

for implementation of the targeted annual programme should be specifically assigned to administrative officers and employees concerned with the Departments'."

*The motion was negatived.*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : The question is :

6. "That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely :—

'and having considered the same, this House is of opinion that if any employee fails to achieve the specific task assigned to him, steps should be taken against the employee concerned'."

*The motion was negatived.*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : The question is :

7. "That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely :—

'and having considered the same, this House is of opinion that adequate staff as required at Headquarters and in States by the office of the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, should be provided without delay'."

*The motion was negatived.*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : The question is :

8. "That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely :—

'and having considered the same, this House is of opinion that the State Governments in general and the Central Government in particular have miserably failed to implement their own decisions regarding uplift of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other Backward Classes'."

*The motion was negatived.* MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : We now take up the next item. 78 KSS/74—9.

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE  
Steep fall In Price of Cotton (Contd.)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Shri Deorao Patil.

श्री ओउम् प्रकाश त्यागी : श्रीमन्, प्वाइन्ट ऑफ ऑर्डर । प्रातः काल जब शेखावत जी ने प्वाइन्ट्स रेज किए थे तब दूसरे मिनिस्टर जवाब दे रहे थे । उनके पास से ठीक जवाब नहीं आ रहा था ।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : No, he has replied to Mr. Shekhawat. The next man was Mr. Deorao Patil when it closed. I know, I was in the Chair.

श्री ओउम् प्रकाश त्यागी : जवाब कब मिला उनका ?

श्री उपसभापति : जवाब दे चुके हैं ।

श्री ओउम् प्रकाश त्यागी : जवाब नहीं दिया ।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : If you are not satisfied, that is another matter. But he has replied. I was in the Chair. I know what happened. He did reply. If you are not satisfied, it is a different question. But he has replied to Mr. Shekha-wai and I closed the matter there.

श्री श्री सिंह शेखावत : हम लोग उनके जवाब से सैटिस्फाइड नहीं हैं ।

श्री राजनारायण : हमने यह समझा था कि जब यह डिबेट, गेडयूल्ड कास्ट कमिश्नर की रिपोर्ट पर, खत्म हो जाएगी, तब कालिंग एटेंशन् आएगा । . . . .

श्री उपसभापति : वही चल रहा है अभी ।

श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री (उत्तर प्रदेश) : ऐसा है, अगर आप उचित समझे आप देवराज पाटिल जी को भी बुलाएं, हममें हमें आपत्ति नहीं, लेकिन इस प्रश्न को जो स्थगित कराया गया था वह केवल इस दृष्टि से कि शेखावत जी ने जो प्रश्न उठाये थे उनका पूरी तरह से उत्तर नहीं आया था और नदन की इच्छा थी कि जब श्री चट्टोपाध्याय आ जाएं तो उत्तर दिए जाएं । आप उचित समझे तो उनको प्रश्न करने दें ।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : No, no.

I am very clear on this because I know that the Minister had replied to Mr. She-khawat. May be you are not satisfied; that is a different matter.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Because some

श्री ओउमप्रकाश त्यागी : ऐसा हो आप चाहते थे तो पोस्टपोन क्यों किया गया ?

श्री ओउम प्रकाश त्यागी : बूँकि मिनिस्टर साहब ने पूरा जवाब नहीं दिया था ।

श्री रवी राय : आपको इस पर विचार करना चाहिए ।

people wanted that the Minister, Mr. Chattopadhyaya, should take up the Calling Attention motion.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : No, Mr. Tyagi. I am very sorry that you are trying . . .

SHRI O. P. TYAGI: I am also very sorry.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : I am very clear on this. I was sitting in the Chair then. It was not a different person.

श्री रवी राय : उपसभापति महोदय, मैं आपके फैसले को डिस्पूट नहीं कर रहा हूँ । इतना ही मैं आपसे अनुरोध करता हूँ स्टेटिस्टिक्स के बारे में कई फिगर्स दिए गए थे शेखावत साहब की ओर से । उनके बारे में वे स्पष्टीकरण ले सकते हैं ।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Mr. Rabi Ray, I am very clear that he had replied. Mr. Shekhawit may not be satisfied. That is a different question. But you cannot say that he had not replied and, therefore, he should repeat the same performance. Yes, Mr. Deorao Patil.

