

SHRI J. P. GOYAL: I withdraw it.

The Bill was, by leave, withdrawn.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES

श्री राम नरेश कुशवाहा (उत्तर प्रदेश) : महोदया, आपकी अनुमति से मैं दादर और नागर हवेली संघ राज्य क्षेत्र में अनुसूचित जातियों और अनुसूचित जनजातियों की सामाजिक-आर्थिक स्थिति के बारे में गृह मंत्रालय की समिति के 51वें प्रतिवेदन में अंग्रेजिस्ट विचारों पर सरकार द्वारा की गई ब्याख्या के संबंध में अनुसूचित जातियों और अनुसूचित जनजातियों के कल्याण संबंध समिति के प्रथम प्रतिवेदन की एक-एक प्रति (अंग्रेजी तथा हिन्दी में) सभा पटल पर रखता हूँ।

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—

The Present Sugar Policy Resulting in the Decline of Sugar Production in the country—Contd.

उपसभापति : वीरेन्द्र वर्मा जी आपका तो खत्म हो गया था ?

श्री वीरेन्द्र वर्मा : जी नहीं, मेरा थोड़ा रहता है।

उपसभापति : आप ज्यादा शर्गर डालेंगे तो कीड़े पड़ जायेंगे।

श्री वीरेन्द्र वर्मा : शर्गर भूरी नहीं पड़ी, अब डालूंगा।

उपसभापति : आप पांच मिनट बोलियेगा।

श्री वीरेन्द्र वर्मा : आदरणीया डिप्टी चेयरमैन महोदया, सन् 1980 में गन्ने का क्षेत्रफल देश का 26 लाख 67 हजार हैक्टेयर था...

राव वीरेन्द्र सिंह : यह आप कह चुके हैं पहले।

श्री वीरेन्द्र वर्मा : नहीं कहा है। निवाला दीजियेगा, नहीं है। फेक्ट्रियां 22 रुपये प्रति क्विंटल पर बंद हुईं। अगले वर्ष किसानों को जो अच्छी कीमतें मिलीं उससे किसानों ने कोशिश करके अपना क्षेत्रफल बढ़ाया और 31 लाख 936 हजार हैक्टेयर गन्ने का क्षेत्रफल हुआ; 81-82 में चीनी का उत्पादन भी, जैसा मैंने पहले बताया था कि 84 लाख 38 हजार हुआ। कैंरी आवर पिछले साल हुआ 9 लाख 94 हजार फिर भी मुझे दुख के साथ कहना पड़ता है कि दो लाख 14 हजार टन विदेश से चीनी मंगायी कैसे मखौल की बात है, देश के लिए शर्म की बात है। फिर अगले वर्ष गन्ने का क्षेत्रफल बढ़ा भी थोड़ा सा यानि 33 लाख 57 हजार हैक्टेयर हुआ और गन्ने की पैदावार भी बढ़ी एक करोड़ 86 लाख टन से ज्यादा एक करोड़ 89 लाख टन हुई। लेकिन चीनी का उत्पादन गिरकर 82 लाख 32 हजार टन हुआ। क्यों गिरा ? इससे अगले साल फिर गिरा। गन्ने का रकबा भी गिरा। गन्ने का रकबा गिरा 31 लाख 67 हजार हो गया। पिछले साल गन्ने का रकबा गिरा और वह 29 लाख 20 हजार हैक्टेयर हो गया और चीनी का उत्पादन 59 लाख पिछले वर्ष में और 61 लाख इस वर्ष में। क्यों गिरता चला गया बढ़ने के बाद ? इसका कारण गन्ने की कीमत है। 81-82, 82-83, 83-84 में, मैं उत्तर प्रदेश की मिसाल आपको दे रहा हूँ। साढ़े इक्कीस रुपये क्विंटल बेस्ट में रहा और साढ़े बीस रुपये प्रति क्विंटल पूर्वी यूपी० में रहे। क्षेत्रफल गिरा हो या बढ़ा हो, कीमत कुछ रही हो, कास्ट आफ प्रोडक्शन बढ़ा हो या घटा हो, आप अंदाजा लगाइये, कई दफा आपने मंहगाई भत्ता वर्मचारियों को दिया, इस बीच कितनी ही मंहगाई बढ़ी है। इस देश में हर चीज बातनी ऊंची कीमत पर चली गई है। लेकिन गन्ने की कीमत साढ़े इक्कीस रुपये क्विंटल रही है। मैं उत्तर प्रदेश की मिसाल इस-लिए दे रहा हूँ कि हिन्दुस्तान भर में जितना क्षेत्रफल है और गन्ना होता है उत्तर प्रदेश में 18 लाख हैक्टेयर में देश

[श्री वीरेन्द्र वर्मा]

का 58 फीसदी गन्ना पैदा होता है। तीन वर्ष तक लगातार कीमतें बढ़ी भी हैं लेकिन आपने कीमत बही रखी है। 1984-85 में गन्ने की कीमत उत्तर प्रदेश में मुकरर हुई 22 रुपये क्विंटल। केवल आठ आने की क्विंटल बढ़ाई और जब कि कीमतें कितनी ही बढ़ी हैं। तो फिर किस प्रकार आप यह आशा करते थे कि चीनी के भाव नहीं बढ़ेंगे। आपको भरोसा है चीनी विदेश से मंगाने पर। यह देश चीनी के उत्पादन में प्रथम स्थान रखता था और आपने आज ऐसी स्थिति में खड़ा कर दिया कि पिछले साल 5 लाख टन चीनी मंगानी पड़ी विदेश से और अब 10 लाख टन चीनी मंगाई है। (समय की घटी) मैं खत्म कर रहा हूँ। हम 5 हजार 895 करोड़ रुपये घाटे में हैं। जितना हम निर्यात करते हैं, जितना हम आयात करते हैं उसमें 5 हजार 895 करोड़ रुपये घाटे में है। इतना बड़ा घाटा होते हुए हम विदेश से चीनी मंगाते हैं। चीनी के मामले में गेहूँ के मामले में, चावल के मामले में हिन्दुस्तान एक्सपोर्ट कर सकता है, निर्यात कर सकता है और विदेशी मुद्रा कमा सकता है। लेकिन यह हमारा दुर्भाग्य है कि हम गेहूँ भी बाहर से मंगा रहे हैं हम चीनी भी बाहर से मंगा रहे हैं और ये चीजें तब मंगा रहे हैं जब हमारी देश में पैदावार अच्छी हुई है। दूसरी बात मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि जब हमारे देश में सबसे ज्यादा चीनी पैदा हुई तब देश में फैक्ट्रियों की संख्या 319 थी। अगले साल चीनी का उत्पादन घट गया तो शूगर फैक्ट्रियों की संख्या 320 हो गई उसके अगले साल चीनी का-उत्पदन 59 लाख टन हुआ तो फैक्ट्रियों की संख्या 325 हो गई है। इसी प्रकार से 1984-85 में शूगर फैक्ट्रियों की संख्या 339 हो गई और चीनी पैदा हुई सिर्फ 61 लाख टन। अभी तीन चार रोज पहले मैंने प्रश्न किया तो उत्तर दिया गया कि 107 फैक्ट्रियां नई लगाई गई हैं और कुछ फैक्ट्रियों का एक्सपेंशन किया गया है। फैक्ट्रियों का एक्सपेंशन भी हुआ और नई फैक्ट्रियां भी लगीं, लेकिन चीनी का उत्पादन गिरा है। इससे गलत और दोष-

पूर्ण नीति और क्या हो सकती है? माननीया, आपको मालूम है कि जिन 38 फैक्ट्रियों का एक्सपेंशन हुआ उनमें 1,62,363 मीट्रिक टन चीनी पर 26 रु० क्विंटल एक्ससाइड ड्यूटी की छूट दी। चीनी का उत्पादन इस वर्ष 61 लाख टन हुआ। उसका दो तिहाई 40 लाख टन हो जाता है। आपने 1 अप्रैल, 1985 से 400 रु० टन यानी 40 रु० बोरी की कीमत बढ़ा दी है। इससे आप जान सकते हैं कि कंज्यूमर को कितना रुपया देना पड़ा है। उसको देना पड़ा है एक अरब साठ करोड़ रुपये। आपने ये एक अरब साठ करोड़ रुपये कंज्यूमर से लेकर मिल-मालिकों की जेब में डाल दिये हैं। एक किलो पर केवल 40 पैसे बढ़ाने से यह हिसाब बनता है। एक्सपेंशन के लिए आपने कितना रुपया दिया है? आपने 37 करोड़ रुपयों की छूट दी है। एक बात मैं आपसे और निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ जिसको मैं आज तक नहीं समझ सका हूँ। आपने ट्राय मूल्य आयोग, एग्रीकल्चरल प्राइसेज कमीशन, बनाया है। वह कमीशन कीमत मुकरर करता है और उसने सिफारिश की कि साढ़े 15 रु० क्विंटल की कीमत दी जाय, लेकिन आप स्टेट्यूटरी प्राइस 13 रु० रखते हैं।

राव वीरेन्द्र सिंह 14 रु० है।

श्री वीरेन्द्र वर्मा : जी हां, मैं जानता हूँ। तीन वर्ष पहले 1981-82, 1982-83 और 1980-81 में स्टेट्यूटरी प्राइस 13 रु० रखा गई है। मैं आपसे पूछना चाहता हूँ कि जब एग्रीकल्चरल कमीशन प्राइसेज ने सुझाव दिया था कि यह साढ़े 15 रु० होना चाहिये तो आपने उसकी सिफारिश को नहीं माना। जब आप उसकी सिफारिशों को नहीं मानते हैं तो उसको आप बाइन्ड अप कर दीजिये बन्द कर दीजिये।

उपसभापति : अब आप बैठ जाइये। आप ही लोग बाद में कहते हैं कि 7 बजे

के बाद हम नहीं बैठेंगे। मैं अब श्री सत्यपाल मलिक को बुलाता हूँ।

श्री वीरेन्द्र वर्मा : माननीया, मैं कह रहा था कि तीन साल तक लगातार 13 ६० क्वींटल स्टेयूटरी प्राइस लागू रही। एज अग्रेस्ट 15.50 रुपये और तीसरे साल में 1983-84 में ए०पी०सी० ने 16 रुपये प्रति क्विंटल की सिफारिश की। अब आप बताते हैं कि आपने 14 रुपये किया है। लेकिन जब उसकी सिफारिश 16 ६० थी तो आप इसका बेसिस बना दीजिये कि किस बेसिस पर, अगर कास्ट आफ प्रोडक्शन के बेसिस पर बन या है तो मुझे कोई शिकायत नहीं है। आप बता दीजिए, समझा दीजिये कि किस बेसिस पर आपने इसको निकाला है। इसी तरह से किसानों के लिये लगातार ऐसी ही कीमत रही है।

उपसभापति : अब आप समाप्त कीजिये।

श्री वीरेन्द्र वर्मा : महोदया, खत्म कर रहा हूँ।

उपसभापति : और लोगों को भी बोलना है। अब आप समाप्त करें।

श्री वीरेन्द्र वर्मा : एक बात कहकर महोदया, मैं आपसे मिला भी था। आपसे प्रार्थना करने के बाद भी आपने मुझे...

