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the Audit Report thereon.

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for Remunerative Price for cotton

Attention. Mr. Dhabe.

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**Mr. Deputy Chairman** in the Chair]

**THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE):** Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, under Section 24 of the Maharashtra Raw Cotton (Procurement, Processing and Marketing) Act, 1971, at the commencement of every cotton season the Cotton Coordination Committee established under sub-Section (ii) *ibid* has to recommend to the State Government the guaranteed prices for the different varieties or grades of cotton and such prices are to be notified in the Official Gazette by the State Government. The Committee consists of four representatives of the Central Government and four of the State Government. For the year 1981-82, the Government of Maharashtra is aware that the guaranteed prices will be the same as during 1980-81. It is understood that the Maharashtra Marketing Federation has been paying the aforesaid prices and there has not been any difficulty in making payment on account of any uncertainty in this behalf. It would be clear that there is neither any uncertainty nor any responsibility on the part of the Central Government to fix prices.

On the basis of information made available by the State Government, it appears that a section of the farmers in Amravati district have been demanding a price of Rs. 966 per quintal which is unrealistic when compared with last year's prices and current year market prices & trends. In support of their demand, a crowd of people which gathered at Nagzari in district Amravati resorted to traffic obstruction on the Highway, stone throwing and also damaged public properties. After repeated attempts to disperse the crowd failed, the police opened fire with 410 muskets resulting in injury to three persons. The situation is reported to be under control and there have been no repercussions of this incident, as intimated by the State Government, anywhere else in the State.

**SHRI SHRIDHAR WASUDEO DHABE:** Sir, this agitation by farmers in the whole country is in respect of remunerative prices for cotton. It is unfortunate that the Government thought it wise to say that the prices will be the same as for the year 1980-81. It seems, Sir, that the Government is out to scuttle the Maharashtra State Government's monopoly procurement scheme which is in force from 1971 under the Maharashtra Government Raw Cotton (Procurement, Processing and Marketing) Act, 1971. Sir, in Vidarbha area where this cotton is grown, there are 1.2 million farm families associated with the cotton industry. In 1969 when Mr. Vasant Rao Naik was the Chief Minister, the price went down so low that it was less than Rs. 100 and cotton was burnt by the cultivators. Then the Government came with a scheme called the cotton monopoly procurement scheme. Arising out of this, this Act was passed. But the Government, instead of solving the problem of the peasants, resorted to firing at Nagzari. I will come to that incident a little later. This agitation has been carried on by the Maharashtra Cotton Growers Association alias the Maharashtra Kapas Utpadan Sangh. The cultivators held a conference in Amravati in the first week of November, 1981, where they demanded a price of Rs. 966 per quintal for L-147 cotton. There were other demands also. This main demand was based on their cost of production and the parity they wanted with regard to the price at which yarn was sold and the price the Government gave to the cloth. When the Government fixed the price last year, there was no hike in the prices of other inputs. Later on the prices of fertilizers were increased on 11-6-1981 by 17.5 per cent. I am sure the Minister will agree that when the price was fixed last year this was not taken into account. Prices of insecticides have gone up by 10 per cent. The prices of crude oil and diesel have also gone up. Even the price of cotton seeds which were selling at Rs. 120 has doubled and they are selling now at Rs. 240 to Rs. 250. In fact I would like to know from the

hon. Minister whether the Maharashtra Government Cotton Coordination Committee have considered this matter and recommended to him that the minimum price should be Rs. 650. What is the Maharashtra Government recommendation in this regard?

**SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI (Maharashtra):** Rs. 650 for what?

**SHRI SHRIDHAR WASUDEO DHABE:** I am speaking of L-147 variety of cotton, produced in this area. This area produces about twenty to twentyfive lakh bales of cotton and sales have already started. One-fourth of the cotton bales were already sold. Marketing has already started. The cultivators are required to take that cotton to Andhra Pradesh border areas where the private traders are giving a price—which is also low but which is higher than the Maharashtra Government's price which is between Rs. 400 and Rs. 500. The private traders are paying them about Rs. 550 to Rs. 600. This is how the agitation has started. It is not correct to say that this agitation started from nowhere or it was disorderly, or the agitators wanted to create trouble at Nagzari where this has taken place. It was not all of a sudden. On the 10th November there was the Rastha Ruko Andolan when the cultivators came with their bullock carts and appealed to the Government to fix the price of cotton so that they can sell their cotton. On the 25th November at Nagzari they were leading a peaceful agitation called as 'Kisan Curfew' when the Police, without any provocation, fired at the agitators and four peasants were injured. It was very brutal and was totally unjustified. The bullock carts of the peasants were thrown into the nullas. They were abused by the Police Inspector. Still the peasants maintained peace. After the evening they withdrew their agitation in the Kisan Curfew. More than 5,000 peasants were arrested in Vidarbha area. And, Sir, the agitation is going on there. Now, Sir, this guaranteed price scheme was

mainly meant to give an impetus to cotton procurement and cotton sales and remunerative prices to the cultivators would give encouragement for more production in this area. But I am surprised to find from the Report of the Agricultural Prices Commission, 1980-81, dealing with raw cotton that the price which they had fixed was Rs. 300 per quintal in the month of March, 1980. But as the prices increased they again reconsidered the matter and revised the prices by a small sum, from Rs. 300 to Rs. 304 per quintal. But the policy of the Government seems to be to have an open market and not to give a fair price to the cultivators. Sir, it will be seen from Table I given in this Report that cotton cultivation at the all-India level has decreased and the acreage under cotton cultivation has gone down. In 1971-72, it was 78.00 million hectares and, in 1979-80, it has come down to 70.65. The Government made a statement saying that they were not in favour of the cotton procurement scheme. In fact, the State Government when this came to an end after ten years in June, 1981, submitted a Bill stating that it should be extended beyond ten years. Under the circumstances, I would like to know from the Minister, firstly, whether in 1980-81 the rise in prices was taken into consideration. When the price rise has taken place in the case of inputs, is it not necessary for the Government to come to a decision immediately? I would like to know from the honourable Minister, who is interested in the development of the cotton cultivation and the cotton textile industry, whether any recommendation was received from the Maharashtra Government and, if so, whether the Government has taken any decision on that and, if not, why they are delaying.

Lastly, Sir, I would like to invite the attention of the honourable Commerce Minister to the fact that Vidarbha is one area where development has not taken place. Two thousand crores is the backlog. Years before an assurance was given to the Vidarbha people in pursuance of Nagpur Pact

dated 28-9-1953 by the Central Government that when Vidarbha became a part of Maharashtra, four textile mills would be located there and its development would be taken care of. Up till now, Sir, not a single mill has been set up here. Of course, during the Lok Dal regime one textile mill at Kamleshwar was set up. So, Sir, not a single cotton mill has been opened in this area though this is a cotton area. Nothing has been done so far. The National Textile Corporation is having 106 mills under its control and I would like to know from the honourable Minister, under whom the NTC is functioning, whether they will have any new mills started in this area, in the Vidarbha area. If this is done, the backlog will be removed to some extent.

