

House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Chairman may direct, two members of the House to be Members of the National Shipping Board with effect from the date of the reconstitution of the Board.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

MOTION FOR ELECTION TO THE EMPLOYEES' STATE INSURANCE CORPORATION

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T.
ANJIAH): Sir, I beg to move the fol-
lowing Motion:

That in pursuance of clause (i) of section 4 of the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948 (34 of 1948) read with rule 2A of the Employees' State Insurance (Central) Rules, 1950, this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Chairman may direct, one member from among the members of the House to be a member of the Employees' State Insurance Corporation.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

श्री उपसभापति : सदन की कार्यवाही
साढ़े तीन बजे तक के लिए स्थगित की जाती
है।

The House then adjourned
for lunch at eighteen minutes
past two of the clock.

The House reassembled after lunch
at thirty-two minutes past three of the
clock, the Vice-Chairman (Shri Ar-
vind Ganesh Kulkarni) in the Chair].

RESOLUTION RE: GOVERNMENT TAKE-OVER OF WHOLESALE TRADE IN FOODGRAINS AND OTHER ESSENTIAL COMMODI- TIES AND OTHER RELATED MATERS

SHRI HARKISHAN SINGH SUR-
JEET (Punjab): Mr. Vice-Chairman,

Sir, I beg to move the following Reso-
lution:

"Having regard to—

the increasing rate of inflation
and rapid rise in the prices of
essential commodities leading to
a drastic fall in the real wages
and earnings of industrial wor-
kers, agricultural labour, salaried
employees and others, and

the growing disparity between
the prices of agricultural products
on the one hand and agricultural
inputs and prices of industrial
products on the other, leading
to ever increasing hardship for
the toiling millions,

this House is of opinion that
Government should take over the
wholesale trade in foodgrains and
other essential commodities; en-
sure remunerative prices to the
agriculturist and organise a pro-
per public distribution system for
the supply of essential commo-
dities at fair prices."

Sir, the issues I have raised in this
Resolution are of keen interest for all
sections of our population, and all the
political parties in the country are
feeling very much concerned about it.
The galloping inflation, rapidly incre-
asing prices, cut in the real wages,
growing disparity in the price of agri-
cultural produce and industrial pro-
duction and the need for a proper dis-
tribution system are not the questions
which are being debated only by eco-
nomists of Government officials but
today are being discussed in every
household. The people ask the
question that during the election
every party comes before them
and promises reduction in prices
and supply of essential commo-
dities but immediately after the elec-
tions are over prices begin rising.
Similarly, in every Budget when it is
presented the Finance Minister pro-
mises that this Budget is not going to
have any impact on the price rise. But

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immediately after the Budget is presented, Sir, prices begin rising. This happened in the case of Chaudhury Charan Singh's Budget last year. He stated here that the effect of that Budget will be a rise of 1 per cent in price, but it went up in three months to 12 per cent. And this year also, in the case of Mr. Venkataraman's Budget we have seen, within one month, prices have risen by 5 per cent. During the last five months, there has been an increase of more than 11 per cent in the prices. We are being told now not to be afraid of. We are being told that the prices are being levelled up. But the position has become very alarming today. I need not speak about my party papers. If we go through the various papers, we find that there are write-ups everyday which are very alarming. I start from June itself. The Economic Times, after the budget, starts by saying:

"Prices of several consumer goods have gone up after the budget though the excise duty has been reduced or abolished on many of them. Wholesalers and retailers are expecting revised price lists for other items on which prices are not increased already.

Manufacturers of consumer goods say that whatever reduction effected in the excise duty on consumer items will be offset by the rise in cost of production and freight charges that have followed the budget."

Economic and Political Weekly, in its write-up states about inflation as under:

"The price situation is threatening to altogether get out of control. Inflation has gathered further momentum after the installation of the present government in the second week of January. The index number of wholesale prices (base: 1970-71-100) had stood at 224.8 at the end of January. Thereafter it has been galloping and by the end of June it had touched 249.9, registering a rise of 25.1 points or 11.2 per cent in the short span of five months.

This surpasses the rise last year when, between January and June, the index that gone up from 185.2 to 204.1 or by 10.1 per cent. Since the beginning of the present bout of inflation in February 1979 in a period of some 16 months, the index has moved up by 35.8 per cent, from 185 to 249.9".

Not only that, even if we take the Report of the Ministry of Commerce and Civil Supplies, there also it is stated that the situation is alarming. It is said:

"The current creeping and persistent inflation has affected a large number of commodities. Thus, in February, 1980, the wholesale price index of the major commodities groups had gone up sharply over the year by 19.5 per cent in primary articles, 23.0 per cent in respect of fuel, power, light and lubricants and 26.5 per cent in respect of manufactured products. Both agricultural as well as industrial products have witnessed price increases which include a large number of essential commodities and items of mass consumption. The products the price of which have gone up significantly include rice, jowar, bajra, maize, ragi, onions, potatoes, meat, kerosene, coke, vanaspati, groundnut oil, mustard oil, gingelly oil, coconut oil, sugar, gur, paper, footwear, tyres tubes, soda ash, soap, synthetic detergents, matches, electric lamps, tooth brush, salt, etc. However, the the wholesale price indices of arhar, masoor, urd, condiments and spices and drugs and medicines were lower the February, 1980, in comparison to February, 1979."

It has been said about the consumer prices:

"The trend in the movement of wholesale price index has been reflected in the consumer price index for industrial workers. In February, 1980, the consumer price index for industrial workers stood at 369 in comparison to 322 in March, 1979 indicating an increase of 11.1 per cent in the first eleven months of the 1979-80. Over the year, the

index in February, 1980 was 12.2 per cent higher. Similarly, the consumer price index for agricultural labourers moved up from 310 in March, 1979 to 361 in February 1980, showing an increase of 16.5 per cent. This index was higher by 15.7 per cent over the same month last year."

But, Sir, the Minister and the Government try to explain this in relation to world phenomena that not only in our country but also in the world, in other countries, this impact is there. Sir, in his reply in the Lok Sabha, Mr. Venkataraman admitted that inflation was a national problem, and the inflationary pressure in the economy was pretty high with the likely increase in the crude oil prices and imported equipment and machinery, the threat of imported inflation was also high.

The same Report also states about the imported inflation like this:

"Implacable inflation has become a global phenomenon and has emerged as the most important problem confronting the comity of nations. In recent weeks, resurging inflationary forces abroad have been observed. The recent reviews made by IMF, OECD and UN Economic Commission for Europe foresee rising inflation, unemployment and economic stagnation in 1980. Indian economy cannot remain unaffected by these global trends and developments."

So, Sir, we are told in the end that since inflation is there everywhere in the world, we cannot remain unaffected by it. This is the advice which is given, though everyday we are told that they are making all efforts to put a check on the rise in prices. Sir, I would not agree that inflation is a world phenomenon. No doubt, in the capitalist system, they are today very much affected by the inflationary pressures. But there is another world also, the socialist world, which is not affected by inflation at all, where the prices are stabilised, where the standard of living is raising and

where there is no unemployment. That is why, Sir, when we talk of the world, we only talk of the capitalist world, and the capitalist world also feels proud of it. Sir, only today, one American has written an article about trade relations of India with the socialist countries and America. He has stated that if you compare the trade relations of India with them—we are linked with the capitalist system—and the socialist countries, the ratio is 4:1, that is, one with the socialist countries and four with the capitalist countries. That is what they have claimed about this.

So, Sir, if we go into the issue of prices as a whole, it is not proper to say that it is a world phenomenon. And if we say that it is a world phenomenon and that prices are rising everywhere, then it means that we are trying to find a cover behind it, that they cannot be checked, they will go on alarmingly high, they will go on squeezing the common mass of people.

