

[Rao Birendra Singh]

of fertilizer, no multiplication of quality seed, no research in agriculture, or if these essential inputs are taken out of the purview of the policy for helping the farmer, mere payment of remunerative price to the farmer will not solve the problem. All these things have also to be considered simultaneously when we think of benefiting the farmer, helping the farmer, to have a better income.

There has been a lot of criticism about parity in prices. As was stated by me earlier, the Government has now accepted the policy that the prices of agricultural goods and non-agricultural goods and prices of agricultural goods and manufactured goods, will be, so far as possible, kept on a par. But even this parity question is a very complex one. We have to think of parity of price between one agricultural commodity and another agricultural commodity, parity of price between agricultural and non-agricultural goods, parity of price between agricultural produce and inputs and various things. But then, as I said, we have accepted the policy. My friend, Mr. Kalp Nath Rai, has very kindly, correctly appreciated this important step which Mrs. Indira Gandhi's Government took as soon as she came into power...

[The Vice Chairman (Shri Dinesh Goswami) in the Chair]

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5 PM

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): We shall have to stop this discussion now under the rules. We will continue with the Calling Attention. You can give reply to the left-over points when you reply to the Calling Attention. I will ask the Members to ask questions, all at a time together, so that the Minister can reply at the end.

SHRI SITARAM KESRI: The mover has to be accommodated.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): I can accommodate him in the Calling Attention.

MALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Demand of Farmers for Remunerative Prices for Wheat and Paddy taking into account the rise in the cost of Agricultural Inputs—Contd.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): Shri Shiva Chandra Jha. I will request the Members to be brief.

श्रीशिव चन्द्र झा : उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, मेरा पहला सवाल है कि कालिंग अटेंशन..

संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सीताराम केशरी) : पहला है या आखिरी ?

श्रीशिव चन्द्र झा : पहला । जो कास्ट आफ प्रोडक्शन खेतीहरों की आप केलक्यूलेट करते हैं —चाहे एग्रीकल्चरल प्राइस कमिशन हो या आप हों—उस में आप कौन-कौन ने फैक्टर इन्कल्यूड करते हैं ? दूसरा, जो कास्ट फैक्टर्स आप इन्कल्यूड करते हैं क्या वह पबलिक होते हैं या सीक्रेट रहते हैं ? यदि सीक्रेट रहते हैं तो क्यों रहते हैं , उन को पबलिक क्यों नहीं होने देते । तीसरे, जो औद्योगिक वस्तुएँ हैं और जो एग्रीकल्चरल वस्तुएँ हैं उन के दामों में डिस्पेरिटी है । इंडस्ट्रियल वस्तुओं के दाम बढ़ रहे हैं । इसका मुकाबला करने के लिए आप कोई खास नीति दृढ़तापूर्वक बनायेंगे ? कम से कम छठे प्लान में ऐसी बात हो कि दोनों के दाम एक समान हों । यह जो ग्लैयरिंग डिस्पेरिटी है कि इंडस्ट्रियल गुड्स के दाम बड़ी तेजी से बढ़ रहे हैं इस लिए आप कोई खास नीति अख्तियार करेंगे । कम से कम छठे प्लान में जिस से यह डिस्पेरिटी न हो, एक सन्तुलन कायम रहे ? चौथा और आखिरी सवाल । श्रीमान्, यह बात आप के सामने है कि बड़े बड़े खेतिहर

हैं। पूर्णिया की बात यहां उठायी गयी है। शायद आप भी उसी कैटगरी में आते हैं या नहीं, मैं नहीं जानता, लेकिन बड़े बड़े किसान हैं। उन की समस्यायें कुछ दूसरी हो जाती हैं। हम मिक्स-अप न कर दें। छोटे किसान हैं, खेतीहर मजदूर हैं, इन दोनों के मूतालिक आप की कोई नीति है या नहीं?

चूँकि वह खेतीहर मजदूर भी किसानों की खेती पर काम करते हैं तो उस के लिए कम से कम जो मिनिमम बेजेज देहातों में हैं उन को स्ट्रिकटली इंप्लीमेंट किया जाय और उस के लिए आप कोई ठोस कदम उठावें, यही मेरे चारसवाल हैं।

श्री लाडली मोहन निगम (मध्य प्रदेश): उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, असल में इस ध्यानाकर्षण प्रस्ताव पर अगर पूरे दिन की चर्चा इस सदन में होती तो भी वह कम थी। यह मसला कल्प नाथ राय जी ने और तमाम साथियों ने मिल कर रखा है और मैं समझता हूँ कि इस से ज्यादा दस्तखती ध्यान आकर्षण प्रस्ताव और कोई सदन में नहीं आया होगा। सवाल यह है कि हिन्दुस्तान की दौलत जिन चीजों से बनती है और अगर मैं एक वाक्य में कहूँ तो जिस तरह मेरे यह दो बाजू हैं, अगर इन का संतुलन बना रहता है तो सारा मेरा शरीर भी ठीक चलेगा। हिन्दुस्तान की अर्थव्यवस्था के दो बाजू हैं—एक खेती और दूसरा कारखाने। अगर इन दो बाजूओं का संतुलन गड़बड़ा जाता है तो हिन्दुस्तान की अर्थ व्यवस्था चौपट ही जायेगी। तो मेरे कहने का मतलब यह है कि इस पर पूरी लम्बान से और अच्छी तरह से बहस होनी चाहिए थी।

मैं सरकार से दो तीन चीजें जानना चाहता हूँ। पहली, किसी भी बीमारी

का इलाज यह आप ने कबूल कर लिया है कि इस वक्त यह बीमारी है। जो भी खेती में लागत खर्चा आ रहा है किसान का, उस के अनुपात में, उस के अनुरूप उस को दाम नहीं मिलते। तो फिर अगर इस बीमारी को मान चुके हैं और जब यह तय है कि...