Now, Sir, under article 371 of the Constitution...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Don't go into that. That is a different matter.

SHRI SHRIDHAR WASUDEO DHABE: Sir, article 371 has specifically provided for the Vidarbha and Marathwada areas, for the establishment of separate development boards and equitable allocation of funds for development expenditure. It says, "equitable allocation of funds for developmental expenditure for these areas."

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Don't bring in all those things which are not connected with this.

SHRI SHRIDHAR WASUDEO DHABE: Sir, it is only for the purpose of inviting the Minister's attention to the need and demand for setting up textile mills in the Vidarbha area. The assurances given earlier should be fulfilled.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is right. Yes, Mr. Minister.

SHRI SHRIDHAR WASUDEO DHABE: Sir, you have to bear with me. I am raising a point about Vidarbha. You go to the Vidarbha and you will see for yourself what the conditions are.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: But that is not connected with this motion.

SHRI NARASINGHA PRASAD NANDA (Orissa): Sir, today is a Private Members' day and you can allow him.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: But what he says is a different matter, not connected with this issue.

SHRI SHRIDHAR WASUDEO DHABE: I am saying about cotton and cotton mills only.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI SHRIDHAR WASUDEO DHABE: One more point, Sir.

SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM (Tamil Nadu): Sir, the issue relates to the agitation of the cotton growers regarding prices throughout the country.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You see the wording of the motion. Anyway, you can speak when your turn comes. Yes, Mr. Dhabe, please conclude now.

SHRI SHRIDHAR WASUDEO DHABE: Not only this, Sir. The Co-operative yarn mills are not coming up in the Vidarbha area, but they are given in Western Maharashtra. Therefore, there is a great agitation going on.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please ask your questions.

SHRI SHRIDHAR WASUDEO DHABE: Lastly, may I know from the hon. Minister whether...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There are so many "Lastly's".

SHRI NARASINGHA PRASAD NANDA: He wants to know.  
(Interruptions)

SHRI SHRIDHAR WASUDEO DHABE: If you do not allow me, I shall walk out. (Interruptions).

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is the easiest thing you can do. (Interruptions). Put your question.

SHRI SHRIDHAR WASUDEO DHABE: My question is regarding the cotton price.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Do not bring in anything else. Do not repeat.

SHRI SHRIDHAR WASUDEO DHABE: Have they taken into consideration the price increase in the case of inputs?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: This is the third time. See the records. You are repeating the same question. Please take your seat. The Minister. Only one question is there. Not all. (Interruptions).

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: Mr. Dhabe has put a number of questions. Some of them are related to the subject; some of them are not related. He has asked whether the Maharashtra Government has made any recommendation regarding the price to be determined, particularly for L-147. My answer is 'No'. If the hon. Member analyses the whole scheme, it is not that some State Government will make a recommendation and the Government of India will have to accept it. The scheme is that the minimum guaranteed price is to be determined by a committee consisting of representatives of the Government of India and the Government of Maharashtra. They ought to determine the minimum guaranteed price which has to be notified officially, and on that basis the procurement will take place. Therefore the question of making the Maharashtra Government making any recommendation and our acceptance does not arise.

Sir, in regard to the price which the hon. Member has recommended—Rs. 660—I am just giving you what would be the distortion if theoretically. I accept his proposition right now, in regard to that particular variety. Last year the Agricultural Prices Commission made a recommendation for Rs. 304 for Punjab J-34. On that basis the Textile Commissioner determined the price of L-147 variety at Rs. 359.

That was the recommendation for the last year. And this year the hon. Member's demand is that that price should be Rs. 650 from Rs. 359 to Rs. 660. While making this recommendation I would request the hon. Member to keep in mind, what would be the price of yarn if you yourself calculate and if I accept this price of cotton what would be the fate of 10 million handloom weavers, what would be the fate of spinning mills, whether any single spinning mill in this country, either in the private sector or in the cooperative sector or the public sector, can survive. Why we decided that this price should be fixed for the current year's level, if you just look at it you will see that the guaranteed price in 1979-80 was Rs. 360 for L-17. Then in 1980-81 prices were increased twice by the Maharashtra Government. On 7-11-80 it went up to Rs. 415. On 27-11-80 it went up to Rs. 465. From Rs. 360 it has gone up to Rs. 465. And today if it is fixed at Rs. 660, what would be the total economic effect. I would just leave it to the hon. Member to consider. (Interruption) The Agricultural Prices Commission has taken into account all these factors. And even if I accept the APC recommendation, the price of the medium varieties should be, based on the comparative scheme, the cost of production in Maharashtra, on sup-sample, Rs. 312.2 per quintal. And assuming 27.6 per cent increase, that should come up to Rs. 398 per quintal. Under no calculations, you can have it at Rs. 660. And for particular varieties, the agitators demanded Rs. 966. Therefore, we shall have to take into account this position. What I suggested was, as the price was exorbitant last year, we told them that you fix it at that level because the support price is irrelevant. And another wrong conception which the hon. Member is suffering from is this. Support price has not much relevance. Support price has relevance if the prices crash. Then the public sector organisation is to intervene and purchase at that price level. But when the normal market forces allow the price to remain sufficiently higher

than the minimum support price recommended by the APC, that has no relevance. So far as cotton is concerned, for the last year, it has fetched a good price for the growers, and this year also it is fetching a good price. And this is the reason why we told the Maharashtra Marketing Federation to fix it at the last year's level.

Sir, another point which the hon. Member mentioned is in regard to the continuation of the Maharashtra scheme. We told them that we would like to review the scheme. The scheme was necessary to stabilise the cotton price. And it has served its objective. For the last ten years, it has fairly stabilised the cotton price. And now the CCI, the other cooperative organisations and the Maharashtra Marketing Federation are having command over nearly 50 per cent of the total production. Therefore, the role of the private trader in the cotton has been eliminated to a considerable extent. But if certain distortions take place or some aberrations creep in definitely the Government of India is to look into it, and if the Finance Minister has expressed his view from that point of view, there is nothing wrong in it. In regard to the acreage going down, I would not mind the acreage going down if my net yield is more. The hon. Member knows that we are having a production of roughly about 80 lakh bales for the last two or three years. Therefore, even if the acreage has gone down, the yield per acre has, perhaps, increased. Otherwise, how could the total production be in the neighbourhood of 80 lakh bales? Therefore, I do feel that what we have suggested and the Committee is doing, keeping the interests of the overall economy, is what they ought to do.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Shiva Chandra Jha.