श्री देवराव पाटिल : सभापति महोदय, कपास एक ऐसी वस्तु है जिसको मार्केटिंग सर्पलन कहा जाता है । कपास पैदा होने के बाद ज्यादा दिन तक उसको किसान अपने पास नहीं रख सकते हैं । अगर देखा जाए तो 25 माल में जब भी किसान का माल मार्केट में आया उस वक़्त भाव गिर जाते हैं और किसान के पास से माल जब मिल-भेज के पास जाता है तो कपास के भाव बढ़ जाते हैं । यही नतीजा है जो आज खेदजनक परिस्थिति पैदा हुई है । हमारे यहाँ कपास के पैदावर देखी जाए तो पंजाब, हरियाणा, राजस्थान, मध्य प्रदेश और महाराष्ट्र में अक्टूबर से माल आना शुरू होता है, मेरी इन्फार्मेशन के मुताबिक । आपको पता होगा, 1973-74 में—सितम्बर अक्टूबर में जो कपास की खरीदी हुई है और आज 1974-75 में उसी महीने में जो खरीद हुई है, दोनों को आप देखेंगे तो पता चलेगा कि आज की खरीद कुछ भी नहीं है । महाराष्ट्र में मोनोपोली प्रोक्योरमेंट है लेकिन पैसा न होने से वहा प्रोक्योरमेंट स्कीम शुरू नहीं हुई है यानी किसान को दीवाली के लिए भी माल बेचने के लिए मार्केट में आहूक नहीं थे ।

"Remunerative price for kapas will be given to the cultivators."

गिर रहे हैं । मैं पहले ही बता देना चाहता हूँ हम उन किसानों में से हैं जो कपास की प्राइस बढ़ाने देना नहीं चाहते हैं जिससे कि क्लाय की प्राइस बढ़ जाए और हमारे देहातों के गरीब किसान, शेड्यूल्ड कास्ट और शेड्यूल्ड ट्राइब्स के लोग जो कपड़ा खरीदते हैं उसकी प्राइस न बढ़े । हमारी एक मांग है कि जिसको उचित प्राइस कहते हैं, रेग्युलेटिड प्राइस कहने हैं वह किसान को मिले और यह प्रामिस सेट्टल गवर्नमेंट ने दिया, उसने एक रिजोल्यूशन पार किया है :

और उसके अनुसार मैं मांग करता हूँ कि जो रिजनेबल प्राइस है वह किसान को मिलना चाहिए । आज क्या परिस्थिति है ? हरियाणा

में जा कर देखिए, पंजाब में आप जाकर देखिए, आंध्र में जाकर देखिए । कपास के भाव जोर से गिर रहे हैं । मैं कहना चाहता हूँ यह जो परिस्थिति है इस पर विचार करने के लिए यह जानना चाहिए कि यह संकट आने का कारण क्या है ?

5 P.M.

मैं साफ बतलाना चाहता हूँ क्योंकि मेरे पास ज्यादा वक्त नहीं है । आज कपास को प्रमुख ग्राहक संगठित धनिक मिल मालिक ही है । मिल द्वारा उत्पादित कपड़े के दामों पर कास्ट आडिट के नियम अभी तक नहीं लगाये गये हैं । मिल मालिकों के लाभ पर भी नियंत्रण नहीं है । गत वर्ष बड़े मिल मालिकों ने 80 प्रतिशत से 200 प्रतिशत तक का लाभ उठाया था । यह मिल मालिकों की एक चाल होती है कि जब किसान का कपास बाजार में आता है तो वे इस बात का प्रचार करते हैं कि कपड़े का स्टॉक मिलों में जमा हो गया है और उसका कोई खरीददार नहीं है । उप-सभापति जो, मैं यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि अप्रैल के महीने में कामर्स मिनिस्ट्री के टेक्स्टाइल कमिशनर ने यह कहा था कि बाहर से 200 लाख गांठ कपास की आयात करना होगा । अप्रैल के महीने में कपास बोई नहीं जाती है और उन्हें कैसे पता लग गया कि इस साल देश में कपास का उत्पादन कम होगा ? यह तो एक तरह की मशीनरी होती है कि जब किसान का माल मार्केट में आता है तो उस समय भाव गिरने शुरू हो जाते हैं । मिल मालिकों के हितों की रक्षा करने वाले ये अधिकांश टेक्स्टाइल कमिशनर हैं जिन्होंने . . .