Sir, if we see the recent prices, the trend is very clear. It is stated in all the reports that in June, the wholesale price index stood at 244.7 which is 2.9 per cent higher than in May. It is the highest rise in a month in the last ten years. During the first quarter of 1980-81, the prices increased by 20.3 per cent over the corresponding period of 1979-80. If we go through the papers, again we find that the picture is very alarming. There is one study, a survey, conducted by a correspondent of the 'Times of India'. He met many people, but I will quote one instance: "A telling story was narrated by one Lal Bahadur, a chowkidar, in a public sector company guest house. He is not entitled to accommodation but gets a house rent allowance. In his efforts to find a shelter for his wife and two children, he moved from one quarter to another. A small room of 10 ft. by 12, with an asbestos roof in Jamrudpur, Greater Kailash cost him. Rs. 110 per month. "Yes, it did have a light and I did

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not have to pay extra for the electricity", he said, "but we shared a common bathing place and toilet with 10 other families. And I could hardly afford to pay this rent. My total salary, with allowances is Rs. 400. But I get Rs. 385 in hand to Rs. 15 is deducted for the provident fund. Now my wife has found a job with a family and they have given us a quarter in place of wages. So we have left Jamradpur. The most important item in the family budget is food" he says. "My children are still young My son, Raju, is 12 and the daughter is almost 3. I try to buy one litre of milk from the Mother Dairy, which costs me Rs. 2.20 a day, i.e., Rs. 66 a month, and Rs. 60 per month on vegetables, as nothing costs less than Rs. 2 per kg. The lintels are dear and I spend about Rs. 60 a month on dals alone. Atta and rice for the four of us comes to Rs. 100 per month, and we buy from the ration shop. Then there is mustard oil which is now Rs. 13 per k.g. when I take my own tin. We use 12 litres of kerosene a month for stove and that is Rs. 90. Soap for washing our cloths is Rs. 7 per k.g. and we use 2 k.g.s. a month. The cheapest bath soap is Rs. 1.70 per piece and we use at least two cakes. All this leaves hardly anything for clothes, shoes and medicines." So, this is the position, which he is speaking of. Having taken care of food and shelter, parents wish to provide best opportunity of education. Then he says: "Rs. 2.50 a month for fees and then for books and other things. For a pair of shoes and other things he is not left with anything and he has to undergo debts every month, to provide for the minimum requirements of his family."

Then, Sir, again in July 27, the Times of India, it is very categorically stated about the prices, which everybody of us knows. "Prices continue to rise from day to day and from week to week in the capital. In just one month there has been 2 to 4 per cent increase in the price of essential

consumer items like vegetables, edible oils, pulses, atta and the price of sugar alone has gone up by 30 paise. Bread is already a scarce commodity. Atta costs 20 paise more per kilo. Rain-soaked vegetables are selling very dear. Lady finger is Rs. 4 to Rs. 5 a kilo and tomatoes are selling Rs. 5 to Rs. 6 a kilo, and these are more expensive than the king of fruits, the mangoes. The post-budget inflation combined with seasonal monsoon shortage have played havoc with the budget of the poor and middle class families. Fair price shops remain more of a myth in this period of crisis. The much talked about civil supplies corporation has not yet been set up. What little the fair price shops supply, is not of good quality". In the end it is stated "In the post-budget period the expenditure of an average family of five members has gone up by Rs. 50, if the family does not have transport and Rs. 60 to Rs. 70, if it does have a vehicle."

A well-known statistical organisation, which does not wish to be identified, had worked out the details. "The biggest increase in expenditure is in edible oils, Rs. 15 a month, if the family requires 2 kgs. of oil, sugar Rs. 3 if two extra kgs. have to be bought, and if the family maintains a scooter, it will have to spend Rs. 21 extra on 30 litres of petrol. With the price of cigarettes going up 25 paise to 45 paise per packet, there is an increase of another Rs. 10 to Rs. 20. The budget goes up like this." These are all the papers. Not only these papers, all the papers have commented like this.

Then, Sir, the value of the rupee, it is estimated, has gone down to 19 paise. This is perhaps the wholesale price. If you go into the retail market, the rupee will not be even of the value of 10 to 12 paise, if you go to purchase certain things. Now, what is the assurance given? Even in this background, instead of taking some serious steps about finding a remedy, what is being suggested to

us is, yes, shopkeepers will be asked to display price-tags and stern steps will be taken soon. They say that the price rise is mainly in three commodities—petroleum products, fertilizers and chemicals—and the prices will be levelled up. See the complacency of the Finance Minister when he stated that there is only a 10 per cent rise in the prices of consumer articles. This is how the matter is being treated. There is no talk of lowering the prices but only of curbing or levelling up. We do not understand the meaning of all this. Nobody says that the prices will be brought down. What is happening today is that everything is being justified. If we talk about taking over the stocks of sugar and organising them properly through the public distribution system, they say, "No, we cannot do it. We get the levy sugar at a price below the cost." So they allow them to make up for it. It is as if they should be allowed to loot as much as they can for the levy sugar that they supply. This is the policy which the Government is following and putting before us. It is stated, "We are serving the poorer sections by supplying the levy sugar through the fair price shops". That also the people do not get in the rural areas. They live on jari and the price of *jagari* has unprecedentedly gone so high, which was not the case earlier. At the time of the harvest season the poor people would sell their *jagari* in the market. Now it has become so costly that it is being sold at Rs. 5 per kg., which the poor people are not in a position to purchase. Instead of finding a remedy to it, it is being argued by the Government that the prices in Pakistan and Bangladesh are so high and that our prices are much lower than those prices. Perhaps the Government wants to take the prices up to that level and then only would they find a solution to it. Why refer to Pakistan and Bangladesh? Why not refer to China or Chankaishek. Perhaps they are leading the country to the position when the rupee has no

value. (Interruptions) This is the position.

Not only this. Certain things are not at all available in the open market. Take, for instance, cement. Prices of other things have also gone up, and not only of those things which the Finance Minister mentioned. Prices of the consumer articles have gone up. But there are certain things which are not available in the market, as I said. They are available in plenty, but you can purchase them only in the black market. A bag of cement today is being sold at Rs. 75-80. You cannot get it in the open market. You can get it only in the black market. Like that there are many items which you can find only in the black market. Go into the prices of other articles. In the *Hindu* of July 3 it is stated that the price of groundnut in the Madras market has gone up from Rs. 790 last year to Rs. 1050 per quintal. The price of coconut oil in the Bombay market has gone up from Rs. 223 to Rs. 303 per tin of 16 kgs.; and ginger oil from Rs. 750 to Rs. 1200 per quintal. This is the position. And this is not taking into account the effect of the petroleum products, about which the Finance Minister stated. That effect is going to be felt later. Only now have the State Governments started raising the bus fares. It is yet to be seen what effect there will be of these things. The effects of other things is not yet concretely seen.

Sir, I do not want to go into deeper because everybody knows that the prices have gone so high. All the papers are taking up this question and all the political parties are seized of the matter. I do not want to go into the details. What I want to ask is: who benefits from this inflation? It is the big business, the big traders, the landlords who benefit out of inflation. The major sufferers are the teeming millions of agricultural workers, industrial workers, the employed, unemployed and under-employed. Wages usually lag behind

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the prices under inflationary conditions. This wage lag constitutes an important source of gain for the industrialists, the capitalists. The situation is much worse in the unorganised sector. If we go into the details, if we go into the profits, in this period of inflation, not only in this year, but during the last so many years, that has happened there? This is what we find. This has been stated in the draft Plan document itself, 1978-83. What has happened due to the inflationary tendencies? It says that attempts have been made to measure the distinct effect of poverty in India and depending upon the norms used, it has been found that 40 to 60 per cent of the population fall below the minimum acceptable standards. This is as per a recent estimate. Using the norms of caloric consumption, the percentage of population below the poverty line in 1977-78 may be projected at 48 per cent in the rural areas, and 41 per cent in the urban areas. The total number of poor so defined would be about 290 million. This is the Plan Document I am referring to. The situation is much worse today. Their total number would be much more than 50 per cent. It goes on to say that in the same year, there was enormous concentration of wealth and resources in the hands of a small minority, the monopolists. The total assets of India's 20 large houses owning assets of more than Rs. 100 crores rose from Rs. 3576 crores in 1972-73 to Rs. 4966 crores in 1975-76; 41.2 per cent. Their net worth to assets rose to Rs. 2,012 crores from Rs. 1,431 crores in 1972-73, that is, at the rate of 40.6 per cent. The big landlords, speculators, foreign capitalists and so on were the other partners in this loot, forcing down 60 per cent of the Indian population below the poverty line. This is the fact. This shows who have gained and who have been adversely affected.

