

was convened on 4.4.2006 by the Minister of Water Resources. They passed a resolution saying that, "Till a technical committee submits its report the *status quo* in respect of activities of Babhali project shall be maintained and further construction work will not be done by the State of Maharashtra." When the situation is like this, the Government of Maharashtra is going ahead with construction of barrage and installation of the gates. So, there is no way for Andhra Pradesh. They filed a suit in the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court gave the above direction. Sir, even after the Prime Minister's intervention, even today, they are installing the gates on the Babhali. So, I would like to bring this fact to the notice of the august House. It is the onerous responsibility of the people who are holding the responsible Constitutional posts to uphold the integrity of the country and see to it that the laws and directions are strictly implemented in a true sense.

Sir, if such people take the law into their hands and dishonour the Supreme Court's interim direction and the directions of the statutory bodies, it will be detrimental to the Federal set up. ...*(Interruptions)*... And the integration of the country would be at stake, Sir.

SHRI BHARATKUMAR RAUT (Maharashtra): Sir, it is total distortion of facts. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is over. ...*(Interruptions)*... It is over. Nothing will go on record.

SHRI BHARATKUMAR RAUT: *

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, we take up the Calling Attention Motion. ...*(Interruptions)*... That is nothing. What can I do? There are disputes. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please sit down. Shri Shantaram Laxman Naik to call the attention of the Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*...

**CALLING ATTENTION TO THE MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC
IMPORTANCE**

**Sale of vegetables and fruits injected with chemicals and adulteration of other food items posing
threat to human life**

SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK (Goa): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Health and Family Welfare to the sale of vegetables and fruits injected with chemicals and adulteration of other food items posing threat to human life.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, the hon. Member has called the attention of the House to the reports of sale of vegetables and fruits injected with chemicals in the various markets in the country and adulteration of other food items, posing a danger to the health of the citizens. Hon. Members are aware that the quality standards of food articles are prescribed

*Not recorded.

under Prevention of Food Adulteration (or PFA) Rules, 1955. The subject of Prevention of Food Adulteration is in the Concurrent List of the Constitution. Accordingly, the implementation of the PFA Act, 1954 and PFA Rules, 1955 has been entrusted to the State/Union Territory Governments. The Central Government lays down the standards for various food articles and regulations on use of additives, labeling, contaminants, etc. It primarily plays an advisory role in its implementation besides carrying out various statutory functions/duties assigned to it under the various provisions of the Act. It also issues appropriate directions and alerts to the State/UT authorities for keeping strict vigil on the quality of food items within their respective jurisdiction for ensuring safe and wholesome food for consumers.

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN) in the Chair]

The enforcement staff of the States' Food Health Authorities draw random samples of different food from all sources like manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers, and also conduct raids at suspected places, and get these samples analysed in the food testing labs to see whether the samples conform to the standards laid down under the PFA Rules, 1955 and other provisions of PFA Act, 1954. Action against such persons who indulge in production and trade of adulterated or misbranded food articles is taken by the concerned State/UT Governments under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954.

With a view to improve the implementation of food safety measures in the country, an attempt has been made by the Central Government to consolidate and integrate a number of food related laws and orders administered by different authorities by bringing them under a common umbrella of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and bringing them under the supervision of a new single authority namely the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India. The new Act deals with the issue of Food Safety in a holistic manner including provisions like food recall, improvement notices, compensation to the victim of unsafe food or the legal representative to be paid by the vendor or manufacturer in case of injury or death of consumer by adulterated or injurious food article.

Government acknowledges the deep concern of the House over reports of sale of fruits and vegetables being injected with harmful and non-recommended chemicals. The sale of spurious/adulterated food items attract penalty under Section 16 of PFA Act, 1954. As per rule 48-E of the PFA Rules fresh fruits and vegetables shall be free from rotting and free from mineral oil, colour and coating of waxes except as prescribed in these Rules. Further, Rule 44-AA of the PFA Rules, 1955 prohibits the sale of fruits which has been artificially ripened by use of acetylene gas commonly known as carbide gas produced from Calcium Carbide. Sale of any adulterated and misbranded article of food is an offence punishable with minimum imprisonment of six months and with fine which shall not be less than Rs.1000/-. In case adulterated food stuff

causes death or grievous hurt, the offence is punishable with imprisonment which may extend to term of life and with fine which shall not be less than Rs.5000/-.

There are also reports regarding misuse of Oxytocin injection in fruits and vegetables to increase size and volume of these products. It is a protein hormone which is used to induce uterine contractions in pregnant women and laboratory animals, rabbits, dogs and cattle for easy delivery. Oxytocin, when injected into the animal, gets rapidly metabolised in liver and kidney to undetectable levels. In human, Oxytocin is not absorbed when taken orally as it is converted into amino acids by peptide digesting enzymes in the gastro-intestinal tract. To prevent any misuse of this drug by farmers Oxytocin has been notified as Schedule-H drug which can be sold only against the prescription of a Registered Medical/Veterinary Practitioner Doctor. Further, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has made it mandatory since April 2001 itself to market Oxytocin injection in single unit blister packs only. Instructions have also been issued to all State Drug Controllers to regulate and monitor manufacture and distribution of Oxytocin. The State Food Safety authorities have also been advised to be vigilant against such malpractices and take preventive measures including random collection of samples of vegetables and fruits at regular intervals for analysis.

As I have pointed out, the administration of all food safety laws rests with the respective State/Union Territory Governments. Through this august forum, therefore, I would urge upon all the State/Union Territory Governments and their Food Safety Administrators to keep strict vigil on the activities of the unscrupulous elements so that they do not play havoc with the health and lives of the consumers. I assure the House that the Central Government would not be found wanting in taking measures on its part for checking such malpractices. Thank you.

SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK (Goa): Sir, at the outset I would like to congratulate the hon. Minister. Although I have given a Calling Attention Notice today, it is actually the hon. Minister who has given a Calling Attention Notice to the entire nation and awakened the country of this malice of vegetables being injected with chemicals. Sir, majority of Indians are vegetarians. I am not. I am fully a Non-vegetarian. But majority are vegetarians. The rise of vegetarianism in India goes back to 500 BC when India saw the rise of Buddhism and Jainism. Sir, by 1908, it is said that vegetarianism had become an organized global movement gaining popularity when the International Vegetarian Union was founded in Germany. Sir, it has also got a religious background. In my own state, especially ladies have *upvaas*. But apart from *upvaas* ladies in Goa eat vegetables only on particular days as part of health system. Therefore, vegetarianism has come to play a very important role in the lives of this country. The world is going today towards vegetarianism. I may mention it casually that leading national figures like Mahatma Gandhi, Isaac Newton, Albert Einstein, Plato, Voltaire, Pythagoras were all vegetarians. I don't know what would have been their fate if they were to eat vegetables which

are available in the markets today. Sir, as a prescription doctors tell us that our problems would be solved if we become vegetarians. Fifty per cent of problems would be solved. He asks you to eat vegetables, leafy vegetables, juice and fruits and all those things.

Now, in the present circumstances when everybody knows what is happening in the markets for vegetarian foods, I don't know what the doctors would care to advice. Sir, as mentioned by hon. Minister, Oxytocin is used highly in vegetables in the markets today. Oxytocin injections were used to augment labor in a full term pregnant women. However, its misuse to terminate pregnancy made this chemical a banned product in India. The injection is administered in the vegetables either within the plant or just before it comes to the market which make them fresh and fluffy in appearance. In recent times, Oxytocin has also been used in cattle for more milk production. There are serious effects on health by using these vegetables and milk of such cattle. Calcium carbide is used in fruits and vegetables. Calcium carbide is used in fruits for ripening. Though there is no exposure limit for calcium carbide but this doesn't make it safe to use. It can cause a serious damage to eyes and lungs. The contact of calcium carbide can severely irritate and burn the eyes and skin causing permanent eye damage and ulcers on the skin. Now, Sir, this is the state of affairs of the chemicals being used in vegetables. I am told Sir, truck loads come from one place to another for using these chemicals. What action is being taken is very difficult to know at this stage. Eating vegetables injected with these chemicals can cause nervous breakdown, debility and neurotic complications. Most commonly available and readily used hormone is Schedule-H drug, banned in India for use on animals, leave alone vegetables. Known as Oxytocin in the medical world, in local parlance it has got startling names. Some call it 'cocin', some call it 'paani' and some call it 'dawai.'