HRI N. G. GORAY : It is not twenty. It is forty-five.

श्री देवराज पाटिल (महाराष्ट्र) : उन्होंने ऐलान किया है कि इतनी कपास की गांठों का आयात किया आयेगा । आज हाउस को मालूम होना चाहिए कि हिन्दुस्तान में श्रांग स्टैपल कपास इतनी पैदा होती है कि उसकी आयात करने की अब आवश्यकता नहीं है । इस चीज के बावजूद भी

बाहर से काटन मंगाने की डिमान्ड की जाती है ।

इसका नतीजा यह होता है कि देश में कपास की कीमते घटती है और किसान को उसके उत्पादन का उचित मूल्य नहीं मिलता है । मंत्री जी ने कहा है कि कपास के भाव अगर बढ़ा दिये जायेंगे तो इसकी वजह से कपड़े के दाम भी बढ़ जायेंगे । मैं इस बात से सहमत नहीं हूँ । मैं यह नहीं कहता कि कपास के भाव बढ़ाया जायें जिसकी वजह से कपड़े के दाम भी बढ़ जाएं । इस तरह का प्रचार तो मिल मालिकों और बड़े बड़े वृत्तियों द्वारा किया जाता है । लेकिन इस प्रचार में वास्तविकता का आधार नहीं है । यह प्रचार इसलिए किया जाता है ताकि किसानों को कपास की कीमत कम मिल सके । इसलिए मेरा मंत्री जी से यह निवेदन है और हमारी यह मांग है कि किसानों को उसके कपास का उचित मूल्य निर्धारित किया जाय । मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि इस बारे में सरकार को किसानों की मदद करनी चाहिये और सरकार को यह कार्य करना चाहिये । और इसके लिये

Central Government should formulate a workable scheme and efficient institutional framework which ensures remunerative price to kapas. Such scheme should rationalise collection of Kapas, processing and sale to eliminate unnecessary middlemen and excessive market charges and speculation and malpractices of the vested interests.

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कपास की मार्केट में रीजनेबल प्राइस क्या होना चाहिये इसके बारे में मैं एक मिनट में कह देना चाहता हूँ । हम यह चाहते हैं वस्तुकी कीमत में कपास की कीमत क्या है यह निकाला जाय और वस्तु मिलों में गवर्नमेंट कास्ट आडिट सिस्टम को लागू करे । Recently आज इंडिया कांग्रेस वर्किंग कमेटी ने एक रिजोल्यूशन पास किया और वह है—

"Next only to foodgrains, the policy in regard to production and distribution of textiles is of crucial importance to the masses. The two components of textile polks that have either been neglected or have proved ineffective in the past relate to eliminating speculative prac-

[Shri Deorao Patil]

tices in regard to purchase of cotton on the one hand and a check on the proliferation in the variety of textiles produced and that too increasingly of the elitist orientation on the other. With the advance in the technology of cotton production it is possible for us to produce adequate cotton to clothe our masses and to step up exports. Based on a remunerative price fixed for the grower, a range of minimum and maximum cotton prices for the mills should be worked out and enforced in order to eliminate unhealthy and speculative practices in the supply of cotton to the mills. Procurement through public and co-operative agencies should be stopped up. Varieties of textiles should be drastically curtailed ..."

SHRI RAJNARAIN : What is the remunerative price?

श्री देवराज पाटील : मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि रेगुलरेटिव प्राइस सरकार निर्धारित करे। और कपास खरीदने के लिए स्टेट और सेन्ट्रल एजेंसीज जैसे काटन कारपोरेशन आफ इंडिया राज्य की सहकारी एजेंसियों आदि को प्रोत्साहन देनी चाहिए।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Yes, you conclude now. v& if +HM crg^tr \*npnr gi

