

responsible Editor, would see that the thing is fully reported. That is all about it. (*Interruptions*).

DR. RAFIQ ZAKARIA (Maharashtra): Sir, the proper procedure for Mr. Advani is to write a letter to the Editor. (*Interruptions*).

MR. CHAIRMAN: We will not go into it any further. Now, we go on to the Calling-Attention Motion on a matter of urgent public importance. Yes, Mr. Basheer.

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Grave repercussion on the Economy of Kerala arising from the Central Government's policy of importing cash crops like Rubber, Cocoa and Cashewnuts.

SHRI T. BASHEER (Kerala): Sir, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Commerce and Steel and Mines to the grave repercussion on the economy of the State of Kerala arising from the Central Government's policy of importing cash crops like rubber, cocoa and cashewnuts.

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Sir, Government have no information that the import policy of rubber, cocoa and cashewnuts has adversely affected the economy of the State of Kerala. There has been no change in the import policy with respect to these three items.

Import of natural rubber is canalised through the State Trading Corporation of India. The quantum of import is decided having regard to indigenous production. It is estimated that domestic production in 1980-81 of natural rubber will be around 1,55,000 tonnes and domestic demand would be of the order of 1,80,000 tonnes, thereby indicating a short-fall of about 25,000 tonnes. Limited imports may be required to meet gaps in supply-demand position,

which is constantly kept under watch. In previous years too, such situations arose and the gaps had to be met through imports. The stocks at present available with the State Trading Corporation of India (S.T.C.) are about 7500 tonnes. This cannot be said to be of any magnitude that would adversely affect disposal of indigenous production. Even at present, the ruling price of indigenous rubber is well above the minimum price fixed by Government.

Import of cocoa can be made under Open General Licence by Actual Users (Industrial). The total cocoa consumption in the country in the organised sector is estimated to be about 1600 tonnes per annum at the present level of capacity utilisation. The indigenous production is estimated to be about 1,000 tonnes. Annual imports of cocoa have been between 600 to 700 metric tonnes. This represents gap between total requirement and indigenous availability. Government would review the import policy when indigenous production goes up.

Import of raw cashewnuts is canalised through Cashew Corporation of India and no change in canalisation policy is contemplated. The domestic production of raw cashewnuts is far below the installed capacity of cashew processing industry in the country. The annual indigenous production is around 1,10,000 tonnes, as against which the capacity of cashew processing industry is of the order of 4,50,000 tonnes per annum, employing about 1,50,000 persons. Therefore, the industry has to depend heavily on imports. There has been a steady decline in the quantity of raw cashewnuts imported by the Cashew Corporation of India. In 1970-71 the Corporation had imported 1,69,359 metric tonnes whereas in 1979-80, it imported only 24,326 metric tonnes. In 1980-81, it is estimated that Cashew Corporation will be able to import only about 8,000 tonnes. This decline is due to lower availability of cashewnuts from the principal producing countries. In this situation, Govern-

[Shri Pranab Mukherjee]

ment has allowed, as a special case, limited imports of raw cashewnuts to exporters. This was done in the interest of export promotion and providing employment to labourers in processing industry. These direct were subject to monitoring by the Cashew Corporation.

SHRI T. BASHEER: Sir, the Calling Attention is based to a large extent on the oral answer given by the hon. Minister for Commerce on the 1st July, 1980—Question No. 335. I am reading the answer parts (c) and (d):

“(c) and (d): Import of raw cashewnuts is canalised through cashew Corporation of India, and import of natural rubber is canalised through State Trading Corporation of India. Direct import of these items may, however, be allowed, on merits, in the interest of export promotion. Import of cocoa beans is allowed under Open General Licence by Actual Users (Industrial); there is no proposal to canalise the import of this item through a public sector agency.”