Now, in the case of the employees, in the case of the workers, one would like to know what are the wages which are being fixed today. It is

alarming that even in the public sector industries, specially, the mining industries, the minimum wages which are being fixed, even the revised minimum wages which are being fixed, are such that no worker would be able to live upon such wages. Now, I would give the details in regard to the earlier minimum wages and the revised minimum wages for the unskilled, semi-skilled and skilled workers. In the case of the mining industry, in the case of the gypsum mines, it was Rs. 5.80 for the unskilled workers, Rs. 7.25 for the semi-skilled workers and Rs. 8.70 for the skilled workers. Now, this is being proposed to be increased to Rs. 6.65 in the case of the unskilled workers, Rs. 8.35 in the case of the semi-skilled workers and Rs. 10 in the case of the skilled workers, clerical. In the case of the bauxite mines, it was Rs. 5.80 for the unskilled workers, Rs. 7.25 for the semi-skilled workers and Rs. 8.70 for the skilled workers. Now, the same rates are being proposed, as in the case of gypsum mines. This is the case in the mining industry, in all the mines, whether they are chromite mines, or silica mines, or mica mines. Everywhere, this is the case.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI): Now, Mr. Surjeet, you have to conclude. The mover gets half an hour.

SHRI HARKISHAN SINGH SURJEET: If you had told me earlier, I would have tried. I have started as if I will speaking for one hour. I do not think, this is the practice.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI): Mr. Surjeet, under the rules, this is the position and I think, you would have seen the rules.

SHRI HARKISHAN SINGH SURJEET: If I had been told earlier, I would have tried to conclude.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI): There are many speakers on this Resolution which is an interesting and an important Resolution.

4 P.M.

SHRI HARKISHAN SINGH SURJEET: Sir, three-four aspects are there. If I was told...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI): No, no. I am very sorry that a senior Member like you should be interrupted by me.

SHRI HARKISHAN SINGH SURJEET: All right. I started thinking that I would perhaps get one hour.

SHRI SHIVA CHANDRA JHA (Bihar): The timing should have been clarified in the beginning itself, so that all of us would have known which Member is allowed what time.

SHRI HARKISHAN SINGH SURJEET: All right, Sir, allow me 15 minutes more. I won't quite more figures. There are two-three aspects, agricultural price and other things, which I am more interested in. I am just coming to that.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI): I thought you knew the rules.

SHRI HARKISHAN SINGH SURJEET: Anyway, so far as the effect is concerned, I have said that even these wages which at the present moment are very low, are going to be affected. They are going to reduce them further. The wages are going to be further reduced—what to talk of increased wages—because of the inflation and high prices. There are certain types of workers—those who are eligible for the adjustable d.a. and those who for whom the wages are fixed under the Minimum Wages Act. Both suffer losses in the real wages, but the second category is the worst sufferer and much worse

is the position of unorganised sector. Coming to the wholesale price index it stood at 240 in 1970-71. It has risen alarmingly according to the All India Working Class index, it stood at 369 in February. And it jumped to 382 in May 1980 according to the figures supplied by the Simla Bureau. Both these figures show 9.1 per cent rise in these short periods. What is the effect of this on the workers? The wage earners of Rs. 400 or below have suffered a loss in real wages to the extent of Rs. 38 between December and June. All workers drawing more than Rs. 260 who are eligible for variable d.a. at Rs. 1.30 per point have suffered a loss in real wages due to ceiling on d.a. neutralisation by the Bureau of Public Enterprise despite all the grants of adjustable d.a. The loss between February 1980 and May 1980 works out to Rs. 10 per month despite increase in the d.a.

Sir, because of the time factor I am not going into the consumer price index, but what I want to say is, how this index is worked out, how the prices are calculated, it has been called in many respects a fraud. Even based on that there is going to have a reduction in the real wages. I do not want to take time of this House, as to how the agricultural labour has adversely been affected. All the documents provided to us go to prove that the wages of the agricultural workers have increased three times as compared to 1960, but the real wages have been reduced. This has been proved by many reports, Survey Reports and also by the Planning Commission documents. So, these are the real sections of population which have been adversely affected.

The second point is about the prices of agricultural commodities. There is a great disparity. Not only is there disparity, but no justice is done to the agriculturists in fixing the prices. Neither the increase in cost of production is compensated, nor the real support price is given. It is always low as compared to the market price. When it comes to the question of a bumper crop, sufficient financial support is lacking to ente

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into the market. There also the smaller agriculturist is the sufferer. The other day the Minister had stated here that peasants will be compensated because of the rise in the price of fertilizers, but, Sir, when they come to the implementation part of it, they do not do it. There was a debate on the price fixation for paddy. In fixing the price of paddy, whatever the calculation was made, they said that the price is increased from Rs. 95 to Rs. 100. That also was based on the supplementary report of the APC. The APC originally never thought of doing this. Earlier they had recommended the same price of Rs. 95. They had neither taken into consideration the increase in cost of production of paddy nor had they given thought to other factors during the last one year. But even now, is it that Rs. 5 can compensate the rise in the cost of production of paddy. I am not going into the original price, but the basis of fixation of the price. It is calculated that the per-quintal rise due to fertilizers would be not less than Rs. 11.50. But no effort is made to compensate it. In fixing up the prices, a lot of injustice is done.

We do not know how the APC worked out the cost of production. But the various State Governments also have worked out the cost of production. The Tamilnadu Government has stated that the cost of production in their State comes to Rs. 124 per quintal. The Andhra Pradesh Government has stated that the cost of production comes to Rs. 125.46 per quintal. I do not want to go into details, but there is a dissenting note by Ch. Randhir Singh, a member of the APC, who has, because of his understanding of the prices, been taken back into the APC, in which he says that the method of working out the cost of production by APC is absolutely wrong and he has stated that the Maharashtra, Tamilnadu, Gujarat and other State Governments have worked out the cost of production of paddy at Rs. 116, Rs. 117 and Rs. 149. That was two years back.

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Like that he has quoted about Rajasthan, Kerala etc. And he has said that price as worked out by the APC cannot be a scientific price, but the real price which should be taken into consideration is the price which the State Governments and the various universities have worked out.

Secondly, in working out the price, the risk element is never taken into consideration. That is why always the peasants have to suffer.

So far as the question of parity is concerned, every Government and every party go on repeating that there should be parity. When votes are required, they always tell the people: "Yes, we assure you parity in the prices of agricultural produce and the industrial goods". But here two Ministers have made two different statements. One does not know which is the Government's statement and which is not the Government's statement. One statement made by the Finance Minister was on the 7th July in this House. In reply to the debate he assured the Members that "the Government would do its best to bring about parity in the prices of agricultural and industrial commodities. Measures will be instituted at the appropriate levels with that end in view". The other statement was made by the Agriculture Minister, which is a different statement. He said, "No, I cannot assure parity. This cannot happen. We will try to increase the price of paddy. We cannot assure the parity at all". So two different statements have been made by two Ministers. We can go through the records. There are two different statements. I would very much appreciate if the Government sticks to the position of bringing about parity in the prices so that justice is done to the peasant. But so far nothing is done.

I only want to quote some figures about cotton. What is the parity there? Last year I tried to work out the statistics. Assuming Rs. 300 per quintal as the price of standard staple

cotton (which the Government never assures) and Rs. 250 for lesser varieties (which is around what the grower is getting) the mixture of standard, lesser and lower varieties used for production of cloth should cost Rs. 275 a quintal. Ten and a half quintals of *kapas* is needed to produce 360 kgs. of cotton lint and also give 650 kgs. of cotton seed etc. I have tried to work out that the price of cloth is much higher. Whereas 45 per cent component in the production of cloth is cotton, its price remains below Rs. 300 and the price of cloth which we have to purchase has gone up many times during the last few years. The difference between the price of cotton and the cotton cloth is three times. So, there is no question of parity.