राव वीरेन्द्र सिंह : तभी तो दुबारा बोल रहे हैं।

श्री वीरेन्द्र वर्मा : मेरा भाषण बीच में डिस्टर्ब हो गया, बीच में कट गया। अब शुगर फैक्ट्रियों की बात कहकर मैं समाप्त करता हूँ। भारत सरकार ने आठ शुगर फैक्ट्रियों का 1978-79 में अधिग्रहण किया था, टेक्नोवर किया था। क्या स्थिति है मान्यवर उन आठ शुगर फैक्ट्रियों की? 35 करोड़ रुपये उन आठ शुगर फैक्ट्रियों पर भारत सरकार का है, आई० एफ०सी० का लोन है और आप जो दूसरे बैंक है उनका लोन है और वे आपको एक वीशन भी जमा नहीं कर सके। उनकी रिकवरी अगर मैं आपको बताऊँ...

उपसभापति : आप उन्हें लिखकर दे दीजिये।

श्री वीरेन्द्र वर्मा : लिखकर मैं दूंगा लेकिन...

उपसभापति : और लोगों को भी बोलना है।

श्री वीरेन्द्र वर्मा : मैंने तीन मिनट का समय मांगा था। एक मिनट हो गया। अब मैं दो मिनट में अपनी बात खत्म कर दूंगा।

मान्यवर, मैं आपको यह बताना चाहता हूँ कि हिन्दुस्तान में 10 फीसदी की रिकवरी शुगर फैक्ट्रियों की है। लेकिन जो शुगर फैक्ट्रियां टेक्नोवर की गई हैं उन शुगर फैक्ट्रियों की रिकवरी गिरी है। मेरे पास चार्ट है जो पालियामेंट में जवाब दिये गये हैं उनके आधार पर है कि कोई शुगर फैक्ट्री, दो को छोड़कर, ऐसी नहीं जिसकी रिकवरी बेहतर हुई हो, जो नुकसान में न गई हो। अभी तक उनका आडिट नहीं हुआ है। 1978-79 और 1980-81 के बाद किसी फैक्ट्री का आडिट नहीं हो सके। कस्टोडियंस के ऊपर सी०बी० आई० इन्क्वायरी चल रही है। कस्टोडियन जनरल के लिये प्रति फैक्ट्री 25 हजार रुपये मांगा जाता है। आपके यहां शुगर डायरेक्टोरेट और फूड विभाग में दो दो विभाग खुले हैं। इन पर केवल खर्चा होता है, नुकसान ही नुकसान है। आप इसको संभाल न सके, आप इसको बेहतर नहीं कर सके। मुझे दुख है अफसोस है कि मैं अपनी सारी बात आपके सामने नहीं कह सका। नहीं तो मेरे पास इस मामले में बहुत कुछ कहने का था और आपको सुनना था।

उपसभापति : आप लिखकर भेज दीजिये वे पढ़ लेंगे।

श्री वीरेन्द्र वर्मा : जो यहां भाषण सुनने हैं, किताब पढ़ते हैं, उनसे क्यों नहीं कहती कि वे ये बातें मिनिस्टर साहब को लिखकर दे दे, जो केवल किताब पढ़ते हैं।

उपसभापति : इसका मतलब यह नहीं है कि आप और ज्यादा बोलें।

श्री सत्यपाल मलिक (उत्तर प्रदेश) : महोदया, गन्ने के उत्पादन में जो कमी हुई है दाम के मिलसिले में वर्मा जी ने बहुत कह दिया है और वर्मा जी की जो भावनायें हैं वे बहुत दूर तक सही हैं किसानों की दृष्टि से। लेकिन जितना मैंने माननीय मंत्री जी के भाषण की, लोकसभा में जब इस पर बहस हुई, उसको पढ़ा और यहां जो उन्होंने अपना बयान पढ़ा है, उससे मैं इस नतीजे पर पहुंचा हूं कि यह समस्या इतनी आसान नहीं है जितना कि हम समझ रहे हैं। सिर्फ मंत्रालय या सरकार की आलोचना भर से काम नहीं चल सकता। यह मामला बड़ा कम्प्लेकेटेड है। जब मैं यह कहता हूं तो मैं यह भी जनता हूं कि जिस वक्त जनता सरकार थी उस वक्त बहुत बढ़ा सकट आया था।

राव वीरेन्द्र सिंह : वर्मा जी कहां थे तब ?

श्री वीरेन्द्र वर्मा : आपके साथ उधर ही था। ... (व्यवधान) ...

श्री सत्यपाल मलिक : मैं जो लोग गैर हाजिर हैं उनका नाम नहीं लूंगा। लेकिन उस आदमी का नाम अवश्य लूंगा जो बड़ी नेकनीयती से इस समस्या का हल करना चाहता था। श्री भानु प्रताप सिंह जी उस समय कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री थे, वे इन मामलों के विद्वान हैं यह वर्मा जी भी जानते होंगे। मैंने उनसे लम्बी बातचीत की थी। उन्होंने इतनी मजबूरी जाहिर की थी और कहा था कि मेरी समझ में नहीं आता कि यह फिनोमिना क्या है कि 2 रुपए या 6 रुपए क्विंटल पर गन्ना विक रहा है। उन्होंने बड़ी नेकनीयती से कोशिश की कि इस बारे में कुछ करना चाहिए। लेकिन उनके रहते हुए जो दुर्गति गन्ने की हुई इतनी हिन्दुस्तान के इतिहास में कभी नहीं हुई। यह जो मामला है इसमें बहुत चीजें जुड़ी हुई हैं। मैं उस बात को छोड़ता हूं लेकिन यह बड़ी दुर्भाग्यपूर्ण बात है कि हमारे यहां गन्ने का उत्पादन और चीनी का उत्पादन गिरा है। गन्ने की क्रास्ट में भी कमी आई है और पर हैक्टयर

पील्ड में कमी आई है। रिकवरी में कमी आई है। इन सारे फेक्टर्स को सरकार को ठीक करना चाहिए। दुनिया में जो चीनी का मामला है उसमें यह परम्परा अभी तक रही है कि जब सारी दुनिया में चीनी का उत्पादन बढ़ता है तो करीब करीब एक साथ बढ़ता है और जब कमी आती है तो लगभग सभी जगह कमी आती है। लेकिन इस बार दुनिया के बाजारों में चीनी की बहुतायत है और हमारे यहां इसकी कमी आ गई है। यह बड़ा स्ट्रेंज फेनोमिना है और इसको देखना चाहिए। आज गलती कहा है, इसके लिए मैं मंत्री जी से कहना चाहूंगा कि मेरे पास वर्ल्ड बैंक की रिपोर्ट 1978 की है सन् 1978 में वर्ल्ड बैंक स्टडी करता है कि 1985 तक चीनी का माकिट क्या होगा; कहां उत्पादन बढ़ेगा, कहां कम होगा, कहां खपत बढ़ेगी, किस को इम्पोर्ट की जरूरत होगी और किस के यहां से एक्सपोर्ट होगा। हम फायर फाइटिंग करते हैं। हमारे यहां जब कमी होती है तब हम भागते हैं चीनी चाहिए, चीनी लेने के लिए चलते हैं, चीनी आने में देर हो जाती है फिर एक 0 सी 0 आई 0 को उतारने में बंटवारे में देर लगती है। इस बीच यहां का जो वेईमान ट्रेडर है उसको खुल कर खेलने का मौका मिलता है। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से कहना चाहूंगा कि चीनी के बारे में दूरगामी दृष्टि हो जो दुनिया भर के आंकड़े उपलब्ध रहते हैं आज से 10 साल बाद तक की योजना बना कर आपको मंत्रालय को चलना चाहिए तभी इसमें सुधार हो सकता है। अब किसानों के दाम का मामला है। उस पर कोई बहस नहीं है सारे लोग सहमत हैं कि उनको वाजिव दाम मिलना चाहिए। चीनी मिलों की मशीनरी में सुधार की आवश्यकता है सभी इस बात से सहमत हैं मैं भी उसको दोहराना चाहूंगा। जो बकाया रहता है वह भी मामला है लेकिन इस सब के चलते हुए ऐसी भयानक चीजें हो रही हैं प्रशासन के स्तर पर और माननीय मंत्री जी की यहां कई बार बेचारगी हो जाती है। उत्तर प्रदेश के 26 मिलों में, हरियाणा के 7 जिलों में, राजस्थान के कई जिलों