Sir, now-a-days, vegetables are coming in a packing form. If things go like this, the hon. Minister will have to issue a notification saying 'eating vegetables is injurious to health' and those who are selling in the market openly have to sit with a placard 'eating vegetables is injurious to health.' This kind of situation may come. Sir, I am happy that the hon. Minister in his statement has elaborately mentioned the laws governed to curb this menace. Basically, he said, it is the responsibility of the State Governments. The question is, now, raiding on such vendors, prosecuting people has, perhaps, just started. But, I have not heard any prosecution being launched. If the hon. Minister has got some information, I request him to kindly let us know which State has started taking this matter seriously. Secondly, the hon. Minister says that it is the responsibility of the State Government and the State Government has to monitor it.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Put your questions.

SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Sir, at the same time, we cannot leave it entirely to the State Governments to implement it. Sir, the Commonwealth Games are coming. Are we to issue tenders for import of vegetables? What is to be done? We have seen what happens in tenders in the Commonwealth Games. Eating these vegetables, whether our sports persons will be able to play games and run properly. I don't know. Therefore, the hon. Minister may look into this aspect also.

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN (West Bengal): Sir, it is a fact today that vegetables and fruits as a staple diet finds a sharp contradiction in the present-day scenario. Some people are injecting a hormone called oxytocin into vegetables and fruits to make the produce ripen sooner and gain weight. This is, sometimes, given to women during childbirth. It has also been mentioned in the statement made by the hon. Minister. These harmful chemicals are injected in many fruits such as pumpkin, watermelon, brinjal and cucumber plants to make them bear bigger fruit. Why farmers or anybody doing this? The vendors use this method as they find it expensive to use fertilizers to increase the fertility of soil, which raises question on the adequacy of fertilizer subsidy.

So, I would like to urge the hon. Minister and the Chair as to what action the Government is taking to provide a good orientation for the farmers not to use this oxytocin which they are using.

The second question is: is it a fact that many newspapers reported that the sale of oxytocin is banned? The hon. Minister may kindly explain this.

The third question is: Whether the Government has announced to use it. If yes, what is the state of affairs?

The fourth one is: It has become a normal practice either of this Ministry or the other Ministry to pass the buck to States. It is not entirely the responsibility of the State Governments to bear the load. It is a national phenomenon. I would say that it is not entirely the responsibility of the States. So, I would urge upon the Government to take appropriate action to save the country and the citizens of this country. Thank you.

श्री रामदास अग्रवाल (राजस्थान) : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, शान्ताराम जी ने जो प्रश्न खड़ा किया और उस पर माननीय मंत्री जी ने जो उत्तर दिया है, वह सारे मिलावट के विषयों को लेकर है और मैं आपकी इस भावना से सहमत हूँ कि केवल सब्जी और फलों में ही मिलावट नहीं है। मिलावट कहाँ-कहाँ है इसका ज़रा अंदाजा करिए।

अभी कुछ दिन पहले ही सी.ए.जी. ने रिपोर्ट दी है कि मिलावट की पहुंच सियाचीन के ग्लेशियर्स और बर्फ़ीले पहाड़ों पर, जहाँ हमारे सेना के जवान रहते हैं, वहाँ उनको खाने का जो सामान दिया गया, उसमें भी है। उनको भेजे गए अनाज, दाल और तेल 28 महीने पहले के बंद किए हुए थे, जो सड़ चुके थे और जो जानवरों के खाने के लिए भी उपयुक्त नहीं थे, ऐसे सामान हमारे उन जवानों को दिए गये, जिन्होंने हमारे देश की रक्षा के लिए प्रण ले रखा है और अपनी जान न्यौछावर कर रहे हैं। मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ कि क्या यह स्टेट का सब्जेक्ट है?

महोदय, दूसरी बात यह है कि अभी कुछ दिन पहले ही समाचारपत्रों में खबर छपी थी कि जब प्रधान मंत्री स्वयं कहीं दौरे पर गए थे तो वहाँ पर उनके भोजन में भी मिलावट मिली। ...**(व्यवधान)**... हाँ, वह कानपुर गए थे, उनके भोजन में भी मिलावट है। क्या यह स्टेट का सब्जेक्ट होगा?

महोदय, अगली बात यह है कि अगर आज आप बड़े-से-बड़े आदमी को भी ले लें, मुझे नहीं मालूम, लेकिन मैं संसद में बोल रहा हूँ इसलिए यह बात बताना चाहता हूँ कि आज अगर आपमें से कोई व्हिस्की पीते हैं या कोई भी इसे पीता होगा, तो उसमें भी मिलावट है। उसको भी उसमें डाउट होता है कि यह चीज़ सही नहीं है। मैं एक गरीब की बात भी करूँगा। मैं गरीब के लिए भी कहना चाहता हूँ कि वह गरीब बेचारा अपनी नींद लाने के लिए, अपने श्म को गलाने के लिए, अपनी गरीबी से थोड़ी देर मुक्ति पाने के लिए अगर दारू पी लेता है, वैसे यह गलत है, लेकिन जब वह इसे पीकर सो जाता है, तो हमने इस दारू को पीकर हजारों आदमियों को मरते देखा है, क्योंकि इसमें भी मिलावट है।

महोदय, मैं मिलावट की व्याख्या कहाँ तक करूँ? आप मीडिया में रोज देखते हैं। मंत्री महोदय, आप मीडिया में रोज यह देख रहे हैं कि मिलावट ने कहाँ-कहाँ पर अपने पाँव पसार लिए हैं। आज यह देखना मुश्किल है कि मिलावट किस चीज़ में नहीं है। किस चीज़ में मिलावट नहीं है, उसे ढूँढ़ना पड़ेगा। अगर आप दूध की बात करें तो दूध में, घी में, दही में, पनीर में और मक्खन में मिलावट है। क्या दवाओं में मिलावट नहीं पाई जाती है? अभी परसों ही टीवी के एक चैनल पर मंत्री जी ने सुना होगा कि एक बालक की मृत्यु हो गई, क्योंकि उसे गलत दवा दे दी गई, मिलावटी दवा दे दी गई। अभी कुछ दिनों पहले ही हमने यह पढ़ा है कि सारे मसाले, आटा, दाल, तेल आदि सब में मिलावट है।

महोदय, अब तो एक दूसरी बात और हो गई है कि जो लोग नोट कमाते हैं, जो रिश्वत खाते हैं, उनको भी सावधान हो जाना चाहिए कि कहीं रिश्वत देने वाला उनको नकली नोट न दे जाए क्योंकि आज नोटों में भी मिलावट है। वह बेचारा रोएगा जिसके घर में कभी किसी कारण से कई नोट आ गए, तो आधे असली होंगे और आधे नकली।

महोदय, मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि आज हमारे देश के अन्दर मिनरल वाटर पीने का हम सब को शौक है, लेकिन वह मिनरल वाटर है या गली का पानी है, यह मालूम नहीं है। कोल्ड ड्रिंक्स हम सब पीते हैं, लेकिन मालूम नहीं कि यह कैसा है। अभी कल ही टीवी में दिखाया जा रहा था कि कोल्ड ड्रिंक्स में नाले का पानी डाला जाता है।

महोदय, दूध के अन्दर क्या-क्या डाला जाता है, दही में क्या-क्या मिलाया जाता है, खोए में क्या-क्या मिल रहा है, मसालों में क्या-क्या डाला जा रहा है, आटे-दाल में और तेल में क्या हो रहा है? मंत्री महोदय, आखिर आप यह कह कर बचने की कोशिश मत करिए कि यह विषय केवल स्टेट्स का है। आज मैं सारी संसद से कहना चाहता हूँ कि....