Similarly about sugar. I have not much time, but we see that the price of sugarcane earlier also was Rs. 16 or 17 on the basis of 8.5 per cent recovery, when sugar was being sold at Rs. 3 or Rs. 3.50 a kilo. Even now the peasant has been paid the same price when the price of sugar has gone up much higher. The Government is taking the plea that they have to compensate the mill-owners because of the levy sugar; so they have to give them this promise.

When the crop comes, it is the magnates, it is the industrialists who are allowed to squeeze the peasants. The peasants are not helped at all. Today, we have seen a news item about the price of jute. The news item says:

"Forty lakh jute growers in West Bengal are again facing a disaster because the price of raw jute has started crashing. The protection price of raw jute has been fixed at Rs. 160 a quintal, although West Bengal Finance Minister Ashok Mitra had pleaded for a minimum price of Rs. 250 per quintal. At the moment raw jute is selling at between Rs. 115 and Rs. 130 a quintal.

According to official and non-official sources, so far there has not been any attempt by the Jute Cor-

poration of India to make raw jute purchase from the market".

It is not in relation to jute alone. This has happened with the cotton growers also. Whenever the common peasants, the poorer sections bring cotton to the market, the CCI does not enter into the market. They allow Birlas and the big cotton magnates, the textile magnates to purchase the cotton at low prices. They only enter after the poorer sections have gone into the market and sold their stocks. The same thing has happened in the case of jute. It is to help the jute magnates that today the Jute Corporation of India is not entering the market. The Government has fixed a price of Rs. 160 which is much below the cost price as worked out by the West Bengal Government, i.e., Rs. 190 per quintal. It is not only very low, but even at that price nobody is purchasing it. The price today is Rs. 115 to Rs. 120 per quintal, thus, harming the peasantry of West Bengal, Assam and all those regions which produce jute.

So, Sir, nobody bothers about the peasants. This happens here also. When the wheat production was much higher, the FCI also did not enter at that time. They allow the peasant to sell at low prices. The private traders have been allowed to enter the market. They allow them to purchase at a very low price and afterwards immediately the prices go up. The consumers have to pay more and the grower does not get anything. This is the policy of the Government. Neither the prices fixed are enough to compensate them in meeting the cost of production plus some margin, nor is the risk element taken into consideration in fixing up the prices, nor is there any guarantee by the machinery set up by the Government—the FCI, JCI or CCI. In your State of Maharashtra, Sir, the Government had to resort, seeing the working of the JCI etc., to their own scheme of monopoly procurement of cotton. That scheme ensured the peasants comparatively more prices than paid in the rest of the country. The figures

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worked out by the Government are duction. These vary from area to area. It will be different in Punjab. In Haryana it will be different and it will be different in areas which are rain-fed. There the production is much less and they have to do much hard work. In fixing up the prices, the different areas are not taken into consideration and this also does not work.

Coming to the rise in prices, the prices of inputs have risen by 37.5 per cent. And what is rise given to the peasants? In the case of wheat, it is Rs. 2—which is not even 2 per cent. In the case of paddy, it is Rs. 5, which does not come to 5 per cent even. And the argument advanced is that if we increase the price, then we will have to increase the issue price also. Why? Why not tax those big houses which have amassed so much wealth? I have quoted about 20 monopoly houses. Why not tax them to compensate these people? Even if you pay Rs. 20 extra, the total subsidy will come to Rs. 200 crores if you have to maintain the present distribution system at the present issue prices. Already the Government is spending Rs. 600 crores. If Rs. 20 more is given for the paddy, it will come to Rs. 200 crores because the total quantity which we distribute through the public distribution system is 10 million tonnes. That is the average it comes to. That is about the prices. What I am saying is that so far as the peasants are concerned, they are cheated, they are not given things at fair prices. The whole effort is to throw the burden on the peasants. They are the worst affected. They will be protecting the interests not of the peasants but of the monopolists. That is how they are going to level up the prices.

Finally, I come to the distribution system. All the parties have assured the people that they will be supplied the consumer articles at the fair price shops. That assurance has been given to them. But what has happened?

It was in the beginning of July, 197 that the public distribution system was started. Then it was stated that they would add on some more articles to the ones that were being made available. At that time it was estimated that whereas 2.4 lakhs of villages were initially covered by this scheme, their number will be increased to 3.5 lakhs. But, as per the latest figures printed by the Ministry, today there are 2,35,565 fair price shops in the country as a whole. And they had also made a promise that some new articles will be added. This was a statement made by the present Government. The additional commodities recommended to be brought under the public distribution scheme were edible oils, match-boxes, tea, coffee, exercise-books, and so on. Now to say of the new commodities, even the old ones are getting rare, apart from the question of their prices. In the super bazaars also they are not available. Then where are they available? Even the commodities that are supposed to be sold through the fair price shops, are not available. Only yesterday in the papers it was pointed out that the West Bengal Government is saying that they do not have sufficient stocks of foodgrains to maintain the public distribution system because of the problem of movement of wagons and improper planning. They say they have got stocks only for one month. All these things are going on. Even to maintain the present distribution system, it is very necessary that the Government takes drastic steps. Unless the Government takes such drastic steps, they will have to go on repeating the same thing. The Government may be taking drastic steps, but they are not drastic in a sense from the point of the common men. Their drastic step will be to take over the stocks of consumer articles wholesale and not retail. Take them over and organise a proper public distribution system by which you make available these articles to the common people. Only then can the people have some relief. Otherwise, the continuing price rise

and inflation will remain a big problem. There is no corner of the country where this is not being talked about and it is leading to a great discontentment in the country. Something must be done about it.

With these words, I move my Resolution.

The question was proposed.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI): Now there are three amendments to the Resolution. One is by Shri Hukmdeo Narayan Yadav. Are you moving it?

SHRI HUKMDEO NARAYAN YADAV (Bihar): Yes, Sir. I move:

1. "That at the end of the Resolution, the following be added, namely:—

'formulate a sound price policy in order to maintain a parity between the cost of production in the agricultural and industrial sectors and in order to ensure that there is no increase in the price of agricultural products of more than six paise per kilogram between one crop and the other and industrial goods are not sold in any part of the country beyond one and a half times of their actual cost of production;

restrict the production of luxury goods to curb expenditure, minimise the disparity in incomes and root out corruption rampant in Government institutions; and

appoint a Commission to take concrete steps to curb the menace of black money, which is the primary reason for price rise and inflation."

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI): Shri Shahedullah, are you moving your amendment?

SHRI SYED SHAHEDULLAH (West Bengal): Yes, Sir. I move:

2. "That in the second paragraph of the Resolution—

after the words "industrial I products on the other" the words "as, for instance, in the case of jute", be inserted.'

(The amendment also stood in the name of Shri Pattam Rajan).

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI): I think Mr. Pattiam Rajan is supporting it. Now Mr. Ram Lakhan Prasad Gupta, are you moving your amendment?

SHRI RAM LAKHAN PRASAD GUPTA (Bihar): Yes, Sir. I move:

3. "That in the third paragraph of the Resolution for the words "take over....fair prices" substitute the words—

'take effective steps to eradicate corruption and profiteering in trade in foodgrains and other essential commodities; ensure remunerative prices to the agriculturists and organise a proper public distribution system for the supply of essential commodities at fair prices to the weaker sections in rural as well as urban areas.'

The question were proposed.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI): The Resolution and the amendments thereto are now open for discussion. Shri Khurshed Alam Khan.

SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN (Uttar Pradesh): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, the increasing rate of inflation and a rapid rise in the prices of essential commodities and its adverse effect...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI): There are 15 minutes for you, Mr. Khurshed Alam Khan.

SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN: Yes, Sir, and this half a minute will also be counted for that....and the rising wages and salaries are a result of last year's fiscal policy. It is a fact known to everybody that the current rate of inflation started in March, 1979 and it is continuing even now. Sir, besides the rate of inflation and rapid rise in the prices are almost a world-wide phenomenon while the mover of the resolution may not agree with me. It is also a fact that our neighbouring countries really are suffering from a higher rate of inflation and a higher rate of price-rise than that in our case, but that too is not acceptable to him. He wants a comparison with some other countries. Actually the comparison should be between two equals and not between two unequals.