में, बिहार के कई जिलों में पिछले एक साल में पाइरेला नाम की एक बीमारी गन्ने में लगी हुई है जिससे रिकवरी कम हो जाएगी फसल पूरी तरह से बरबाद होगी, पूरी तरह से उसकी जानकारी मंत्रालय को दे दी गई है हमने यह कर दिया, वो कर दिया, इसके लिए चार किस्म की दवाइयाँ जो स्टैंडर्ड दवाइयाँ हैं इनको वार फुटिंग पर देना चाहिए लेकिन वह नहीं हुआ इसलिए कुल मिला कर के सारी फसल बरबाद हो रही है और सरकार के पास तमाम तरह की जानकारियाँ आ रही हैं। किसानों को गन्ने का बेहतर दाम मिले इसके लिए आप पहले से जानकारी करें कि कितनी चीनी की जरूरत है, गन्ने का रकबा कितना है और कितना होना चाहिए, किसान को आप कहे कि इतना दाम हम गन्ने का देंगे। मिलों का बढ़िया संचालन करें और वकाया की अदायगी करें तभी आप राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर इस मामले से निपट सकते हैं। आपकी इस संबंध में लॉग टर्म पालिसी होनी चाहिए, खेत से ले कर उत्पादन तक और वितरण तक की योजना होनी चाहिए। यह जो आज संकट है इसमें एक और विचित्र बात है। हमारे यहां क्या होता है। चीनी का जब दाम गिर जाता है तो अगले साल उत्पादन कम हो जाता है इसको भी हम को रेगुलेट करना चाहिए। गुड़ और खांडसारी के ट्रेड्स को फिर से रेगुलेट करना चाहिए। हमारे यहां हिन्दुस्तान में जो बाजार की शक्तियाँ हैं उन के ऊपर सरकार का कोई अंकुश नहीं है यहां का ट्रेडर दुनिया का सबसे धूर्त और चालाक वर्ग है किसी को ऐज ए क्लास गारंटी नहीं देना चाहता हूँ मेरा तजुर्बा जो यहां के ट्रेडर का है वह यह है कि हर सिचुएशन का फायदा उठाने के लिए तैयार रहता है। सरकार की चीनी आयात करने की जो नीति है उसका पूरी तरह से समर्थन करता हूँ बहुत सही और वक्त पर सही काम किया गया है लेकिन उसके आने में थोड़ी देर हुई पोर्ट पर उतारने में देर हुई उसके बाद एफ० सी० आई० जैसी संस्था जिसमें कि आज बहुत सुधार की आवश्यकता है बिल्कुल निष्कामी संस्था हो गई है और

हजारों करोड़ों की सबसिडी हर साल खत्म हो रही है इसके चलते एफ० सी० आई० को जो एक दम वितरण करना चाहिए वह उसने नहीं किया। वल्कि लोकसभा में गलत-बयानी हो गई कि इस मामले में राज्य सरकारों से कहा गया उन्होंने अपने हिस्से की चीनी नहीं उठाई। मेरे पास उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार का यह कागज है, जिसमें उन्होंने स्पष्ट कहा है कि हमारे बारे में बिल्कुल गलत जानकारी दी गई है। उन्होंने कहा है कि हमने वक्त पर पैसा जमा कर दिया। चीनी उठवाने में एफ० सी० आई० ने देर की। वल्कि एफ० सी० आई० के यहां से हमारे ट्रक खाली आए क्योंकि एफ० सी० आई० के कर्मचारी प्रिमियम मांगने थे। हमारा यह जो ढांचा है और सरकारी तंत्र है इसको चुस्त करने की जरूरत है। इसके बाद हमारा वितरण का ढांचा है। आपने नीलामी की मैं उससे सहमत हूँ। इसके अलवा आपके पास कोई चारा नहीं था। आपने खुद लोकसभा में माना है जिसको आपने नीलामी की है उस पर आपका कोई अंकुश नहीं है। आपने खुद कबूल किया है कि वह आगे ब्रेवेगा या नहीं ब्रेवेगा और अगर बेचेगा तो किस दाम पर ब्रेवेगा, वह होना करेगा या नहीं करेगा इसके ऊपर आपका कोई काबू नहीं है। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहूंगा कि इसके ऊपर काबू करने के लिए आप क्या कर रहे हैं? अगर यह नहीं होता है तो फिर वर्मा जी से सहमत हूँ कि इसको लेवी चीनी की तरह से बांटना चाहिए, व्यापारी को यह ताकत नहीं देनी चाहिए कि सस्ती चीनी ले कर जखीरे बाजी करे, इसकी तरफ सरकार का ध्यान दिवाना चाहता हूँ।

यह आखिर में मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ, मंत्री जी से कि इस देश का जो गन्ना उत्पादक सेठ है, यह बहुत बदमाशी पिछले एक महीने से कर रहा है। विज्ञापन तक अखबारों में दे रहा है, इस चीनी के बारे में। गलत प्रचार करने का यह छूट नहीं होनी चाहिये। लोक तन्त्र का मतलब यह नहीं होता कि जन-विरोधी और जो जनता के हितों के विरुद्ध काम है, उस काम को

[श्री सत्यपाल मलिक]

करने का ठूट हा। तो उसका ऊपर सख्त कार्यवाही होना चाहिये।

आखिर मैं माननाय मंत्री जा से—उनका मैं सारा मजदूरिया का जानता हूँ और वे बहुत दूर तक सहमत हैं कि यह कोई बहुत आसान मामला नहीं है कि इसमें किसी को दोष दे दिया जाये। यह बहुत कम्प्लेक्स मामला है। मैं माननाय मंत्री जा से कहना चाहता हूँ कि जो हमना महंगा विदेशी-मुद्रा देकर सस्ती चीनी आयात को है, वह जनता तक सही वस्तु पर और सही जगह पर पहुंचे, इसका लिये सख्त से सख्त कार्यवाही करने के लिये आपने क्या कदम उठाये हैं और एक व्यापक नीति तैयार करने के लिये क्या सरकार कुछ सोच रही है? बहुत-बहुत ब्यथावाद!

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Rajasthan): Madam Deputy Chairman, I would be very brief and there are reasons why I would like to be brief.

Madam, I am muddled by the sugar muddle. I know very little about it.

मेरे जिले में गन्ने के खेत नहीं होते और जब हमारे यहां के लोग गन्ने के खेत देखते हैं, तो अचम्भा करते हैं कि ऐसे भी खेत हुआ करते हैं।

But I am concerned because of the muddle that is taking place. I am also muddled by the act that the Ministry of agriculture and the Ministry of Food and Civil Supplies are needlessly separated. The honourable Minister was performing an admirable function and I really cannot understand why the two have been separated now when they are an integrated ministry and ought really to be functioning as one.

Madam, I really want to ask for three clarifications. One has to admit, Madam, that there has been some supply-side mismanagement of the imported sugar because had that supply-side mismanagement not taken place, perhaps, despite many multiples of the amount of sugar ever imported by the country, it being

in the country, sugar prices would not have gone up. But prices are going up and, therefore, I cannot even attempt to reconcile these two contradictory factors. This is further complicated by the situation that in the world markets today, Madam, sugar price is the lowest ever and, translated into Indian terms, I am given to understand that it is something like 75 paise a kilo in the world market. In the world markets, sugar is being sold at four cents a pound and, translated into Indian terms, it comes to around 75 paise per kilo. In the world markets this is the price and we have more imported sugar than we have ever earlier had and yet, Madam, prices are going up. I am muddled by this situation. Perhaps the Minister will explain in simple terms as to why this is taking place so that one of my domestic difficulties is obviated.

Secondly, Madam, I am given to understand that a great deal of lobbying taken place among Members of Parliament and I am subjected to a lot of documents by the Indian Sugar Mills' Association, etc. They put their documents into the post and they come to me and I read such documents as I am able to read. The Indian Sugar Mills' Association contends—I do not know how far their contention is tenable—that out of the 35 per cent which is available just now for free sale, if that 35 per cent is increased to 50 per cent, then the sugar prices will fall, the consumers' interests will be protected and the cane growers' interests will also be protected. I do not think that it is as simple as that. Perhaps the honourable Minister will attempt to explain where the switch is or where the button is by pressing which we can start untangling this muddle of sugar.

Just one final word, Madam. Having said all this, propriety and decency demand that I should be present in the House when the honourable Minister replies. I had not calculated that this debate was going to be transferred to 5.30 P. M. today and,

therefore, I ask in advance for pardon by the honourable Minister because I will not be here to listen to his reply and this is not an intentional discourtesy on my part. Thank you. Madam.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes. Mr. Upendra.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA (Andhra Pradesh): Madam Deputy Chairman, by the time my turn comes, the sugar melts into syrup.

Madam, this sugar business has really become bitter. The sugar industry is supposed to be the largest industry in the country. There are about 350 lakhs farmers involved in sugarcane production. Seven to eight per cent of the cultivated area accounts for sugarcane. But today if you see the condition of this industry, it is very deplorable. During the last two years, particularly, India has turned from a net exporter of sugar to a net importer. In 1975 and 1976 we exported sugar worth Rs. 800 crores, and this year we imported nearly 5 lakh tonnes, using about Rs. 200 crores of foreign exchange. Even the export quota we could not fulfil. We are supposed to export 6.5 lakh tonnes but we could export only 2.84 lakh tonnes. And if you see the condition of mills, 70 out of 339 mills are sick today, and the production, as Mr. Verma has pointed out, has come down from 84.38 lakh tonnes in 1981-82 to 59.16 lakh tonnes in 1983-84. The sugar industry lost about Rs. 800 crores during the last three years. There are sugar mills which owe heavy arrears to the cane growers. Crores of rupees are due to the cane-growers. This is the condition of the sugar industry today.

Madam, there are many reasons for this state of affairs. The first reason, as I could see, is, particularly during the last two or three years the sugar mills have not been getting enough sugarcane because of the lopsided policies of the Central Government in

fixing the statutory minimum price for sugarcane. As a result much of the sugarcane produced is diverted to 'gur' and 'khandsari' industries and the mills are not getting what they should. Besides, the area under sugarcane cultivation is also going down each year....

SHRI KALPNATH RAI (Uttar Pradesh): It is going much, much down.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: ... because the statutory prices fixed by the Central Government is only Rs. 140 per tonne, which is very, very, very unremunerative. Even the Indian Sugar Mills' Association has suggested a minimum of Rs. 180 per tonne. States like Andhra Pradesh are paying nearly Rs. 80 extra, over and above the Central Government rates. We are paying Rs. 80 extra to make it Rs. 220. But still the mills are not getting enough sugarcane.