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. पी.जे. कुरियन) : आप सवाल पूछिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**... आपके चार मिनट हो गए।

श्री रामदास अग्रवाल : सर, ...**(व्यवधान)**... मैं सवाल ही पूछ रहा हूँ। मैं भाषण नहीं दे रहा हूँ।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. पी.जे. कुरियन) : आपके चार मिनट हो गए। आप सवाल पूछिए।

श्री रामदास अग्रवाल : सर, मैंने ये सारे सवाल ही पूछे हैं। ये मेरे सवाल ही हैं। मैंने अलग से कोई बात नहीं कही है।

मैं हमारी संसद से यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि हम इस बात को केवल स्टेट का सवाल न बनाएं। हम केवल इस बात को टालें नहीं। मैं मंत्री जी से आखिरी प्रश्न पूछना चाहता हूँ। आपने कहा कि कानून के अंतर्गत बहुत-सारी सजाएँ हैं, लेकिन मंत्री महोदय, ज़रा एक उदाहरण आप हमें दीजिए, हम आपको 50 उदाहरण

देंगे, कि क्या आपके सारे स्टेट्स में कुल मिलाकर भी इन मिलावट करने वाले दरिन्दों में से किसको इन कानूनों के अंतर्गत सजा दी गई है? मैं ऐसा मानता हूँ कि अभी तक ऐसा उदाहरण मिलाना मुश्किल है जिसमें किसी को सजा दी गयी हो, आजीवन कारावास दिया गया हो या exemplary punishment दी गयी हो।
...(समय की घंटी)...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. पी.जे. कुरियन) : ओ.के., आपके पांच मिनट हो गये।

श्री रामदास अग्रवाल : उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, जल्दी मत कीजिए। यह विषय इस महान राष्ट्र का विषय है और यह बीमारी का विषय है, इसलिए लोगों को इसके ऊपर ध्यान देना पड़ेगा और सरकार को भी ध्यान देना पड़ेगा अन्यथा मिलावट का ये जो सारा गोलगपाड़ा हो रहा है, यह हम पर हावी हो जाएगा, धन्यवाद।

श्रीमती माया सिंह (मध्य प्रदेश) : सर, आजकल बाजारों में नकली सामान का जो धंधा है, वह इतने जोरों पर है कि खाद्य पदार्थों में मिलावट एक गम्भीर चिन्ता का विषय बन गया है। यह एक धीमा जहर है और न जाने कितनी जिंदगियों को तबाह कर रहा है। मैं जो बातें उठाना चाहती थी, श्री रामदास जी ने उनमें से कई बातों का उठाया है। मैं मंत्री जी को बताना चाहूंगी कि डिटर्जेंट, कास्टिक सोडा, शैम्पू, यूरिया खाद, सफेद पेन्ट, रिफाईंड तेल, पामोलीन, हाइड्रोजन परॉक्साइड और सोडियम सल्फेट जैसे पदार्थों को मिलाकर दूध बनाया जा रहा है। दूध बच्चे, युवा और वृद्ध, सबकी जरूरत की चीज़ है। इस प्रकार, मिलावटी दूध से लोगों को इतना नुकसान हो रहा है कि इससे मृत्यु तक होने का खतरा है।

इन्होंने जो सेना वाली बात उठायी है, मैं यह कहना चाहूंगी कि सेना के जवानों को भी 11,300 चीज़ों को, जिनकी एक्सपायरी डेट्स समाप्त हो चुकी थीं और जो खाने योग्य नहीं थीं, केन्द्रीय प्रयोगशाला ने उनकी आयु सीमा में बढ़ोतरी कर उन्हें खाने योग्य बना कर सीमाओं पर सप्लाई कर दिया, जहां हमारे जवान हैं और जिनकी चर्चा रामदास जी ने की है। खाने वाली जो चीज़ें एक्सपायर हो चुकी थीं, जो खाने लायक नहीं थीं, उनकी सप्लाई जवानों को कर दी गयी। यह खुलासा पश्चिमी, उत्तरी और पूर्वी कमान की राशन व्यवस्था के परफॉर्मेंस ऑडिट में सी.ए.जी. ने पाया है। इसलिए मैं मंत्री महोदय से कहना चाहूंगी कि सीमा पर हमारे जो जवान हैं, उनके लिए जो खाद्य वस्तुएं वहां जाती हैं, कम से कम उन पर तो निगाह रखी जानी चाहिए। एक्सपायरी डेट्स खत्म हुई चीज़ों की जो सप्लाई हो रही है, उस पर कड़ाई के साथ तुरन्त रोक कैसे लगायी जा सकती है, इस पर मंत्री जी ध्यान दें।

इसी तरीके से, पीने के पानी की बात जो इन्होंने की है, मैं यह कहना चाहूंगी कि आज हजार तरह की पानी की बोतलें, जो मिनरल वॉटर हैं, वे स्टेशनों, भीड़ भरे बाजारों और दुकानों में मिल रही हैं। इन बोतलों के अलावा पाउच भी मिलते हैं, लेकिन उन पर रोक लगाने वाला कोई नहीं है, उसको देखने वाला कोई नहीं है। जिसकी मर्जी हो रही है, वह पैसा कमाने के लिए बोतलों में पानी भर-भर कर बेच रहा है। ये पानी पीकर न जाने कितनी बीमारियां हो रही हैं। लोग यह भी सोचते हैं कि हमें मिनरल वॉटर और शुद्ध पानी पीने को मिल रहा है, लेकिन उसके अंदर क्या है, यह देखने की चीज़ है।

इसी प्रकार, मैं मंत्री महोदय से यह कहना चाहूंगी कि मिलावट और खाद्य पदार्थों में रसायनों के मिश्रण की रोकथाम के लिए सरकार के पास जो व्यवस्था है, वह कितनी पर्याप्त है, इसका अंदाजा हम इसी बात से लगा सकते हैं कि 2009 में खाद्य सामग्रियों में अपमिश्रण हेतु केन्द्रीय खाद्य प्रयोगशालाएं सिर्फ 7 थीं और राज्यों में ये 72 थीं। क्या देश की जनता के लिए खाद्य पदार्थों में मिलावट की रोकथाम हेतु ये पर्याप्त हैं? इनको बढ़ाया जाना चाहिए। देश भर में जो इतनी मिलावट हो रही है, उसे रोक पाने में ये 7 प्रयोगशालाएं कैसे सक्षम होंगी? इन प्रयोगशालाओं में बड़े पैमाने पर मिश्रण को जांचा और परखा जाता है और उनमें कर्मचारियों की

आवश्यकता होती है, लेकिन इन प्रयोगशालाओं में कर्मचारी कभी भी पूरे नहीं होते हैं। उनमें कर्मचारी नहीं हैं। आप दिल्ली में ही देखिए कि खाद्य निरोधी अपमिश्रण विभाग में 19 खाद्य निरीक्षकों के पद लम्बे समय से रिक्त पड़े हैं और इस मिश्रण की रोकथाम के लिए निर्धारित लक्ष्य 25 हजार सैम्पल्स के स्थान पर मात्र 13 हजार 34 सैम्पल्स ही अधिकारियों द्वारा लिए जा सके।...(व्यवधान)...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो पी.जे. कुरियन) : आपके चार मिनट हो गये, आप अपने questions पूछिए।

श्रीमती माया सिंह : मरे पूर्व वक्ताओं ने सब्जियों की बात उठायी है और मैं भी यह कहना चाह रही हूँ कि अब लोगों को सब्जियां खाना भी मुनासिब नहीं है।

सब्जियों में भी एक रात पहले तक जो छोटी सब्जियां हैं, अगर उन्हें इंजेक्शन लगा दिया जाए, तो वे रात से सुबह तक खाने के लिए तैयार हो जाती हैं। आजकल लोगों ने सब्जी खाना छोड़ दिया है, दूध पीना छोड़ दिया है। मैं मंत्री महोदय से कहना चाहती हूँ कि इस मिलावट की रोकथाम के लिए पर्याप्त मात्रा में स्टाफ होना चाहिए, कर्मचारी होने चाहिए, प्रयोगशालाएं होनी चाहिए और जो कानून बना है, उस कानून का सख्ती से पालन होना चाहिए। इस कानून के अंतर्गत जो सजाएं देने का प्रावधान है और जो जुर्माने की राशि है, उसमें भी बढ़ोत्तरी करनी चाहिए। मैं मंत्री महोदय से पूछना चाहूंगी कि क्या वे कानून में और सख्ती लाएंगे? मेरा मंत्री जी से निवेदन है कि अगर इस तरीके से मानव जीवन से खिलवाड़ करने वाले, मिलावट करने वाले लोग पकड़े जाते हैं, तो उनके लिए मृत्युदंड का प्रावधान होना चाहिए, इससे कम प्रावधान नहीं होना चाहिए।

