

[Shri Shivraj V. Patil]

are fired during practice exercises get embedded in or scattered on earth after firing. Some of these are collected by the local people at the cost of risks to their lives, as the probability of unexploded live shell in their midst cannot be ruled out. Unexploded shell collected in this manner could explode later by itself or on being tampered with.

In this particular case, as I have mentioned, detailed investigations are being conducted by the district authorities and all assistance to them to be able to draw appropriate conclusions is being extended by the Army authorities. After the investigations are complete a clear picture would emerge as to how the owners of Agra Bartan Bhandar came in possession of the cartridge cases, metal scrap or any other material noticed by the team of experts on the spot. Government would take appropriate action under the law against all those guilty of acts of omission and commission.

I may also mention that as per reports from the district administration nine persons have already been arrested of which six are the employees of Agra Bartan Bhandar and the remaining three are owners. Action has also been taken by the civil administration to detain these owners under the National Security Act. The District Magistrate has also deputed Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Agra, to conduct a magisterial enquiry into the incident.

I would again like to assure the House that all assistance required by the district administration at Agra from the Army authorities in the matter of investigations would be extended to them for appropriate action according to law.

SHRI SUNDER SINGH BHANDARI: Sir... (Interruptions).

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No discussion. (Interruptions).

SHRI NAGESHWAR PRASAD SHAHI: The main question is of smuggling...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, this is not allowed. He has made a statement, I directed him. There cannot be clarifications.

SHRI NAGESHWAR PRASAD SHAHI: The main question...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, this will not go in record.

(Shri Nageshwar Prasad Shahi continued to speak).

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

(Shri Sunder Singh Bhandari continued to speak.)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: This is not the time. I cannot allow any questions. It was a Special Mention. In response to that he has made a statement. Now you draw your conclusions. (Interruptions).

RESOLUTION RE. FIXING OF REMUNERATIVE PRICES FOR AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES—contd.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Mr. Master. You have already spoken too much. Please conclude now, because there are so many other Members who want to speak.

*SHRI K. CHATHUNNI MASTER (Kerala): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, all the things which the farmers produce are either directly or indirectly connected with the industries and these produces are being exploited by the industrialists to fatten their own pockets. If we want to put a stop to this we will have to nationalise some important industries. Then only we will be able to assure remunerative prices for the agricultural produces. Why can not we nationalise the cotton industry? The cotton industry should be nationalised and a radical change should be brought about in this field so that remunerative prices can be assured to the cotton farmers. Similarly why can not we nationalise jute and sugar industries? We once said

*English translation of the original speech delivered in Malayalam.

that we did not need the Britishers to rule our country. We attained our independence. We did not need the Zamindari system to produce wheat and other agricultural produces in the country. The feudal system was done away with and in that we have succeeded to a great extent. Similarly we said that we did not need the Maharajas to rule the country after independence. We have abolished the institution of Maharajas. Then why should have Birlas and Tatas here to run our industries. Therefore it is as a result of our policy of allowing the big monopoly capitalists to exploit the farmers, agriculture has become an unprofitable job in a country like ours which is primarily an agricultural country. Therefore, I emphatically demand that at least these three industries—Textile, Jute and Sugar—should be immediately nationalised and thereby assure reasonable prices to the jute, sugarcane and cotton cultivators for their produces. Instead of adopting such a sensible policy our Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi has played the greatest hoax of the century upon the people of this country in the name of Kisan Rally. The Kisans were summoned to the Capital including those belonging to the Congress (I) Party and this great hoax was played on them, in the name of Kisans and by the Kisans themselves. Not only that what did Shrimati Indira Gandhi tell the farmers at the Rally. She said all that that has to be done for the farmers have already been done. Other Ministers including the Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture Rao Birendra Singh himself had also made these declarations earlier.