The second reason is the cost of production in the sugar mills is going up due to the poor state of the sugar conversion machinery. The machinery is very much out-dated in the sugar mills. Seventy out of 339 mills are sick, as I said earlier. Thirtysix per cent of the factories are more than 40 years old. That is another reason why the mills are not viable. Thirdly, though in the present conditions when the existing mills are not getting enough sugarcane we cannot have new mills, as against the licensing capacity of 87.9 lakh tonnes with 339 factories, the installed capacity is only 69 lakh tonnes. Only 20 factories have been started last year as against 60 factories for which licences and Letters of Intent were issued. In addition, 49 existing units were supposed to expand their capacity but that also they could not do. This is the actual state of affairs of the sugar industry.

I would like to pose some questions to the hon. Minister to clarify in

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this House. One, what exactly is the sugar policy of the Government of India? Is there any policy, or you take ad hoc decisions every year? Two, what steps are you taking to ensure remunerative prices for the farmers, without which you can never solve this problem? Three, what are you going to do with the sick mills, 70 sick mills? Four, what steps are you taking to restructure the sugar industry, to modernise the machinery, etc.

Fifthly, the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices has already given its recommendation regarding the fixation of levy sugar price. Of course, that was overdue last year. It was extended for one more year. When are you going to take a decision on the Bureau's report?

Sixthly, when will the new factories already licensed start functioning and what guarantee will you give them for supply of sugarcane at a time when you are not able to ensure adequate sugarcane supply even for the existing factories?

Seventhly, there is a Sugar Development Fund created out of the cess on sugar produced. Upto February 1985, this fund has totalled to 206 crores of rupees. Is there any proposal to use this amount to help the sick units and to modernise the obsolete factories?

Lastly, will the Government adopt a firm realistic and binding policy for cane, inducing the cultivators to maximise cane supplies to the sugar factories?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Listening to the debate on sugar, the flies have entered the Chamber.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASAMY (Karnataka): A wide ground has been covered in this debate. I would not like to repeat the same things which have been said by my colleagues here. I raise a few points and I want my hon. friend to reply to me.

Firstly, the capital investment in sugar industry has increased tremendously of late. My understanding is that there are only 3 main manufacturing units which supply machinery for new sugar factories and that there is no appreciable increase in the capacity of such units till now. Therefore, these units have monopolised the manufacture of the entire plant and machinery. In the last few years, they seem to be dictating terms to the people who want to start sugar factories. I would like the hon. Minister to enlighten me what the escalation in prices of plant and machinery has been over the last 10 years. That will give us a picture of the rate of increase in the prices of the machinery and the cost of the factories. I raise this question because there has been a tremendous increase in capital investment. Therefore, the cost of setting up a factory is high and the cost of production will also be high naturally. That will have an effect and impact on the price of sugar produced.

Secondly, the type of technology that they have been using for long has not been improved significantly. May be there have been little improvements here and there, but I am told that the technology which was there a decade ago is the same which is prevalent today. That also increases the cost of production.

Thirdly, there has been a reckless licensing of sugar capacity. No adequate steps have been taken to see that licences are issued only to those areas which have sugarcane or where sugarcane availability is assured. For instance, licences have been liberally issued to co-operatives. And even new co-operatives have been given a lot of licences, but many cooperative sugar factories have failed because there seems to be a competition among the cooperative units to start such units in various areas without realising that the availability of cane is not there. The result is that many co-operative sugar factories have failed in several States. So, I would like to know whether the Government has applied its mind to this co-operative

factory sector, whether any rational approach is being evolved while issuing the licences. I feel the biggest factor or failure is the irrational licensing policy that has been pursued by the Government in the past, as a result of which we have been witnessing a lot of failures not only in the co-operative sector but also in the private sector. Madam, it is said that the availability of sugarcane has been dwindling and that is why the factories are not working to full capacity, and so, the production of sugar is less. That is true. I said that there is a wrong planning towards sugar production. Apart from that, there is diminishing of sugarcane availability for two reasons: one is the prices that are given to the sugarcane growers are less and less compared to the cost involved. I do not know whether even now the cost factor is being taken into consideration seriously while fixing the sugarcane price. The prices of input the sugarcane price. The prices sugarcane growers have got to wait for long, nearly 12 to 13 months, to supply the sugarcane to the factories. This is a long period. Within this period, they can have at least two if not three crops. They have to wait for that period. Further, at the level of transport there are lot of handicaps and harassments which have not been removed by the Government. In the co-operative sector, for instance, I know that even the drivers of trucks have got to be bribed to carry the sugarcane from the fields to the factories. And the approach of the sugar factories or the co-operative sugar factories is that a few trucks are provided for transporting, and they are also not available as a result of which they have even to bribe the drivers to carry the sugarcane to the factory. After carrying it to the factory, they have to wait for a long time for weighing the sugarcane. And the net result is that the weight will also decrease because if the sugarcane is not weighed quickly, it will become dry during that period. So, as a result of this and other harassments, the farmers are discouraged from giving the sugarcane to the factories,

particularly to the co-operative sugar factories. Therefore, they diversify, and they divert their sugarcane to khandsari and to manufacture of jaggery. In this context, I want to know whether the Central Government or the State Governments have got any policy towards khandsari units. Khandsari units are great competitors to sugar factories. And they are small units and they pay higher price for the sugarcane when the sugarcane is not available in plenty and the money is paid quickly also. Therefore, they divert their sugarcane to khandsari units. But the khandsari units are being licensed by the State Governments in large numbers without caring for the availability of sugarcane for the sugar factories. Therefore, I would like to know whether there is any policy by the State Governments, or the Central Government in consultation with the State Governments, in licensing khandsari units because, as I said, the khandsari units are the biggest competitors to sugar factories and sugar mills. This fact has not been taken into consideration in the past.

Next, Madam, there has been a considerable drift and ineffectiveness in the matter of distribution. It is visible all along the line. It is not a new phenomena. The distributive system has been very weak, ineffectual and a source of corruption. As a result of the maldistribution of sugar the escalation of prices of sugarcane is taking place in various parts of the country. The distributive system has not been streamlined. The machinery has not been strengthened. (Time bell rings) Lastly, Madam, I want to say a word about the dual price policy. It has been there for some time in the last few years. I am not sure whether this is a rational policy. It was conceived as a shortterm policy but it is being continued from year to

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year. And, I would like to know whether any review has been done in regard to this policy. I feel that this dual price policy is also responsible for the malfunctioning of the sugar distribution and for the distortion of sugar prices. There are also profiteers, smugglers and blackmarketeers in the sugar trade. No action is being taken by the Government against them. So, Madam, I would like the long-term policy to be formulated by the Government and not this short-term policy which is not good at all. We should have a policy keeping in view the various factors such as the cost of production of sugarcane, the price of inputs, the transport charges, the cost of investment by mill owners etc. All these factors have got to be taken into consideration and a comprehensive policy has got to be evolved. Otherwise, we will be drifting and we will be forced now and then to import sugar against a heavy foreign exchange bill and we will be in trouble. Therefore, I would like the hon. Minister to assure the House whether he is going to evolve a new policy keeping in view the interests of the producers, the consumers and the sugarcane growers.

SHRI MOSTAFA BIN QUASEM (West Bengal): Madam Deputy Chairman. I endorse what the hon. Member, Shri Upendra, said, namely, that the taste of sugar continues to be bitter for the last three or four months, so far as the common people of this country are concerned. There has been an abnormal rise in the price of sugar throughout the country. Now, much has been already discussed and I do not want to make any repetition. But I would like to highlight two vital aspects for the Minister to solve the sugar problem that our country is facing. Now, in the statement furnished by the hon. Minister, he has stated that there is some sort of a crisis due to a decline in the production of sugar in the country.

I would like to mention that this decline in production of sugarcane may, to a large extent be attributed to the decline in the production of sugarcane itself in the country.

What are the basic reasons for decline in the production of sugarcane in our country? I would like to mention two important reasons behind this phenomenon. One is, the sugarcane growers of our country are not getting, it has been already pointed out by many an hon. Member, remunerative price for their produce. Uptil now, the Government has not been able to ensure remunerative price for the sugarcane produced by the growers of sugarcane. Secondly, one distressing phenomenon is that the growers do not get on time from the mills the price at which they are forced to sell their sugarcane to the mills. There is inordinate delay in payment of their dues by the owners of the sugar mills. These are two disincentives which are operating. So far as producers of sugarcane growers in our country are concerned, because of these two disincentive effects, what actually happens is, not all, but some of the growers of sugarcane who would produce sugarcane, have developed a tendency to shift to production of some other product. This is one thing and also because of inordinate delay in the payment, and because of lack of remunerative prices, the tendency is to make diversion of sugarcane to gur and khandsari units. Because of these, there has been a decrease in the production of sugarcane in our country which, to a large extent, is contributing to less production of sugar in the country. So, to strike at these two things, I would urge upon the Government to ensure a remunerative price. I would like to mention, not to talk of remunerative price, even the statutory minimum price fixed by the Government is kept at a very, very

low level. So, you should ensure a remunerative price for the sugarcane throughout the country.

Lastly, I would like to say—it is my information from certain quarters—that there is pressure on the Government from the owners of sugar mills, to introduce a legislation putting a ban on diversion of sugarcane to gur and khandsari units. I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether this information is correct or not, whether there is actually any pressure on the Government and whether you are going to succumb to that pressure. If the answer is in the affirmative, that you are contemplating a legislation putting a ban on diversion of sugarcane to gur and khandsari, without ensuring a remunerative price to the growers, I would like to say that you will be playing a partner of the sugar mill owners in exploiting the farmers or the growers of sugarcane in a considerably big way. With these words, I conclude.

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAV RAO JAHDVA (Maharashtra):
Madam, as per labour statistics of 1982, the estimated average daily number of workers engaged in sugar industry in the country is 1,70,000 and the number of those concerned with gur and khandsari and other fields is about 1,03,000. That means, total number of 2,73,000 workers are engaged in the sugar industry in this country. The other thing is that, if you take into account the farmers, farm labourers, people engaged in transport and so on, the total population dependent on sugar industry including the farmers and workers would come to about 18 to 20 million.