Sir, this decision creates widespread distress among cocoa cultivators, rubber growers and organised sector of cashew industry in the State. This is detrimental to the interests of Kerala. Sir, the production of cocoa in the State during 1979-80 is estimated at about 3000 tonnes, and more area are being planted and coming into production. The production in this State will be sufficient to meet the demand of cocoa precursors in the country. In addition to Kerala, parts of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka have also taken to cultivation. Sir, M/s Cadbury (India) Limited is the biggest purchaser of cocoa in the country. But their requirement for the year is only 650 tonnes. This can be easily met by indigenous production in Kerala. M/s Cadbury (India) Limited were operating a chain of

purchasing centres in Kerala. Now, they have declared a lock-out with effect from the 1st week of May, 1980 and have stopped purchasing cocoa. The strategy of M/s Cadbury (India) Limited is to create a buyers markets artificially and to place the small farmers in a helpless position. As they are monopolists in the market, they want to create artificial fall in the price of cocoa and later to move the Central Government for permission to import cocoa. The present import policy of the Government of India permits the import of cocoa beans without payment of import duty under Duty Exemption Certificate. The import has no justification at all because there is sufficient production of cocoa in Kerala. To avoid a crash in the price of internal cocoa beans and to prevent widespread distress among the cocoa cultivators, the import of cocoa should be stopped.

About rubber I would say that out of the total registered area under rubber in India at the end of 1978-79, which is 2.35 hectares, 2.41 hectares is in Kerala. It comes to 90.1 per cent of the total registered area. Kerala accounts for over 90 per cent of the country's production of natural rubber. All these facts underline the important role which rubber cultivators play in the economy of the State. During June to December, 1979, the State Trading Corporation imported 17,400 tonnes of rubber out of which only about 6000 tonnes has so far been lifted by the rubber purchasers. The remaining rubber has been stocked in the godowns and is deteriorating. It is not being lifted. The fact is that the State Trading Corporation has been unable to find buyers for the quantity which it has imported at the expense of foreign exchange. Sir, in the light of the fact that the quantity imported by the State Trading Corporation during the last year is remaining unsold with them, we strongly urge upon the Government of India not to allow the import of natural rubber.

Sir, the cashew industry is the largest earner of foreign exchange for

the country and 1.5 lakh workers are employed in this organised sector. Ever since 1970, the import of raw nuts from foreign countries is canalised through the C.C.I. This was done to put a stop to the anarchic conditions prevailing in the industry. Before 1979, the private cashew processors were allowed to import raw cashewnuts direct under Open General Licence. This led to unhealthy competition among themselves and also to injurious practices like the denial of minimum wages and other statutory benefits to the workers. The Government of India took note of it and appointed a Committee headed by Shri Raman, Adviser to the Planning Commission, and it was on the basis of the recommendation of that Committee that canalising of import was introduced through the C.C.I. The C.C.I. have developed, over the years, a good deal of expertise in the import of cashew, and they are well-equipped. We fail to understand why, when a Government organisation well-equipped is available for the job, private processors should be allowed to enter the scene. Of course, import is necessary in the matter of cashews but we do not understand how the private parties should be allowed in this. I would like to say that the present decision is detrimental to this sector, to the small scale processors, to all the workers engaged in the industry. We were aware that the cashew processors have been trying all these years to undermine the canalisation scheme and to subvert the activities of the C.C.I. All these decisions on cocoa, rubber and cashew will upset the economy of Kerala.

Sir, the State Government have many a time brought these things to the notice of the Central Government. They gave the consequences of this policy of the Central Government. I have so many papers with me but due to lack of time, I am not going into them. Sir, an all-party representation, not a representation of Ministers but an all-party representation, from Kerala came to Delhi and submitted a memorandum to Smt.

Indira Gandhi, the Prime Minister on 7th June, 1980. Practically, the entire Kerala State came here and submitted this memorandum. And on 4th July, 1980, that is, on last Friday, the Kerala Assembly adopted a resolution unanimously requesting the Central Government to step back from this decision, from this policy of imports. It is quite unfortunate that...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take two minutes more and finish.

SHRI T. BASHEER:...the Central Government is reluctant to understand the feelings of the State of Kerala. I would like to say, Sir, this is nothing less than an economic blockade against Kerala. I strongly object to this decision. With all humility, I request the hon. Minister not to throw our poor cocoa cultivators, rubber planters into the hands of big industrialists and monopolists. I request the hon. Minister, through you, Sir, to rescind the decision and to give a categorical assurance that cocoa and rubber will not be imported, and that cashew will be imported only through the Cashew Corporation of India. Thank you, Sir.

SHRI JAHARLAL BANERJEE (West Bengal): Sir, I have got a point to make...

SHRI K. K. MADHAVAN (Kerala): This is a political discrimination, Sir.