राव विरेन्द्र सिंह : मैं ने तो नहीं माना, यह तो आप कहते हैं।

श्री लाडली मोहन निगम : तो फिर दूसरे पैरायें से आप से बहस करनी होगी। मैं समझता था कि आप ने शायद समझ लिया है। मैं आप से कहना चाहता हूँ कि हिन्दुस्तान की जो सारी अर्थ व्यवस्था है और जो आज बिगड़ गयी है उस में खेती सब से बड़ा उद्योग है और यह आज एक घाटे का उद्योग बन गया है। अरबों रुपया हिन्दुस्तान में किसानों को आपने राहत की शकल में दिया और वह सब डूबते खाते में जा रहा है। उस का फायदा चंद लोग ही ले पा रहे हैं। इस का क्या कारण है। उस के लिए दो प्रकार की नीतियाँ होनी चाहिए—एक तात्कालिक नीति होनी चाहिए और दूसरा दीर्घ कालिक नीति होना चाहिए—एक तात्कालिक नीति यह है कि जो पैदा करने वाला है वह किसी प्रकार मरने न पाय। डाक्टर जिस प्रकार से किसी मरीज को चंद्रोदय देता है उसी प्रकार से आप को काम करना चाहिए और उस के लिए एक तरीका हो सकता है कि अगर इस सरकार में रस्ती भर भी शर्म और संकल्प है तो आज आप एक बात निश्चय कर लीजिए और उस के साथ आप को घोषणा करनी चाहिए...

श्री सीताराम केसरी : संकल्प तो है।

श्री लाडली मोहन निगम : अच्छी बात है। और वह यह हो कि फसल के वक्त

[श्री लाडली मोहन निगम]

में जो भी बाजार भाव जिस भी जिन्स का हो जब तक उस जिन्स की दूसरी फसल नहीं आ जाती है उस के बीच में न्यूनतम और अधिकतम मूल्य की एक सीमा या प्रतिशत आप को तय कर देना चाहिए। अगर एक मूल्य तात्कालिक कदम के रूप में कायम किया गया तो ऐसा कर के आप उपभोक्ताओं को भी राहत देंगे और उसके साथ ही पैदा करने वालों को भी राहत देंगे। क्या भाव हो, इस पर बहस हो सकती है। कोई कह सकता है कि 12 परसेंट हो, कोई कहता है कि 15 परसेंट हो, मैं कहता हूँ कि 20 परसेंट हो, लेकिन यह जो उल्टी बात होती है और किसान पर जो बादाम की उल्टी मार पड़ती है इस से तो सारी व्यवस्था ही चौपट हो जाते हैं। आप के सारे मसूबे चौपट हो जाते हैं, आप का आवा-गमन चौपट हो जाता है। रीढ़ की हड्डी की बीमारी हो जाय तो सारा शरीर नहीं चलेगा। और इस के साथ ही दीर्घ कालीन कदम के लिहाज से कहना चाहता हूँ कि जो देश का सब से बड़ा उद्योग है वह खेती का है और इसके लिए दो तीन चीजें बुनियादी हैं। अनाज धरती पर पैदा होता है और अभी हमारा आप का विज्ञान जो हिन्दुस्तान में है वह इतना विकसित नहीं है कि पानी पर खेती हम करने लगे। हालाँकि लोगों ने पानी पर खेती करना शुरू कर दिया है। लेकिन ल हमारे यहां धरती पर खेती होती है। तो धरती में जो असमानता है उस को दूर करने के लिए आप को कोई मुकम्मिल कदम उठाना चाहिए। क्या कृषि मंत्री जी आप अपनी काबीना को इस के लिये तैयार करेंगे कि हिन्दुस्तान में जितने भी जमीन संबंधी कानून अभी तक बने हैं उन को संविधान की अनुसूची 9 के अंदर डाल दीजिए ताकि हिन्दुस्तान में बड़ी जमीन वाले कॉर्ट-कचहरी का सहारा ले