Madam, just now, Mr. Gurupadaswamy has criticised the co-operative sugar factories. In this connection, I would like to point out that on the 14th August, a news item appeared in the 'Economic Times' to the effect that private sugar mill-owners want to transfer their sugar factories to

the co-operative sector. There may be two reasons for this. One is that, they may not be earning profits out of these sugar mills. The other thing may be the farmers are not very happy with them. Therefore, these big houses like Walchand, Somayyas and others are willing to transfer their sugar factories to the co-operative sector. I think, Mr. Gurupadaswamy does not care for the concept of co-operative movement. In the case of the co-operative sector, mills are run by the farmers. The farmers are the owners of the mills. Unless the producer is also the owner, he will not be able to get a good price. Compared to other commodities, even though Government is not giving a good price for sugarcane, the co-operative sugar factories have been successful in giving a good price, comparatively good price, I should say, to the farmers. After the Government declared a price of Rs. 14.50 per quintal of cane, in Maharashtra, they have given more than Rs. 190 per tonne. The State Government also has taken some share. That is why, some of the co-operative sugar factories have become loan free and they are able to make profits. Then, this is distributed among the farmers. Madam, out of 80 sugar factories in Maharashtra, 61 are in the co-operative sector. Co-operative sugar factories are not allowed to expand. Out of 339 sugar factories in the country, 166 are in the co-operative sector. This means, 104 sugar factories are in the co-operative sector in other parts of the country.

Madam, as I said earlier, the private sugar millowners want to transfer their factories to the co-operative sector. This is because they are convinced that the present policy in regard to sugar is not in their favour, because they want to make more profits. That is why, in case they go into losses, they can escape by transferring them to the co-operative sector. This is one of the reasons. The other thing is that, they are not able to lift the cane from the farmers in time

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and there have been a lot of complaints from the farmers. In fact, the farmers have been demanding that the mill-owners should sell their factories to them so that they can run them in the co-operative sector. These may be the two reasons. This is a matter for investigation.

Madam, another very important thing is that 28 lakh hectares produce 62 lakh tonnes of sugar. This means, the yield of sugar per hectare is 2.2 tonnes. This means, sugarcane yield comes to nine quintal per acre. This is as per statistics. Madam, this is the lowest yield in the world. Even in Maharashtra, we find that we will get an yield of 100 tonnes per hectare. In Jawa, Sumatra, Hawai etc, they are getting 250 to 300 tonnes per hectare. This is the lowest. We should find out, what is the reason for this. There are two ways of sugar cultivation, one in Northern India and the other in Southern India. As you know, Madam, Coimbatore is having a sugarcane research station. There are only a few spots in the world where such research stations are there. In these research stations, they carry out hybridisation work. They conduct plant breeding experiments to evolve new varieties. Madam, in Coimbatore, they have been able to evolve some new varieties, they have tested these varieties in other parts of the country and these varieties have been recommended for cultivation. We should set up such sugarcane research stations in various parts of the country where we can take up plant breeding work. This is very important for the evolution of new varieties. Unless plant breeding work is taken up, we will not be able to produce new varieties which have short duration, high recovery of sugar and more tonnage as well. So, that is a matter for investigation.

Now what is the position of wheat? Northern India is the highest in respect of yield and also in the support prices, but the price of wheat fixed

by the Government is same for the Northern India as well as for the Southern India. It is the same price even in Maharashtra where the average yield of wheat is much more less. But there is a disparity in respect of sugarcane when the prices are fixed. I do not want to say that farmers should not be based on less recovery must be some uniform policy. It should not be based on less recovery of yield or more recovery of yield. In one crop you are giving more price and for another crop you are giving less. This is not justified and this requires a change in the policy.

Now I come to another point. What is the cost of cultivation of sugarcane? The cost of sugarcane which has been calculated by all universities comes to Rs. 32 per quintal. We have given Rs. 22 per quintal in Northern India, that means there is a deficit of Rs. 10. In Southern India we are giving Rs. 15, that means there is the deficit of Rs. 17. So, at least the Government must accept that remunerative price based upon the cost of production should be given. Then, sugar factory cannot just manufacture sugar only. It must be made a composite unit. It must manufacture alcohol, paper, and sugar must be a by-product. Unless we adopt this policy that sugar must be a by-product, we cannot sell sugar at a cheaper rate. This is an important phenomenon in sugar industry.

There is one more thing. The other day we had a discussion on the price rise. If cucumber, khira which has got 99 per cent of water is sold in the market at the cost of Rs. 8 per kg. why sugar can't be sold at a higher price? It is being sold at the cost of Rs. 7 or 6. The item which has more content of water is sold at a higher price although water does not require money. So, this is the disparity. We must fix the price of sugar at least for a period of five years or so, so that the farmers will come to know that they will be getting this much return from the sugarcane crop. You can decide the price at Rs. 5 or Rs. 6 per

k.g. but fix it permanently for five years at least.

Coming to the cost of production of sugar, hon. Minister has stated that Rs. 4.91 is fixed per k.g. That means, the cost of production is going high, per kg. This comes to Rs. 1.50 per kg. This comes to Rs. 3.41. Where does this amount go? Does a factory require so much amount for production of one kilogram of sugar? This is a matter for investigation if it is so, we must introduce some modern machinery so that the cost of production could come down.

Coming to import of sugar, we have imported 10 lakh tonnes of sugar. Total requirement of sugar is 80 lakh tonnes, i.e. again we have to import 10 lakh tonnes more. People are also changing their habits. Previously people were using more of gur and khandsari but now they like sugar more. We cannot change their habits also. In this advanced age we must accept all this. And for this we require 20 lakh of sugar. For the import of this quantity we have to spend more than Rs. 800 crores of foreign exchange. For the production of about 20 lakh tonnes of sugar we require 132 additional sugar factories. By the end of 7th Five Year Plan our total sugar factories must be around 500 or 550. Today we are having about 339 sugar factories in the whole country. My suggestion is, please liberalise the licensing policy. Whatever money you are going to spend on the import of sugar, with that money you must stabilise the sugar market in this country. We have to spend a very valuable and costlier foreign exchange for the purchase of sugar from other countries. Instead of that we should stabilise the sugar market in this country. It is not necessary that in London if we are getting sugar at the cost of Rs. 2 per k.g., at the same cost we should get sugar here also. There are so many countries like Taiwan, Sumatra and other countries, their yield is very high. We cannot compete with

them. Now it is a matter of investigation. We have to form different agro-climatic zones. Now time has come to determine which crop comes to which area, which crop comes in which climate, which crop comes to which State. You fix it and then have a scientific planning of all these crops and solve the problem once and for all.

Another thing is, I appeal to the hon. Minister who has also been Minister of Agriculture and who knows about sugarcane more than me, that research and development in the sugarcane field is very necessary. Though we are having several research stations in the country, I don't think they have contributed much to sugarcane production. So, plant breeding, selective fertilisation, agronomic practices should be introduced. Plant protection measures should also be adopted. Pyrilla is not a disease. It is an insect. It comes under Entomology. The pyrille insects can be easily controlled. But these insecticide supplying these drugs supplying companies and some Government agencies and these false reporting agencies are indulging in lot of corruption. They are not giving insecticides to the farmers; as a result the farmers are suffering. So I request the hon. Minister to form different agro-climatic zones and sugarcane zones. In our Maharashtra, we are demanding three different sugar zones high recovery zone, medium recovery zone, medium recovery zone and low recovery zone. Maharashtra comes in the medium recovery zone. That is most of the area of Maharashtra comes under that. It is from 10 to 12—I do not know exactly the figure. The Marathwada, Vidarbha, Kandesh and Konkan areas are demanding that the Ministries of Agriculture and Food and Civil Supplies should please declared these as medium recovery zone. Further, agriculture must be treated as an "industry". You must give remunerative prices to the cultivators and sugarcane growers and, last but not the least, crop

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insurance scheme should be adopted for sugarcane.

Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister.

श्री राम चन्द्र विकल (उत्तर प्रदेश) : मेरा भी नाम था ।

उपसभापति : एक पार्टी से एक ही सदस्य बोल सकता है ।

श्री रामचन्द्र विकल : मुझे सभापति जी का आश्वासन था । मैंने स्पेशल मेंशन किया था तो उन्होंने कहा कि इस विषय पर बहस होगी तब बोल सकते हैं । इसीलिये मैं सुबह से बैठा हुआ हूँ ।

उपसभापति : बोलिये लेकिन ज्यादा समय मत लीजिये ।

श्री रामचन्द्र विकल : उपसभापति महोदया, ... (व्यवधान) एक हफ्ते पहले स्पेशल मेंशन दिया था । तब सभापति जी ने कहा था कि जब इम पर बहस होगी तो आप बोल लेंगे ।

उपसभापति महोदया, यह इस देश के किसानों का दुर्भाग्य है, इस देश का भी दुर्भाग्य है कि किसान जिन चीजों को पैदा करता है उसके मुकाबले में जो उसकी पैदावार की शक्ल बदलते हैं, उद्योगपति, और जो किसान की पैदावार की जगह बदलते हैं व्यापारी, उनका मुनाफा किसानों से बहुत ज्यादा है । उसकी एक सीमा बांधने के लिये केन्द्रीय सरकार ने सोचा है और न राज्य सरकारों ने सोचा है । यह सबसे बड़ी बदकिस्मती किसान के साथ जुड़ी हुई है ।

हमारा, मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि किसान की दूसरी बदकिस्मती यह है कि जब जब देश में पैदावार बढ़ती, चाहे गेहूँ की हो, गन्ने की हो, चावल की हो, पैदावार बढ़ते ही उन चीजों के भाव गिर जाते हैं । दुनिया के किसी भी देश में ऐसा नहीं है ।