श्री महेन्द्र मोहन (उत्तर प्रदेश) : उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, मंत्री महोदय ने जो कहा है, मैं उसकी ओर आपका ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ, क्योंकि जो Oxytocin की बिक्री हो रही है, यह माना जा रहा है कि इसके कारण दूध में मिलावट बढ़ती जा रही है और गायों के माध्यम से जो दूध हमें मिलता है, उससे दही बनता है, उसकी वजह से सबका स्वास्थ्य खराब हो रहा है। इसके अलावा Oxytocin के इंजेक्शन सब्जियों में लगाए जा रहे हैं, चाहे वह लौकी हो, कद्दू हो, तुरई हो, इसी प्रकार से फलों में भी ये इंजेक्शन लगाए जा रहे हैं, दवाओं में मिलावट हो रही है, कोल्ड ड्रिक्स में मिलावट हो रही है, मिनरल वॉटर में मिलावट हो रही है, मसालों में मिलावट हो रही है, दालों में मिलावट हो रही है। विगत कुछ सालों से जब से मिली-जुली सरकारें आ रही हैं, लगता है कि तब से लोग यह सोच रहे हैं कि यह मिली-जुली चीज है, हर चीज में मिला दो, किसी चीज को भी प्योर मत रखो। शायद प्योर सरकार होती, तो प्योर चीज मिलती, लेकिन मिली-जुली सरकारों में मिलावट बढ़ती चली जा रही है, कुछ ऐसी भावना लोगों में पैदा हो रही है।

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, हम लोग गांवों के लोगों को एजुकेट नहीं करते हैं। हमें गांवों के लोगों को दूध देने वाले जानवरों के बारे में जानकारी देनी चाहिए। जो डेयरी वाले लोग हैं, जो गायों को पालते हैं, उनको यह जानकारी दी जानी चाहिए। Animal Welfare Board of India की रिपोर्ट है कि “It is a mistaken belief that Oxytocin produces more milk when all it does is, make the milk come faster. It is used to force the cow to give milk even after severe beatings and stress. However, it destroys the cow's reproductive system and she goes dry in just three years”.

अगर लोगों को यह जानकारी दी जाए कि इस इंजेक्शन को लगाकर दूध ज्यादा नहीं मिलता है, बल्कि 3 सालों में वह गाय दूध देने लायक नहीं रहती है। अगर इसके बारे में गांवों के लोगों को एजुकेट किया जाए, तो अच्छा होगा। यहां पर यह होता है कि जो भी सरकारी नियम बनते हैं, सरकारी नीतियां बनती हैं, उनके बारे

में गांवों के लोगों को अंग्रेजी समाचारपत्रों के माध्यम से एजुकेट किया जाता है। गांवों के लोग भाषाई समाचारपत्र पढ़ते हैं, लेकिन उनके अखबारों में ऐसी कोई जानकारी नहीं होती है। यह इस देश का दुर्भाग्य है कि हम लोग यहां पर इस प्रकार की चीजें कर रहे हैं।

मेरा निवेदन यह है कि मंत्री महोदय यह देखें कि यह जो Oxytocin है, यह prescription पर बेची जानी चाहिए। गांवों में यदि आप एक पंसारी की दुकान पर भी चले जाइए, आपको ये सारी चीजें वहां मिल जाती हैं। इसका बहुत कुप्रभाव पड़ता है। इस दवा को गांवों में इस नाम से जाना जाता है कि पानी का इंजेक्शन लगा दो, कोकीन का इंजेक्शन लगा दो, उसको दवाई के रूप में माना जाता है। यहां तक हो रहा है कि जो Oxytocin जानवरों को लगाई जाती है, वह तो 25 पैसे का एक ampoule आता है, जब कि मनुष्य में लगाई जाने वाली जो Oxytocin है, जो कभी-कभी गर्भवती महिलाओं को लगाई जाती है, उसका ampoule 15 रुपए का होता है, लेकिन यह 25 पैसे वाला ampoule इंजेक्शन के रूप में फलों और सब्जियों में लगा दिया जाता है, उसके कारण लोगों का स्वास्थ्य खराब हो रहा है और लोग अपना इलाज नहीं करा पाते हैं। अभी आपने हाल ही में पढ़ा होगा कि लौकी खाने से हमारे एक वरिष्ठ अधिकारी की मृत्यु हो गई। इसी प्रकार से सुनने में आता है कि कहीं किसी ने दूध पी लिया, तो उसका पेट खराब हो गया, किसी ने दही खा लिया, तो उसका पेट खराब हो गया। इस प्रकार आए दिन ये चीजें हो रही हैं। इस कानून का सख्ती से पालन कराया जाना चाहिए। मैं माननीय मंत्री महोदय से यह निवेदन करूंगा कि विगत 10 वर्षों का रिकॉर्ड वे निकलवा लें और मालूम करें कि मिलावट के जुर्म में जो लोग पकड़े गए हैं, इन 10 वर्षों में उनमें से कितने लोगों को सज़ा हुई है? मैं चाहता हूं कि आप प्रदेश सरकारों से यह जानकारीयां मांगें कि कितने लोगों को सज़ा हुई है, कितने लोगों पर फाइन हुआ है। होता यह है कि न किसी पर फाइन होता है, न किसी को सज़ा होती है। कानून में प्रावधान हैं, कानून बना दिए जाते हैं, लेकिन उनका इंप्लीमेंटेशन सही रूप से नहीं होता है। कृपया आप इसका इंप्लीमेंटेशन कराएं। यह जो Oxytocin दवाई है, आप यह देखें कि केवल prescription पर ही इसकी बिक्री की जाए।

इसके लिए भी raids वगैरह होनी चाहिए। हर पंसारी के दुकान पर इस प्रकार से दवाई कैसे मिल जाती है? इस काम के लिए जो drugs controllers हैं या जो inspectors हैं, उनकी भी जिम्मेदारी फिक्स की जाए, ताकि वे इसको देखें। इससे बहुत ज्यादा नुकसान हो रहा है। सरकार ने 2006 में “खाद्य सुरक्षा और मानक अधिनियम” बनाया था, लेकिन इस अधिनियम के अंतर्गत खाद्य सुरक्षा के पुराने अधिनियम नाकाम साबित हो रहे हैं। कृपया इसमें कोई और नए नियम बनाए जाएं और इसको कैसे लागू किया जाए...(व्यवधान)...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. पी.जे. कुरियन) : कृपया आप समाप्त कीजिए।

श्री महेन्द्र मोहन : यह बहुत आवश्यक है अन्यथा इसी प्रकार से मिलावट चलती रहेगी और लोगों के अंदर यह भावना नहीं रहेगी कि मिलीजुली सरकारों में मिलावट नहीं हुई। धन्यवाद।

श्री राजीव शुक्ल (महाराष्ट्र) : सर, अभी हमारे माननीय सदस्यों ने इस विषय पर चिंता व्यक्त की है। यह बेहद गंभीर मामला है। मुझे लगता है कि देश की सबसे बड़ी चिंता यही होनी चाहिए। आज आप कुछ नहीं खा सकते हैं। आज कल मैंने तो पार्लियामेंट में चाय में दूध मिलाना भी बंद कर दिया है, क्योंकि यहां का दूध किस लैब में टेस्ट हो रहा है, यह किसी को पता नहीं है। सब्जी कैसी आ रही है, इसके लिए कोई टेस्ट है या नहीं है...(व्यवधान).... चाय में saw dust है या क्या है, यह किसी को पता नहीं है। जब मैं पूछूं कि पार्लियामेंट के कैंटीन में किस लैब से परीक्षण कराया गया, तो यह भी पता नहीं चलेगा, देश की बात तो छोड़ दीजिए। पैसे के लिए इंसान और व्यापारी किस हद तक जा सकता है, यह इसका सबसे बड़ा उदाहरण है। क्या दूध में यूरिया

मिलाया जा रहा है? कहा जा रहा है कि गाजियाबाद में कोई फैक्ट्री है, हरियाणा में कोई फैक्ट्री है। इससे बच्चों के लीवर खराब हो सकते हैं। इससे कैंसर, brain hemorrhage, किडनी, आदि सबकी problem हो सकती है। यह इतना गंभीर मामला है। इसलिए मैं चाहता हूँ कि इसके लिए सख्त से सख्त कानून बनाया जाए। अभी जो “Prevention of Adulteration of Food Act, 1954” और “Prevention of Adulteration of Food Act, 1955” है, इसमें सिर्फ छः महीने की सजा और एक हजार रुपए जुर्माने का प्रावधान है, जो बिल्कुल गलत है। I propose in this august House that there should be life imprisonment and fine of Rs.10 lakhs. This I want to propose to the hon. Minister. The second thing is laboratory facility. The facility for test should be created for common people because people do not know where to go to get these food items tested. Even I don't know where to go to get it tested. Nobody in this House knows about it. If the Members of Parliament don't know where to go for test, how can the common man come to know about this? So, facilities for test should be created all over the country. What he has proposed to do he can tell us in his reply.