श्री शिव चन्द्र झा : उपसभापति जी,  
भारतीय काटन और काटन गुड्स का

[ श्री शिव चन्द्र झा ]

लम्बा इतिहास है। एक जमाना था जब सारी दुनिया में भारत की काटन गुड्स की धूम मची हुई थी। हमारा प्रयत्न यही होना चाहिए कि उसी तरह से हमारी काटन और काटन गुड्स के लिए धूम मची रहे। लेकिन सरकार की नीति ऐसी हो रही है जिससे न तो काटन ग्रोवर्स सेटिसफाइड हैं और न काटन का कल्टीवेशन ठीक से होता है और न ही काटन गुड्स का एक्सपोर्ट ज्यादा बढ़ पाता है। प्लानिंग में एग्रीकल्चर का कामर्शियलाइजेशन हुआ, सो-काल्ड ग्रीन रिवोल्यूशन हुआ और इस ग्रीन रिवोल्यूशन से कामर्शियलाइजेशन आफ एग्रीकल्चर बढ़ा जिससे देश में कैंश क्राप्स की वृद्धि हुई। कैंश क्राप्स की जब वृद्धि होती है तो फूड ग्रेन की वृद्धि करने लगते हैं, वह बढ़ता है तो फिर किस को घटाते हैं। दोनों का संतुलन ठीक से नहीं चलता है। एग्रीकल्चर प्रोजेक्शन की नीति वैन-बेस्लेन्ड नहीं है, सिस्टेमेटिक नहीं है। अब मेरा पहला सवाल यह है कि क्या काटन प्रोडक्शन देश में फुली माडर्नाइज्ड है? माडर्न कल्टीवेशन जिसको कहते हैं, साइंटिफिक कल्टीवेशन का जो मतलब रखते हैं जहां कहीं भी हो, महाराष्ट्र में ही क्या वह फुली माडर्नाइज्ड है? यदि है तो कितनी दूर तक है? यदि नहीं है तो क्या आप इसको फुली माडर्नाइज्ड करेंगे?

**श्री उपसभापति :** झा जी, यह प्रश्न इससे संबंधित नहीं है। यह एग्रीकल्चर से संबंधित नहीं है। आप प्राइस के बारे में प्रश्न पूछिये।

**श्री शिव चन्द्र झा :** काटन का उत्पादन पर हेक्टेयर . . . (व्यवधान)

**श्री उपसभापति :** यह प्रश्न आप कृषि मंत्री से पूछिये। यह कहां से जवाब देंगे। (व्यवधान)

**श्री शिव चन्द्र झा :** जहां पर प्राइस की बात आती है वहां यह ठेकेदार है (व्यवधान) मेरा दूसरा सवाल है काटन प्रोडक्शन ये कितनी दूर तक कोआपरेटिव फार्मिंग है? कोआपरेशन के आधार पर, जैसे और जगहों पर और कल्टीवेशन में होता है..

**श्री उपसभापति :** यह सवाल इसमें नहीं उठता है।

**श्री शिव चन्द्र झा :** वह भी संबंधित है। . . . (व्यवधान)

तीसरा सवाल जो है इन्होंने बताया कि एग्रीकल्चर प्राइस कमीशन भी इसमें गौर करता है। लेकिन यह विषय इतना अहम है, इतना भी पर इनका असर देश में और देश में बाहर इतना है तो क्या कैंश क्राप्स के लिए आप एक खास कैंश क्राप्स प्राइस कमीशन इंस्टीट्यूट करेंगे? क्योंकि जो जनरल एग्रीकल्चर प्राइस कमीशन है उसमें इसको मिलाया करने से बात बनती नहीं है। इसलिए इसको आप इसको अलग रखें जैसे शुगर जूट जितने कैंश क्राप्स हैं इनका कमीशन अलग रहे और इनका क्या प्रोडक्शन हो रहा है और क्या प्रोडक्शन जो इंडस्ट्रियल गुड्स ये लेते हैं। उनका है, उनके समान उनको कितना घटना बढ़ना चाहिए, इन सबों को लेकर समय-समय पर क्या आप यह करेंगे? ये तीन मेरे सवाल हैं?

**श्री उपसभापति :** एक ही आप से संबंधित है, बाकी दो तो अलग है।

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: Sir, as the hon. Member has mentioned one point, I agree with

him that in the production plan it is not always that our production follows our consumption pattern. Sometimes there is varietal imbalance; for instance Varalakshmi or Suvin, these types of cottons we cannot consume fully and to restore the balance sometimes we take a decision that whatever we require, we use it, and which we do not require, that surplus we export. Last year we decided to export about 7.86 lakh bales. That was the position. Actual export might have been less. In regard to the total production, by and large, we are self-sufficient for the last two-three year we are not importing cotton. (Interruptions). I have already stated when I was replying Mr. Dhabe that the production expected this year is 80 lakh bales. Last year we had to import a little bit of short-staple and medium staple cotton.

Sir, in regard to the pricing and modernisation, etc. our agriculturists have accepted modernisation. Otherwise the production would not have increased. The hon. Member is aware that we had to depend heavily on imported cotton to feed our textile mills. But for long-staple, extra long-staple cotton, and to increase the yield of production, the new technologies have been accepted and implemented by our farmers as a result of which we are, by and large, self-sufficient so far as this particular important cash crop is concerned. But in regard to the cooperative farming or in regard to the question whether we should have a separate commission, a separate agricultural prices commission for cash crops, these are the matters which he can address to my colleague in the Ministry of Agriculture or I can pass on Dr. Jha's suggestion to him.

**श्री हरी शंकर भाभड़ा (राजस्थान)**

उपसभापति महोदय मंत्री महोदय को कठिनाई यह है कि सूत काटन और कपास इन तीनों के बीच में कीमतों का संतुलन बनाये खता । यह कठिनाई

बार-बार मंत्री महोदय रख रहे हैं । इसलिए पहला प्रश्न तो मैं इसी संबंध में करूंगा कि काटन यार्न और क्लोथ के प्राईसस में क्या लिफ है ? आज कितना एक दूसरे में अंतर है और क्या संबंध है, जिस हिसाब से आप काटन गोअर से काटन लेते हैं और जिस हिसाब से उनको कपड़ा बना करके देते हैं, इसमें क्या अंतर है यह कृपया स्पष्ट करें ।