वहाँ पैदावार बढ़ाने वाले किसानों को ईनाम दिया जाता है और उनकी कीमत जो तय हो जाती है उससे कम नहीं ली जाती । हमारे यहाँ, पता नहीं, यह इम देश के किसान का दुर्भाग्य ही है कि जब उसकी पैदावार बढ़ेगी तो उस चीज की कीमत कम हो जायेगी, भाव कम हो जायेगा । जो व्यापारी होता है उसके साथ ऐसा नहीं होता । इससे किसान का उत्साह भंग हो जाता है । पैदावार बढ़ाने के लिये उसके मन में उत्साह नहीं रहता । क्योंकि पैदावार उसकी जैसी ही बढ़ेगी उसके दाम कम हो जायेंगे । जब तक ग्राम किसान को उत्साहित नहीं करेंगे, पैदावार बढ़ाने के लिये, उसको पैदावार बढ़ाने के लिये ईनाम नहीं देंगे तब तक देश के अंदर इन चीजों की पैदावार गिरती चली जायेगी, गन्ने की, गेहूँ की, चावल की । इसलिये किसान का उत्साहित करिये और उनको उत्साहित करने वाली योजनाएं बनानी चाहिए तभी हम दुनिया को अन्न दे सकेंगे, तमाम सामग्री दे सकेंगे । हमारा देश का किसान बहुत मेहनतकश है । उपसभापति महोदया, इस देश के किसानों के लिए यह दुर्भाग्य की बात है कि उसका माल उधार लिया जाता है लेकिन उसको कहीं से उधार नहीं मिलता है । किसान बाजार में चला जाए, हलवाई के यहाँ कपड़े वाले के यहाँ उसको कहीं से उधार नहीं मिलता है कोई सामान उधार नहीं मिलता है और किसान की पैदावार चाहे गन्ना हो चाहे गोदामों में पड़ा हुआ गेहूँ हो चाहे कोई भी पैदावार किसान करता हो उसको उधार लिया जाता है । कहा तो बहुत जाता है कि शुगर फैक्ट्रियों से सुदं दिलवावेगें लेकिन मेरी जानकारी में है सुद तो क्या असल भी नहीं मिल पा रहा है । मैं उत्तर प्रदेश के किसानों की गन्ने की कीमतों के बारे में जानना हूँ बिहार के बारे में हरियाणा के बारे में जानना हूँ यही हाल शायद आज सारे हिन्दुस्तान के किसानों का होगा । किसान का गन्ना ले लिया जाएगा कई कई वर्षों तक उसका दाम नहीं दिया जायेगा (व्यवधान) और किसी के साथ ऐसा नहीं होता है । यह एक ऐसी चीज

है जिस पर हम को सब का सरकार को गंभीरता से चिन्तित करना चाहिये। केवल किसान के हक में नहीं बल्कि देश के हक में यह बात में बर रहा हूँ। विदेशों से जो हम चीनी मंगा रहे हैं वहाँ हम यहाँ किसानों को दाम क्यों नहीं देना चाहते हैं। यह भी मेरी समझ से बाहर की बात है। यही मुनाफा हम किसानों को दे तो किसान अपनी पैदावार बढ़ा सकता है और विदेशों के मुकाबले में किसानों को प्रोत्साहित करना चाहिये (समय की घंटी) महोदय, मूल्य आयोग जो अपने देश में बनते हैं उनमें किसानों की प्रतिनिधि, कम से कम होते हैं। किसान के दुखदर्द को जानने वाला मूल्य आयोग में नहीं होता है। प्लानिंग कमीशन में भी किसान का नुमाइन्दा होना चाहिये जो किसान की बात जानता हो किसान के अरि में जानता हों (समय की घंटी) उपसभापति महोदय, मैं एक बात और कहना चाहता हूँ। इस देश में मजबूरी से मुनाफा कमाने की प्रवृत्ति सब से दुर्भाग्यपूर्ण बात है। यह केवल व्यापारियों में ही नहीं है, व्यापारियों में तो है ही समाज का ढाँचा भी ऐसा बन गया है जिसको तोड़ना पड़ता। कोई खतरनाक मुकदमा आ जाय तो वकील की फीस बढ़ जाती है। मर्ज खतरनाक हो जाये तो डाक्टर की फीस भी बढ़ जाती है। देश में प्रभाव आ जाय तो व्यापारी के दाम भी बढ़ जाते हैं। किसान ऐसा है जिसकी मजबूरी को कोई समझना नहीं है बल्कि इसको मजबूरी से उल्टा मुनाफा कमाया जाता है। किसान की मजबूरी उपसभापति महोदय मैं बताना चाहता हूँ। ज्यादा समय तो आप नहीं दे रही है घंटी बराबर बजा रही है।

उपसभापति : आप शक्कर पर गोलिये, गन्ने की बात करिये।

श्री राम चन्द्र विकल : गन्ने और शक्कर के बारे में मैं कहता हूँ। किसान की मजबूरी यह है कि वह अपने सामान को गोदाम में नहीं रख सकता है। इस मजबूरी का व्यापारी मुनाफा कमाता है और दूसरी मजबूरी किसान की यह है कि वह कोई आन्दोलन नहीं कर सकता है, स्ट्राइक नहीं कर सकता है। स्ट्राइक का प्रभाव इसी पर पड़ता है। अगर गन्ना शुगर फैक्ट्री

को न ले जाए तो किसान अपने खेत में हल न चलाये तो किसान का नुकसान अपनी भैंस का दूध न निकाले तो भी किसान का नुकसान होता है। दूसरे लोग जो हैं वह स्ट्राइक करते हैं तो उनके व्यक्तिगत जीवन पर कोई असर नहीं पड़ता है चाहे वह सरकारी कर्मचारी हों या मिन का मजदूर हों वे जो स्ट्राइक करते हैं उसका असर दूसरों पर पड़ता है किसान कोई आन्दोलन देश में नहीं कर पाता इसलिये कि उसका प्रभाव उस पर पड़ता है सरकार पर समाज पर उसका प्रभाव नहीं पड़ता किसी पर उसका प्रभाव नहीं पड़ता इसलिये किसान की इस मजबूरी का मुनाफा उठाया जाता है। यह तो मजबूर है कुछ नहीं कह सकता बोल नहीं सकता आन्दोलन नहीं कर सकता, न किसान का कोई अखबार है। किसान के नुमाइंदे हैं जरूर मगर उनकी भी दशा मेरे जैसी है बोलने के लिये समय नहीं मिलता एक हफ्ते से उठक बैठक कर रहा हूँ बोलने के लिये यह किसान के नुमाइंदे की मजबूरी मैं देख रहा हूँ। मैं आपसे बहुत अदब के साथ आपसे कहना चाहता हूँ हम यहाँ जो नुमाइंदे आते हैं आखिर अपनी कुछ दिली भावनाएँ कहने के लिये आते हैं। इस सदन में कम से कम किसान के नुमाइंदों की मजबूरी तो आप हटा सकते हैं यह तो आपका हाथ में है (व्यवधान) अभी की बात है मैं थोड़ी सी बेगर्मी न करूँ बेअदबी न करूँ आप तो बोलने के लिये खड़े हो गये थे, मैं यदि न बोलता तो मुझको यह समय भी बोलने के लिये न मिलता। मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि किसान की जिंसी भी मजबूरी का देश के किसी भी आदमी को मुनाफा नहीं कमाना चाहिये। अगर देश को समृद्धिशाली बनाना है, खुशहाल बनाना है, अनुशासित बनाना है, देश की सीमाओं की रक्षा के लिये देश को मजबूत करना है, तो किसान की हर बात को सुनना पड़ेगा, समझना पड़ेगा, उसका समाधान निकालना पड़ेगा, तभी देश समृद्धिशाली होगा।

राव बोरेंद्र सिंह : कोई किसी की शिकायत रह गई हो तो ...

उपसभापति : कोई किसान रह गया हो, तो बोल दे। मुझे कोई एतराज नहीं है।

श्री कल्पनाथ राय : हमको बोलने दीजिए ।

राव बीरेन्द्र सिंह : आप तो हमेशा ही बोलते रहते हैं ।

उपसभापति : नहीं, अब जरा मंत्री जी बोलेंगे । आप लोगों को नाम देना हो, तो अपने ब्हिप को दिया कांजिएगा, मुझ में डाइरेक्टली मत कहा कीजिये ।

श्री कल्पनाथ राय : एक मिनट ।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You have to come through your whip. Do not come to me direct. आपकी पार्टी के कुछ कायदे होते हैं । आप ब्हिप के जरिये आया कीजिये । आपको मालूम न हो, तो मालूमात कर लीजिये कि हाऊस कैसे चलता है ।

श्री बीरेन्द्र वर्मा : मंत्री जी कह रहे हैं कि किसी को शिकायत हो...

उपसभापति : मंत्री जी हाऊस नहीं चला रहे हैं, हाऊस में चला रही हैं ।

श्री बीरेन्द्र राव सिंह : हां, यह बात है ना वर्मा जी, समझिये ।

उपसभापति : हाऊस चलाने के कुछ नियम होते हैं ।

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: Madam, the question of sugar, its production, its distribution and allied agricultural sector which feeds the sugar mills, is a very important subject. Questions have been raised in the House several times. Consumers, industry, farmers are all very much concerned about a policy which should ensure remunerative prices for the farmer and reasonable prices for the consumer as also reasonable profits for the industry so that it can keep in good health. These interests are all complementary and supplementary. But sometimes we do not appreciate that pulling into different directions in view of different sectoral interests,

does not help either the farmer or the consumer or the industry. And this is where the question of a long-term policy taking into account all these interests in a balanced manner, becomes very important. And this is what Government has been trying to do.

Hon. Member, Shri Suraj Prasad, raised this debate on the present sugar policy, resulting in decline in the sugar production. Several other hon. Members have participated in the discussion. Shri Virendra Verma is an expert on sugar. He is also a farmer. Shri Upendra also, Shri Gurupadaswamy, Shri Vikalji, Shri Jadhav, all have raised very valid points.