Sir, there is some force in what the mover says about the disparity between the agricultural prices and the industrial products prices, and that is the reason why under the revised terms of reference the Agricultural Prices Commission will examine the terms of trade between the agricultural and the non-agricultural sectors. And I am sure this will go a long way in meeting the present situation which we are facing and this is going to help us to tide over the present difficulty. Now, Sir, in the case of the major agricultural commodities like paddy, wheat, pulses, oil-seeds, jute, cotton, not only is there procurement of these commodities but there is also an assurance of the Government agencies to procure them and the prices will not be allowed to fall below the support prices. This has been proved by the Agricultural Ministry because it stopped the distress sale of onions and now there is no distress sale of onions in the country. Sir, what is necessary, therefore, is that among the prices of the farm products, the agricultural inputs and the industrial goods there must be some balance, for which, I am sure, the new terms of reference will be of great help and some via media will be found about it. No doubt, linkage between the two is desirable. We

have also to think what is achievable and how to achieve it and how to achieve it in a fashion that it will not imbalance the present system or the present arrangement.

Sir, soon after the Budget of 1979-80 was passed with the forecast of a possible rise of only one per cent in the prices of the essential commodities, our economic experts had predicted a steep rise. At that time they had said that there would be a steep rise in the subsequent years, and their statement has been proved correct now because the consequences of what was done at the time, we are suffering at the moment. Therefore, the problems that we have inherited are not of our making; they are merely attributable to the previous Government who had adopted unrealistic policies.

SHRI RAM LAKHAN PRASAD GUPTA: Was it the Janata Government's policy?

SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN: Whether it was the Janata Party or the Lok Dal they are just the same for us.

Sir, the Budget this year has tried to undo those damages, and this is obvious from the fact that reliefs and concessions of the order of 350 crores of rupees have been given without any heavy dose of additional taxes unlike in the previous year's Budget.

Let us frankly admit at the same time that the wholesale trade manages the transactions of the essential commodities in a fashion that it assumes prices and then sells the goods at those prices to the retailers, and eventually the consumer has to pay for them. Therefore, it is necessary that some preventive measures have to be enforced at this source to ensure that the wholesalers do not take advantage of assumed prices which are unrealistic and inflated in fact. For instance, now so much is said and talked about sugar. But why do you not understand that 60 per cent of sugar is available at the rate of Rs. 2.80 p. while 40 per cent of it is available in the market at a higher price.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): Thirty-five per cent.

SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN: I stand corrected. Thirty-five per cent is available to the people who want to purchase more than their quota or who can afford to buy more than their requirement. Therefore, I do not think that the prices of sugar for the common man can be said to be very high, or that the common people are unable to afford it. Now, the Government is very much seized of the situation. And as a step to check rise in prices, the Government has made arrangements to rush supplies to the pockets of scarcity, to minimise the activities of speculators. Sir, in the Finance Ministry, for this very purpose a special cell has been set up to monitor pockets of scarcity and keep the Ministry of Supplies informed about it and also to ask for the cooperation of the Railways in providing the necessary number of wagons for rushing these supplies to the various parts of the country. No doubt, the Railways have their own difficulties. As is well known, in the eastern region, about 500 wagons of the Railways are stranded and are not moving and their turn-around is very slow. And that is causing some difficulty. Similarly, the truck service is also suffering on account of the trouble in the eastern region. That is one reason for the rise in the prices. In fact, with the efforts now being made for a better public distribution system with a large network of fair-price shops in urban as well as rural areas, I am sure it will go a long way in meeting the requirements of the common people and they will be able to get their requirements and there will be no difficulty. I am sure this assurance has been given on the floor of this House and the Minister of Civil Supplies will give this assurance once again because the arrangements that are being made are surely going to be satisfactory and will meet all our requirements.

Now, it is a well-known fact that the Government's primary responsi-

bility is to protect the weaker sections of the society from the rising prices. For instance, the system of dual pricing was aimed at achieving this objective, and this has gone a long way in meeting the requirements of the common people. On the other hand, people continue to criticise the Government's policy of subsidising the economy. But this is necessary for our economy. And subsidy is provided not only by the Food and Agriculture Ministry or the Civil Supplies Ministry; it is a known fact to the mover of this Resolution that even the Railways have to carry what is called a social burden of the order of about Rs. 180 crores annually. So that also is there. If they charge normal rates of freight, then there will be a further increase. But the Government wants to beat down the prices and keep them within control. This is not being done by one Ministry but in co-ordination with the Food and Agriculture Ministry and the Civil Supplies Ministry with the Railways playing their own part.

SHRI SADASHIV BAGAITKAR (Maharashtra): Has it started with this year's budget of the Railways? The social burden of the Railways is as old as the Railways itself.

SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN: But the amount is increasing every year. What was it about 10 years ago and what is it today? You do not realise that. On the other hand, this criticism is continuing. Our Government will go on facing this criticism and this criticism has to be ignored in the interest of the common man.

Now, this year's budget provides a great opportunity for the industries to take advantage of the facilities offered to increase production through new investment. Unless we produce more, how are we going to reduce the prices? This increase in prices is attributable to the previous Government's policies, because there were largescale strikes and lock-outs and "go-slow" agitations, which completely put our industry and production out of gear. Unless it is

[Shri Khurshed Alam Khan]

put back in gear and unless the maximum installed capacity is utilised, there will not be any relief to the common man. For this infrastructural facilities have to be improved. There is no reason why these should not improve. Besides, God has helped us this year and we have a good monsoon. Our reservoirs are full. Whatever difficulties we were facing due to energy or power shortages, I am sure in future these will not present any problem. Then, it will be possible for us to achieve higher targets of production and higher results in our turn-over.

On the coal front also there has been a ten per cent increase in production during the first quarter of this year. This is indeed encouraging. During the last one and half years production of coal had gone down. Now coal industry is also showing signs of improvement. I am sure they will not only maintain this 10 per cent increase, but improve it.

Government have also taken steps to make money supply dearer by increasing the lending rate. This is one another effective step to check price rise and inflation. If money supply is not restricted, it will create inflation and lead to further increase in prices. If the rate of interest is reduced or not increased, the hoarders and black-marketeers will hold on their goods and create a sort of artificial scarcity.

It is a matter of great regret that excise and other concessions announced in the Budget have not been passed on to the consumers by the traders. This is an area where the social workers have to do something. They must realise that whatever concession has been given in the interest of the common man should not be taken advantage of by the traders, but should be passed on to the consumers.

Retailers must display their prices. This matter is under the consideration of the Government and in fact this is going to be enforced very shortly. This will be another way of controlling

prices. This will ensure that they cannot resort to hoarding.

Apart from restricting the money supply, it will be necessary to expand supply of goods and services. This can be ensured by enlarging the scope of fair price shops in rural areas and urban areas. I am sure that in every locality and in every area people will be served by these fair price shops. The fair price shops will in turn get their supplies regularly and I am sure they will have no difficulty in getting the supplies on account of shortage.

There is a real necessity to expand the public distribution system and this is receiving the attention of the Civil Supplies Ministry. It is shortly going to be expanded and this will be a continuous process.

As regards providing remunerative price to the agriculturists, the matter is receiving the constant attention of the Agriculture Ministry. There will be no slackening on this and certainly the agriculturists are going to get what they deserve and what is due to them. The Agricultural Price Commission will ensure that agriculturists do not suffer in any way. In the Sixth Plan, it has been made clear by the Planning Minister the other day in this House, that consideration will be given to, that the main consideration will be the common man's requirement and the requirement of the people who are living below the poverty line. Surely, this assurance can be taken on its face value because it is not a hollow assurance, but it is an assurance which is going to meet the requirements of the people and it is an assurance which has been given in real earnest. Now, taking over the wholesale trade is not going to solve all the problems. It is a known fact that this experiment was made sometime back. But, surely, the experiment was not a very happy one and, therefore, it had to be abandoned. Today, what we need is the proper procurement and proper procurement with proper support prices. Now, there is no difficulty in proper procurement at the moment and there is

take-over of

no difficulty in giving reasonable support prices also. Therefore, why there should be any difficulty on this count is not known. (*Time bell rings*). I will take just a few minutes, and will complete. Now, the only thing that we have to do is to check the private traders from manipulating the prices and prevent them from hoarding.