SHRI DEORAO PATIL : Sir, in view of the fact that the Congress party has recently resolved to protect the interests of the cotton growers by evolving a rational and remunerative price structure for the cotton crop and eliminating the intermediaries, what specific steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard to effectively involve the State and the co-operative agencies in the procurement and processing of cotton? Is the Government considering the question of nationalisation of the cotton trade and the textile industry as a national policy and, if so, what are the details thereof? Is it also a fact that the monopoly cotton procurement scheme of the Maharashtra State

has come to » grinding hail in view of the credit squeeze in particular and in other cotton-growing States in general and, if so, why is the Central Government not directing the Reserve Bank of India and the other nationalised banks to divert their credit from the private traders to the State and co-operative agencies?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA) :

Sir, we appreciate the points made by the honourable Member. We are also aware that the cotton price this year is not as high as it was some months back and we also appreciate the demand that the cotton growers should be given a remunerative price. But, Sir, two considerations should be borne in mind.

SHRI RAJNARAIN : What?

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA : I said that two considerations should be borne in mind : The first is that because of the high inflationary situation, the Government's own priorities have changed and, therefore, the Government's attention and the Government's funds have mainly been directed and diverted to the foodgrains sector and foodgrain production, etc. Therefore, while we entirely agree that remunerative prices should be given to the growers, the first priority should be given now to the foodgrains trade because, Sir, food problem is the first problem. Because of the limited credit available with the Government sector, we cannot make available to the Cotton Corporation of India and to the Maharashtra Cotton Corporation that amount of funds which they are asking for.

We would have been glad if we could give that amount. But the overall credit squeeze being there, it is not only that we could not give any money to the Maharashtra Cotton Corporation but even the Cotton Corporation of India is getting very little fund. So this is one aspect of the picture which should be seen in the overall national context of credit squeeze policy and high inflationary situation.

. The other aspect that I would humbly submit for the consideration of hon. Members is that the remunerative price has been determined by the Agricultural Prices Commission. They have gone into the cost of production. They have gone into other conditions. All the experts have gone into it and the price which has been suggested by the A.P.C. is remunerative price . . .

AN HON. MEMBER : The price is outdated.

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA : There are two or three views in the matter. As you know, it is an expert committee. It is a Government appointed committee. Sir, we in the Government are naturally expected to give serious consideration to the conclusions arrived at by the A.P.C.

SHRI RANBIR SINGH : Having no representation of agriculturists.

PROF. O. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA : I would not like to comment on that. Some agriculturists are there. But the point is that the price level now ruling in the market is higher than the price recommended by the APC.

AN HON. MEMBER : That is no satisfaction.

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA : But it is a fact. The fact being what it is, as also because of the fact of credit squeeze policy and of high inflation, we are of the opinion that a little bit of fall in the price for the time being should not lead us to believe that rushing up of too much of fund in this sector will help the growers, because the growers will sell one particular commodity, but if there is inflation, they have to purchase all other commodities at high prices . . .

(Interruptions)

श्री श्रीम प्रकाश श्यामी : कपड़े की कीमत और कपास की कीमत में कोई अनुपात रखेंगे कि नहीं ?

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA : I say, Sir, that sometimes we are placed in.

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a situation where our option is not between hard and soft, but the option is between hard and harder. We have been placed in a very hard situation. But if we spend a lot of money in a sector like this, then also the situation will be harder for all of us. You would remember, Sir, that on the floor of this very House, several Members complained about high prices of cotton textiles. So the interest of the consumers, the interest of poor consumers, who use cotton, has also to be preserved . . . (Interruptions) It is for mass consumption. So that fact also should be borne in mind. Also, the export price is to be borne in mind. Our cotton price is now the highest in the world. I repeat, Sir, that our cotton price is the highest in the world, and our textile price is the highest in the world, and, therefore, we have lost heavily and very quickly our textile market. Instead of Rs. 250 crores in the last year, perhaps we are not getting Rs. 200 crores this year. These are hard facts. And the hon. Members must kindly bear all these facts in mind.

Tyagiji raised one very pertinent question.