सर, जैसा उन्होंने बताया कि IIT कानपुर में प्रधान मंत्री को जहरीला खाना सर्व कर दिया गया, लेकिन मैं इसमें correction करना चाहता हूँ। IIT कानपुर को विश्व की सबसे बढ़िया संस्था माना जाता है। IIT कानपुर में प्रधान मंत्री को adulterated food सर्व किया जा रहा था, जिसको SPG ने पकड़ा और उसको टेस्ट कराया, तो वे पकड़ में आया। इसके लिए किसको क्या सजा हुई, यह अब तक पता नहीं चला है। जब प्रधान मंत्री को जहरीला खाना सर्व किया जा रहा था और वह पकड़ा गया और उसको क्या सजा हुई, इसका अभी तक पता नहीं चल पाया है, तो यह कौन-सा कानून है, यह मेरी समझ में नहीं आ रहा है।

नई सरकार ने drugs के लिए capital punishment का प्रावधान किया है यानी मौत की सजा का प्रावधान किया है। उसके लिए कम से कम life imprisonment करना चाहिए। यही मेरी मंत्री जी को सलाह है। दूध, सब्जी, फल, दाल, दालमोठ, चावल, आदि सभी चीजों में मिलावट हो रही है, इसको रोकने के लिए तत्काल एक कानून बनाया जाए। अगर इसी सत्र में यह कानून ले आएँ, तो हम सब उसको पास करने को तैयार हैं। संसद के सारे सदस्यों की इसमें सहमति है। I think in this Session itself the hon. Minister should bring the new law.

श्री रामदास अग्रवाल : राजीव शुक्ल जी, किस चीज में मिलावट नहीं है, यह बता दीजिए।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Shri Abani Roy, not present. Shri K.V. Ramalingam.

SHRI K.V. RAMALINGAM (Tamil Nadu):*

Hon'ble Mr. Vice Chairman Sir,

Vanakkam. I thank you very much for granting me this opportunity to speak on this Calling Attention Motion on the sale of vegetables and fruits injected with chemicals and adulteration of other food items posing threat to human life. I dedicate this speech to our revered leader, Dr. Puratchithaliavi Amma, for introducing me to this august House. She is the life-time

*English translation of the original speech in Tamil.

2.00 P.M.

General Secretary of our party who has been like a lioness to the corrupt persons of the society.

The sale of vegetables and fruits injected with chemicals causes various diseases. It causes problem in the proper functioning of vital human organs such as kidney, liver etc. The cultivation as well as ripening of fruits and vegetables with the use of chemicals, has to be banned immediately. If the Union Government has already enacted laws with regard to this menace, proper steps need to be taken for the implementation of such laws as it is truly concerned with the welfare of people.

There are many cases of use of chemicals in fruits and vegetables. For instance, apples are polished with chemicals to avoid rotting and are sold in the open market. The people who consume such apples had to be rushed to hospitals for treatment. Sir, taking these points into consideration, I would like to request the Government to establish many cold storage godowns for preventing the use of such chemicals.

Sir, In Erode, Coimbatore and Tiruppur districts of Tamil Nadu, coconut trees are grown in large numbers. In order to kill the pests affecting the growth of coconut trees, pesticides are sprayed. These pesticides contain many poisonous chemicals. Those who consume tender coconut from such trees (*i.e.* the trees that have been sprayed with pesticides), fall ill due to the presence of toxins. Sir, I request the Government to take some measures to establish awareness camps for all people with respect to this menace. Due to the use of chemicals, not only the environment but also the soil fertility are being affected.

The cultivable lands where poisonous chemical fertilizers are sprayed, become poisonous and would become barren in future. This is a serious situation. In order to prevent such a situation, the Government have to produce proper fertilizers and have to distribute them to farmers free of cost. Proper steps need to be taken accordingly. Only then, will people be benefitted. With these words, I conclude my speech. Thank you. Vanakkam.

श्री आर.सी. सिंह (पश्चिमी बंगाल) : उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, यह दुर्भाग्य की बात है कि जहां एक ओर हम लोग स्वास्थ्य के लिए आर्गेनिक फूड की बात करते हैं, वहीं दूसरी ओर सब्जियों को रातों-रात बड़ा करने के लिए Oxytocin और Calcium Carbide को इस्तेमाल किया जा रहा है, जो हमारे लिए काफी नुकसानदेह है। जैसा हमारे माननीय सदस्यों ने बताया है कि इसके कारण गर्भपात भी हो रहे हैं, मैं इस बात को दोहराना नहीं चाहता हूं। मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि इससे सिर्फ यही नुकसान नहीं हो रहा है, और भी कई नुकसान हो रहे हैं। जो दुधारू पशु हैं, उनको जब इंजेक्ट किया जाता है, उनका दूध बच्चे पीते हैं तो उसका असर हमारे बच्चों पर भी पड़ रहा है, वे जल्दी शारीरिक रूप से बड़े हो रहे हैं, जल्दी adolescence में पहुंच रहे हैं, जिसका प्रभाव उनकी मानसिक स्थिति पर भी पड़ रहा है। इसको रोकना जरूरी है। इस मिलावट का असर केवल सब्जियों और फलों पर ही नहीं होता है, बल्कि हमारी मानसिक और शारीरिक स्थितियों पर भी इसका असर पड़ता है। राजीव शुक्ल जी चले गए हैं, उन्होंने यह कहा था कि इसको रोकने लिए कम से कम life

imprisonment की सज़ा होनी चाहिए, न कि 1,000 रुपए फाइन का प्रावधान होना चाहिए। उन्होंने कहा था कि फाइन देकर छूट जाने की व्यवस्था नहीं होनी चाहिए, बल्कि ऐसे मिलावट करने वाले लोगों के खिलाफ non-bailable offence लगाना चाहिए। कैल्शियम कार्बाइड का प्रयोग आम जैसे फलों को पकाने के लिए किया जाता है, यह काफी नुकसानदेह है, इससे हमारी आखों और त्वचा में जलन हो सकती है और आंख हमेशा के लिए जा सकती है, ऐसा भी खतरा है। इसका प्रयोग विस्फोटकों में किया जाता है, यह बहुत खतरनाक है। इसे फलों को कृत्रिम रूप से पकाने के लिए जो लोग इसका उपयोग करते हैं, उनको विशेष तरीके से कानून बनाकर रोकने की बहुत जरूरत है। जब कैल्शियम कार्बाइड, पानी के संपर्क में आता है, तो Acetylene Gas का निर्माण होता है, जिससे सांस की शिकायत होती है और तंत्रिका तंत्र को नुकसान पहुंचता है। मैं मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस पर रोक लगाने के लिए वे कौन से ठोस कदम उठाना चाहते हैं? आप जानते हैं कि आजकल बाजारों में एसिड भी मिलते हैं, आए दिन अखबारों में आता रहता है कि बच्चियों के ऊपर एसिड छिड़क दिया गया। इसको रोकने के लिए आपको कुछ व्यवस्था करनी चाहिए। फलों को पकाने के लिए कॉपर सल्फेट का प्रयोग हो रहा है, कीटनाशकों का प्रयोग हो रहा है, मैं मंत्री जी से यही कहना चाहता हूँ कि इसको अविलंब रोकने के लिए life imprisonment की व्यवस्था होनी चाहिए और केवल जुर्माने की व्यवस्था से इसको नहीं रोका जा सकेगा। धन्यवाद।

SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, in this statement, the Minister has mentioned a case when adulterated food stuff causes death or grievous hurt. Sir, the oxytocin, which we are talking about, does not cause any grievous hurt or death immediately. Actually, we also do not know what it can cause.

Dr. V. M. Katoch, Director General of Indian Council of Medical Research has said that oxytocin has been reported to be used since 1992, and, it is used to help in plant growth. There are, however, no reports of its adverse effects on human beings till date. So, in spite of him saying that there has not been any proof of what it can do to human health, I will say, definitely, it is injurious because something which is used to induce labour or for uterine contractions in pregnant women, cannot be given to children and cannot be given to everybody across on a regular basis.

More than that, most of the medicines and the chemicals like Calcium Carbide, Oxytocin or Copper Sulphate, which are used for colouring fruits and vegetables, have their effects which cannot be found out immediately. In the long run, they have very bad effects on the human body. These days, there are very many incidents of cancer, and, Doctors say that most of these are caused by adulterated food or products which we have consumed.