कर गरीब की मजबूरी का फायदा उठा कर उस के साथ मजाक और मखोल न कर पायें।

साथ ही साथ, मैं यह भी कहना चाहता हूँ कि आपका एक मसूबा होना चाहिए। खेती और दाम का मसूबा चलता है। सारी खेती आसमान भरोसे या भगवान भरोसे आज के वैज्ञानिक युग में कितने दिन तक चलायेंगे, यह समझ में नहीं आता। 30 वर्षों तक अगर हिन्दुस्तान में हमने यह भी फैसला कर लिया होता कि जो भी हमारी खेती है उसका 5 फीसदी भी हर साल हम पानी दे देते तो आज तक हर एक जगह पानी मिल जाता। इसलिए जरूरी है कि धरती के लिए युद्ध स्तर पर सरकारी योजनायें होनी चाहिए। मैं तो इस बात के लिए आपके साथ खड़ा हो जाऊंगा। अगर सरकार यह संकल्प कर ले कि हर खेत को, चप्पा चप्पा पानी दिलाना है तो आने वाले पांच वर्षों के अन्दर, चाहे उसके लिए हिन्दुस्तान की अग्रयासी और विलासिता वाली चीजों को खत्म करना पड़े, आप ऐसा कर सकते हैं। जब आप जवाब दे रहे थे तब आपने कहा था कि खेती में किसान अपनी आमदनी कैसे बढ़ा सकता है। आपने गुलाब की खेती सुझाई। अंगूर की खेती का मशविरा दिया और भी कुछ न कुछ कहा होगा। लेकिन मैं इतना ही कहना चाहता हूँ कि अगर आपकी खेती की योजनायें बही बनाता है जो दिमाग कहता है कि तुमको आमदनी बढ़ानी है तो अंगूर की खेती करो, यह दिमाग योजना बनायेगा जो आज तक यह तय नहीं कर पाया कि उसकी प्राथमिकता रेफ्रीजरेटर है, उसकी प्राथमिकता एयर कंडीशनर है या राजधानी वाली गाड़ियां या सुपर-फास्ट ट्रेन चलाती है और सामान्य पैसेंजर को सुविधा नहीं देनी है, तो मेरा यह कहना है कि आप को अपने फटे दिमाग के अन्दर यह तय करना चाहिए कि आपकी प्राथमिकतायें क्या हैं। मैं जहां तक समझता हूँ, इस देश की एक ही प्राथमिकता हो सकती है, वह है पेट भर अन्न मिले। भूख आदमी की समस्या सबसे बड़ी समस्या है। जो आदमी या सरकार भूख पर मुनाफाखोरी

करने की इजाजत देती है तो उससे जलील कोई सरकार नहीं हो सकती ।

शिव बोरेंद्र सिंह : वह चली गई ।

श्री लाडली मोहन निगम : आप भी चले जाओगे, अगर नहीं चलोगे सही तो । इस वास्ते मैं कहता हूँ कि कोई नहीं रहेगा तो देश रहेगा । सवाल यह है कि कोई मरसिया पढ़ने के लिए नहीं बचेगा । इस वास्ते मैंने कहा कि दीर्घकालीन कोई न कोई योजना आपको बनानी चाहिए ।

इसलिए मैं इतना ही कहता हूँ कि आज जिस तरीके से लोगों ने यहां बातें उठाई हैं, आप अपनी सरकार को सुझाव दें, बल्कि अच्छा हो कि आप घोषणा करें कि तात्कालिक रूप से दामों के सिलसिले में जैसे मैंने साफ कहा कि आनुपातिक ढंग से दो फमलों के बीच के दाम आप को तय करने होंगे । अगर आप फूड कारपोरेशन आफ इंडिया की तरफ से 53 रुपये भंडार और बोरी का खर्च लगा लेते हो और 117 रुपये में गल्ला खरीदते हो तो दूसरा आदमी 53 की जगह 63 वसूल करेगा ही । सवाल यह है कि आज हिन्दुस्तान में अन्न पर जो लूट हो रही है, सरकार और साहूकार की मिलीजुली साजिश है क्योंकि एक बात साफ है कि हिन्दुस्तान में जो लॉग मूल्य नीति निर्धारित करते हैं वह एक बात जानते हैं कि हिन्दुस्तान में यदि आदमी पर काबू पाना है तो उसके पेट में लात मारो, पीठ में नहीं । अंग्रेजों ने उसका पेट कमजोर किया तो शरीर पर कब्जा कर लिया । अगर सुबह से शाम तक आदमी पेट की आग में झुलसता रहे तो शरीर की तरफ ध्यान ही नहीं जाएगा । यह बुनियादी प्रश्न है । इसलिए देर आयद दुस्त आयद, जो हो गया सो हो गया, आज संकल्पित मन से हम नये कदम उठाएँ और बराय मेहरबानी उसको गुलाब और अंगूर की खेती कराने का सपना छोड़ दें । अच्छा हो कि आप 30 फीसदी किसानों की तरफ ध्यान दें । हिन्दुस्तान की अनुसंधानशालाओं में गेहूं ज्यादा कैसे पैदा हो, चावल कैसे पैदा हो, वनिस्वत इसके कोदों, रागी जो आमन गरीब इंसान ज्यादा खाता है,

उसकी ओर भी ध्यान दें क्योंकि उन विश्व-विद्यालयों में पढ़ने वाले लड़के उसी विरादरा से जाते हैं जिन्होंने गेहूं देखा है । उसको क्या पता चलेगा कि हिन्दुस्तान के दूसरे आदमी, गांव के आदमी कौन सा भोजन खाते हैं । इस वास्ते आप इस किस्म की दूरी को भी कम करने की कोशिश करें और खेती के मामले में जमीन, इसके साथ सिंचाई और इसके साथ उत्पादन इन तीनों की दीर्घ-कालीन योजना तथा दाम बांधने की योजना का कहीं कोई संतुलन करें, इतना ही मैं कहना चाहता हूँ ।

श्री प्यारेलाल खंडेलवाल (मध्य प्रदेश) : मैं तीन ही सवाल पूछूंगा । पहला सवाल यह है कि क्या सरकार के पास, प्रति हेक्टेयर सिंचित और असिंचित, इरीगेटिड और नानइरीगेटिड लैंड में पैदावार करने के लिये कितना खर्चा लगता है, कोई रिकार्ड है या बनवाया जाता है ? अगर नहीं है तो क्या किसानों का प्रति हेक्टेयर उत्पादन खर्चा कितना लगता है इसकी निकालने की व्यवस्था की है ? दूसरा सवाल यह है कि कृषि मूल्य आयोग जब कृषि उत्पादन के भाव तय करता है तब तय करते समय प्रति एकड़ किसान की पैदावार पर जो खर्चा होता है उसको ध्यान में रखा जाता है ? तीसरा सवाल यह है कि जो सुविधाएं उद्योग को सरकार देती है उसी प्रकार की सुविधाएं क्या कृषि को भी देने का विचार सरकार रखती है ।