SHRI JAHARLAL BANERJEE: It is very important, Sir.

SHRI K. K. MADHAVAN: This is a political discrimination, Sir, because a different political complexion has developed...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. Let me hear him.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, I am a little surprised...Sir, may I reply to the points?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do.

[The Vice-Chairman (Shri A. G. Kulkarni) in the Chair.]

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, for the first time I heard that a Calling Attention motion is being admitted, coming out of replies to the questions given on the floor of the House. Anyway, Sir, that is a matter between the Chair and the hon. Member. But as the hon. Member mentioned it, that is why I wanted to draw the attention to it. Earlier we knew that Calling Attention Notices used to be admitted on matters of urgent public importance either appearing in newspapers or on certain other matters. But the hon. Member says that this Calling Attention has arisen out of the replies I gave to various questions. Sir, the point is... (*Interruptions*).

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR (Madhya Pradesh): Take it as an half an hour discussion.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: I am taking it in whatever form you want to give it, half-an-hour, one hour or two hours.

Sir, the point is that the hon. Member wants to point out that we have taken a certain decision which is going to have an adverse effect on the economy of Kerala. But from his long speech I could not find out what decision we have taken, what change in the policy of import has been taken, which is going to adversely affect the economy of Kerala.

SHRI T. BASHEER: You allowed a private party...

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Mr. Basheer, I am on my legs, I am not yielding. Otherwise, Mr. Vice-Chairman, I will not answer a single question if he goes on distrubing me like this. Let me make out my point.

SHRI T. BASHEER: Sir, he allowed a private party to import.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI A. G. KULKARNI): Just listen, the practice is...

SHRIMATI USHA MALHOTRA (Himachal Pradesh): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir....

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI A. G. KULKARNI): Madam, why are you getting up?

SHRI T. BASHEER: I know what is the practice going on. I know what practice is going on in this House. (*Interruptions*).

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI A. G. KULKARNI): Mr. Basheer, may I request you that it is a good practice to listen to the Minister and then if there is any difficulty you can again ask him?

SHRI PILOO MODY (Gujarat): Sir, the Minister himself asked a question when he said, what change in policy has taken place. That means obviously he has not registered what change in policy has taken place. Therefore, he has to tell him again.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI A. G. KULKARNI): Mr. Mody, there was ample time to ask clarifications. He could have raised his point.

SHRI PILOO MODY: The Minister was not listening.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, what I said—I am repeating—is that from the long speech of the hon. Member who initiated this discussion on the Calling Attention, I could not find out what is the change in the policy and I am sorry to say that he has not mentioned what is the change in the policy. Three items are under consideration—rubber, cocoa and cashewnuts. The rubber import is going on for quite some time. The cashew import is going on from 1970-71. The cocoa import is going on for quite some time. Rubber is to be imported by the STC. Cocoa is to be imported

SHRI NARASINGHA PRASAD NANDA: So, why do you not import these articles which are in short supply here through STC?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Please listen to me; don't be impatient. This is being brought from non-traditional area from where our Cashew Corporation imports, say, from Tanzania or certain other producing countries. A private party is not permitted to import from those areas. A private party had some stock. They would have processed it somewhere else if we had not agreed. And when the Kerala Government objected, I had a discussion with the Kerala Chief Minister when he came to see me and I told him: "Let me understand the reason; whatever Cashew Corporation can bring, or whatever your own organisation can bring from whichever market you want to, you can import." But I told him that I am not asking any private party to import it. And if somebody wants to bring from other sources and if they want to get it processed, it is better for Kerala because the people there will get employment. And I told him that even then if they do not want it, I would not permit anybody else. In the existing policy, a private party could be permitted but we do not allow it. And when the Kerala Government said that they did not want it, I told them: All right, we would not allow anybody else; and your units will remain closed because there is a big gap between the capacity that exists and the indigenous production, and you cannot import it. Not that it is a question of inefficiency or anything, but the hard fact is that the countries from where we used to import, have started their own processing units. Certain other countries have come in, in a big way, in the market and they are giving more prices. Therefore, if we import it, it will not be competitive, and that is why, yesterday in the Lok Sabha I said that if the Kerala Cashew Cor-

poration is in a position to import, they are welcome. Let them import it; let them feed their own units, and I can give this assurance that I will not allow any private party to come into the picture. It is for their interest I permitted them. Out of this 5,000 tonnes, we gave 2,500 tonnes to the Kerala units to get it processed and the rest 2,500 tonnes went to the other units. This particular position I clarified on the floor of the House, as well as in the Consultative Committee. There is nothing new in it.