श्री श्रीम सिंह शेखावत : आपने टेक्सटाइल मिल्स में कास्ट ऐकाउंटिंग का सिस्टम चालू नहीं किया है। जब यह सिस्टम चालू नहीं किया तो जिस भाव पर काटन खरीदते हैं और जिस भाव पर कपड़ा बिकता है, उसका रिलेशनशिप किस प्रकार बैठता है, यह बता दीजिए।

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA : This precisely is the question which Tyagiji also raised and I was about to reply. I would ask the hon. Members to wait for some time. I entirely agree that between the mills' price and growers' price there is some unreasonable gap. It is a very valid point, and because of transport, because of processing, because of storing, there are intermediaries who are charging an amount which is not warranted by their costs. So, Sir, the Government is seized of this problem and is trying to evolve a

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formula regarding this gap, realizing the relationship between the grower level price and the mills' price. The Maharashtra Cotton Corporation has itself gone into the matter and we ourselves are also looking into it.

It is not that we are unaware of the problem. We are looking into it. As I said earlier, sometimes we are placed in a situation when the option is between hard and harder.

SHRI N. G. GORAY (Maharashtra) : Sir, I really had asked for a full dress debate on this because I had thought that the question was really a very comprehensive one as it concerns the farmers not only in one State but in so many States. As cotton happens to be a cash crop, if the farmers do not get remunerative prices, then it is quite possible that they will be in great difficulty. Sir, I would like to know from the Minister one or two points. This year the crop has been very good. It is about 65 lakhs of bales. Does the Government feel that this is only a freak crop or do they think that because of our advance in agricultural research, cotton is likely to be produced at this level? I am asking this question because if we are thinking that we shall have a good crop almost of this size every year, then we shall have to think in other terms about the prices to be offered to the farmer, because he will have a bumper crop almost every year.

The other point is that while talking about the Agricultural Prices Commission, it has been said again and again that the increased prices of inputs have been taken into consideration. I would like him to be very explicit and to tell us whether he has taken into account that the prices of fertilizers have increased by nearly 100 per cent. So far as the prices of tractors are concerned, I am told on very reliable authority that the price of a tractor has gone up to 50,000 rupees instead of 30,000 or 35,000 rupees. It has gone up because of decontrol. The dealers can dictate any price and the farmer has to pay through his nose. So, while fixing the prices of

commodities like cotton and sugarcane, has the Agricultural Prices Commission really taken into consideration the phenomenal rise in the prices of inputs like fertilizers and tractors?

The third thing is whether they really want to have an agency like that which has been evolved by the State Government of Maharashtra, that is, a Monopoly Cotton Purchasing Agency. That agency has started this year because of the fact that they had to give it up last year as the prices went on spiralling and the farmers were not ready to sell it to the authorities. Now the prices are tumbling down and the Maharashtra Government has said that they do not know how much lower the prices will go down within the next two or three months. Therefore, they have arrived at a certain formula and they have agreed to pay a sort of guaranteed price to the farmer. The difficulty is that even when the Government of Maharashtra is ready to offer a guaranteed price to the farmers, they cannot go ahead with the scheme because there is a credit squeeze and they have not got the money. When they are asking for nearly 100 crores of rupees, the bank is not ready to offer them more than 25 crores of rupees. The result is that the farmers will be completely thrown at the mercy of the traders. Now, the trader is not lifting the cotton even at this lower price. The result is, as Mr. Patil said, that cotton is lying there without any buyers. This is a first-rate crisis which they are facing today and once the trader knows that he has no other alternative, then I do not know what will be the bottom price of cotton. And if they wait indefinitely, there is no other alternative machinery, the Cotton Corporation is not coming into the picture, the Maharashtra Government's monopoly cotton purchasing agency also is not coming into the picture, and the trader is also not coming into the picture. Then what happens to the peasant? He has produced the cotton and he is waiting there because he wants some money for the expenditure on inputs that he has already incurred. And he finds that there is no buyer. This is the difficulty that the Government has to face. There-

fore, I would like to urge upon the Government to come to some conclusion immediately. If you want that the entire thing should be left to the sweet mercy of the traders, all right, then, do not talk, about this monopoly cotton purchase and production because this is not going to happen. If you really want (that this sort of an agency should be developed, then see to it that it is developed. Otherwise, this sort of indecision between the Commerce Ministry and the Reserve Bank will no help. I know that Mr. Chattopadhyaya will be very much correct if he says, "I have nothing to do with the credit squeeze." It is the Finance Ministry." So, it is for the Finance Ministry, the Commerce Ministry and the Agriculture Ministry to sit together and see to it that a very large sector of our farmers who are producing one of the vital necessities of life are not affected I do not know what is going to happen to the 800 million square yards that have been targeted for producing coarse cloth. How will it come if there is no cotton with the mills?