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA PANT: Sir my first question is, whether the area under wheat is shrinking whether information has reached the hon. Minister that because of price and other factors, the area under wheat is shrinking in relation to some other crops? Secondly, he has mentioned that Government wants to have parity between the price indices of the items required by the farmer and his products. I would like to know: who is carrying out this

[Shri Krishna Chandra Pant]

exercise? Is it his Ministry? Is it the Planning Commission? Is it the Finance Ministry? Who is carrying out this exercise? What is the methodology and by when this will be completed?

Then, Sir, the Hon. Minister has mentioned the fact that last year, procurement of wheat had been 5.8 million tonnes, and distribution had been 8.8 million tonnes; that is, three million tonnes more. Now, we find, there is no wheat to be sent to the fair price shops and ration shops. Wheat quota has been cut down and in some cases, there is no wheat available at all. Is this because there has been total mismanagement in the procurement and distribution of wheat? Procurement and distribution of wheat should be done in such a manner that at least, wheat is available till the new crop comes in. There is no reason why before the new crops comes in, suddenly, Government should be without wheat to be supplied to fair price shops. Is it mis-management or is it destruction of wheat which had been stored? Has wheat been destroyed during storage? Has it been destroyed during storage, partly in the open and partly in the Food Corporation of India godowns? Which is the factor responsible for this, or, have both contributed to this position?

Last of all, in regard to procurement, this year, the target is 9.5 million tonnes. I should like to know, what is the method of procurement which is going to be adopted? Last year, the method was single-point purchase and the farmer had to go to the shops. Mills could not purchase more than a fixed quantity. A limit was set with the result that the farmer was put to great difficulties in many cases. Many complaints flowed in. What is the method of procurement which is going to be adopted this year so that the farmer

will not be harassed while selling his produce?

SHRI HARKISHAN SINGH SURJEET (Punjab): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I am a little disappointed to hear the reply of the Minister on the Calling Attention motion. It is because he was very much satisfied with the price of paddy and the argument advanced was that this year they have procured 48 lakh tonnes as compared to the last year's 33 lakh tonnes, procurement. He has forgotten that even after that there were a lot of agitations throughout the country on the price of paddy. The peasants, who have come in thousands in the streets for remunerative price are being told that they are satisfied. The second argument which he advanced now may be true for the landlords, because they are able to withhold the stocks and along with them the big traders are satisfied. And I am amazed to listen from the Minister that he has now become the advocate of free trade. Earlier when we asked for the higher price he said, what would be the condition of the consumer? And now he has become the advocate of free trade to make landlords and the big traders enjoy the fruits of high price. Does the Minister not know that the poor peasants and the middle peasants are forced to sell out their produce immediately. They have no other way to go. They have sold it at Rs. 80 in some States and the FCI was not there to enter the market. Does he know this or not? That is why on this point, I think his whole argument is not in consonance with what he has advocated about parity etc. That does not go to convince anybody. Does he not know that the peasant got the sugar-cane price of Rs. 23 after he was saying that Rs. 13 is more than sufficient? This was the result of a big agitation. And here, coming to the question of wheat. Sir, it is a very dangerous game that the Ministry is playing. It is dangerous because wheat is a very important crop not only for our country, but for the whole world.

The report of the RAO shows that the wheat production is less all over the world. And if his line is pursued that either you grow fruits because wheat-growing is less remunerative or go to some other crops, then it will be a very dangerous situation. As my friend Shri K. C. Pant has said, then the wheat will not be available. Then what will happen to the consumer? The Ministry is not concerned with that. In Bihar wheat is being sold at Rs. 250 per quintal. Who is selling it and who is purchasing it? It is the farmer the poor farmer, who was forced to sell it, has to purchase it at such a high rate. Both ways he is being cheated. Take the price recommended by the APC. Why are they justifying this price? The APC, while calculating the price, does not calculate the labour put in by the family members. How do they calculate the price of industrial goods? While calculating the cost of industrial goods, they take into consideration the price of raw material, the price of inputs, labour and the rate of interest—everything. After that they give the maximum profit to them. Here while calculating the cost of production of agricultural produce, the labour put in by the family members is not added. That is the profit they think, and the Ministry does not do anything in relation to that also.

Now, Sir, coming to the points, they do not announce the price in time so that the peasants could come to know about it in time. The APC has made a recommendation of Rs. 127, the Chief Ministers' Conference has suggested Rs. 140 and still they are waiting. They are waiting to see if there is going to be a good crop. Now the theory has come, that if there is good crop, they will give less price. And if the crop is bad, they will be forced to pay more because it will not be available in the market. Is this the mechanism by which the Government decides about all these things? What is their concern about the consumers? No concern about the consumer they have

shown. I want to ask, do they depend on supply and demand proposition for all these things? If the peasant does not get the remunerative price on wheat, he will definitely go to some other crop and the area under wheat will go down and this will be a very dangerous thing. Food is a commodity which is required by all the people in the country. That is why it will be very dangerous. So, keeping this in view, I would like to ask the Minister a few categorical questions. I would like to ask the Minister whether he is satisfied that the price of paddy fixed last year was correct. Was it remunerative? Agitations were going on in the country and everybody said that the price was not remunerative and the State Governments were forced to announce more prices and all the Chief Ministers demanded that the price should be more.

