

the investigation. Perhaps I should request the hon. Member to go through the rules of Rajya Sabha; if any information has appeared in the public documents, he should not waste the time of the House in asking for the information from me.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think we will pass on to the next question. There is nothing in this except mud raking.

SHRI KALYAN ROY: There is a lot in it. We have seen only the tip of the iceberg. The iceberg is inside, very cleverly hidden by Mr. Mukherjee. Don't help him, Sir.... (Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am not helping anybody. (Interruptions)...

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA HEPTULLA: It is only a storm in the teacup. (Interruptions)...

SHRI KALYAN ROY: Let us have a Half-an-Hour discussion on it.

Working group to study the problems of Tobacco growers

*222. SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA:
SHRI CHATURANAN
MISHRA:†

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a working group appointed by Government to study the problems of tobacco growers had suggested introduction of auction system for the sale of tobacco leaves;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Central Government have decided not to introduce the auction system in Andhra Pradesh during this season commencing from the month of September, 1984; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Chaturanan Mishra.

Statement

A Working Group set up by the Ministry of Commerce to study the problems of tobacco growers in depth and to recommend a comprehensive policy, has *inter alia* recommended introduction of auction system to cover all tobacco growing areas and to take up in hand the programme for coverage of auction system to the whole of Andhra Pradesh so as to introduce the same in that State in 1985 season. It has also recommended that there should be an agency to intervene and mop up the unsold surpluses in the auctions at a minimum support price; further, the Tobacco Board should itself be intrusted with the functions of the stabilising agency for the purchase of unsold tobacco at the auctions for the time being and for this purpose, the Board should be suitably strengthened. The Tobacco Board should conduct test auctions in 1984 season.

Initially, it is proposed to introduce the auction system for sale of virginia tobacco in Karnataka region in the ensuing season commencing from September, 1984, in view of the compactness of the area under virginia tobacco, and the quantum of annual crop produced. Taking into account the Karnataka experience, the auction system is proposed to be introduced in Andhra Pradesh in stages.

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र: सभापति महोदय, जो स्टेटमेंट सरकार ने दी है उसमें है कि तम्बाकू का आक्शन सिस्टम, , बर्किंग ग्रुप की जो रिक्मंडेशन है उनके मुताबिक कर्नाटक में शुरू किया है। आन्ध्र प्रदेश के जो तम्बाकू उत्पादक है उनकी हालत पिछले कई वर्षों से लगातार अधिकाधिक खराब है, यहां तक कि जो झूठी कम्पनियां हैं, बनेामी कम्पनियां हैं उनके नाम से किसानों से लोग खरीद लेते हैं तम्बाकू। कीमत भी 50 परसेंट से ज्यादा नहीं मिल रही है। ऐसा जब किसानों को डिस्ट्रेस सेल करना पड़ रहा है तो क्यों नहीं सरकार आन्ध्र प्रदेश में उसी आक्शन सिस्टम को लागू करती है ताकि

किसानों को राहत दी जा सके। मैं यह इसलिए भी कहता हूँ ताकि इस देश में रोजन-लिज्म को बढ़ावा न मिले ज्यादा सरकार को किसानों को राहत के लिये अविलम्ब आगे जाना चाहिये। पिछले वर्ष एस टी सी ने आंध्र तम्बाकू की खरीद ही नहीं की या की है तो बहुत कम। इसीलिए मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कार से कि क्यों इस वर्ष से ही जैसा कर्नाटक में किया गया है उसी तरह से आन्ध्र प्रदेश में आक्शन सिस्टम लागू नहीं किया जा रहा है जबकि आन्ध्र प्रदेश के किसानों की हालत अधिकाधिक खराब है यह मेरा पहला प्रश्न है।

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: Sir, we have not introduced the auction system in Karnataka; we are going to do it in September. It will be our first experiment. And we will certainly extend it to Andhra Pradesh on the basis of experience we gain in Karnataka. We have chosen Karnataka first because it is a compact area and we require a lot of infrastructure, a lot of money to go into this operation. Therefore, we are starting in Karnataka and we shall certainly extend to Andhra Pradesh by the next season.