AN HON. MEMBER : They will import cotton.

SHRI N. G. GORAY : That will be a self destroying step. I would, therefore argue or rather plead with the Government that they must be very quick in evolving a formula otherwise, the cotton will get wasted and there will be a lot of discontent so much so, perhaps, the peasant will not grow any cotton at all next year. And there may be a cotton famine in this country which will be a real calamity indeed. Therefore, I would like to know what the Government is thinking on this very grave issue.

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA : Sir, I have already very briefly indicated the Government's thinking in the matter.

SHRI N. G. GORAY : How do you get out of it ?

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA :  
I will refer to those specific questions which he has raised. It is true that we

have a very good cotton crop this year. It is, perhaps, largely because of the fact that last year, the farmers got a good price, an all-time good price and also because our textiles fetched an all-time good price and good exports. That is, perhaps, the main reason why they have gone in in a big way for production of cotton. Sir, the hon. Member has raised this question. This thing happened year before last in jute also. They got a very good price year before last, and, therefore, last year, they produced in a very big way. But, Sir, now a new situation has developed which, neither we thought of nor anybody in the Opposition thought of. And, Sir, both in the Cotton Corporation and in the Jute Corporation, in anticipation of a big crop and in pursuance of our own policy of increasing the area of operation, we have set up more purchasing centres and I employed more people and trained more people for purchases. And because of the development of an unanticipated situation like the highly inflationary situation, credit squeeze has come. Sir, it is not that we do not like to help the growers in the cash crops field. We wanted to do it and, therefore, we set up the purchasing centres. And the credit squeeze has come. And because of the unprecedented and unanticipated inflationary situation, we have been put into a very tight position. But even then I will submit. Sir, although the APC price—average price for cotton—has been fixed for this year at Rs. 192 and particularly referring to the Laxmi variety, the average ruling price is Rs. 300. And, Sir, it is not our policy to leave everything to the market forces. But I am just stating a fact. Even the market forces are ensuring the price at the level of Rs. 300 while the A.P.C. price is Rs. 192 per quintal.

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY (Karnataka) : The procurement price is not more than Rs. 250 in Karnataka.

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA : I am giving the official figures and I stand by them. There are two or three other crops where even this difference is not there and even so, because of the shortage

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of funds we cannot do anything. We have received both ministerial representations and people's representations; M.P.s. have met me. They were very persuasive in their argument for the necessity of extending more credit to the CCI and also to the Maharashtra Cotton Corporation. We are trying to persuade the Reserve Bank and the Finance Ministry also, but I must submit that they have their own difficulties, their own priorities. And priorities are drastically and suddenly changed. You know what has happened to our planning also. So, taking all these things into account, I would submit that we are taking every possible step in consultation with the Finance and Agriculture Ministries to do the best we can but, Sir, I repeat, the situation is very hard.

I would say one word more, about import of cotton. Cotton production is some 65 lakhs or something like that. As I have said, because of the high prices of our cotton, our export has suffered very stiffly. The import we talk of is only of one or two lakh bales. Just in comparison with our total production, it is very insignificant and that too, not long staple but medium staple, the staple which we need for producing textiles exclusively for export purposes. That cotton when we import we will take every possible care and we assure it will be only for export purposes, so that we can export it, and that will not hamper our operations or our planning for purchase of cotton so far as indigenous cotton is concerned. But unless we retain our export market at competitive prices, once we lose it we lose it for good. Therefore, our cotton purchase policy should not frighten any of us. It does not damage the cause of the growers in any way.

SHRI S. G. SARDESAI (Maharashtra) : The previous speakers pointed out how the actual operations of the CCI this year have been harming the various sections of the cotton growers and pointed attention has been drawn to the fact that it is necessary for the Government to intervene immediately and effectively if the effects of

this drastic fall in prices are not to be seen in the reduction of cotton production next year. That was the point which so many others have made. I would like to go a step further. In fact, a comparatively more basic aspect of the question is there because that arises from the replies given by the hon. Minister himself. The hon. Minister, twice, thrice or four times replied repeatedly that the problem this year is due to lack of financial resources to purchase, credit squeeze and two or three other things which he has pointed out in his own way. The whole system of cotton prices and cotton production is such that if this year there is an enhanced production, that is because last year they got higher prices; and because they got higher prices they produced more cotton this year and, therefore, this year there is a fall in prices. That is the logic of the whole situation. This point also was made. The third thing which the hon. Minister pointed out and the other Minister also said in the morning puts before us a sort of contradiction in the interest of the cotton grower and the textile consumer.