Secondly, I would like to know whether the Government is prepared to bring down the price of inputs to keep the price of foodgrains low so that the consumer is provided food at a reasonable price. I would also like to know whether the Government is prepared to see that in fixing up the price, the increase in labour cost—the family labour and the other labour—is also included while calculating the cost of production of any crop. The minimum increase in the cost of production, because of the increase in the price of diesel, fertilisers as well as the 20 per cent increase in the price of industrial goods, is Rs. 30 per quintal. So I would like to know whether the Government is going to keep this increase in mind at least, if not more, to neutralise the increase in the cost of production so that the peasant at least gets the same price as he got last year.

Sir, I am asking questions only. I would like to know whether the Government would agree to the principle of announcing the price before the sowing takes place because the peasant must know the price he is going to get, he should not be cheated. If the industrialist says "I will close

[Shri Har Kishan Singh Surjeet] the factory if I do not get profit", why should the peasant not know? He should also know that if it is not remunerative to him, he can go to some other crop. Let the Government manage the affairs. I tell you the Government will not be able to manage the affairs if they rely on free trade in foodgrains.

Lastly, I would like to know whether the Minister is prepared to overhaul this white elephant—the FCI—which takes Rs. 53 per quintal and then the argument is advanced, "what will we do with the consumer?" The consumer can be given at the same issue price provided the Government overhauls the FCI. Keeping all this in view, I ask for categorical answers to my questions. And, Sir, this theory is very dangerous. It does not benefit the peasant, the agricultural labour, the working class and the poorer sections of the people, about whose cause they talk daily so loudly. This theory of supply and demand is very dangerous. It only benefits the big landlords and traders who can hoard, who have got the holding capacity and can cheat both the consumer and the producer. I would only like to know if the Government has adopted this policy of free trade, allowing the landlords and the big traders to amass any amount of profit at the cost of the consumer by selling the foodgrains, which they had purchased at the rate of Rs. 117 per quintal, at Rs. 225 and Rs. 250 per quintal.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): Mr. Sinha you have already spoken. Yes, Mr. Chakraborty, just ask two questions.

SHRI AMARPROSAD CHAKRABORTY (West Bengal): I would not say much because it has been discussed at length. I do not like to make a speech, but it is a fact that this problem is agitating the people throughout India. It is now an admitted fact in Maharashtra and other parts of the country that there is a cry—and it is on a false note—that they are not getting a

proper price. I do not want to develop this point, but I will only put one question.

The Minister says that APC's recommendations are not binding, it is only an advisory body. But it is also an admitted fact that the prices of inputs have increased and they are increasing daily. As a result, the cost of production is also increasing. What is the ration, if supposing the APC recommends which should be taken to say that this should be the proper price for the farmers? Is the Minister agreeable and what is his opinion, in this situation when the prices of inputs have increased, when the cost of production has increased, whether the Government is agreeable to give the real price to the farmers, so that the agitation in the whole of the country can be minimised and the farmers get the real price from the Government?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): Thank you. Yes, Mr. Mohunta. Just ask direct questions.

SHRI SUSHIL CHAND MOHUNTA (Haryana): Sir, I would put just two questions. But, before putting the questions I would say one thing. There is a very great difference between the support price and the remunerative price. Support price of actually means nothing. Just provides a sufficient amount of price to a farmer so that even if he sustains loss, he does not die. This Calling-Attention motion is about remunerative prices. In fixing remunerative prices you have to see how things other than agricultural products have gone up in price, how many times they have multiplied in the last ten years and how much increase there has been in agricultural prices and, if the agricultural prices have not increased appreciably and the Government has not come to the support of the farmer, the prices have to be fixed at a level in which the farmer can not only subsist but can also lead a reasonably respectable life and keep

his head high. The prices which have now been fixed by the Government actually provide only that much to the farmer for the labour that he puts in and the labour that is put in by his family members and the cost of other inputs he incurs, and it is barely sufficient to meet the cost of the inputs.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): Please put questions only.

SHRI SUSHIL CHAND MOHUNTA: This is my question: Does the Government think in such terms as to provide a proper price to the farmer, keeping in view the rise in other commodities which the farmer normally uses as also the manifold increase in the prices of articles manufactured by industrialists, while fixing remunerative price for the farmers?

श्री राम भगत पासवान (बिहार) :
उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, किसान अन्नदाता है और समाज का रक्षक है। सरकार द्वारा जो सुविधाएं उनको दी जाती हैं जैसे खाद, बीज, ऋण, सबसिडी वह उसको बहुत कम मात्रा में मिलती है और दूसरा यह है कि वह भी समय पर नहीं मिलता है। समय पर न मिलने से उसका उपयोग सही ढंग से नहीं होता है। इस तरह से उत्पादन कम होता है। इसलिए कास्ट आफ प्रोडक्शन उनका अधिक हो जाता है। उपज कम होती है। क्या सरकार समय पर उनको खाद, बीज और जो कुछ सुविधाएं उनको मिल रही हैं, देने की कृपा करेगी? दूसरा प्रश्न यह है कि बिचौलिये जो हैं, मिडलमैन जो हैं वे भी किसान को रेमुनरेटिव प्राइस के प्राप्त करने में बाधक बनते हैं। महाजन लोग उपज के पहले ही प्राइस उनसे फिक्स कर लेते हैं और मजदूर हो कर बिचौलियों से उनका जो एक प्रकार का कंट्रैक्ट रहता है उसी के अनुसार उनको अपनी उपज देनी पड़ती है। इसलिए किसानों को पर्याप्त मात्रा में सहायता मिले और बिचौलिये उनके बीच से हट जाएं। बिचौलिये न हों, क्या सरकार इस प्रकार की व्यवस्था करेगी? मेरा तीसरा प्रश्न खेतीहर