दूसरी बात यह है कि काटन की कीमत तय करने के लिए वैसे तो बार-बार यह बात आती है कि उसमें जो कास्ट आप निकालते हैं, उसमें लेबर, इन्पुट्स की कीमत जो बढ़ी है और रिस्क भी कवर करते हैं, थोड़ा बहुत मार्जिनल प्राफिटस भी देते हैं, ये सब मिला करके क्या यह बात सही है कि महाराष्ट्र में काटन गोअर्स ने जो कैंकुलेशन किया है वह कम से कम 517 रुपये प्रति क्विंटल आता है । जिसमें एक मजदूर को मजदूरी साढ़े चार रुपये और एक महिला की मजदूरी चार रुपये हैं । इस हिसाब से जो उन्होंने हिसाब लगाया है उसमें 517 रुपये प्रति क्विंटल काटन की कास्ट आफ प्रोडक्शन आती है । यदि यह सही है तो फिर जो आप इस समय उनको देने जा रहे हैं वह बहुत कम होगा । क्योंकि लगभग पिछले साल के जो प्राईसज थे उन्हीं प्राईसज पर आप रख रहे हैं, उसमें बढ़ोत्तरी नहीं कर रहे हैं । इसलिए रु० 517 प्रति क्विंटल का हिसाब यदि हम मानें, तो इस हिसाब से उसमें कुछ बढ़ोत्तरी की जानी चाहिए । वह करने के लिए आप तैयार हैं कि नहीं ?

तीसरी बात यह है कि जहां तक एक्सपोर्ट का सावाल है, काटन की कीमत में एक्सपोर्ट का बहुत बड़ा

[श्री हरी शंकर भाभड़ा]

महत्वपूर्ण योगदान है। आप जब तक एक्सपोर्ट के संबंध में अधिक ध्यान नहीं देंगे, यहाँ के काटन प्रोद्योगिकी को अधिक पैसा नहीं मिलेगा और उसमें उसको परेशानी होगी। बल्कि समस्या तो यह है कि आप इम्पोर्ट करते हैं, काटन भी इम्पोर्ट कर रहे हैं। उसमें आप कोई विशेष क्वालिटी बतायेंगे कि अमुक क्वालिटी यहाँ पर नहीं है और इसलिए इम्पोर्ट कर रहे हैं।

इस सब के पीछे आप का ध्यान उन 103 टैक्स्टाइल्स मिल्स की तरफ रखा है जो कि आप चला रहे हैं। आज हिन्दुस्तान में शायद सब से बड़ा जो मिल ओनर हैं, वह गवर्नमेंट आफ इण्डिया है और इसलिए आप प्रोद्योगिकी के हितों पर चोट पहुँचाते हैं क्योंकि आप एक टैक्स्टाइल ओनर की हैसियत से विचार करते हैं।

जब आप मालिक की हैसियत से विचार करते हैं, तो अपना नफा नुकसान सोचते हैं और काटन प्रोद्योगिकी के नफे-नुकसान कष्ट को नहीं विचारते हैं।

**श्री अरविन्द गणेश कुलकर्णी :** इम्पोर्ट कुछ हुआ ही नहीं। आपने सुना नहीं।

**श्री हरी शंकर भाभड़ा :** नहीं, आपने कहा है कि कुछ पचास हजार बेल्स—एक लाख बेल्स इम्पोर्ट करना चाहते थे, पर पचास हजार बेल्स आए।

**श्री अरविन्द गणेश कुलकर्णी :** वह पाकिस्तान से आया है।

**श्री हरी शंकर भाभड़ा :** तो इसलिए काटन प्रोद्योगिकी के प्रति जो आप का मालिकाना नजरिया है इसको छोड़ करके और काटन प्रोद्योगिकी को

जो आज की मंहगाई बढ़ी हुई है सब चीजों की, उसको ध्यान में रख कर आपको उन्हें कीमत देनी चाहिए और पिछले साल से इन वर्ष की कीमत, काटन प्रोद्योगिकी को बढ़ा कर देनी चाहिए।

**SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE:** Sir, I do agree with the hon. Member in one respect that yes, I am to look at it from owner's point of view. But this ownership has come on me not because of my own wish; I do not want to be a textile magnate; this is the wish of the Members of Parliament which compelled me to take all these hundred odd sick textile units and to be one of the big textile magnates in the country. And if Mr. Dhabe wants, I am prepared just to close these mills; but the hon. Members do not want it.

**श्री शिव चन्द्र झा :** चमरिया का जूट मिल कटिहार क्यों ले गये... ?  
(बयवधान)

**श्री उपसभापति :** जूट मिल में मत जाइये . . . . . (बयवधान) वह जूट मिल तो सड़ा हुआ था।

**SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE:** The point is that it is not true that we look at it only from the textile mill owner's point of view. We are looking at it from the overall economic point of view. It is not merely that textile million owners are suffering. These co-operative units are suffering and Mr. Kulkarni will bear with me, and the worst victims would be the handloom weavers. If there is no proportion between the cotton and the yarn price they will be hard hit. In regard to exports, I have already mentioned that last year I took the decision of exporting about 7.86 lakh bales. I did not agree with the textile federations' suggestion that they wanted to keep a stock of 3 months consumption. Now, the total average consumption is 78 lakh bales a year, that is, 6.5 lakh bales



per month. They wanted to have a buffer stock of roughly 20 to 22 lakh bales. I did not agree. I told them that I will determine exportable surplus keeping 2 months buffer stocks, because that is necessary when the new crop comes and when it gets ginned for consumption in the mills, there is a time lag of 2 months. Therefore, 2 months stocks have to be maintained otherwise there will be a problem.

So far as import is concerned, a very small quantity of 50,000 bales was imported from Pakistan and that too when there was acute crisis of yarn for handloom weavers. We gave 30,000 bales to NTC and perhaps 20,000 bales were taken by private sector. So this limited quantity was imported. And if you compare it with total production and consumption which is in the neighbourhood of 78-80 lakh bales, we find that 50,000 bales are nothing. In regard to price they have calculated, statisticians always differ. But what I found was that the way it increased from year before last to last year, I do feel that even if we can maintain it at the last year's level, the growers will get a reasonable price.