As Shri Satya Pal Malik put it in proper perspective, this is a very vast subject, on which a debate of a couple of hours is not enough, and for Ministers it becomes all the more difficult to reply to all the points raised within the space of half-an-hour or 20 minutes which probably you would allow me.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I will allow you more time.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am prepared to sit up to midnight also. But I want to say that 34 Members had signed this Calling Attention. And out of them only six are present in the House. This is the interest they wanted to show in farmers.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: But the people who are really interested are still present in the House, and they represent in the House, most of them present here, farmers' interest. Madam, I would like to submit briefly that there is no change in the policy. The present policy is same as has been the policy over the last many years. Therefore, to say that the present policy of the Government with regard to sugar is responsible for the decline

in production is, to my mind, not correct. It is this very policy which brought up the production to 84 lakh tonnes in the year 1981-82. It is still the same policy which is continuing. Earlier also the same policy was adopted by the Government with regard to dual pricing policy, fixation of prices, statutory minimum prices for sugarcane, for purposes of taking levy quota, levy percentage of sugar from the mills and 35 per cent being allowed for free market. It is this policy according to which farmers have been getting higher prices than the statutory minimum prices fixed by the Government from year to year. I have been saying since 1980-81 when I took over as the Agriculture Minister that the prices have been ranging more or less at the same level, that is, between Rs. 21 to 22 or 23 per quintal. Some States have been giving even at the rate of Rs. 25 or 26 per quintal sugarcane, that is, on account of higher percentage of recovery; and on account of better sugarcane cultivated in States like Punjab. Therefore, if it is not the policy of the Government which is responsible for this decline. The Janata Party was in power for some time and they tried to change the policy, but they failed. Then, they reverted back to the same policy. Therefore, we see no better policy in view. However, if any hon. Member had suggested to me that this is how this should be done, I would have gladly considered the matter.

SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA: What about the remunerative price to farmers?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: Remunerative price is one of the important ingredients of this policy.

SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Remunerative prices were not paid for five years. That was my question.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: How do you say that it was not paid for five

years? If it has not been remunerative price, how...

श्री वीरेन्द्र वर्मा : कास्ट आफ प्रोडक्शन देखिये कितनी बढ़ी है ?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: How did the sugarcane production jump upto 84 lakh tonnes within a period of one year?

SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Why it came down?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: It came down, due to various factors which I will explain if you do not know.

Madam, we had suffered from two very bad drought years during these five years. Therefore, the sugarcane yield went down. The area of sugarcane went down because of scanty rainfall, lack of irrigation, for one thing; and another thing not enough water being available. Then the irrigated lands which came additionally under our irrigation systems—probably the farmers there found it more profitable to grow two crops, one for paddy and another for wheat where plentiful of water was available in preference to sugarcane crop which takes about a year to occupy the land—that may be one of the reasons. As I have stated earlier, there are other reasons also.

We have tried to give the farmers good prices. These prices have been recommended, from time to time, by the Agricultural Prices Commission which has now been renamed as the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices. Shri Vikalji wanted more members on it. Probably the Agriculture Ministry would be considering this aspect, because the Prime Minister had announced it earlier that he would pay special attention to the need for ensuring remunerative prices for farmers. That is why at his instance, the very name of the Commission was changed. Now, Mr. Jadhav said, the cost of production of sugarcane according to him is Rs. 32 per quintal. If we go by the calculations

[Rao Birendra Singh]

of an expert body like the Agricultural Prices Commission which we have been taking into account in different regions of the country, the cost of production per quintal of sugarcane comes between Rs. 11 and Rs. 15.50. (Interruption).

SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA: That we do not agree.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: Well, I too do not agree with you. You keep to your view. I keep to my view. (Interruption).

SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA: Then why did the APC recommend a price of Rs. 18 per quintal for the year 1984-85 for sugarcane?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: Now, this is another point which I would like you to consider. You know very well. Mr. Virendra Verma knows that the statutory minimum price is not the price meant to be paid to the farmers for his sugarcane.

SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA: I know.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: You know. Then, why do you question?

श्री वीरेन्द्र वर्मा : नहीं, क्वेश्चन यह है कि वह भी आप मकरंद नहीं करते, व भी स्टेटुरी प्राइस मुकरंद नहीं करते, जो कमीशन ने दी है .. (व्यवधान) ..

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH We have differed with the Agricultural Prices Commission Report in some years on very substantial grounds and the main ground was that fixing a higher statutory price will increase the cost of levy sugar for each rupee which we give extra as minimum statutory price, the price for the consumer for the levy sugar goes up by 15 paise per kg. Now, Hon'ble Members have to consider, Madam, what they would really like. On the one hand even an experienced member like Mr. Virendra Verma is asking for high-

er prices for the farmer. On the other hand, he is criticising the present ruling prices of sugar. These two things cannot go together. We have to determine as to what should be the price of sugar which the factory should get so that they can pay a remunerative price to the farmer. Otherwise, they cannot be kept running. This is the main question and the factories have to be kept running so that the farmers continue to cultivate sugarcane. It is a very important crop. Sugar itself is a very important item of food. Consumers' interest also have to be protected. And that is why the Government has been trying to strike a balance between the need to give this important food item to consumer at a reasonable price, a reasonable profit to the industry and a remunerative price to the farmer because the farmer is our most important section. He supplies the raw material. We cannot force the farmer to cultivate any particular crop in this democratic country. He has to get incentives if he is kept producing any particular crop and therefore we cannot disregard the necessity to give remunerative price to the farmer. I entirely agree with the Hon'ble Members but I would like then to appreciate this one point that the farmers' interest can only be saved if we agree at a certain ceiling upto which we should be able to get price in the open market for sugar so that the factories find it viable to operate and it is this line which should be determined if any long term policy, as Hon'ble Members have been talking about, that has to be evolved that has to be framed. The long term policy of the Government, I wish, some Hon'ble Members have suggested Shri Gurupadaswamy, Shri Upendra, Shri Satpal Malick. The Government's long-term policy is that the country should be self-sufficient in sugar. That will be possible only if the sugarcane area does not decrease. It increases according to our increasing demand for sugar, which is likely to go up to 98 or 100 lakh tonnes by the end of the Seventh Plan. Already it is over 80 lakh tonnes. The demand

Importance

has suddenly jumped up. Sugarcane production did not keep pace with it. The demand jumped up because we tried to get sugar for the consumer at a low rate. That has to be understood. Otherwise he would have been very happy with cheaper sweet-agents like gur and khandsari. Now this big gap between demand and production has also been pushed up

श्री वीरेन्द्र वर्मा : उसको ऊंची कीमत दिलाइये न ।

राव वीरेन्द्र सिंह : अगर ऊंची कीमत पर न बेचें आप अगर कहें तो उसी कीमत पर बेचें तो फैक्टरी नहीं चलेगी । वह आपको ही सोचना है । आप फिर आएंगे इस हाउस में और कॉलिंग अटेंशन मोशन यह होगा कि किसान का गन्ना मिल नहीं उठा रही है, जैसा कि पहले हुआ था । आपने तो 1977 से 80 तक का पीरियड देखा था जब 3 रुपए में भी गन्ना नहीं विक रहा था ।

श्री वीरेन्द्र वर्मा : वह हमको मालूम है । आपकी गलत पालिसी थी उस समय भी और आज भी है ।

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: The main crux of the problem is that the yield of sugarcane in this country has to go up, which Mr. Jadhav talked about. He knows what is wrong where. The cost of production of sugar in this country is the highest in the world.

SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Sugarcane?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: Cost of production of sugar. The cost of production of sugarcane is also high because the cost of sugarcane cultivation is high, because the recovery is low

श्री सुरज प्रसाद : मिलें पुरानी हैं ।

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: That is also a reason, I agree. That is one

of the factors. The mills are old. But you will agree that the yield also is low. The yield of sugarcane in the field per hectare is low. There the mill does not come in. The average yield of sugarcane in this country is 56 tonnes per hectare. And U.P. is Shri Virendra Verma's State and he said that 58 per cent of the area under sugarcane is in U.P.—58 per cent of the entire area under sugarcane is in the country, that is about 13 lakh hectares out of 29 lakh hectares or so that we are now having under sugarcane. It has come down from last year by two lakh hectares. Now, if U.P. increases its yield from 45 tonnes per hectare to the present average in the country, that is, 56 tonnes per hectare, then we shall be meeting all the demand of sugar in the country. We shall be able to produce with this increased yield, in U.P. alone, in one State alone 98 lakh tonnes of sugar, without any other State doing anything more. That is the real problem. That is the crux. This is where we have to attack the problem. And that is where the Agriculture Ministry is formulated plans to develop sugarcane. The State Governments have to do a lot. Mills are going sick because when the State Governments recommend licences, as Mr. Gurupadaswamy correctly pointed out, there is not enough availability of sugarcane. That has to be ensured. Licences are obtained; sugarcane is not developed; and mills go sick.

SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA: On political basis.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: I do not know it is. But you also have been recommending probably licences in areas where there is no sugarcane.

SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA: Never.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: You have been a Minister for a long time in U.P.

SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA: Never, Sir.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: Anyway I am glad that you are very sensible.

Madam this is one part of our policy, to increase availability and availability of sugarcane to mills will depend upon increased productivity per unit of land. It is low in some other States also. But there are good States too. For instance, in Tamil Nadu it is around 90....

श्री वीरेन्द्र वर्मा : अठारह महीने का है । आधा साल है ।

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: Tamil Nadu has about 100 tonnes productivity per hectare; Maharashtra has 90. Those States are doing very well. Maybe, the agro-climatic conditions are better, but it is also the farmer behind it. He is paying more attention. He knows what is profitable....

श्री कल्पनाथ राय : उत्तर प्रदेश में कितने रिसर्च सेंटर्स हैं ।

राव वीरेन्द्र सिंह : सरदार बूटा सिंह जी से पूछ लेना । We are only talking about the decline in sugar production. So, the decline has come due to various reasons. I would not like to go much more into detail. But we are trying to increase the yield per hectare. Licensing is no problem. Mr. Gurupadaswamy said that we have been indiscriminately, injudiciously, giving licences. During the Sixth Plan we gave only 60 new licences. In fact, we have a shortfall. We want to increase the capacity by much more. In the Seventh Plan also we shall be giving new licences. A policy is being framed now for the Seventh Plan as to how and in what areas what would be the criteria for issue of licences for new factories or for expansion of the existing factories. That is all in Government's view, under considera-

tion, and we shall take into account all the views expressed by the honourable Members. Now, it is not the installed capacity alone, I agree, which increases sugar production. In 1981-82 when we produced more than about 84 lakhs tonnes, the installed capacity was only 64.80 lakh tonnes or so, and with that we produced so much sugar. Now our installed capacity is somewhere around 72 lakh tonnes. We can easily produce 100 or 120 lakh tonnes with this present installed capacity also. Longer period of crushing, better sugarcane and better recovery and also we have to stop diversion. Khandsari production, gur production, is in the unorganised sector....