मजदूरों के विषय में है। खेतीहर मजदूर बहुत अंतर्गठित हैं। उनको उचित मजदूरी नहीं मिल रही है। उनकी क्षमता भी इतनी कम रहती है। यह भी एक तरह से किसानों पर बोझ बने रहते हैं। इसलिए उनको कम से कम वेजेज जो हैं देने की व्यवस्था क्या आप करेंगे ताकि वे एग्रीकल्चर में अच्छे तरीके से काम कर सकें और उत्पादन बढ़ा सकें? यही मेरे प्रश्न हैं।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): Before I call upon the Minister, I should like to make one thing clear. In this Calling-Attention . . .

SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA (Bihar): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I want to put two questions.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): Put only direct questions.

SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA: Sir, this Calling-Attention is about two crops, paddy and wheat. The hon. Minister gave figures of procurement of paddy for this year and last year. Now, is it not true that last year the procurement was less because the crop was bad due to drought, and is not the hon. Minister trying to ascribe to his prices something which was the result of a natural growth in crop because of a good monsoon? This is regarding paddy. I don't want to put another question on this.

Regarding wheat, the cost of production, as worked out under the comprehensive cost scheme and as given in the APC Report on wheat prices for the current year gives figures for 1977-78 and that figure is Rs. 114 per quintal for Haryana and Rs. 108 per quintal for Punjab. Since then, what has been the cost escalation?

Recently, the Chairman of the Agricultural Prices Commission, Dr Coelho, in an article in the Economic Times, has tabled in and given the figures. Would the Government respect his findings? According to hi

[Shri Indradeep Sinha]

findings, the index of prices paid by the peasants increased from 189 in 1948-49 to 216.2 in 1975-76. This is with 1970-71 as the base. This shows an increase of about 15 per cent. So there has been a cost escalation of about 15 per cent, according to the APC Chairman's conclusions. Secondly according to another table in the report which was published, and which the hon. Minister must have seen, the price equation between wheat and other agricultural products, cereals, has become so distorted that the wheat price is only 81 per cent of the prices of the other agricultural commodities. So there is about a 20 per cent distortion on that account. Will the hon. Minister tell the House what the Government proposes to remove both these distortions—correction of 15 per cent under-estimation in the cost of production and correction of 20 per cent distortion in the price balance between various other agricultural products and wheat, which has been pointed out by the APC. And, thirdly, will the Government even now accept the principle of computing the value of peasant's own labour at the rate of minimum wages fixed by the State Governments for agricultural labourers? These are my three questions.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): Minister.

SHRI HAREKRUSHNA MALICK (Orissa): Sir, just one . . .

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): No. Your name is not there in the Calling Attention. (Interruptions) No, I can't. Mr. Mallick, there are certain rules. Your party's name is there and the Members from your party have spoken. I found that you did not want to participate in the Resolutions or in the Calling Attention. Now I cannot suddenly allow you. So next time. Yes, Mr. Minister.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: Sir, the main question which the hon. Members have commonly put relates to

the question of disparity in prices as between the prices of the agriculture produce and the manufactured goods and non-agricultural products. The second question is with regard to the calculation of the cost of production by the APC. The Government has always kept in view the price trends and the terms of trade as between the prices paid by the farmers and the prices received by them for their produce. Up to the year 1975-76, when Mrs. Gandhi's Government was in power, there was not much difference, not much disparity between the prices in these two sectors. The index of the prices paid by the farmers for various inputs and consumer goods stood at 170.3 and the index number of the prices received by him was 188.3. That was in 1975-76. So there was a difference of only two points. But a distortion took place in the later years, with the result that in the year 1979-80, just before Mrs. Gandhi again came into power, the index of the prices paid by the farmers came to be 216.2, as mentioned by several hon. Members, and the index of the prices received by the farmers was 188.9.

The difference between the terms of trade was of the order of 13 per cent. The gap between the prices paid by the farmer and the prices received by the farmer was 13 per cent as I said, and the terms of trade against the farmer stood at 87.4 per cent. But since then we have been trying to correct this situation, and I am happy to say that recently the situation has somewhat improved. On the other hand the prices of the inputs have been rising steeply, no doubt about it. In the prices of the high-speed diesel oil and the light-speed diesel oil there has been an increase of about plus 77 and plus 83 points respectively—and in the case of the fertilizers also the price has risen by 54 points. Similarly there has been some increase in the prices of other inputs, not of a very large order.

Some Hon. Members mentioned that the prices of the foodgrains had

suffered in comparison with those of other commodities. Mr. Sinha said this just now. There has been an improvement in the prices of the 100 grains between the years 1980 and 1981. The latest figures I have, are for February, 1981 as they stood on the 7th February, 1981. In April, 1980 the index of the price of the foodgrains rose from 192.1 to 233.2. In February 1981 there was an increase of over 21 per cent. In the case of all agricultural commodities the number rose from 192 to 223, whereas in the case of the manufactured products it rose from 232 to only 256. If you compare, the increase in the case of the manufactured products was only 10 per cent whereas in the case of the foodgrains and other agricultural commodities it was 21 and 15.6 per cent respectively. In the case of other non-agricultural commodities it rose by 13 per cent.

SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA: The Hon. Minister should compare what the peasants got in 1980 and 1981, not what the trader charged.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: Some Hon. Members have made a few other points. I would try to reply to them briefly. Mr. Jha and Mr. Surjeet wanted to know the factors that were taken into consideration by the APC for calculating the cost of production. There are four categories of costs. They have been classified as Cost A1, A2, B and C. Under Cost A1 come all types of labour value of hired human labour, value of hired bullock labour, value of owned bullock labour, hired machinery charges, value of owned machine labour, value of seeds, value of insecticides and pesticides, value of manure owned or purchased, value of fertilisers, depreciation on implements and farm buildings—an hon. Member wanted to know whether that was taken into consideration—irrigation charges, and revenue, cesses and other taxes, interest on working capital and other miscellaneous expenses for paying to artisans etc. This is only category A1. Cost A2 includes rent paid for leased-in-land also. And

Cost B includes in addition all the imputed rental value of owned and plus imputed interest on owned fixed capital. Then Cost C includes imputed value of family labour also, which Mr. Sinha wanted to know. This will show that all factors that go into production are taken into account.

SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA: At what rate family labour is imputed?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: The Minimum Wages Act provides for different wages in different areas. From State to State they differ. The APC, so far as I know, takes into consideration only the rates in force in particular States from where data is collected. The minimum wages according to the Act in various places are not taken into consideration. I think I am right on that.

Mr. Nigam talked about fluctuations in prices. I agree that there is fluctuation in prices. That can only be improved by better marketing. The Government is aware of the fact that the traders make away with most of the profit in agricultural commodities. We are trying to see how that can be rectified. But one way is to keep large stocks of foodgrains so that whenever prices start rising, food stocks could be released in the market and people could be supplied with foodgrains—an essential commodity—at fixed, reasonable rates. That is one way of controlling prices. I cannot understand how hon. Members can make the suggestion that the APC should be abolished.

SHRI KALPNATH RAI: No.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: Some Members have said it. Some friends have said that the APC should be abolished. The mover of the Resolution said this in the very first sentence. And some hon. Members have suggested that the FCI should be abolished.

SHRI HARKISHAN SINGH SURJEET: Overhauled.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: I do not know what we would do without the FCI. We have to maintain 15 million to 20 million tonnes of foodgrains in the Central Pool.

SHRI SHRIDHAR WASUDEO DHABE (Maharashtra): What is the representation of the farmers on the APC?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: Farmers are properly represented on the APC.

SHRI HAREKRUSHNA MALLICK: Who is the representative?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: Mr. Ranbir Singh.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): Mr. Minister, don't allow them to put surreptitious questions which I have not permitted.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: The questions already put are enough. They will take a lot of time. I do not agree with the hon. Members that we can continue our food policy and look after consumers without the FCI and without maintaining huge buffer stocks. It was only this policy that helped us during a very serious situation caused by the recent drought in the country.

Mr. Pant wanted to know whether the area under wheat has been shrinking. I am happy to say that the area under wheat cultivation has been increasing during the past few years. Even this year, to my mind, it has substantially increased because of late winter rains, fortunately. In 1970-71 the area under wheat was 18.24 million hectares. In the year 1978-79 the area cultivated with wheat was 22.2 million hectares. So there was a substantial increase during the past ten years. And the production of wheat has also increased.

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA PANT: I was relating it to the previous year—not ten years.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: Even with regard to the previous year, we have an increase. As I said, maybe we were fortunate and we got timely rains and we could sow more of land

with wheat. But mainly the area under wheat has been increasing on account of expanded irrigation facilities.

Some hon. Members wanted to know the cost of production of wheat and paddy in various places. But it is not possible for me...

SHRI AMARPROSAD CHAKRABORTY: The ratio.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: Well, about the ratio, as you probably yourself stated, for paddy the cost of production was Rs. 88 and some paise per quintal, on the figures collected from Andhra Pradesh; and for wheat, as was stated by Mr. Harkishan Singh Surjeet or Mr. Sinha—I forget who it was the cost of production was Rs. 11' per quintal in the case of Punjab and Rs. 114 in the case of Haryana. Now you can calculate the ratio. Two-thirds of the paddy is rice whereas wheat is 100 per cent consumed. Eatable rice is only two-thirds. The method of purchase also Mr. Pant wanted to know. FCI is not the only agency that procures foodgrains. State agencies also come into the market, the State Marketing Federation and other agencies. They also purchase rice and wheat, both. And the States also keep their stocks...

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA PANT: Is there a uniform method of procurement in the whole country or does it differ from State to State? Does the Centre lay down any guidelines?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: The Centre has laid down guidelines. But it is the FCI which works according to the guidelines laid down by the Centre. We have to depend upon cooperation from States also where the States also want to come in for procurement. We distribute to mandis. State makes procurement in certain places; FCI goes into certain places. In some places FCI and State agencies both purchase. Sometimes immediately the State Government transfers the stocks to the FCI. In some places the State agencies procure on behalf of the FCI only and

they do not hold their own stocks. So, these are the various methods. But there is also a method of levy on the mills for rice. Now we are persuading the States to impose the levy all over and to raise the quantum of levy so that we can get better stocks of rice...