Sir, the present difficulties have been inherited from the past, as I said. Another very important point which I would like to make is about the Civil Supplies Ministry itself. Now, Sir, the Civil Supplies Ministry is charged with the great responsibility of ensuring that the people get their supplies in due time. But is it very much like Milton's "Paradise Lost", which is read by none, but which is appreciated by all. All the responsibilities we have given to the Civil Supplies Ministry. But the Civil Supplies Ministry is not equipped with proper powers so that it can deal with the situation from day to day or as the occasion arises. It is, therefore, very necessary that the Civil Supplies Ministry should be reorganised completely in a fashion that will give it proper authority because, without proper authority, proper functioning will be difficult for this Ministry. It is a known fact that you cannot function properly without the proper authority and you cannot function properly unless you have the authority to work and this authority should be given to the Ministry by properly reorganising it. I say this because, at the moment, there are a number of Ministries which take certain decisions, including the State Ministries, and these decisions affect this Ministry or the effect of these decisions is on this Ministry because this Ministry, the Civil Supplies Ministry, has to implement some other Ministry's decision without taking into consideration its views. Therefore, this should be done and done at a very early stage so that the Civil Supplies Ministry is well equipped to meet the requirements of the people and discharge its duties and responsibilities in a fashion that the people expect it to do. Thank you,

Sir.

SHRI SANKAR GHOSE (West Bengal): Sir, the Resolution that the honourable Member, Shri Harikishan Singh Surjeet, has moved is very important in the context of rising prices and this Resolution highlights the importance of strengthening the public distribution system.

Now, Sir, the public distribution system has to be a permanent system and there should not be any rethinking on this question. I hope the Civil Supplies Minister, who is here, has seen a statement of one of his colleagues in a discussion. His Cabinet colleague has said that he is all for decontrol of everything, decontrol with self-control and he has said that he is for decontrol if the trading community can do with self-control. I hope this kind of an observation is merely the private opinion of his colleague. Now, in the context of the rising prices and inflation, the public distribution system is a must and strengthening the fair price shops is a must. We have now only about 2,38,000 fair price shops. We had discussions that this number should be extended to 3-1/2 lakhs. We hope the Civil Supplies Minister will be able to take steps to extend the network of these fair price shops. The cooperatives and panchayats can very much involved in the process of expansion of these fair price shops.

Now, for example, in West Bengal we find that for lack of foodgrains the rationing system is on the point of collapse. It is unfortunate that when we have 18 million tonnes of surplus foodgrains, because of lack of coordination or because of difficulties of sending supplies or transport problems or railway problems these things should happen. This is an area where the Civil Supplies Minister can do a lot. Perhaps the powers with the Civil Supplies Department are not adequate. Perhaps their powers are of a recommendatory nature. In order to remove these bottlenecks, it would be desirable that the Civil Supplies Department is clothed in adequate

[Shri Sankar Ghose]

powers so that when the rationing system is in jeopardy that Ministry will be in a position to rectify the defects.

So far as jute is concerned, jute prices are crashing. The Jute Corporation is not in the field. It is their habit to come into the field after the poor growers have sold their products at a cheap price to the middleman. It is only after that that the Jute Corporation steps in. This is another area where the Civil Supplies Department can see that the Jute Corporation should come in at the right time.

So far as the public distribution system is concerned, the Food Corporation which is handling so much of our foodgrains—their handling charges for one quintal, I understand, are about Rs. 45/-, whereas the ordinary traders do it for Rs. 5 or Rs. 6. The Minister should see how to improve the efficiency of the Food Corporation and to remove all malpractices, so that the handling charges of the Food Corporation are reduced.

Now, the public distribution system will not be successful particularly when there are rising prices and scarcity conditions unless we have control over supplies. Whenever there is shortage, black-marketing is rampant. Now, the Essential Commodities Act contains certain powers to deal with these blackmarketeers, hoarders and smugglers. It is thought that the Act is not being properly worked. We are still having anti-social elements, black marketeers and hoarders. In 1979 more than 7000 cases were instituted under the Essential Commodities Act. I understand that only one thousand cases have been disposed of. Unless firm and swift action is not taken against blackmarketeers, the rise in prices cannot be stopped. Therefore, this is another area where the Civil Supplies Minister, who is here and who is an experienced Minister, can take steps, so that the Central Government and the State Governments take firm

action against hoarders and blackmarketeers. If any legal changes have to be made for ensuring that cases against hoarders and blackmarketeers under Essential Commodities Act can be disposed of quickly, whatever amendment is necessary, I hope the Minister will bring forward that amendment before the House.

There was a proposal that 50 per cent of the expenditure for setting up special courts against economic offenders would be borne by the Central Government. What has happened to that proposal? How many States have taken it up and how much more boost is to be given for setting up special courts to deal with economic offenders. This is very necessary. Now, this public distribution system cannot succeed unless we have control over supplies. And it cannot succeed unless we have supplies. Take the case of edible oils where there is a shortage of one million tonnes in production and we are importing it at a cost of 550 crores of rupees. Therefore, the Civil Supplies Minister can take this up and see that the Agricultural Department, the Planning Commission and other concerned Ministries formulate proper plans and make the necessary allocations so that one million ton of shortage of edible oil which we have to import from abroad at high prices and we import inflation along with it, is abolished. In order to deal with inflation and to have a Public Distribution System, we have to increase the supplies. What is happening in the Public Distribution System? We have to expand the commodities that we distribute. The exercise books have to be given. They are not available. We are importing one hundred crore of rupees worth of paper from abroad, although our paper industries utilise only 77 per cent of their capacity. That is another area where the Civil Supplies Department can see as to why there should be shortfall in production of essential commodities like edible oils, sugar, paper necessary for exercise books and cheap cloth. The Supplies

Department should be clothed with requisite powers so that when there is shortfall, he is able to take it up properly, control inflation and help the weaker sections. Unless production is increased and unless there is necessary allocation by the Finance Minister and unless there is proper monitoring mechanism for proper capacity utilisation, it cannot be done. So, this is the dynamic role which the Civil Supplies Department can play and the Minister can play that role. We have got an experienced Minister and the House will support the Minister in this. There will be a kind of surveillance, if he brings about these measures, over those departments which are not seeing to proper capacity utilisation and investment in the production of goods of mass consumption, commodities which are essential for the strengthening of the Public Distribution System, controlled cloth, etc. Now, the allocation of controlled cloth in the public textile mills has been reduced by 5 per cent in this budget. If you reduce allocation, how will you get this controlled cloth? If you reduce the allocation for credit that the financial institutions will give to agriculture, then how will the Civil Supplies Department be strengthened? We find that the allocation that has to be made for financial institutions for loans to agriculture has been reduced in the budget from 162 crores to 109 crores, a cut of 33 per cent.

Now, this is an area which the Civil Supplies Minister can take up and see as to how the Public Distribution System will succeed unless you restore these cuts. For example, now there is a shortage of so many products, sugar, edible oil and other commodities. Now in the Command Area Development Blocks, the cut in the budget of this year is to the extent of 72 per cent from Rs. 44 crores to Rs. 15 crores. These cuts should be restored. The Minister will be carrying somebody else's baby. Somebody is reducing the allocation in the area where production should increase so that his Ministry

can succeed. Therefore, the role of this Ministry has to be a much wider role. It cannot be merely a recommendatory role. Mere monitoring will not do. As the reports show, this monitoring is making our defects clear. Therefore, if the production of essential commodities is to be increased, then the specific cuts, as I said, on edible oil, on sugar and on various other commodities, will have to be restored. Then, Sir, so far as the prices are concerned, by the recent increase, the petroleum prices have risen by 15 per cent, the fertilizer prices have risen by 37 per cent, the diesel prices have risen by 44 per cent, the passenger fares have risen by 10 per cent, the freight charges have risen by 15 per cent. Now, this is the situation that we are faced with. (*Time bell rings*). Therefore, Sir, if we are to deal with a situation like this, if we are to make the public distribution system really successful, then we have to take a package of measures on the production aspect, on the distribution aspect and on the procurement aspect. Therefore, I hope that the very important Resolution that hon. Mr. Surjeet has brought will show the unanimity of the House on the question of controlling prices, expanding the public distribution system, and the Minister can come out with definite proposals in which he will have the support of the entire House. So far as controlling the prices is concerned, the situation is now too dangerous that the Civil Supplies Ministry cannot function in the old way. The Civil Supplies Ministry is a very important Ministry. But today it is a very difficult Ministry. It has a very challenging task. But in this challenging task, if you come with a package of proposals, I can assure you that the entire House will give you support.