So, how are we actually going to find out what causes death, and, what is actually adulterated food? Is there any mechanism for this? Has there been any survey, which has been done till now with regard to the products, chemicals or other things, which people use. Everybody is worried only about vegetables. As far as poultry and cattle feed is concerned, even injections are given to the cattle also. It affects everybody across. Has any survey been done on that? Are there any regulations about what is allowed and what is not, when it comes to the injurious effects on the human body?

It also mentions that a minimum imprisonment is going to be of six months and a fine of Rs. 1,000/-, and, if it causes grievous hurt or death, the fine can go upto Rs. 5,000/-. We are talking about price rise these days? What does thousand rupees or five thousand rupees mean to anybody? So, the punishment should become a deterrent; it should not become a laughing stock. It should not be taken as a very mild thing by people.

I respect the sentiments of the Ministry with regard to protecting the rights of the States and the Union Territories. We have to understand that these days, the products, whether vegetables, fruits or grains, are produced in one State, sent to the wholesalers in the next State, and, then, these are sent to the retailers in a different State. What grows in Himachal Pradesh can be purchased in Kanyakumari these days. Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, you know very well that Tamil Nadu gives a lot...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Yes, Tamil Nadu is giving all vegetables to Kerala. And, we are grateful to you for that. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: In spite of that, you don't give us water. ...*(Interruptions)*... We will still do that. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Yes, yes. We are happy to give that. *(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: So, you cannot say that the whole responsibility lies with the State Governments, when it is done across all the States. So, definitely, the Central Government has to take onus, has to take responsibility to control this, and, it cannot be shifted only to the State Governments. Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Thank you very much. Now, Shri Tapan Kumar Sen.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN (West Bengal): Thank you, Sir. I will be very brief and I will not repeat the points that have already been raised. I thank the hon. Minister for giving a very well-defined structure and also a legal framework for the adulteration surveillance in the country. My first suggestion is that it has to be made deterrent. Now, the punishment level is very meagre. It has to be made sufficiently deterrent.

Also, the implementation part of it must reflect a political will to fix up the traders who are speculating in the market. So, this speculation and also adulteration are part of the same trading practice, and to fix up the traders, the Government must have a political will, be it in the State, be it in the Centre. So, that aspect has to be taken into account.

My third point is that Oxytocin is so much talked about. But there are other chemicals which are used as a substitute to fertilizers and which finally impacts upon the final food. So, if the practice of cheaper substitutes to fertilizers is to be addressed that has to be addressed along with our fertilizer-related policy. It has to be a comprehensive one and the Health Ministry has to

take up the matter with the concerned Ministry to have a comprehensive policy so that there is deterrence to usage of the cheaper chemicals instead of fertilizers.

My fourth point is that the 2006 Act is there to give a general structure. But there are not enough Central Food Laboratories till now; not enough but these are very less compared to the present day need to have this testing throughout the country. Samples are being collected and they have to be tested somewhere. Hon. Minister please take up with the existing Central Food Laboratories at different places in the country that tests and test reports are coming and going to the right place. I think, there is a lot of scope for improvement. So, the number of Central Food Laboratories has to be increased; the network has to be much more expanded under the Central Act. Please don't mind, being basically dealing with the workers, I always come to the worker related issues at the end. In the year 2006 your Act was passed and your Central Food Laboratories which have been functioning prior to 2006 have brought under the FSSA. But till now that bringing process, the amalgamation process, is not complete. The employees are there — I am just finishing, Sir — who still don't know what will be their final service condition if they are put under the authority. I think these things need to be addressed quickly in order to make the adulteration surveillance structure, which you have put in place through the 2006 Act, effective. As on date, the hon. Minister should know, as I have written to the Minister again and again that that part is still hanging. What will be the service conditions of the employees of the erstwhile Central Food Laboratories getting merged into the FSSA? These things are still hanging. So, these things are required to be addressed on a priority basis. With these few words, I conclude by again thanking the Minister. Thank you.

श्री अवतार सिंह करीमपुरी (उत्तर प्रदेश) : सर, यह बहुत ही गंभीर विषय है, जो fruits और vegetables को inject किया जा रहा है, Oxytocin का इंजेक्शन दिया जा रहा है। सर, मैं ज्यादा समय नहीं लेना चाहता। मैं केवल एक-दो मिनट में ही आदरणीय मंत्री जी को यह अपील करना चाहूंगा कि कम से कम इस Oxytocin के इंजेक्शन को बैन कर देना चाहिए। There is another alternative for the purpose of delivery. अगर इस इंजेक्शन को बैन कर दिया जाएगा तो कम से कम शुरुआत में कुछ कंट्रोल हो सकता है। दूसरा, adulteration की बात है, वह तो हर चीज़ में हो रही है, दाल में, सब्जी में, यहां तक कि medicine में, मसालों में - हर चीज़ में adulteration है।

और मैं इसके बारे में यही कहना चाहता हूं, रूलिंग पार्टी की ओर से हमारे एक आदरणीय मੈबर बोल कर गए हैं कि हमने तो अब पार्लियामेंट में दूध भी पीना बंद कर दिया है, क्योंकि यह भी पता नहीं कि यह दूध सुरक्षित है या नहीं, जिसको पार्लियामेंट में मੈबर ऑफ पार्लियामेंट पीते हैं। तो हम इसके बारे में यही कहना चाहेंगे कि — “इस घर को आग लगी है इस घर के चिराग से।” तो एडल्टरेशन के कारण इस घर को जो आग लगी है, उसके लिए इसी घर का चिराग जिम्मेदार है। सरकार हमेशा डिस्कसन को सुनती है और इग्नॉर करती है। जब सुन लेती है तो स्टोर कर लेती है। हम माननीय मंत्री जी को कहना चाहते हैं कि अभी तक बहुत बोला गया, इग्नॉर किया गया है और आपने बहुत स्टोर भी किया हुआ है, लेकिन अब थर्ड स्टेप की जरूरत है us listen and act अब हमें इस पर कुछ एक्शन की जरूरत है, एक इफेक्टिव नीति की जरूरत है। हम तो यह

let चाहेंगे कि जो मिलावट कर रहे हैं उनके लिए life imprisonment के आगे बढ़ करके कोई ऐसा प्रावधान भी हो, कोई NSA वगैरह जैसा देखा जाए, जिसमें बेल का कोई प्रावधान ही न हो और उसको लागू करने में भी ईमानदारी हो।

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE) in the Chair]

कहते हैं कि एक बार कहीं दूध में दो सेंटीमीटर लम्बा जन्तु आ गया। इस बारे में बैठक हुई कि इसको कैसे रोकना है। निर्णय हुआ कि इसमें एक सुपरवाइजर लगा दो। जब सुपरवाइजर लग गया तो दूसरे दिन 6 इंच का जन्तु दूध में आ गया। तो यह कैसे हो गया, कहते हैं कि अभी सुपरवाइजर का भी इंतजाम करना था इसलिए बड़ा जानवर आना ही था। इसलिए अब तो प्रबंधक हैं, जो संचालक हैं, जो सरकार है उसको सतर्क होना चाहिए और जो कानून है उसको प्रभावहीन करने के लिए जो मिलावट करने वाले इसका मिसयूज करते हैं, उनके ऊपर सतर्कता रखनी चाहिए। यह देश के लिए चिंता का विषय है इसलिए सरकार को भी इस गंभीरता दिखानी चाहिए। धन्यवाद।

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Under the Food Security Act, you have set up some committees which are supposed to deal with the food standard and safety. Those committees include some of the important private sector operators who themselves are facing complaints of adulteration like Pepsi and other beverage makers. What are the terms and reference of those committees? And why should be they included in that?

SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI: It is over. The Act is going to be notified.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: But on the website of the Health Ministry, the names of the Committees are there.

SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI: Sir, at the outset, I honestly thank each and every Member of this House, particularly Mr. Naik for bringing this issue to the notice of the House which is very, very close to my heart. In fact, I am also one of you. I am also, like the common man, quite concerned about it. Apart from being a Minister, as a consumer also, it really concerns me a lot. I am very grateful to you. I would have been even happier if maybe at some other stage we should have a full-fledged discussion on this subject.

Yesterday, we had a discussion in the Lok Sabha on a subject which concerns not just the present day generation but generations to come. I am talking about population stabilization.

This particular subject is also very important. If you are not consuming wholesome food, if you are not healthy enough, then how can the nation be healthy when its people are not healthy? The reason I am stating this, Sir, is this issue is beyond party line; this is beyond any kind of region or religion because we are all involved.