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA PANT: I asked where wheat has disappeared. Why is it not available in spite of big stocks?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: Mr. Pant is very right in a way when he said that. Perhaps we were over-liberal in the past with releases of wheat. The food-for-work programme took away a million tonnes of wheat during the last year. Then, I think nearly 3½ million tonnes—these are approximate figures; I hope I will not be held responsible for giving wrong information to the House—were issued for flour mills during the last year. Then over 4 million tonnes or something was released for public distribution system. That way it came to 8.8 million tonnes roughly. But it was a huge quantity. Fortunately we had huge stocks. So we could distribute it at this level. But then we had to be a little miserly in this. There is wheat available all over and as I said in the forenoon, for March period we have increased wheat releases by about 30,000 tonnes so that just before the crop comes in in this lean season the prices of wheat do not go up very steeply. Mr. Harkishan Singh Surjeet raised the point. Farmers have been happy with the policy of the Government; if they did not have faith in Mrs. Gandhi, they would not have come in such large numbers to Delhi on their own....

SHRI NARASINGHA PRASAD NANDA (Orissa): How true you are!

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: I am always...

SHRI SHRIDHAR WASUDEO DHABE: They came on their own!

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: Yes. Of course, other parties have also tried...

SHRI NARASINGHA PRASAD NANDA: How true you are! If there is a competition, you stand first in that.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: Thank you very much.

Sir, Mr. Surjeet knows about the Punjab farmers; particularly, it is the Punjab State which gives us the largest quantity of wheat and the largest quantity of paddy and rice. And in Punjab we have already procured about 24 lakhs of tonnes of rice, out of a total of 48 lakh tonnes in the entire country. This procurement has been done at the price of Rs. 105 which was fixed by Government, whereas in other States, which on their own raised the price by Rs. 10 or Rs. 15, the procurement has not picked up. In Karnataka or Andhra Pradesh or Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, to my mind, there is very little procurement and these are the States where there has been some agitation by farmers. Where there has been no agitation, people have happily accepted the price of Rs. 105. We have procured very huge quantity of rice there. Therefore, I can say with confidence that these agitations are all politically motivated. They are not by farmers. If farmers were not happy, Punjab and Haryana would not have given so much rice to the Central pool... (Interruptions). Any restrictions on the farmers and preventing them from selling their produce at higher price anywhere would go very much against the interests of farmers. I am surprised how Mr. Harkishan Singh Surjeet can make a suggestion like this. If he is a farmer's friend...

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA PANT: He is for free trade now.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: I think I have replied to all the important points raised by Hon. Members.

SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA: I wanted to know whether the Government will take into account the escalation in the cost of production and the imbalance in wheat price calculating the imputed value of labour...

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: I have already replied to that.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMY): That is all.

SHRI HARKISHAN SINGH SURJEET: Will you compensate the farmers for the increase in the cost of production to the extent of Rs. 30?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: All that increase in the prices of inputs has been taken into account by the APC, as directed by the Government even earlier.

SHRI HARKISHAN SINGH SURJEET: Are you satisfied by that?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: We shall look into that report. The Government has yet to take a decision on that... (Interruptions). Yes, about State Trading I have already said that Government is not in favour of taking the whole trade in food-grains in its hands. We have in a way already adopted State Trading because we procure foodgrains in very large quantities and then we have our own public distribution system. We do not allow the traders to exploit the market by making releases from our own stocks so that the prices remain at a reasonable level.

REFERENCE TO THE REPORTED DAMAGE TO THE FAMOUS JAG- ANNATH TEMPLE OF PURI

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): Now We will take up Special Mention. I would request the Hon. Minister to stay back till the Special Mention is over, Mr. Nanda.

SHRI NARASINGHA PRASAD NANDA (Orissa): From the cult of Lord Jagannath has grown the cultural and social life of Orissa. The source of the rich folklore of my State is Lord Jagannath. The famous festival of Rathayatra attracts millions of people every year. Puri, where the

temple of Lord Jagannath is 6 P.M. located, is a very important tourist spot. Of the four centres of pilgrimage, Puri occupies a very important position as one of the important pilgrim centres. Sir, the temple at Puri was built a thousand years ago. I want to bring this matter to the notice of the House and, through the House, to the notice of the Government because, Sir, recently as many as 12 sculptural slabs have fallen down from this temple endangering its very existence. Sir, this is an old temple, a religious monument of great importance and manifests the highest form of Oriya art and sculpture which you find in this temple of Puri. The Archaeological Survey of India is conducting some of its repairs now and in the process of these repairs very big slabs which had beautiful pieces of sculptural work, which the modern architects cannot repeat, have fallen from the temple and they have been lost to the nation for ever.

Sir, I brought this matter to your notice and, through you, to the notice of the Government so that immediate steps are taken and any further damage to the temple is prevented. The people have sent communications to the Prime Minister and to the Minister of Education and Social Welfare who is in charge of old monuments. We lost the main temple of Konark, at one point of time in history and most likely this temple will not remain unless immediate measures are taken to protect this temple. Therefore, Sir, I would like to say that once this temple collapses the entire cultural and social life of Orissa will be uprooted. The loss of the Treasure will be not only of Orissa, Sir, but also of the whole country and the pieces of art architecture and sculpture in the temple will be lost. And, particularly, the economic life of a great majority of the people will be terribly affected if this temple goes. Therefore, I would make one or two suggestions. The Minister of Education and Social Welfare should immediately take steps in consultation