50,000 acres, and the estimated damage to the crops etc. is to the extent of Rs. 70 crores.

With these figures only, I would urge, through you the Central Government to make some immediate allocation for providing the necessary relief to the flood-affected areas of Punjab because the relief already provided by the State Government is not commensurate with the loss suffered by the people there, and it is in these situations that the Central Government ought to come to the rescue of the people there, particularly those whose houses have been just razed to the ground. Besides this it has affected the economy in a number of other ways, such as, damaging the roads and completely breaking the communication channel.

REFERENCE TO THE NEED TO SETTLE THE COMPENSATION CLAIMS OF VICTIMS BHOPAL GAS TRAGEDY

SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI (Madhya Pradesh): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I am beholden to you for having permitted me to raise an issue of im-mence public importance.

As you know, in December, 1984 on that faithful night the worst ever catastrophe hit Bhopal, when about 2,000 persons died and about 250,000 others were incapacitated, debilitated