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र: सभापति महोदय, मेरा प्रश्न यह नहीं था कि आप अगले साल करने जा रहे हैं।

श्री सभापति : अगर किया ही नहीं है तो अब अगले साल ही तो करेंगे।

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र : इस वर्ष सितम्बर में शुरू होगा। अगर इस वर्ष नहीं करेंगे तो अगले साल क्या करेंगे? यह मैंने नहीं पूछा है। इसके बाद कानि रहेगा, कानि मंत्री रहेगा या नहीं रहेगा, यह सब तो हम लोगों के हाथ में नहीं है। वहां पर किसानों की हालत बहुत खराब है। वे लोग बहुत परेशान हैं। इस साल के बारे में मंत्री महोदय को जवाब देना चाहिए। वे अगले साल के बारे में कह रहे हैं। इसलिए मैं चेयर से प्रोटेशन चाहता हूँ।

श्री सभापति : आपने शायद जवाब सुना नहीं है। कुछ गलतफहमी हो गई है।

उन्होंने कहा कि हमने कहीं भी शुरू नहीं किया है। हम कर्नाटक में शुरू करने वाले हैं और जब हमें तजर्बत हाँगे तो उसके बाद आन्ध्र प्रदेश और दूसरी जगहों पर भी करेंगे।

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र: मेरा यह कहना है कि जहां पर डिस्ट्रेस ज्यादा है वहां पहले करना चाहिए। वे कहते हैं कि कर्नाटक में शुरू हुआ है। हमारा कहना यह है कि मेरा प्रश्न इस वर्ष के लिए है। अभी भी काफी समय है। इस वर्ष से ही सरकार को शुरू करना चाहिए, यह हमारा प्रश्न है।

SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR: This is a suggestion of the hon. Member. Everything cannot be started at a time. We have just started with Karnataka and next we are going to do it in Andhra Pradesh.

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र : सभापति महोदय यह क्या जवाब है? मैं इस वर्ष के बारे में पूछ रहा हूँ।

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is a Chinese proverb that every long journey begins in a first step. So they are taking the first step.

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र : श्रीमान्, जहां पर आग लगी हो वहां पर फायर ब्रिगेड न भेजकर अगर फायर द्रागड दूसरी जगह भेजी जायेगी तो कोई उचित बात नहीं है। इसलिए मैं चाहता हूँ कि मंत्री महोदय कम्प्लीट जवाब देने की कृपा करें।

श्री सभापति : अब आप अपना दूसरा गवाल पूछिये।

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र: क्या यह सही है कि बंनामी कंपनियां किसानों से तम्बाकू खरीद लेती हैं और पेंसेंट नहीं होती हैं। इसलिए क्या सरकार उनके खिलाफ कार्यवाही करेगी? क्या सरकार उनके स्टॉक को जब्त करेगी? उनको एरेस्ट करेगी और क्या सरकार के पास इस काम के लिए भी पुलिस नहीं है?

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: Sir, I will clarify the first question that he has put about Andhra Pradesh. He has spoken about 1984-85. The Andhra Pradesh tobacco season of 1984 is over; it is

March-April; and the Karnataka tobacco season starts in September. Therefore, the question of our going in for the auction system does not arise because the time for it has already gone and the next season for Andhra Pradesh tobacco is in April next year. We shall certainly go into it, So we are not...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well done, Mr. Sangma.

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र : श्रीमन्, मेरे सवाल का पूरा जवाब नहीं आया है।

श्री सभापति: आप पहले पूरा जवाब तो सुन लीजिये।

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Mr. Chairman, he has again reverted to the earlier question. I will only say that the season is over, but the stocks are not over. My question was with regard to stocks and not with regard to the season.

मैंने यह पूछा है कि क्या आपने उन जाली कम्पनियों के खिलाफ कोई कानूनी कार्यवाही की है?

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: As far as our information goes, there is not much stock. The total quantity of Andhra Pradesh stock of 1984 was 93 lakh tonnes. Everything has been purchased and nothing has been left. There is no question about it. As far as the benami transactions are concerned, we do have some complaints of this nature and of non-payment to the growers. The Tobacco Board is taking necessary steps about it.

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र : श्रीमन्, आप जरा इसकी सफाई करवा दीजिए। मैंने यह पूछा है कि क्या आपने उन कम्पनियों के खिलाफ कोई कानूनी कार्यवाही की है? क्या आपने उनके स्टॉक को सील किया है, उनको एंटेस्ट किया है?