**श्री बापूराजी मास्तुरावजी देशमुख :**  
(महाराष्ट्र) : आपभाषित महोदय, यहां पर काटन के बारे में जो यह कालिग अटेंशन है, डा पर मझे भी दो-तीन बातें कहनी हैं। मैं भी महाराष्ट्र से राज्य सभा का सदस्य हूं, और विदर्भ का रहने वाला हूं। विदर्भ में सबसे ज्यादा एजिटेशन काटन की कोमा के बारे में चल रहा है। बात यह है कि काटन की जो गए साल की प्राइस है, उसी ज्यादा प्राइस किसान मांग रहे हैं। उनका महाराष्ट्र कपास उत्पादन संघ है उस ने 966 रु० प्राइस मांगी है। महाराष्ट्र शासन की दस साल से मोनोपली स्कैम चल रही है उसके बारे में किसानों का कोई मतभेद नहीं है, मोनोपली या नेशन की तरफ से चल रही है वह खत्म रहनी चाहिए, लेकिन

अभी प्राइस के बारे में किसानों का विचार यह है कि प्राइस ज बढ़नी चाहिए। मुझे भी उनका कहना सही मालूम होता है क्योंकि फटिलाइजर्स के भाव भी गए साल के मुकाबले इस साल बढ़ाए गए हैं। अभी जुन महीने में साढ़े 17 परसेंट फटिलाइजर के भाव बढ़ा दिए गए हैं, इलेक्ट्रिसिटी के दाम बढ़े हैं लेबर का रेट बढ़ा है, उसके बाद क्रूड आइल की प्राइस बढ़ी है और उसके साथ में जा इनपुट्स लगते हैं उनके भाव भी बढ़ गये हैं। और इंसेक्टिसाइड्स के भाव 25 परसेंट बढ़ गए हैं। इस लिये किसानों का कहना है कि उन सब चीजों की कोमा में 25 टका बढ़ोत्तरी हुई है तो उसी के मुताबिक गवर्नमेंट का काटन का भी प्राइस बढ़ाना चाहिए। तो उसके हिसाब से प्राइस रेंज करना चाहिए।

दूसरी बात यह है कि विदर्भ में आज के दिन किसान पड़े-लिखे हो गए हैं। उनका कहना है कि कपास के और कपड़े के भाव में भी संतुलन होना चाहिए। कितने कपास से कितनी रुई निकलती है, रुई का भाव प्रति किलो क्या है, एक किलो रुई से कितना कपड़ा होता है और उस कपड़े का कितना दाम होता है? रुई का दाम कितना है और मंजुरी कितनी है, इसका भी वे हिसाब करते हैं और उस हिसाब के आधार पर वह बोलते हैं कि कपास का भाव 966 रुपये होना चाहिये। इस प्रकार की कास्टिंग रिपोर्ट भी गवर्नमेंट को सब के सामने रखनी चाहिए। तो मेरा सवाल है कि क्या कास्टिंग रिपोर्ट इस प्रकार की सरकार को पब्लिश करनी चाहिये। अगर पब्लिश नहीं करती तो उसका क्या कारण है? क्या इस बारे में कास्टिंग रिपोर्ट सरकार पब्लिश करेगी?

दूसरी बात यह है कि हमारे विदर्भ के बार्डर में आन्ध्र प्रदेश है, मध्य प्रदेश है, वहां सी० सी० आई० की खरीद चल

[श्री बापूरावजी माहूतरावजी देशमुख]

रही है। सी० सी० आई० की खरीदारी में 551 से 575 रु० तक के भाव चल रहे हैं और महाराष्ट्र में जो भाव है वह पुराने भाव चल रहे हैं। सी० सी० आई० अगर खरीदारी करता है वह गवर्नमेंट की एजेंसी से तो महाराष्ट्र के किसानों की भी वैसा ही भाव मिलना चाहिए। यह एक ऐसा सवाल है जिसके बारे में मंत्री जी ध्यान देंगे।

बाकी बातें तो हो चुकी हैं लेकिन मेरे ये दो तीन प्वाइंट हैं, एक तो सी० सी० आई० की खरीदी जो है उसके बराबर भाव विदर्भ में होने चाहिए। दूसरी बात यह है कि फटिलाइजर्स के जो भाव बढ़ाये गये हैं, खास कर जून के बाद से जो भाव बढ़े हैं उसके मुताबिक कपास का भाव बढ़ना चाहिए, गए साल के भाव के मुकाबले तीसरी बात कास्टिंग रिपोर्ट के बारे में मैंने कही वह पब्लिश होनी चाहिये इन दो तीन बातों का उत्तर मैं मंत्री जी से चाहूंगा।

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: Sir, as I mentioned when the price is determined, the cost of inputs is taken into account. While explaining about this scheme, so far as Maharashtra is concerned, I pointed out that taking the various factors into account, including the market trend, the Committee which is being appointed would determine the price, what should be the guaranteed price which should be announced. Therefore, there are no two opinions that if the cost of inputs goes up, naturally, it should get reflected in the price which is determined. The point is, whether this has been taken into account or not.

That is a matter which the Committee will look into.

SHRI SHRIDHAR WASUDEO DHABE: On what date the price was fixed?

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: I gave you the figure. For the medium variety, it was about Rs. 397. Last year, it was Rs. 304. (Interruptions) I have taken 27 per cent rise of the inputs. He has mentioned 17 per cent. I have taken 27 per cent. That is why I say let us not go into figures. Unfortunately, this is the position. Nobody accepts the experts' view. Everybody is an expert here. What I say is if I take into account the last year's price as the basis and if I add 27 per cent, which you can take as the increase in the cost of the inputs, then also it will come nowhere nearer the market price. The market price is much higher. So let us not talk of that.

The hon. Member wanted to know what is the lead. As I mentioned, so far as yearly is concerned, the cost of cotton contributes nearly 70 per cent of the cost of yarn.

There are other charges also. I am not going into that aspect. In regard to CCI's purchase, I checked up this particular point and if the hon. Member tells me so, I will check up again. The CCI should not necessarily purchase at a higher price; they should also purchase at a comparable price. But the information that I got from officers is that the purchase that the CCI made was not of comparable variety, it is of a higher grade. Naturally the price of the higher grade will be more. Still, if the hon. Member wants, I can ascertain and instruct the CCI that they should not also create a distortion in which the Market Federation cannot purchase it and the cotton is smuggled out of the State. That point we can take care of.

SHRI HARKISHAN SINGH SURJEET (Punjab): Sir, unfortunately the Minister has not done justice to the Calling Attention Motion in his reply. It is mentioned in the Calling Attention "remunerative price for cotton in different parts of the country, particularly Maharashtra". But,

I am sorry to say, he has dealt only with Maharashtra.

**SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE:** Now I will deal with other parts.

**SHRI HARKISHAN SINGH SURJEET:** There is not a single word where he has taken note of the position of cotton and its price in various parts of the country. That is my first submission.

My second point is, while mentioning about production, the Minister proudly says that it is 80 lakh bales. Is it only in Maharashtra? I know it. That is what I am asking. While giving his version, he says the production is going up very much. It is very good and we are very happy over it. But at the same time while dealing with the subject, he refers only to Maharashtra. I know Maharashtra cotton has got its own importance. But it is also a fact that the cost of production in Maharashtra is much more because small producers are producing there and the yield is also less. The total cost of production is much higher than in other places. If the grower's interests and the economy of the peasants are to be taken into consideration, then special consideration for Maharashtra's peasants is required.