So far as coco is concerned, there is a controversy in regard to the actual production. The Kerala Government is saying, the production is 3,000 tonnes. Our Agriculture Ministry is saying, it is 1,000 tonnes. What should I do? Should I accept the views of the Kerala Government without getting it checked and verified by our Agriculture Ministry? I have told them 'Please ascertain the actual position and let me know'. On the basis of this, I shall decide whether there is any need for import or not. Where is the question of any change in policy? Is it not known to the hon. Member that the coco which they are producing has acidity content, as a result of which it cannot be utilised, unless it is blended with some coco which has lesser acidity element? I have suggested to the Kerala Government to get some unit make some chemical treatment to reduce the acidity content. There is no difficulty in it. We want it. Hence, where is the question of any change in policy to the detriment of the economy of Kerala?

In regard to cashew, the Cashew Corporation of India is the canalising agent. The Kerala Government has established one unit on their own. If they can import, well, they can do whatever they like. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI NARASINGHA PRASAD NANDA: Mr. Minister,.....

under the OGL. Cashew is to be imported through the Cashew Corporation of India. These policies are going on for quite some time. What happened in between, where is the change in the policy, which is adversely affecting the economy of Kerala. What is the rationale of importing, I have explained in detail. In the statement which I have given, I have clearly indicated that so far as rubber is concerned, our indigenous production is 155 thousand tonnes. That figure has been admitted by the Kerala Government itself. What is our requirement, according to the industry? Various sectors of the industry say that our requirement is 180 thousand tonnes. How am I to meet the gap?

SHRI NIDRADEEP SINHA (Bihar): Is there any production of synthetic rubber also?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: I am to meet the gap through imports because if the requirement is 180 thousand tonnes and the total production is only 155 thousand tonnes. If there is a gap of 25 thousand tonnes, I am to meet the gap by imports. And, what is the import policy? From time to time we look at the market. We take into account whether by supply of rubber into the market the growers are getting less. Sir, nobody in the House can say that for a single day during last year the price of rubber has gone below the minimum price fixed by the APC. You may agree with APC; you may not agree with APC, but that is the yardstick that we follow. The price which is prevailing in the market is always above the APC.

And what is the stock lying? All these things are said that stock is being wasted. Sir, the stock lying is of the order of 7500 tonnes, and this is also a policy to maintain it as a buffer stock so that if there is acute scarcity, we can meet the requirement from this buffer stock. And this buffer stock is not of a very high

order. It is only 7500 tonnes. So far as cashewnut is concerned, at least, half a dozen times, either on the door of this House or the other House, I have explained the position Cashew Corporation of India is to import cashew. They are the canalising agent. But unfortunately, certain developments have taken place in the cashew producing countries, over which I have no control. The other day, on the floor of the Lok Sabha, I said that if the Kerala Government can bring cashew from any part of the world, I would welcome it. But I am not permitting any private party to import cashew. At the same time, cashew has to be imported because there is a big gap between our capacity which we have established in the processing units and our indigenous production. If the Kerala Government can import, they can import it. Who prevents them? I am not asking any private sector to come into the picture; it can be either the Central Cashew Corporation or the Kerala State. If you can import it, you import it and get it processed. What I could do, I did for the benefit of Kerala. But the Cashew Corporation is not in a position to import more than 8,000 tonnes. One private party came and said that they can provide 5,000 tonnes to us and for that we are not to spend a single penny from our foreign exchange and they will bring it and will get it processed; our people will get the job because 5,000 tonnes of cashew was to be processed here and 2500 tonnes went to Kerala units and people working in these processing units get some additional jobs. And after that, it was re-exported and in the process, we got some money in foreign exchange, and...

SHRI NARASINGHA PRASAD NANDA (Orissa): So you allowed that private party to import 5,000 tonnes as admitted by you, and it has been processed here and re-exported.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Yes, I have answered that question.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Mr. Nanda, let me complete.