श्री वीरेन्द्र वर्मा : गरीब काश्तकार है ।

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: I agree; you raised that point and I will reply to that point also. As regards the cane price arrears as against 10.0 per cent arrears as on 15th June, last year, the percentage of arrears this year is only 3 per cent....

SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA: Percentage will not satisfy. Rs. 88 crores is still pending.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: We are trying to reduce the arrears. It falls under the State Governments. The Central Government cannot do much in this matter. All enforcement of our laws is done through the State agencies. We have taken measures and you will agree the sugarcane area has come down from 31 lakh hectares last year to 29 lakh hectares this year. Last year's production was 59 lakh tonnes and with 2 lakh hectares less under sugarcane, we have produced 61 lakh tonnes—2 lakh tonnes more with 2 lakh hectares less under sugarcane. That shows that the Government has made efforts and they have to improve now.

श्री कल्पनाथ राय : इस साल डाउट नहीं है।

राव बीरेन्द्र सिंह : डाउट का सवाल नहीं है, श्रीमान जी।

Madam, questions have been raised about the price of sugar, though naturally, because the Government is also concerned like the honourable Members that the prices of sugar have been rising in the past. I would like to recount very briefly the steps that we have taken in this direction.

We decided to import in March 9.5 lakh tonnes of sugar. All that will be arriving by the end of September. We took certain steps for distribution. Now, there are objections as to the various methods that we have adopted. Now, Madam, the fact remains that the availability of sugar is the main thing and the availability of sugar has been increased. As against 3½ lakh tonnes of sugar which used to be released every month on an average for the open market, for this month of August, Madam, we have released four lakh tonnes. For the levy, through the public distribution system, at Rs. 4.40 per k.g., the fixed quantity is 3,13,000 tonnes. But, because of the festivals in August, we increased it by 50,000 tonnes and we made it 3.63 lakh tonnes and we want to continue the same quantity for the next month of September and there we will see about the future.

Madam, we are very keen that if we are importing such huge quantities, then the exploitation by the traders and by the millers should stop. If the consumer does not get the benefit of this import, what is the use of our spending foreign exchange on large quantities of imports? Therefore, we have now decided to import more. We had earlier contracted for 9½ lakh tonnes of sugar. We have now decided to import immediately five lakh tonnes over and above the 9½ lakh tonnes and this will make it about 15

lakh tonnes and, Madam, the Government will not hesitate to import more. It is because we want to meet this challenge of the trader and the industry. If our repeated warnings have not brought them on the right lines, we have to think of certain other steps.

श्री बीरेन्द्र वर्मा : आप किसानों से कहिए, वे चैलेंज को मीट करेंगे।

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: Kisan is also there. But that comes under the long-term policy. I am now talking of the present condition. The sugar prices, you would have seen, Madam, are coming down. We did not want to leave everything in the hands of the trader and that is why we wanted the States also to gear up their machinery for the distribution of this imported sugar. We reduced the price from 5.40 to Rs. 5.20 per k.g. The Consumer Co-operative Stores, the Super Bazar and its branches, and its mobile vans, and the State Governments through their Civil Supplies Corporations and their consumer co-operative stores are selling it up to Rs. 5.80 per k.g. In Delhi, it is available without packing at Rs. 5.50 and in packs it is selling at Rs. 5.65 per k.g. and there is no reason why the prices should not come down in future. We shall throw more sugar in the market and we shall give more for our distribution system. But this is a temporary phenomenon. We hope that by the time our next sugar year starts, we shall have better management of the mills, we shall have better management of the distribution system.

SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Remunerative prices.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: and we shall have remunerative prices fixed, and we shall take into account the views of the honourable members. But I cannot promise anything. But as I have said, it is not the statutory minimum price which is fixed which is the price for the farmer. The farmers' price is fixed by the State Government concerned and on their

[Rao Birendra Singh]

own they have been fixing the prices looking to the condition of the crop, the viability of the factories and various other factors. And I am sure no State Government would like to pay less to the farmer. It would like to pay the highest price to the farmer for sugarcane as far as it can. Therefore, the Central Government and hon. Members in Parliament here should not be worried what the State Governments would do, so far as prices for farmers are concerned. Let us see what price they fix.

Madam, there are a few points raised by hon. Members. if you would like me to reply to them individually. It was mentioned that Rs. 50 crores is in arrears in U.P. and huge amounts in Bihar. That is not correct.

श्री बीरेन्द्र वर्मा : यू.पी. में 21 करोड़ है।

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: No, I don't think even that is correct. If you like, I will give you the correct information.

श्री सूरज प्रसाद : बिहार में कितना बाकी है?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: Bihar has Rs. 4 crores and 44 lakhs only.

श्री बीरेन्द्र वर्मा : बिहार में 4 करोड़ 58 ल.ख है।

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: Rs. 4 crores and 44 lakhs, according to my figure.

श्री बीरेन्द्र वर्मा : कौन सी तारीख है ?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: This is as on 30th of June. U.P. has Rs. 20 crores and 30 lakhs The hon. Members said it was Rs. 50 crores or more.

श्री सूरज प्रसाद : अखबारों में समाचार दिया है।

राव बीरेन्द्र सिंह : गलत समाचार सुन लेते हैं। आप मूढ़ से सुन लिया करें।

Similarly, Mr. Virendra Verma has wrong information about incentives being given to factories as rebate in excise duty. The rebate on excise duty is not Rs. 26. It is Rs. 12. Rs. 50 is the excise duty for free sale sugar. Rs. 38 is the excise duty for levy sugar. And the incentive given to now is that under the new licesing they would also be paying duty at the levy sugar rate Rs. 12. I would also like to inform hon. Members that this incentive does not go into the pocket of the industry. This should be understood. It is because the cost has arisen the cost of setting up the mills. Mr. Gurupadaswamy was correct when he said that it has gone up very high within the last five years. The cost of installation of a mill with 1250 tonne capacity comes to about Rs. 9 crores now as against Rs. 6 crores 5 years back, three crores more. That is not only because there are only a few manufacturers. Now there can be more manufacturing units coming up. Nobody wants to stop them. If they find that there is enough market for their product. There are 7 units now manufacturing sugar mill machinery. But the price of steel has gone up. Construction costs have gone up. Everything has gone up. And that is why this escalation in cost. And that is why this incentive had to be given because the new units should be able to pay back the loan that they have taken from the financial institutions. And all this money in the shape of incentives is kept in deposit and paid directly to the financial institutions. This does not go to the mill. This is used for repayment of the loan which the new units have taken.

Similarly, there have been certain other misconceptions with regard to

price. Shri Virendra Verma has said that they are still running at a loss. Some of them are still showing losses. We have returned them. They were very sick mills and it was only on the demand of farmers that the Government took them over. They were not units which were profitable to run. It was to save the workers who were employed in these mills. Therefore, to expect that these mills will run at a profit is too much. They cannot be modernised because ultimately they will go to the owners. We have to see that the farmers get the price for their sugarcane and the workers get the wages and the mills are in a working condition. So far as modernisation is concerned, they can get loan from the I.D.B. or other financial institutions.

As Shri Upendra mentioned, we have got a good amount of about 203 crores of rupees in the Fund on the 31st March, 1985. We are keeping it till such time as the mills want it. How can we force it on them? If they come forward, they are most welcome. We want them to modernise. If they want to continue to be sick and weak so that they continue to get some benefits, that is a matter which we shall have to look into as to how to bring further pressure on these mills to modernise so that recovery improves and the cost of production comes down.

श्री वीरन्द्र वर्मा : रिक्वरी गिरती जा रही है। कस्टोडियन खा रह हैं।

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: We are getting these officers from the State Governments. The Government of India does not have experts. We have asked the State Governments to give us the officers who are there. We keep a strict watch on them and wherever complaints are received, we take action against them.

I have dealt with most of the questions which the hon. Members have raised. I assure that the policy of the Government of India is that the

remunerative price because we know that they can be expected to grow sugarcane if they get good price. We are trying to bring down the prices even by importing even larger quantities than what we have earlier decided. If need be, we shall further resort to imports. But in the long run we have to see that our needs in the country are met by indigenous production. Thank you, very much.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Sweet reply but on solutions.

श्री रामचन्द्र बिकल : राकी की वसुली नहीं हो पाती है। किसानों का जो 20 करोड़ रुपये बकाया है उनको अब जल्दी लौटा दीजिये।

REFERENCE TO THE REPORTED BOMB BLAST ON THE 13TH AUGUST, 1985 IN THE SEALDAH EXPRESS NEAR GANGWAL RAILWAY STATION ON THE JAMMU-PATHANKOT SECTION OF THE NORTHERN RAILWAY, RESULTING IN THE DEATH OF SOME ARMY PERSONNEL

SHRI DHARAM CHANDER PRASHANT (Jammu and KASHMIR) Madam, Deputy Chairman, I rise to express my deep concern on the tragedy which occurred in Jammu on the 13th of this month. It was a tragedy involving six deaths and injuries to 33 persons, all army men or their relatives. There was an explosion in an army coach attached to the Sealdah Express. The place is about 40 kilometres from Jammu. There have been so many explosions in Jammu or in Kashmir that if we count the number of explosions there and the number of explosions all over the country. I think the number of explosions in Jammu and Kashmir will be more. I am concerned because this explosion took place in an army coach. Four army personnel were killed and two others who were their relatives were killed. The 33 persons who were injured were either army personnel or their relatives. Madam, the responsibility of the peo-