श्री सभापति: आपने शायद जवाब सुना नहीं है।

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र : तम्बाकू बोर्ड इसमें क्या करेगा? मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या आपने उनके स्टॉक को सीज किया है, उनको एंटेस्ट किया है? आपने कहा कि

हमने तम्बाकू बोर्ड को रिकमेंड कर दिया है। यह क्या तरीका है? मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि कानून के मुताबिक आप उनके खिलाफ क्रिमिनल प्रोसीडिंग चला रहे हैं या नहीं?

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: Sir, I do not think I also have the power to arrest them. As and when the report comes the Tobacco Board is looking into the whole matter and when the results of their investigation come we will take appropriate action at that time.

श्री नरेंद्र सिंह : मान्यवर, मंत्री जी ने अभी यह स्वीकार किया कि बेनामी कंपनियाँ किसानों का कुछ रुपये गड़बड़ किए हुए हैं। मैं मंत्री महोदय से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि कितनी धनराशि की गड़बड़ हुई है और कितने किसानों के साथ बेनामी कंपनियों ने यह ज्यादती की हुई है?

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: Sir, I have not admitted that benami transactions are going on. I have only said that we have received complaints to the effect.

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Minister while answering supplementaries said that the entire stock of 1984 has been disposed of. May I request the Minister to inform us as to how much the STC has purchased and how much the tobacco growers cooperative has purchased? I ask this question because my information is that the stocks are still there and the farmers are suffering, and here the Minister very callously states that the entire stock has been sold.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: Sir, this year the STC has not gone for the purchase of Andhra Pradesh tobacco. Last year we did: 18,000 million kilos we purchased at a cost of Rs. 21 crores. This year when there was some message to us saying that the farmers were facing some difficulties, we had volunteered to give Rs. 10 crores to the Andhra Pradesh Government saying, "You should enter into the market. You should also ask the Andhra Pradesh Trading Corporation to help. We are ready to give money." But they did not accept that money because the farmers

did not have that much of difficulty which they had last year. I can still check up. But my information is that there is no stock. All the 93 lakh tonnes have been sold.

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Sir,...

MR. CHAIRMAN: You go with him and show him the stock. Question No. 223.

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Sir, he raised a very pertinent point. He said that the STC has not gone into the market...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Last year it came.

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Please listen. And the Union Government offered Rs. 10 crores which the State Government refused to take. But he did not say why the State Government had refused it. Secondly, when the growers cooperative came into existence and when the State Government pleaded with the Union Government that this amount may be given to them, so that there may not be any problem of the type we had last year, there was no reply from the Union Government. On the other hand, he simply states that all stocks have been purchased. I think this is not correct.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: Why Andhra Pradesh Government has refused it, can be answered by Andhra Pradesh Government. I cannot answer that question. How can I answer that question? And the hon. Member has given the answer himself; it is because the farmers have gone in for the cooperative...

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Sir, he has not replied to my question. There is a letter from the State Government as to why they did not take the amount of Rs. 10 crores. Last year when the money was taken, the State Government purchased it but they did not permit the State Government to sell anywhere with the result that there has been so much stock lying with the State Government and it has become a problem. When this was pointed out to the Union Government, they did not do anything. On the other hand, they are

simply saying that the stocks have been sold. This is a very important crop and Andhra Pradesh produces 85 per cent of it. So the way they have been dealing with the Andhra Pradesh Government has not been correct.

MR. CHAIRMAN: They have given their own explanation and I think that is the end of it. Question No. 223.

New schemes for promotion of Construction Project Exports

*223. SHRI RAMCHANDRA

BHARADWAJ:†

SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the new schemes introduced by Government for the promotion of construction project exports during the last two years and what new measures are being contemplated by Government in this regard;

(b) what are the statistics of construction project exports during 1981, 1982, 1983 and so far during 1984 and what are the reasons for the decrease;

(c) whether Government propose to back the construction project exports with credit facility, especially in Iraq and Libya, in view of the problem of reduced development expenditures in West Asia:

(d) what is Government's strategy of operation in respect of construction project exports, especially in Iraq and Libya at present; and

(e) whether Iraq and Libya have informed or indicated that the new projects could be awarded to the Indian companies if they accept payment in oil and what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR): (a) to

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Ramchandra Bharadwaj.