But here, it is strange—in fact it always happens—that when you discuss a problem concerning a section of the people, it is counterposed with other sections of the people. What the Minister has tried to say is that if the price is increased, our handloom workers will suffer, the weavers will suffer and the consumer will suffer. I want to know from the Minister as compared to last year, how much increase in the price of textiles and cloth has been there, and, accordingly, what increase has been given as compared to last year, to the cotton growers? Sir, yesterday I was in Rajasthan and I saw in what plight the growers are there, Rajasthan, Punjab, Garo, Nagar and those areas

produce the same type of cotton. CCI has issued instructions. Cotton was being sold at Rs. 550 or Rs. 560. After the CCI's instructions that you should not purchase at more than Rs. 500, the price has come down. Nobody is coming to purchase it. Birlas and other textile magnates have their own mechanism. They have purchased a lot, they have done their own things. Now the growers are suffering a lot. That is why I want this consideration as to what is to be done in relation to them when fixing the price also. Then there is no connection between the price fixed by the Government and the market price—whether it is sugarcane, cotton or anything else. Always it so happens that the price fixed by the Government is much less than the price in the market. You should be proud that your people started producing so much so that you do not have to import. The import price is always higher. That is our experience. May be one year it was not so in case of import from Pakistan, but generally it is so in the international market. Compared to last year, the price of cloth has increased and, comparatively, what is the increase given to the cotton growers? He said that 70 per cent cost of the production of cloth is the cost of the raw material. But that is only sometimes, depending on the price in the market. Generally raw material component is 50 per cent. It has been happening. That is why he has not answered the question asked by my friend there. Why is the costing report not being published? It is not placed. Why? Because the report exposes that neither the grower is getting reasonable price nor the consumer is getting cheap cloth. It is the mill-owners, the private traders and the monopolists who are amassing profits. That is why the costing report is not being published otherwise the truth will come out.

I would like to know from the Minister, what is the comparative increase in the price of cloth and yarn and what is the comparative increase

[Shri Harkishan Singh Surjeet]

in the price of cotton. Secondly, why is the costing report not being published when people could know what is the cost of various components? My third question is how much has the cost of production gone up? They say 27 per cent, but then how they come to the conclusion that last year's price will be kept. On what basis? It means, the cost of production as compared to last year, although it looks the same, is really reduced because the cost of production has gone up. Then, how much of purchases have been made by the Cotton Corporation of India and at what price? What the Cotton Corporation of India do is, they do not enter the market when the price come down when they allow Birlas, DCM and others to make their own purchases. So, it does not serve the purpose. I would like to know in which month how much cotton was purchased and in what way the Cotton Corporation of India has helped these people to purchase cotton at low prices. Finally, Maharashtra with its monopoly procurement has helped the Maharashtra cotton growers to an extent. We have seen the earlier reports. Now the Central Government say that they do not like the scheme to continue because they have to advance money. But what monopoly procurement can be undertaken without money? Therefore, finally I would like to know whether the Government will consider saving the peasants and helping the consumers of cloth by introducing a scheme of monopoly procurement so that the guaranteed price is given to the grower and cheap cloth is supplied to the consumer. These are my questions on which I want the Minister to throw light.

**SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE:** Sir, first of all the hon. Member talked about sectoral approach. Firstly I would like to point out that I am not taking a sectoral approach. Unfortunately some Members are taking a sectoral approach. It is easy for him to say that the mill-owners are making

huge profits. What I said in the Lok Sabha is, I am running 103 textile mills; your West Bengal Government is running five to six textile mills; please ascertain from them how much profit they are minting.

**SHRI HARKISHAN SINGH SURJEET:** When you are there why should I ascertain from them?

**SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE:** And you know, when I come forward with budgetary subsidies, how much money we are making in the 103 sick textile mills. It is true that there was no parity between the increase in the cotton price and the increase in the price of the finished product. But what has happened since last year? As I said, 1979-80 is relevant because in 1979-80 if you look at the price increase so far as cotton is concerned, in most of the commodities it has been from Rs. 90 to 100 and more per quintal.

Therefore what happened before 1979-80 is not relevant, what is happening today is relevant because the main question is why we are fixing it at the price level of last year. That was the main thrust of the question. Sir, in regard to the particular linkage that the hon. Member wanted to know, I can give him information for two years—I have got information for 1980-81 and 1981-82. So far as the hank yarn prices are concerned, they have stabilized, they have not gone up. It is one of the reasons why we have imported some cheap varieties from Pakistan. So far as the cloth price is concerned the increase has been 9 per cent. In regard to the procurement of cotton the hon. Member would appreciate that to a considerable extent we have been able to eliminate the role of the middle men because of the effective intervention of CCI and E and other cooperative organisations in Punjab, Haryana and certain other cotton producing States and by the monopoly procurement scheme in Maharashtra, were nearly 50 per cent of the total production—it may

be a little more or a little less, but almost 50 per cent—is controlled by the public sector organisations or co-operative organisations. So far as the CCI and E purchases during 1st September to 2nd December are concerned, the total would be 6,61,288 bales I did not mention Punjab earlier. It is an important cotton growing area. For your information, I can tell you that it is 2,98,450 bales. In regard to the total production, the hon. Member wanted to know whether these 80 bales are produced in Maharashtra. The Maharashtra production would be 17-18 lakh bales. Eighty lakh bales is the production of the whole country, including that of Punjab. In regard to the costing report, that is not, strictly speaking, within the purview of my Ministry. It is with the Ministry of Company Affairs and they have to look into what arrangements they have to have.

**SHRI HARKISHAN SINGH SURJEET:** Will you amend it?

**SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE:** He has noted. He is there. He has noted.

**SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM:** Sir, I share the concern of the hon. Minister for the poor handloom weavers. Let me proceed from the same concern. I may also request him to extend his concern to the producers. He was telling us that from 1979-80 the price has been fixed taking into account the rise in the cost of inputs at 27 per cent. What is the rationale? Can you give us figures for the rise in the wholesale price index during this period and show how it compares with that, because the total input alone at 27 per cent will not be adequate for fixing the price of cotton.

Now, coming to the other parts of the country, Tamil Nadu is also one of the cotton-growing States; and perhaps nearly half of the textile mills, spinning mills are located in Tamil Nadu. The problem there is

with regard to the procurement of cotton, the cotton of the required quality, especially long staple cotton fibre is not easily available in Tamil Nadu. The textile mills also suffer. My understanding of the situation is that neither the farmers who produce cotton are benefited, nor is the handloom industry benefited, nor the people who have some skill. Then which is the section which is benefited? The textile mill owners or the monopolists. Of course, when I say textile mill owners, I do not include Mr. Mukherjee because he is....

**MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN:** But he is the biggest.

**SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM:** True, but he does not have the machinery, he cannot maintain two accounts, he can only maintain one account because it is Government machinery. But that is not the case with regard to private sector textile mill owners. Most of the traders are in their pockets or they are their own "benamis". So they press the prices down at the time of harvest of cotton. Then the prices rise. So, if he really wants to protect the handloom weavers, if he really wants to satisfy the farmers also, I do not say that all the demands of the farmers can be met, but he must make efforts to meet them as far as possible. Don't make them further indebted because they have produced more. Out of the total quantity of 80 lakh bales, how much was procured by the mill owner themselves and their trading agents and how much was procured by the Cotton Corporation of India?

**MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN:** He has replied to that. About 50 per cent. He has already replied.

**SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE:** About 50 per cent.

**SHRI HARKISHAN SINGH SURJEET:** Not by CCI.

**MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN:** Total. He has said it.

**SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM:**  
How much was procured by the CCI and how much by the private traders? Even if it is 50 per cent, it means that a major portion is procured by the private traders who depress the price of cotton and increase the price of yarn. So, the increase in the price of yarn is not due to higher payment to the farmers. The increase in the price of yarn is because of the transactions of the mill owners in procurement and their manipulation of the price of yarn. Can the Minister tell us at what price yarn is sold? Does it compare with the price of procurement of cotton? The cotton price is going down and the yarn price is increasing because no mill owner sells yarn at the price fixed. The handloom weavers have to purchase yarn by paying Rs. 40 to Rs. 50 more than the price fixed, sometimes even double the price. What action does the Government propose to take to check this anarchy in the textile field? As in the case of sugarcane, in textiles also there is anarchy created by the textile mill owners and their trading agents. That is why comrade Surjeet asked whether the Government would make monopoly procurement.

**SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE:** Sir, so far as the share of the private sector is concerned, as I mentioned, the co-operatives, the Maharashtra federation and the CCI taken together, it is roughly about 50 per cent. So far as the CCI is concerned, last year they procured, I think, 12 to 13 lakh bales. The Maharashtra Marketing normally procures 16 to 17 lakh bales because monopoly procurement is there and no private trader can enter into Maharashtra. Co-operatives also intervene in an effective manner in various cotton producing areas. So the co-operative and public sector organisations roughly have a total share of 50 per cent of the total production.

Sir, in regard to the monopoly procurement scheme and its extension, as I mentioned, certain other State

Governments have also come forward. But I cannot make any commitment. It has very wide repercussions and we have to consider whether we are capable of doing so.

Sir, in regard to the price of yarn and other things, I have already answered. The only point that I wanted to impress upon Members is that it is nobody's case that the growers should not get it. It is everybody's case that the farmers should get it. I am not talking of a "remunerative price," I am not talking about taking into account the entire cost of production, etc. The farmer will have to assess himself, and he will be guided by his own assessment as to at what particular level of price 1 p.m. he can sell. If he finds that he is getting less, next year he is not going to produce cotton. What has happened in sugar will be repeated in any agricultural commodity. He is not going to do anything which will ultimately ruin his economy completely. It is nobody's case that he should not get. That is why this institutional arrangement has been made and they look into it. If you create some distortion and if we do not rectify it, it will have its repercussions in other areas.

• So far as agitation is concerned, there is no much validity for it because nobody agrees with the demand they have made. Not a single Member of Parliament has said that the cultivator should be given Rs. 966 per quintal...

**SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM:**  
Are you satisfied with the price fixed?

**SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE:** We decided that the price this year should be at the last year's level. Why did we decide so? You may say that the cost of fertilizer has increased, the cost of other inputs has increased...

**SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM:**  
You need not say that. What is the

rate of increase in the wholesale price index? Kindly compare that.

**SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE:** The wholesale price index is 228... (*Interruptions*). Mr. Kalyanasundaram, please do not enter into a running commentary. You have not understood what I said. The APC fixed the price in 1980-81. They have done it after taking into account the cost of inputs. You may agree with it or you may not agree with it. You may go on the basis of your own statistics. But when they determine the price, they take into account the cost of each and every input. I add 27 per cent to that. This year we have not fixed any minimum price. Minimum price is irrelevant because the market price is higher. That being so nobody is going to sell at the minimum price. This is the point I wanted to say. I do not say that the farmer has no case. He has a case. If you do not give him, he will not produce and we cannot get raw materials. The question is at what level it should be fixed. We have left it to the Committee to determine.

**SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI:** Thank you for calling me. I do not want to be misunderstood. I have got farmer's interest at heart. At the same time I am concerned with the handloom interests. Sir, the handloom industry sustains a population of one crore people and 50 lakh families.

At present world production of cotton is at the highest level. Any increase at this level or the cloth level will depress exports. This is one real danger to the country.

The index figure for raw cotton rose by 40 per cent in 1980 over 1979, while the index for yarn rose by 66.88 per cent. Cloth index rose by 13.90 per cent. The Commerce Minister owns the largest number of textile mills out of 103 cooperative spinning mills—another 100 will be coming up during the Sixth Plan—70 per cent of them have gone into red.

**SHRI HARKISHAN SINGH SURJEET:** Please say something about sugarcane also.

**SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI:** Yes, I am coming to that also. Don't be sectarian.

**MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN:** That is all right. Please put the question.

**SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI:** Yes, Sir, I am putting the question.

Now, Sir, I want to know something about the Maharashtra Government's cotton procurement scheme from the honourable Commerce Minister. Actually, the Central Government has made a review of this scheme. I was also pleading with the Maharashtra Government that the scheme should be reviewed because the price-fixing machinery and the selling techniques have to be commercialised. What is happening is that the Maharashtra Marketing Federation, which is acting on behalf of the Maharashtra Government, is not concerned with the losses. The losses are there in the Budget of the Maharashtra Government. They are only showing the middlemen's commission which comes to Rs. 27 crores while the total loss is Rs. 27 crores. This is the position of the Maharashtra Marketing Federation. This is the malady and my friends like Mr. Deshmukh and others must know this. Now, Sir, the frequency of sales has to be increased and the price fixation policy has to be reviewed.

Lastly, Sir, I would like to make a request to the Government. The Government should now come out with a categorical statement that soft options won't work in this country. If you want to run the textile industry well, you have to do this. I am not concerned with the textile mill magnates and other people for whom I have no sympathy at all. You hang them wherever you find them. But I am concerned with the handloom sector and also the powerloom sector. In the handloom sector one crore fa-

[Shri Arvind Ganesh Kulkarni]

families are engaged and, therefore, I am concerned about it. There are also the cotton growers. Thousands of people, thousands of families, are engaged in the production of cotton and they are producing cotton. What is now needed is a massive research and development programme in respect of cotton which will ultimately help in ensuring a remunerative price to the cotton grower. This 960/- is a fantastic and a foolish thing. This is no price at all. I would only like to know from the honourable Minister whether, instead of going in for soft options, he will take some hard decisions. Will he assure this House and the cotton growers and also the consumers that there would be a rational policy and that the Government will not go in for soft options? Will he give such an assurance so that the cotton yarn will be made available to the handloom weavers at a suitable price?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Yadav.