SHRI NARASINGHA PRASAD NANDA: I would like to seek one clarification. You are saying that in the coco which is produced in Kerala, the acidity content is more. Is the point about the acidity content which is produced in Kerala has arisen now or it has been there in the past also? Is it for the first time, this has arisen?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: This has been there all along. This is not for the first time, we are importing it. We have been importing it for the last three of four years. I have given the figures. Now, why have the price gone down? It is not because of any import policy. Cadbury is the one biggest user of our coco. There was a strike there for a long time. As a result, there was no purchaser. Nobody purchased it. Where does the question of the policy of the Government come in? The State Government is saying 'Our production is more, do not import'. I have told them 'Give me the figures'. Let this be verified by the Minister of Agriculture. Let them arrive at a firm position as to what is the actual quantum. Then we can decide. What has been the total import? It is very insignificant. Hence, no decision has been taken which can adversely affect the economy of Kerala in regard to the import of these three items.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI A. G. KULKARNI): Mr. Piloo Mody.

SHRI K. K. MADHAVAN: The Minister's reply itself is self-contradictory.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI A. G. KULKARNI): Pleased sit down.

SHRI K. K. MADHAVAN: I would like to seek a clarification.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI A. G. KULKARNI): No. Mr. Mody please.

SHRI PILOO MODY: Sir, the hon. Minister has....

SHRI T. BASHEER: I would like to seek one clarification.

SHRI PILOO MODY: Mr. Minister, Unlike you, I can always yield.

SHRI T. BASHEER: You have said that when you allow the private party to import this cashew nut, 50 per cent of the import sent by the private party is brought to the State for processing. I would like to ask the hon. Minister: Do you know this fact that nothing is brought to the State? Secondly, it is a fact that the State Trading Corporation of India imported 17,400 tonnes in 1979. But they have lifted only 6,000 tonnes. The remaining quantity is lying in the godowns and deteriorating there. Do you know this fact?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: These are all repetitions. I have told him, we are keeping some stock as buffer stock and in regard to the non-availability to the Kerala units, we gave the direction that 2,500 tonnes should go to the Kerala units and I am told they are given to the Kerala units. If the hon. Member says this is not so, I will again verify it. (Interruptions) I am not going to enter into an argument.

SHRI PILOO MODY: The Minister made the statement by saying 'to begin with' which was unnecessary because the rest of his reply seems to be reasonable in the original statement that he made. But then he started by saying, the Government is not aware of any effect on the economy of Kerala. Is he not even aware that a memorandum was presented to the Prime Minister? Did the Prime Minister not send you that memorandum? Did you not read that memorandum? Did that memorandum not outline the difficulties of the people of Kerala? Didn't all the members, Members of Parliament, from Kerala go in a delegation? Is this a party affair whether the eco-

[Shri Piloo Mody]

nomy of Kerala prospers or not prospers? Is it a matter between the Government and the Opposition? Then why a statement like that? That shortfalls have to be met, I have agreed with him on this long back. As a matter of fact, when you were thinking of taking over, I said, do not take over, meet supplies. You remember the first exchange we had in this House since you became the Leader. Therefore, I am very happy that you are meeting the supplies. The other bald statement he makes, what policy change has there been since they taken over? No change in policy at all, and then he lists half a dozen items in which the policy has been changed in order to meet the situation. Maybe, there is a wiser change, but why make a bald statement that no change has been effected? In fact, you are there to make changes, if necessary, and, therefore, you should take pride in saying that changes are being made. Then he says about acidity. I know with age acidity also increases and maybe, with age the Minister's acidity has also increased, but he says that the acidity of coco in Kerala has increased. Perhaps over the last four or five years you have started importing, as you have informed the House, Does that mean that prior to that coco did not have acidity in Kerala? Therefore, the point that I want to make is that if he has allowed somebody in the interest of the country and in the interest of Kerala to import 3,000 tonnes, out of this 2,500 tonnes were to be processed in Kerala and the hon. Member has said that not a part of it came to Kerala and the Minister cannot plead ignorance about something like this. Then, another astounding thing is that the Central Government says that the production is one thousand tonnes and the State Government says that it is three thousand tonnes. How can a three hundred per cent discrepancy in production of a vital commodity be held between the Central Government and the State Government? Sir, I find