And now, the things have changed. Interestingly enough, it's not one-party rule. While we would be here in the ruling party, in the States, we could be in Opposition. While some people are in Opposition here, they could be in the ruling party in the States. So, what I am trying to tell you is, there is no question of apportioning the blame because it does not help any one of us.

And on that note, I start and on that note, I think, we have to send a message to the people of this country and we have to raise their confidence. Sir, this confidence cannot be raised verbally. We have got to act now. So, I am just re-emphasising the seriousness of the entire issue.

Having said that, Sir, the Act itself has been passed by this Parliament and that is the reason why, I mentioned that we all are involved in it. Sir, we cannot act beyond what is prescribed in the Act. Whether we like it or not, Sir, the implementation part is with the States. I have no reasons to get out of my responsibility as the Minister of State for Health but the law is such. Today, for instance, if we send our police to a State from the Centre, I don't think, the State is going to like it or the State is going to appreciate it unless and until they call for it. So, these are democratically and very well divided responsibilities of all of us — whether in the State or in the Centre — which have been passed, regulated and monitored in many ways by this august House itself. Sir, at this juncture, I would like to know how much time do I have because I really would like to talk a lot about it. But, if there is not much of time, I appreciate it.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE): How much time do you want to take?

SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI: Sir, I could squeeze in and could be brief. But, it all depends on what do the Members want. ...*(Interruptions)* So, let me put it that way that I will try to be reasonable. I know it is lunch break and most of them have already gone out for lunch. Shri Rajeev Shuklaji, I must tell you that all are not, I don't want to use that word, cynical but, they have some faith, at least, in our canteen here. So, they must be having lunch out there. That is on a very lighter note. But, on a very serious note, I would tell you that basically, there are three issues which have come out of this entire clarification or somewhat discussion one may say. It is adulterating the food and more specifically, the use of oxytocin, ripening of fruits with the agent called calcium carbide and also the use of pesticides. ...*(Interruptions)*... Urea in milk and all that. At the outset, as I said, the responsibility of the Central Government and the State Governments is very, very clear. As we know, our role is that of enacting laws, rules and regulations and after that, we have got no other way because we have got to follow the norms, principles and regulations of the entire thing. So, the implementation part really goes down to the State level. Let me make that thing very, very clear. Sir, it's a very complex issue. It really involves the entire food chain and the entire food chain, like my colleague Shrimati Kanimozhi just mentioned, involves inter-State transportation and lot of other things.

Right from the growers to the processors, to the transporters, to the storage people, to the retailers, to the handlers and even to the consumers, there is a huge food chain. One must also understand one thing that the food is adulterated. The other thing is the hygiene of an entire

thing. I tell you the reason why I am mentioning the consumers. After the food is bought, see how the food is stored in houses. A very simple hygiene, which a common man understands; it is a matter of common sense, what happens if we do not wash our hands. And this gives me an opportunity to mention a little. The other day only, I was shown what is known as ‘tapeworms’ which you cannot really see and everyone of us knows that we cannot see them with our naked eyes. But the people, working at the village level, are always out and you do not expect, sometimes, — leave aside soap, they do not have even water to wash — this thing from them. Those things do enter the system. So, that is another way. Right from the growers to the consumers, it is a huge food chain, and through that food chain, we have got to understand the entire system.

Sir, let me come back to the main subject of Oxytocin. Oxytocin has been there from the beginning of this century. What is the issue? The issue is the misuse of this drug. It is a restricted drug under Schedule H. That is the reason why it has been put under that. I have said in my statement, which is very clear, that basically, Sir, it is used by a pregnant woman to facilitate delivery. In the last few days, I have done whatever research I could do; I have spoken to gynaecologists, I have spoken to doctors and others. Basically, it is used to facilitate delivery in a pregnant woman. I asked them what kind of a dosage is given in one ampoule. There are 5 million litres. Out of that, I was told, they only give one, and that also diluted with 500 millilitres of liquid. They say that they have to give 5-10 drops a minute and within 5-7 minutes, the desired result is there. You know that Dettol is meant for an external application. If somebody tries to drink Dettol, then there is nothing wrong with Dettol as such. Like that, there are a lot of cough syrups and cough syrups are used, prescribed by doctors, for a particular cause. But we have been hearing through the media that quite a few people use this cough syrup as an intoxication agent. A lot of people have mentioned that we should ban this drug. Let me tell you that the drug is not bad in terms of its proper use. That is why it is there. Whenever a drug is introduced, it goes through a lot of clinical trials and what for is the use is always mentioned. It is the misuse of this drug that we are concerned with. The Punjab University has got some kind of a study done, which I have in front of me, and, as per that study, it says: “The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has informed — I have information through them — that the Punjab Agricultural University has done a study on the effects of Oxytocin”. As per their study, they say that there is no impact on the yield of fruit or vegetables as well as their size. When I talk to common people, when I talk to people who are in agriculture, when I talk to my colleagues in Parliament, who are deeply involved in agriculture, when I speak to people who work for me; otherwise, who are farmers, they say, सर, यह तो हम गांव में रोज़ करते हैं, उसको दवाई कहते हैं। आपका Oxytocin क्या है, हमें नहीं पता। मगर हमारे गांव में उसको दवाई कहते हैं, उसको बहुत-कुछ कहते हैं। हम पूछते हैं कि भई, आपने देखा है कि आप लौकी में इंजेक्शन लगाओ और तुरंत लौकी का साइज बड़ा हो जाता है? सब कहते हैं

कि हां, हो जाती है। अब यह इत्तेफाक की बात है कि शैलजा जी मेरे सामने बैठी हैं, मैं उनसे बात कर रहा था, उन्होंने कहा कि हां, हमारी भी यही जानकारी है। कहने का मतलब यह है कि हमारी रिपोर्ट कुछ कहती है और हकीकत कुछ और होती है। पता नहीं वह हकीकत है कि नहीं, पर कहीं न कहीं हमें यह लगता है कि यह आवश्यक है कि इसकी डीप स्टडी की जाए। जहां तक हमारा सवाल है, इस मंत्रालय का सवाल है, we are not concerned actually with the size. We are concerned with its ill-effects, if consumed. Those other things, whether the size is good or bad, long or short, whether the taste is good or bad, are not our mandate. We are concerned with what its effect on the consumer is, if consumed. As Shrimati Kanimozhi has rightly said, it is not only the immediate effect but also the long-term effect. Under the same PFA Act we have got the residual thing. So, our job is really to study, whatever be the final product, what the level of residue is and that is why pesticides also come. I am not getting into the details of the kind of pesticides. We have got the residue limits. If you are talking about a particular product, if you are using a particular pesticide, what should be the residual limit? That is what is tested in the laboratory.

Having said that, as far as the Indian Council of Medical Research is concerned, they had also got information from the National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad, which says that if Oxytocin is consumed orally, then it has got no effect in terms of negativity of it because it does not get absorbed, which I have stated in my statement also. Here the question is long-term. I personally feel that we ought to make some distinction between these and we ought to get into the depth of it because it concerns all of us together.

The second issue is of carbide. Now, this calcium carbide has many other usages. So banning that is not, perhaps, required, as far as other usages are concerned. I am not competent to say what other usages are there and whether they are good or bad. I am concerned with my health, as far as the use of calcium carbide for ripening the fruits is concerned. I have spoken to a lot of people including people from Maharashtra where we get Alphonso, the great mango, and from Gujarat and Saurashtra where you get Kesar mango. I have asked the farmers. They said, "We have been using it. This has been a practice for many, many years. Otherwise, how do we ripen it?" Basically, these fruits, I was told, don't get ripened by themselves on the tree. Some kind of an agent is required. So, I also spoke to the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Agriculture mentions to me that they have started something called GAP (Good Agricultural Practices) like Good Manufacturing Practices. They have Good Agricultural Practices and this is where the crux of the solution, perhaps, is. The solution is that if you have got to use some agents to ripen the fruits and if there is no other way, then we have got to follow some standard or some protocol or some formulation or some standardisation by which the fruits also ripen and the health of the consumer is also taken care of. In other words, the external agent used for ripening of the fruits does not have any ill-effect.