श्री शिव चन्द्र झा : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, यह जो प्रस्ताव श्री हरविश्व सिंह सुरजीत जी ने प्रस्तुत किया है, मैं उसका समर्थन करता हूँ। मैं चाहूँगा कि सरकार इसको मान ले और इसके मुताबिक काम करे

[श्री शिव चन्द्र ज्ञा]

जो मुद्रास्थिति की लहर देश में दौड़ रही है उसको साबित करने के लिए मैं आपको रुपये की क्या कीमत अभी है यह बताना चाहता हूँ। परसों 29 तारीख को मेरा ही सवाल था कि रुपये की कीमत क्या रह गई है। सरकार ने जवाब दिया, हर अखबार में यह बात आई है, टाइम्स आफ इंडिया मेरे हाथ में है, पहले पृष्ठ पर छपा है कि 1947 में एक रुपये की जो कीमत थी वह अब 19.16 पैसे रह गई है। सरकार ने भी कहा कि 19.16 पैसे रह गई है। अब उससे आगे चलिये। जब इंदिरा काल शुरू हुआ, 1966-67 में तब रुपये की कीमत 41.63 पैसे थी जब इंदिरा जी ने गरीबी हटाओ की लहर दौड़ाई और वापिस आई तो उस समय कीमत हो गई 37.83 पैसे और जब तूफान से हटी तो 1977 में रुपये की कीमत हो गई 22.31 पैसे। तो आपने देखा कि रुपये की कीमत 1947 में जो एक रुपया थी वह 1977 में 22.31 हो गई और अब जब से यह आई है पिछले पांच महीनों में वह 22.31 से लेकर 19.16 पैसे हो गई है। यहां पर जनता काल में थोड़ी कीमत बढ़ी थी। 25 पैसे तक चली गई थी। मोटे तौर पर यह कहा जा सकता है कि रुपये की कीमत घटती गई। मतलब यह कि दाम बढ़ते गए। यहां पर मैं एक कहानी कह देना चाहता हूँ। 1914-1918 में आक्सफोर्ड का एक प्रोफेसर बाजार में चीज खरीदने गया। उसकी जेब में जो पैसे थे जब वह खरीदने गया तो देखा कि 10-20 प्रतिशत पैसे कम हो गए। उसने कहा कि पैसे कम क्यों हुए। उसने जाकर ब्रिटिश सरकार पर केस कर दिया कि मेरी जेब में 20 प्रतिशत कम हो गए इसकी जिम्मेदारी सरकार पर है। मेरे पैसे सरकार ने चुरा लिए हैं, सरकार ने पिक-पाकेट कर लिया है। काफी लम्बा केस चलता रहा तो सरकार की जो नीति है, फिसक और मोनीटरी पालिसी जो है जिससे रुपये की कीमत घटती जा रही है मोटे तौर पर पिक-पाकेट की पालिसी है। फिसकल और मोनीटरी पालिसी जो है

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

वह पिक-पाकेट की नीति है। नतीजा इसका यह होता है कि दाम बढ़ते जा रहे हैं। इसी जवाब में मुझे कहा गया कि दाम आम दौर पर बढ़े हैं, शुगर, गुड़ और एडीबुल आइल नके कन्ज्यूमर प्राइस बढ़ गये हैं। देश में हाहाकार मचा हुआ है आगे पीछे, राईट लेफ्ट हर चीराहे पर बात होती है कि भाई ये दाम क्यों बढ़ रहे हैं। मैं इन लोगों को यही कहता हूँ कि क्यों इंदिरा जी को वोट दिया, वोट दिया, लाये, गद्दी पर बैठाया तो हमको क्यों कहते हो। हमने तो वह दिया था वोट मत दो। लेकिन इसकी वजह से दाम बढ़ रहे हैं? अतः उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, चारों तरफ हाहाकार मचा हुआ है और एक तरह से लल बिफोर द स्टार्म यह परिस्थिति है। तूफान फिर आने वाला है। जिस तरह से 77 में तूफान आया था उसी तरह के तूफान से फिर ये सब वाईप आऊट हो सकते हैं, होने वाले हैं। राईटिंग आन द वाल जिसको कहते हैं, इनको देखते हैं तो ये जो कन्ज्यूमर प्राइसेज बढ़ रहे हैं, खासकर इंडस्ट्रियल गुड्स, औद्योगिक गुड्स में और एग्रीकल्चरल गुड्स में जो डिस्पैरिटी है उसमें किसान सेक्टर दबाया जा रहा है। जो फिक्स्ड इन्कम में आते हैं वे सब तबाह हो रहे हैं। कल ही मंत्री महोदय ने कहा कि 306 मिलियन लोग गरीबी की रेखा के नीचे हैं। इन्हीं का नतीजा है। मोटे-तौर पर आधी आबादी गरीबी रेखा के नीचे हैं। दाम जिस तरह से बढ़ रहे हैं उससे हम सोच सकते हैं कि परिस्थिति क्या हो सकती है। तब इनका हल कैसे हो? हल के लिए जरूरी है कि यह मानेदारी नीति है जिसमें कि दाम निर्धारित होते हैं, क्वालिटी आफ मनी बाजार में कितनी है, प्रोडक्शन कितना है, दोनों का संबंध उससे होता है यह अर्थ शास्त्र का ए०बी०सी० है? आज आपका उत्पादन जो हो रहा है। एग्रीकल्चरल और इंडस्ट्रियल क्षेत्र में वह मोटे-तौर पर तीन साढ़े तीन परसेंट बढ़ा है लेकिन रुपये की जो वृद्धि हुई है वह 14-15

परसेंट आती है। एक घोड़ा साढ़े तीन मील की रफ्तार से और दूसरा 15 मील की रफ्तार से दौड़े तो घोड़ा गाड़ी लड़खड़ायेगी या नहीं। यही बात है कि दाम की घोड़ा गाड़ी लड़खड़ा रही है। उत्पादन की गाड़ी चाहे इंडस्ट्री हो या और हो साढ़े तीन मील से और पैसे की गाड़ी 15 मील की रफ्तार से बढ़ रही है तो इसलिए दाम का संतुलन कायम नहीं हो रहा है। यह संतुलन कायम रखने की जरूरत है। इसके लिए क्वांटिटी आफ मनी जो है इस पर कंट्रोल करने की जरूरत है। लेकिन इसमें सरकार असफल होती रही है। मेरा एक सुझाव है कि क्वांटिटी आफ मनी को रोकने के लिए सरकार जिस तरह से अर्थव्यवस्था को प्लांट कर रही है उसी तरह से प्लानिंग कमीशन जब और बातों के लिए योजना बनाता है तो प्लानिंग कमीशन को आप अधिकार दें कि वह विजुअलाइज करे और प्लान बनाये कि पांच साल में टोटल क्वांटिटी आफ मनी बाजार में कितनी रहनी चाहिए। प्रोडक्शन या जो उत्पादन है उसके अनुसार इससे क्या होगा? क्वांटिटी आफ मनी पर कंट्रोल रहेगा और मुद्रास्थिति की लहर जो है उस पर रोक लगेगी। यह पहला कदम है।

दूसरा, हम देख रहे हैं कि कांस्पिकुअस कन्जम्पशन चारों तरफ हो रहा है चाहे टेलीविज़न हो, नायलॉन हो, रेंफ्रीजरेटर हो या और चीजें हों इन पर खर्च हो रहा है अमेरिकी अर्थशास्त्री का ब्यौरा है, रिसर्च है कि पांच सौ करोड़ रुपये लम्प सम कांस्पिकुअस कन्जम्पशन पर खर्च होता है उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, सफदरजंग रोड में जब प्रधान मंत्री जी गयीं थी, मैंने सदन में सवाल किया था, तो उसकी व्हाइट वाशिंग में कितना खर्च हुआ। 30 हजार पया। 30 हजार रुपये आपके भवन पर कांस्पिकुअस कन्जम्पशन, अन साइटिफिक कन्जम्पशन नहीं है तो और क्या है। इसी तरह से प्रधान मंत्री जी तिरुपति जाती हैं, वैष्णो देवी जाती हैं, अमरनाथ

जाती हैं तो वह सब कांस्पिकुअस कन्जम्पशन है। इन सब पर रोक लगनी चाहिए आप बैठिये, हम लोगों को पता है, मालूम है .. (Interruptions)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): Order please. Why are you interrupting? Please allow him to go on. You may not agree with his views, but allow him to speak.