श्री हुकमदेव नारायण यादव (बिहार) : उपसभापति महोदय, अभी बहुत सवाल किये गये और सरकार का उत्तर भी आया है। मैं उन सवालों की ओर नहीं जाऊंगा। मैं सरकार का ध्यान इस ओर ले जाना चाहूंगा कि जो कपास का उत्पादन करने वाले किसान हैं उन किसानों को जो कीमत दी जाती है, उस पर सरकार के जरिये जो सोचा जाता है और जिन संस्थाओं के जरिये, जिन एजेंसियों के जरिये कीमत तय की जाती है वहां असल में किसानों के दुख और दर्द को समझने वाला कोई है नहीं। इसलिये जो एजेंसी सरकार की कीमत तय करे उन एजेंसियों में ऐसे प्रतिनिधि ज्यादा से ज्यादा हों जो किसानों के दर्द को समझ सकें और किसानों की बात को सही रूप से रख सकें। जो किसानों की बात को समझने वाले नहीं हैं, सरकारी अधिकारी हैं, ऐसे

जो लोग हैं उनका इससे कोई मतलब नहीं। उनको दृष्टि व्यापार चलाने वालों की ओर रहती है। तो सरकार को इस बात पर भी ध्यान रखना चाहिए। मैं पूछना चाहता हूं कि क्या सरकार इसको करेगी या नहीं?

दूसरा, हम देश के अन्दर जो रुई के धागे हैं और कृत्रिम धागे हैं, इन दोनों के टकराव से भी कपास की कीमत कम होती रही है। आप इतिहास निकाल कर देखें तो पता चलेगा कि ज्यों ज्यों कृत्रिम धागों का आयात विदेशों से हुआ है त्यों त्यों हिन्दुस्तान में कपास के उत्पादन पर आवात होता गया है। मैं आपके सामने कोई ज्यादा नहीं लेकिन एक छोटे से सरकारी आंकड़े से इसको सिद्ध कर देना चाहूंगा, सरकार खुद निकाल कर देखें कि कपड़ा जो था, जहां 1964-65 में प्रति व्यक्ति 15 मीटर उसका उत्पादन होता था वहां 1979-80 में प्रति व्यक्ति 10 मीटर सूती कपड़े का उत्पादन हुआ और जहां 1964-65 में कृत्रिम कपड़ा 1.6 मीटर प्रति व्यक्ति के हिसाब से उसका उत्पादन होता था वहां 1979-80 में 4.6 मीटर उसका उत्पादन हुआ। यह दुर्भाग्य की बात है कि आपने देश के किसानों का गला कटा। आज देश में विदेशों से कृत्रिम धागों का आयात इसलिये किया जाता है कि उसमें लाइसेंस और परमिट जारी किये जाते हैं और नौकरशाही, राजनीतिकशाही, व्यापारशाही इनके तिकड़म का खेल होता है और इसके चलते यहां किसानों का गला घोंटा जाता है। हिन्दुस्तान में अगर किसानों को, कपास उत्पादकों को उचित पैसा देना चाहते हैं और बाजार को संतुलित रखना चाहते हैं तो मेरी मांग यह होगी कि कृत्रिम धागे का आयात इस देश में तत्काल बंद कर दिया जाए। जहां तक कपास उत्पादन करने वाले किसानों या



नकदी फसल उत्पादन करने वाले किसानों की स्थिति का मंथन है, मैं मंत्री जी से निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि क्या प्रणव बाबू ने कभी उस इलाके में जाकर अपनी आँखों से देखा है। जब किसान की खेती पूरी की पूरी मर जाती है, कीड़ों के प्रकोप से सारी गेहूँ मार दी जाती है तथा उनकी पूँजी समाप्त हो जाती है और फिर उनको उस आई हुई पूँजी के ऊपर ही खेती करनी पड़ती है। मंत्री जी तो यहाँ आंकड़े निकाल कर हिसाब-किताब कर देंगे, मेरा कहना यह है कि यह ऐसे चलने वाला नहीं है। इसलिए मैं माँग यह करूँगा कि यदि किसानों के हित की आप रक्षा करना चाहते हैं तो आप यह भी याद कर लें कि इन्तों-दिन कपास की खेती कम होती जाएगी और एक दिन ऐसा होगा जब काड़ा मिलों का दूसरे देशों से मंगाए गए कृत्रिम धागे पर निर्भर करना होगा। इस तरह से आप हिन्दुस्तान के लगे शरीरो हो नहीं टक पाएँगे। मैं एक बार फिर आपसे निवेदन करूँगा कि आप कृत्रिम धागे को विदेशों से मंगाना बन्द करें और हिन्दुस्तान के किसानों को ज्यादा पैसा दें जिससे वे कपास की खेती याद कर सकें।

**SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE:** I do agree with Mr. Kulkarni that we must have a balanced policy in which the interests of various sectors are protected and serious distortions in the economy do not take place. And, in fact, this is our effort, and we try to do so. That is why I mentioned that the scheme was extended and the performance of the scheme will be reviewed and over the period of years distortions which have taken place will have to be rectified. The job of the public sector agencies or cooperative agencies is not just to earn commission but to ensure that growers do not have to sell their products at throw-away

prices and at the same time the consuming units get raw materials supply steadily. At the proper time we will review and take stock of the situation.

In regard to the other points which he has mentioned, they only strengthen my argument and I am not going to make any comment on it.

Sir, in regard to the points which Mr. Yadav has mentioned, there is a consumer preference for the man-made fibres. But still in our textile policy we want to see that cotton plays a most dominant role. That is why you are finding that we are, by and large, consuming about 76 to 78 lakh bales of cotton every year in that sector and we are restricting the import of man-made fibre. But the point made by him about the man-made fibre in this country will also be taken care of. But, at the same time, we shall have to keep in mind that if a consumer finds that man-made fabric becomes cheaper and durable, naturally he will have an option for it. So we have to keep the argument on this side also in mind.

In regard to the representations of growers in the Agricultural Prices Commission, this subject has been discussed a number of times, and if the hon. Member wants, he can give his suggestion to the Agricultural Ministry.

## STATEMENT BY MINISTER

### Recognition of Law Commission

**MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN:** Special Mentions will be taken up after lunch. Now there are two statements, Statement by Minister.

**THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR):** Sir, honourable Members have from time to time made enquiries about the working of the