That is why they say that they have got certain education programme: how in a chamber what kind of chemicals can be used which will ripen the fruit. Then growing, harvesting, storing, packaging and all the stuff, which again I don't want to get into the details of it. As far as they are concerned, they have also issued circulars and they also have training programmes. I am digressing and encroaching upon agricultural area which is not my mandate. I am just trying to mention that in the last few weeks I have done whatever little research I could do and I could find out whether things are absolutely in order or not. I can only tell you that we are getting at that. But having said that, on these two issues, one Oxytocin and the other calcium carbide, as early as on 12th of May, *suo motu*, on my own, not out of any complaint, because there was a lot of talk in the media and elsewhere, and I also wanted to know what was happening, whatever was under the jurisdiction of the Ministry, I alerted my officers and said that there was no harm in issuing an advisory. While I didn't want to create a panic because that also was not the purpose, we issued an advisory that please see that all the States adhere to whatever is the Act, whatever is the rule, whatever is the regulation. That has been done by the Ministry. Sir, as far as Oxytocin is concerned, on that also, on our own, we have issued an advisory. That is the only thing we can do. When we did this we were told that in the State of Uttar Pradesh, they have raided a lot of people. I must tell you that it is alarming. They found a lot of people with unauthorized agent of Oxytocin. I don't want to get into all the details, but just to give you an example, 3,000 ampoules of 80 millilitre and 100 millilitre — what I have shown you here is five millilitre — and all those stuffs, have been caught. So, it is quite evident that somebody somewhere is misusing this. We have got to catch these people and as per the Act or the rule, they need to be brought to book. But here comes the crux. I asked my officer to tell me how many Food Inspectors were there because it starts there. It is the Food Inspectors which go and take the sample on their own or out of a complaint. These are the two ways of doing it. So I asked them to tell me how many inspectors were there in the country. I was told that there were only 1,800 inspectors in the entire country. The total job is for 2,800. In other words, the rest of them are still vacant. My point is very simple. If I take 800 Food Inspectors all over the country, it means, one inspector per about 15 to 20 lakh of population. I do not know whether that is enough or not. We definitely need to improve upon our laboratories. The laboratories are also definitely not the most modern. I absolutely agree with Shri Rajeev Shukla that we need to improve all those things because today is the world of technology. I must tell you that India is one of the best countries so far as use of technology is concerned. We must also see what kind of technology we use by which this can be monitored. Sir, I must just briefly touch upon what the hon. Members have mentioned. Shri Naik mentioned about the drug not being banned. I agree that the drug has not been banned. It is only the misuse. The action that we have taken, I have mentioned in my reply.

Mr. Hassan did mention about the same thing. He also mentioned about cold drinks. As far as cold drinks are concerned, again, what should be the residue? In the case of each and every cold drink, it again goes to the same sampling centres; it goes to the same laboratories; and, that is where, the same Act comes into being. Mr. Agarwal rightly was concerned about rotten food. In my very statement, I mentioned that if food is rotten, as per the definition of adulterated food, it is also important, because the food should be consumable. It is a different story that if you are storing food in your house for 10 days, which, otherwise, should be consumed immediately, then, obviously, nothing much can be done. He also mentioned, and a lot of other Members also said, about the Prime Minister's food and the food served to the Army in the Siachen area. As far as food to the Army is concerned, it is a great matter of concern. These are the people who make sure that we have a safe life and a good night's sleep because they protect our borders. Sir, but food and ration supply to the Army is the job of the Defence Ministry, and the quality of food is monitored by them. They have their Food Testing Laboratories. So, it is beyond the purview of my Ministry *per se*. As far as food of the Prime Minister of India is concerned, it is a very sad situation, if found to be true. There is also a question coming up on 10th August. So, I don't want to really get into it. But, as far as we are concerned, we have asked the State Government — it concerns the Government of Uttar Pradesh — and we are trying to get that information from them. As far as punishments are concerned, many of the Members felt that there should be a deterrent, and strict punishment should be there. Now, one of the punishments is life imprisonment. I do not know what can be more than that. Capital punishment is not there, but life imprisonment is there. Shri Rajiv Shukla mentioned that it is only six months' imprisonment, and it should be life imprisonment. This is already there, and I have also mentioned it in my statement. But the thing is, how many of them get convicted because the process of law in a democracy, whether we like it or not, is quite lengthy. And, that is the reason why we have come up with this new Act, about which I will be mentioning in a short while. But deterrent laws are there. You do need deterrent laws. But that is not enough. Like yesterday, we were discussing population stabilization in the other House, and it was an eyeopener to quite a few of them. The figure is that 70 per cent of marriages in Uttar Pradesh are of girls and boys who are under 16 years of age, whereas the marriage age is 18 years and above. So, the laws are there. But where is the implementation part of the law? That is the concern. The figures state that even at 18 years, 36 per cent of the population of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar bear children. Laws are, definitely, required. There is no doubt about it. But with laws, there has to be values. There has to be social monitoring. There has to be an awareness programme. There has to be some kind of involvement. And, Members of Parliament, as has been mentioned by my senior Minister, can, during election times, change the scenario.

If they can attempt to change the minds of voters in an election campaign of, let us say, a month or fifteen days and if all of us get into the local level, wherever we are — at the district level, at the retail level, at the storage level — and make people aware of it, because there is no greater punishment than socially — I am not talking about any kind of Panchayat or anything of that sort...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE): But that is not in the Act, the election campaign.

SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI: But what I am trying to say is that we have got that kind of influence over people.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE): Build up scientific temper.

SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI: That is it. So, we have got to do it because if we have to go and campaign for a particular thing, we all go out. This is one of the noble ways of doing it. But, Sir, I will tell you the other solution, and I will conclude after saying that because, I am sure, by now people also must be hungry. One of the problems was in the Act which is currently there. There were many administrative Ministries and I will name a few. We have the Ministry of Food Processing, the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, the Ministry of Agriculture; the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is obviously there. There are multiple agencies. What we have attempted to do now is to bring a new law. This law has been passed by this august House. That existing Act deals with certain things and, perhaps, it does not really deliver. I can't say that the new law is going to change everything, but this new Act which is the umbrella Act of all, the Food and Safety Standard Act of 2006, perhaps, is going to deal more scientifically in terms of even what I just mentioned, the entire legal process which takes a long time; the provisions of this Act are also there where we are going to emphasise on tribunals; standards are getting harmonized under one set of regulation, Harmonization of CODEX Standards. So, these were some of the issues. If you want, Sir, I can go on and on because there is a comparison between the previous one, which all of you understand.

Sir, I also must tell you, in conclusion, that we have also attempted to do something concrete — and I am very happy to announce — on what is the effect of this oxytocin or other chemicals. So, under our Ministry, what we have done is, we have decided to commission a research, under the co-chairmanship of Director General of ICMR and ICAR because both are involved, to identify the researchable issues pertaining to detection of agents. We mentioned about copper sulphate, oxytocin, etc. in fruits and vegetables and determine their effect on human health because not much of research has been done. We have also been talking about

mobile van. That mobile testing van should be available. Mr. Rajeev Shukla asked where the common man should go. The common man can go to any of these 72 labs. It is not meant only for a particular class of people. Anybody can go to any of these labs. I am absolutely confident that, given this collective effort, we will be able to do something concrete because as far as my Ministry is concerned and as far as the Health Ministry is concerned, it is totally decentralized.

Totally decentralized. Whatever regulations, whatever enactments in Parliament I just mentioned, we definitely do our job. But, that does not mean that we can look on the other side, no. When H1N1 happens, it is a different subject. But, we went down to that.

All this is a collective effort for all of us. I am absolutely certain and I am very happy that people are here from all States and they are as eager, they are as anxious as perhaps I am also because this involves the next generation. We have got to ensure good health of the people. That is why it is said that health is wealth. On that note, we do hope that the generation and the phrase, health is wealth, will be protected properly. I once again thank all the Members for participating.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE): Thanks to the Minister. The House is now adjourned for an hour for lunch.

The House then adjourned at fifty-one minutes past two of the clock

The House reassembled after lunch at fifty minutes past three of the clock, MR.

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

MOTION

Inflationary pressure on the economy and its adverse impact on the common man

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, we take up the further discussion on the Motion moved by Shri Arun Jaitley, the Leader of the Opposition, on 4th August, 2010. Now, I request the hon. Finance Minister.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I would like to express my deep gratitude to all the participants on the discussion on this important Motion moved by the hon. Leader of the Opposition. Sir, inflation is always a complex economic problem. It has its impact, and, therefore, we shall have to discuss this complex economic problem with dispassionate logic. And if we want to find out a mechanism through which we can tackle the problem, whatever be our feelings, however, emotionally we may be moved, we shall have to keep in mind that a complex economic problem will have to be