that somebody is not doing his home work. I am not accusing the Minister, but somebody either at the State level or at the Centre level has lost all communication that such a wide disparity in the production figure should develop. And, Sir, I want to say that Cadbury, who are the large manufacturers, had a strike and, therefore, were not lifting stocks. Obviously, great hardship is caused to those who are growing this, because if a major consumer stops lifting stocks, you are stuck up with the stocks; you cannot stop the coco from growing and, therefore, you have a certain problem which has created an economic problem in Kerala. And the Minister says that he is not aware of any such economic problem in Kerala. This is the sort of thing that I find very difficult to accept. The other thing is a friend of mine told me just about a month ago that for five years he had cultivated rubber plantation in Kerala. For five years he invested his money in it. As you know, it starts giving a yield only after three or four years, if I understand it correctly. For five years he had this rubber plantation and finally he burnt a standing yielding rubber plantation because of the policy of the Government had made it impossible for him to make economics of that plantation work. Now he is cultivating annual cash crops on the same piece of land. Is the Minister aware of this? All my questions are so that he can become aware of it. It does not matter if you cannot answer me right now. Just become aware of the problems, find out about them and solve these problems. You are not only the Minister for Commerce but also the Leader of our House. Thank you, Sir.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, so far as the interpretation which Mr. Mody gave of the first part of the statement is concerned, I am not going to make any comment about it. But in regard to the point which he has mentioned, coco was never a banned item. Coco was all along being imported. Therefore, the question

of our suddenly taking into consideration the acidity does not arise. Coco cultivation in a big way has started only recently in some parts of Kerala and insome parts of Karnataka. Another point he mentioned was: What is the position about distribution? Sir, I have ascertained that out of 28 units to which this imported cashewnut was given, 18 units are in Kerala. Therefore, there is no question of the Kerala units not getting their share. Rather, as I said, it is a little more. Under the original arrangement, they were to get only 50 per cent but now they have got 57 per cent of the imported stock for processing. In regard to the third question, whether a certain rubber planter burnt his yield and switched over to a certain other item, I do not have readymade information, Sir, but I fail to understand what policy of the Government compelled him to take such an action. I do not get that point. If Mr. Mody can clarify that, I will, be happy.

SHRI PILOO MODY: He was not making any profit out of it.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: I would appreciate it if you look back to the last two, three years. For the last two, three years, so far as the price of natural rubber is concerned, it has always been on the high side. Of course, I do not know what happened before four, five years. But so far as the present price trend is concerned, it is always on the high side and they are getting remunerative prices. It is far above the minimum support price.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI A. G. KULKARNI): Mr. Mathur, please.

SHRI K. K. MADHAVAN: On a certain point, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI A. G. KULKARNI): I have to exhaust the list, please.

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर (उत्तर प्रदेश):
श्रीमन्, अभी मेरे सहयोगी ने बताया कि केरल के कुछ मंत्रियों का और एक एक डेलीगेशन प्रधान मंत्री जी से मिला था मेरे पास नार्दन इंडियन रबर मैनुफैक्चरर्स फेडरेशन का एक पत्र है जो उन लोगों ने प्रधान मंत्री जी को भेजा था। तो मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इन दोनों डेलीगेशनस से किसी प्रकार की प्रधान मंत्री की या सरकार की बातें हुई हैं मूल नीति के संबंध में? मुझे आश्चर्य है कि जब रबर की बात की जाती है और यह कहा जाता है कि छोटे छोटे कारखानेदारों को नुस्सान हो रहा है तो बात समझ में नहीं आती। सब जानते हैं कि रबर प्लान्टेशन बड़े बड़े लोग करते हैं। किसी गरीब का बागीचा नहीं है। एक ओर तो यह कहा जा रहा है कि रबर इपोर्ट न किया जाय और दूसरी ओर यह कुछ नहीं कहा जा रहा है कि इन प्राइवेट प्लान्टेशनस को ले लिया जाय या नहीं। तो एक सवाल था कि केन्द्र के सामने उन का नेशनलाइजेशन कर दिया जाय। वहां की सरकार साम्यवादी है। उस ने रबर प्लान्टेशनस को कोऑपरेटिव सेक्टर में ले लाने का सुझाव कभी दिया है या नहीं? वहां की सरकार तो लेफ्टिस्ट सरकार है, उसे तो इन को नेशनलाइज करने में कोई दिक्कत नहीं होनी चाहिए। तो क्या केरल सरकार ने आप को कहा कि इन को नेशनलाइज करना चाहिए? यदि कहा है तो इस में देरी क्यों हो रही है।