Sir, in this connection I am reminded of a story of the head of an aristocratic family. Some beggars went to his house begging for charity. Then the other members of the family told them that they would not get any charity from there. Thereafter the head of the family appeared on the scene and called all the beggars back and told them that no charity would be given from his house. He main-joined that it was his absolute prero-

gative to decide whether to give or not to give charity and shouted at them to get out. It was with such an attitude that the Prime Minister summoned the farmers for the Kisan Rally and told them that everything possible has been done for them and nothing more is possible.

Sir, the farmers are not beggars. This is an agricultural country. We have an agricultural economy. Now if they are told, as the head of the family did as I mentioned, earlier that they are not going to get anything, the farmers including those belonging to the Congress(I) are not going to be cheated. It is as a proof of this that my friend Mr. Naidu while moving the Resolution lamented as to what the opposition parties or the Communists have done for the farmers. Mr. Naidu, we do not need any certificate from you. We very well know what we should do for the farmers. Why should you shower all kinds of abuses on the Communists and others? You have failed miserably in solving the problems of farmers. As a result of that the farmers, even those who owe allegiance to your own party are coming forward to agitate and fight for their demands. This is not going to end here. Kisan Rallies like the one organised by people like Shri Karp Nath Rai and others will not succeed in misleading the farmers. The farmers will rise in revolt again and again. They will fight again and again for their rights irrespective of their party affiliations. Sir, who are the people agitating in Karnataka? Sir, I am the General Secretary of the All India Kisan Sabha. I know that our Kisan Sabha is very weak in Karnataka. There was no Kisan Sabha in a place called Malaprabha. It was there the agitation first started. Who were the agitators there? It was the farmers including the Indira Congressmen who fought for the farmers' cause there. Who started the agitation in Maharashtra, Sir? It means that this is a problem of all farmers. Then a wonderful discovery has been made by some people including the Hon'ble Agricultural Minister that these ag-

[Shri K. Chathunni Master]

tations are politically motivated. Sir, this is not politically motivated. This is a problem agitating the minds of the entire farming community including those who follow the Congress (I) Party. No useful purpose will be served by condemning the farmers' agitations. This is a problem, for the solution of which the farmers will continue to rise in revolt again and again. Therefore, I request them to wake up and be prepared to find a solution to this problem. Not only that; this is a combination of vicious circles. One of them is the Food Corporation of India. They do not procure wheat or grain in time. The farmers will be compelled to resort to distress sale. Thus the wheat and paddy prices will go down. Then the wholesale traders will be in a position to dictate terms to the farmers and corner all the stocks. It is then the Food Corporation people will appear on the scene. Similar is the case with the Cotton Corporation. The Textile monopolists will corner the entire stock available in the market at the lowest price. Then only the Cotton Corporation will arrive in the market. Now about Jute Corporation. The Government fixed a price of Rs. 135/- per quintal. Now in Bihar the farmers are compelled to resort to distress sale of jute at a cost of Rs. 70 or 75. In Assam jute does not fetch any price at all. Jute Corporation is not purchasing jute. Thus it would appear that all these Public Corporations are functioning in such a way as to protect the interests of the monopoly traders. That is why I call it a vicious circle. Unless we extend the operation of these corporations to the entire producing areas in the country and unless the farmers are paid the price fixed by the Government, this problem is not going to be solved. Therefore, it is not a political question. Unless we rise above party consideration and unless we make sincere and devoted efforts to solve their problems the farmers will rise in revolt with their organised might and compel the rulers to see wisdom.

Sir, I want to remind them that it is not yet too late to wake up and do something to solve their problems. With these words and by reminding them of this imperative necessity I conclude my speech.

Thank you.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I am very much grateful to you for giving me this opportunity. Sir, at the outset, I warmly congratulate Mr. Chengalraya Naidu for moving this Resolution which expresses the thirst of millions of farmers throughout the length and breadth of our country, from Agartala to Porbandar and from Srinagar to Cape Comorin. Sir, at last, the farmer has now realised his might, and he has started to raise his voice to seek justice. Sir, it is the farmer who has brought pride and prestige to our country. It is he who has made our country self-sufficient and also to have the export potential of foodgrains when the whole world is in the grip of the fear of a threatened food famine. Even the mightiest powers like the USSR and the USA who are trying to brow-beat the Third World with their powerful atomic potential are not in a position to boast about their bufferstocks. Actually, they have to import foodgrains from other countries. But, Sir, we are not only self-sufficient...

SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM (Tamil Nadu): 61 per cent of the people do not get a single meal.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: I am coming to that point, Mr. Kalyanasundaram. Sir, we are not only self-sufficient but we are having bufferstocks and we have got the potential to export. (Interruptions) Please do not interrupt me. This year, we are expecting a record production. But, Sir, the conditions of our farmers are very much serious and pathetic. Actually, Sir, I wanted to speak on the Calling-Attention. Since I am not getting a chance to speak on the Calling-Attention, I would like to

draw the attention of our hon. Agriculture Minister to the question of remunerative prices first. Sir, the very term 'remunerative' is self-explicit; it expresses the meaning of the term. When we say that we are having the justification for the prices not being increased by the Government because the calculations and the conclusions arrived at by the Agricultural Prices Commission are not at all correct. Even our hon. Agriculture Minister has admitted that one of the members of the Agricultural Prices Commission who was representing the farmers did not agree with the views of the other members and gave a dissenting note. So, the calculations arrived at by the Agricultural Prices Commission are not right. Actually, regarding paddy, they have calculated that for a quintal of paddy the cost of production will be about Rs. 90. That is not correct. The cost of production has gone very high. For example, the cost of a plough in 1970 used to be Rs. 10, but now it is Rs. 30. Similarly, a length of rope which is tied to a bucket to carry water from the wells in our areas used to cost Rs. 8 but now it costs Rs. 25. For a bullock cart the cost used to be Rs. 600 but now it has gone up to Rs. 3,000. For a pair of bullocks the farmer used to spend Rs. 800 previously by now it costs Rs. 3,000 and in some places even Rs. 3,500 or Rs. 4,000. For chemical fertiliser, urea, the cost used to be Rs. 40 per quintal but now it has crossed Rs. 100 limit. For pesticides the price has gone up four times. A pumpset used to cost Rs. 1,500 but now it costs Rs. 4,000. To dig a well the farmer had to spend Rs. 15,000 previously but now he has to spend more than Rs. 30,000. So, you will see how much the cost of production has gone up. So the calculations and conclusions arrived at by the Agricultural Prices Commission should not be agreed to by the Government. That is why the hon. Prime Minister agreed to the increase in prices.

Now, I would like to request the Agricultural Minister to consider this

aspect and increase the price for paddy at least to Rs. 130 per quintal. At present the cost of production for a quintal of paddy will be something between Rs. 110 or even Rs. 115. I come from an agricultural family, and therefore I know this. The hon. Minister, when he was replying to the Calling Attention Notice, said that this is a serious problem and it is being looked into. **Sir, our officers are not paying adequate attention to these things. They are simply sitting in their comfortable rooms. They are shutting their eyes to the reality of the problem.**

Now, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to a very serious problem which I have personally experienced. Sir, chilli is a major commercial crop in the south, in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. In Tamil Nadu alone it is cultivated to the extent of nearly 1.80 lakh acres. A good crop means that a farmer can have ten quintals per acre. And he can get a price of Rs. 500 for a quintal of chillies. But, Sir, for the past six or seven years this crop is seriously damaged and affected by pests, particularly pests like aphids and prodenia. The indigenous insecticides and pesticides are not competent to control these pests. They are not able to control these diseases. They are not able to destroy these pests. All the indigenous pesticides were tried in our fields and then we approached some other agencies also. And we came to know that a particular chemical Tamaron is able to control the disease. When the Janata Government was in power, I raised this issue on the floor of this House and requested the then Janata Government to import the particular chemical which is available in West Germany and other European countries and even in South-East Asian countries. I requested the Minister to look into this aspect. But no response.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN, Mr. Gopalsamy, please take your seat for a minute. Yes, the Railway Minister.