श्री शिव चन्द्र झा : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, पंडित जवाहर लाल नेहरू ने भी अपनी किताब में लिखा है कि लोग मुझे कहते हैं कि मेरे कपड़े मेरी लाण्ड्री पेरिस जाती 5 P.M. हैं। कुछ लोग समझते हैं कि मेरी लांड्री पेरिस जाती है, उसका उन्होंने खंडन किया है। लेकिन यह सवाल अब भी उठता है कि यहां के मिनिस्ट्रों की और खास करके प्रधान मंत्री की लांड्री पेरिस जाती है कि नहीं। इसकी जांच करावे। यह भा. कंस्पिकुअस कन्जप्शन है (Time bell ringgs) मैं खतम कर रहा हूँ (Interruptions)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): Now, it is 5 P.M. and, therefore, we must take up half-hour discussion. This subject is over.

श्री शिव चन्द्र झा : श्रीमान्, अब आखिरी .. (Interruptions)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): Nothing will go on record.

(Shri Shiva Chandra Jha continued to speak.)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): Nothing is going on record.

Now, let me make it very clear for the purposes of record so that this question may not arise again, that after I rang the bell, nothing would go on record because I stopped that discussion to continue the half-an-hour discussion. Under the rules we have to take up the next business at 5 P.M.

SHRI SHIVA CHANDRA JHA:
There is much confusion being created. I hope you have not expunged the whole debate and only that particular portion you have expunged...
(Interruptions)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): Only after I rang the bell when I asked you to stop and I pointed out that we have to take up half-an-hour discussion, that portion will not go on record.

Now, we go to half-an-hour discussion. Before I call Mr. Mathur to initiate, I would like to say that it appears that often half-an-hour discussion becomes two hours' discussion. Now, I have got six names before me.

SHRI SHIVA CHANDRA JHA:
Point of order, Sir. It had been decided that private Members' time should not be curtailed and there should not be any encroachment on the private Members' day. Two hours' time is allotted for the private Members business. Today is private Members' day and this is a Private Member's Resolution. We should be clear in our mind as to actual time allotted for the private Members' business; it may be two hours; it may be 2½ hours or it may be half-an-hour. It should be decided what time is going to be allotted for the private Members so that we will be clear in our mind in future. If you decide to curtail the time of the private Members, then in that case also, we should know that our time can be curtailed, so that we will have to plan accordingly. But I find that you are going on ringing the bell and saying that the discussion is over.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): Kindly look to the Business Order. You will find that half-an-hour discussion is to be taken up at 5 O'clock. Being in the Chair, I am bound by it.

SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR (Uttar Pradesh): What happens to the rest of the time?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): If the hon. Members feel, that private Member's Bill and half-an-hour discussion should not clash the Rules Committee may consider whether instead of taking up the half-an-hour discussion at 5 O'clock, may be taken up at 5.30. Or, the half-an-hour discussion may not be fixed on Fridays. Well, that is for the Business Advisory Committee to take note of. But I am bound by the Revised List of Business.

Now, I want Members' co-operation so that we may pin up by 6 O'clock, so that it may be one hour's discussion but not beyond, because many Members complain that they keep engagements and everyday we cannot sit beyond 7. So I would request the initiator of the discussion to confine his speech to seven minutes as we do it in Calling Attention. The others will take four or five minutes.

SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR: This is an atrocity.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): This is not an atrocity. Not at all.

SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR: Sir, as the initiator, I should be given 25 minutes.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): Never. Then, why should this be called half-an-hour discussion? This can be converted into a two hour discussion. In an half-an-hour discussion, seven minutes to the initiator, I think, is sufficient. But still, please try to conclude it within seven or eight minutes.

SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI (Maharashtra): Sir, I take objection to the remark of the hon. Member. He is saying that this is

an atrocity on him by the Vice-Chairman. What kind of atrocity can there be between two males.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): We take it in the spirit in which he has said it. Now, Mr. Mathur to start the discussion.

SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR: Sir, if the hon. Member feels that way, I can withdraw it.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): We take it in the spirit in which he has said it. Now, Mr. Mathur, you can start the discussion.

HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION ON POINTS ARISING OUT OF ANSWER GIVEN IN RAJYA SABHA ON 25TH JULY, 1980, TO STARRED QUESTION 41 REGARDING NHAVA SHEVA PORT IN BOMBAY

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर : (उत्तर प्रदेश) : समझौता हो गया 10-मिनट । श्रीमन्, नोवा शेवा पोर्ट का विषय किसी एक दल का या प्रांत का नहीं है, यह बहुत राष्ट्रीय महत्व का विषय है । प्रसन्नता है कि महाराष्ट्र के मुख्य मंत्री तीन चार दिन पहले यहाँ के मंत्री से मिल कर गये । यदि यह केवल महाराष्ट्र का विषय होता तो शायद हमें चिंता नहीं होती । सारा महाराष्ट्र भारत का है और संपूर्ण भारत महाराष्ट्र का है । इस दृष्टिकोण से नोवा शेवा पोर्ट को हमें खेना चाहिये ।

श्रीमन्, मैं तकनीकी बातों में नहीं जाऊंगा क्योंकि समय की बंदिश है । यह विषय आज से नहीं 20 साल से ऊपर से चला आ रहा है । सर्वप्रथम 1961 में यूनाइटेड नेशन्स के विशेषज्ञों ने सिफारिश की थी कि बम्बई पोर्ट को एक्सपेंड किया जाये तथा नोवा शेवा पोर्ट जैसी योजना को हाथ में लिया जाये । उसके पश्चात् कितने ही वर्किंग ग्रुप आदि बने । मैं उनकी तफसील में नहीं जाऊंगा, तकनीकी विषय पर नहीं जाऊंगा । अंतिम रिपोर्ट जो हमारे सामने है पांडे कमेट्री की रिपोर्ट

मैं केवल उसकी ओर श्रीमन्, आपका ध्यान आर्कषट करना चाहता हूँ, उसमें जो सुझाव आदि हैं समय के अभाव के कारण उनका उल्लेख नहीं करूंगा लेकिन पांडे कमेट्री की रिपोर्ट का सम्बन्धित भाग पढ़ना चाहता हूँ :

"While the foregoing considerations should suffice to justify the case for construction of an ancillary port at Nhava Sheva, two more points deserve attention. In our view, there is an urgent need for development of a deep draft port in the country which can receive modern ships, particularly those carrying container and bulk cargo. We understand from technical experts that Nhava Sheva is the only site available in the country that has a natural draft of 14 to 15 metres. No other port site either on the western or on the eastern coast of India can match the draft provided at Nhava Sheva. Secondly—this is an equally significant consideration—the proposed port at Nhava Sheva is located within the vicinity of Bombay port system which is the major port of call for liner ships. This particular site will have the advantage of not only serving tramp trade but also liner trade of the Country."

There is another portion which says:

"The long-term solution to Bombay Port's congestion will be by significant additions to its capacity. Such capacity expansion is not feasible in the existing port. There is an urgent need for the development of a deep draft port in the country which can receive modern ships, particularly those carrying container and bulk cargo. Nhava Sheva is the only site technically suitable for the development of a deep draft port."

माननीय मंत्री महोदय का लोक सभा में उत्तर यह है, जिसमें उन्होंने कहा है कि नोवा शेवा पोर्ट की योजना को हमने