तोसरे आप ने बताया कि 25 हजार टन यह यूनिट है शायद। इतने का गैर है। लेकिन मेरी जानकारी के अनुसार रबर बोर्ड का इस्टीमेट है लगभग 50,00 का। हो सकता है कि मिनिस्ट्री क

[श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर]

अनुमान ठीक हो। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि यह कहाँ तक सच है।

दूसरे आप काउन्टर वेलिंग ड्यूटी लगाते हैं 800 रुपये प्रति क्विंटल। इतनी ड्यूटी लगाने के बाद भी आज बेसिक प्राइस आप दे रहे हैं 1300 रुपये इतना बड़ा गैप क्यों है? आप क्या काउन्टर वेलिंग ड्यूटी कम कर के इसकी कीमत कम नहीं कर सकते?

(Time bell rings)

प्रश्न तो पूरे कर लेने دیجिये।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री अरविन्द गणेश कुलकर्णी) : पूछ लीजिए। यह तो टाइम जो अलाट किया है उसके लिए है।

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर : श्रीमान, जो रबर हम लाग इंपोर्ट करते हैं और जो दूसरे देश इंपोर्ट करते हैं जैसे श्री लंका करता है, मलेशिया करता है, उनका कीमत में इतना बड़ा अंतर क्यों है? हम लोग करते हैं लगभग 1100 रुपये पर, दूसरे 434 पर करते हैं। तो अन्तर क्यों है?

श्रीमान् कैंस्यून्ट के इंपोर्ट की दिक्कत आपको मुख्यतः इसलिए हुई है कि चीन पिछले कुछ वर्षों में मार्केट के अन्दर आ गया है और अफ्रीकन कंट्रीज में उसने कैंस्यून्ट प्रोसेसिंग प्लान्ट लगा दिए हैं। मॉजाम्बीक कानिया आदि अफ्रीकन देशों में चीन ने बहुत बड़ा कैपिटलेशन खड़ा कर बाधा डाली है। तो आप कौन सा नया बाजार तलाश कर रहे हैं? आपने कहा कि आपको मजबूरी थी, आपको नहीं मिलता और मजबूर होकर प्राइवेट सेक्टर को दिया खरीदने का अनुमति दी। तो आपको नया बाजार ढूँढने में क्या कठिनाई है, क्या आप बाजार ढूँढना नहीं चाहते थे?

एक बात कोको के बारे में भी कहना चाहता हूँ। अभी तीनों सज्जना ने कहा है कि कैंडबरीज कारखाने वालों ने हड़ताल घोषित कर दी। क्या यह कैंडबरीज का सुनिश्चित योजना नहीं थी कि लाक-आउट घोषित करेंगे ताकि कीमतें घट जायें और रस्ते दामों में वह काको खरीद सके? आपने कैंडबरीज के ऊपर क्या दबाव डाला कि वह पहले केरल का कोको खरीदें और बाहर से इंपोर्ट न करें? मेरी जानकारी यह है कि यद्यपि वहाँ हड़ताल है, फिर भी कैंडबरीज लो इंपोर्ट कर रहा है। तो आप उनको इंपोर्ट करने से रोकने की कोशिश करेंगे या नहीं?

REFERENCE TO REPORTED RESIGNATION OF 12 MINISTERS OF ANDHRA PRADESH

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal): Sir, the Leader of the House is here. Will he kindly inform us? Just now we are a little agitated: As you know, Sir, we are very sensitive persons. We hear that 12 Ministers of Andhra Pradesh have resigned. Well, then, are we heading for a constitutional crisis? And, some 158 members have signed some document. Pranab Babu should at least tell us whether it is true or false.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI A. G. KULKARNI) Yes, Mr. Mukherjee.

THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Sir, I am sorry that I cannot respond to Mr. Bhupesh Gupta's suggestion instantly. But I can respond to the queries and clarifications sought by Mr. Mathur.

SHRI PILOO MODY (Gujarat): I thought you said it is a suggestion for action.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: What Action?