The thesis which is placed before us is—I am using the word 'thesis'—(that either the cotton grower or the consumer has to suffer. If you want to bring cloth within the reach of the common man, how can it be done without reducing the price which is paid to the cotton grower, I want to deal with this question. This question has again and again been raised and it has also been raised today by the hon. Minister and the Government itself.

The first thing that the Government has to see—>n fact the hon. Minister, Mr. Chattopadhyaya knows all about it but he wants to emphasise it—that the whole question of credit squeeze and these things are a development only of last year or of a couple of years, it is not such a long range question but the question is whether cotton prices rise or fall, in either case it is the cotton speculator and the cotton millowners who make the profit. This is as ancient as the modern textile industry



of India. Nothing new. Go back right to 1853 when our textile industry started. Year after year, whether it is the rising prices or lowering prices, in either case it is the trader, the speculator and the millowner who have made the profit. In both the cases, I repeat, whether the prices have risen or the prices have fallen, it is the actual cotton grower and the consumer who has suffered. The ultimate result is the economics of this industry which all of us know and that is the real cause. So, the question is not of this year alone. Our friends have rightly demanded higher prices but I will pose the question in a different fashion. It is not just a question of demanding higher or lower prices. The real problem is to deal drastically with the speculators. Both the grower and the consumer at least pose the problem in that fashion and that problem does not relate to this year or last year, it is a continuous problem which has been still further accentuated by the inflationary forces. That is why I want to go beyond this.

In this connection, I should like to place certain things before the House because I have been more directly connected with the cotton textile industry, with the Cotton Corporation of India, with the public undertakings and other things. Mr. Chatopadhyaya knows all about it. He must have been dealing with these things. So far as the Cotton Corporation of India is concerned, it will be a matter of revelation to the hon. Members and to the public outside that in the Articles of Association of Cotton Corporation of India which lays down something like 40 or 50 objectives, the words 'stabilisation' or 'remunerative prices for the grower' just do not occur. Such words do not occur anywhere in the Articles of Association. Will you believe me? Here is the Cotton Corporation of India started by the Government of India. Time and again we are told, even the Cotton Corporation itself has made a statement that their noble purpose is to stabilise prices, that their noble purpose is to give remunerative prices to the grower but these words are just not there. So, what is the use of the Cotton Corporation

or India? It is just a simple joint stock company for the purpose of purchasing and selling cotton with government money. But it is just (the purpose of the Cotton Corporation of India. I do not blame them in this respect. What are they to do? When we ask them if it is not necessary to incorporate these words in the Articles, they say that they are helpless, these are just not there. Poor fellows. What do they do? I pity them also but I want to understand that position. All that they can do is that when prices begin to come down and collapse, when a substantial price-fall has taken place and when these speculators have gained by that price-fall, almost at the end of the process they come forward and purchase cotton. This is all that they have done last year and when the prices rise too high they stop purchasing so that prices do not rise so far. Is this not a direct aid to the speculators and millowners? What else is it? It has now been proved that what actually happens is that when prices fall to such an extent and they purchase without having any effect on the market, ultimately the millowner gains. Have you gone into the question of the price which he pays to the Cotton Corporation of India and the price at which he sells his cloth? Normally, officially, formally or informally such figures just do not exist. These figures do not exist at all. I will put a question further. You say credit squeeze this year, but the Cotton Corporation has never purchased more than 5 to 7 per cent of the total cotton production in India. How on earth can they help it? Their resources and finances do not enable them to purchase even five per cent of the total production. Are you going to stabilise prices and give a remunerative price? Basically and theoretically it is absurd and it just cannot be done. My point, therefore, is let the Government be frank and honest and say: this is a vast problem. Then they can see precisely what should be done. My complaint is not about just what is being done this year. We must set up an institution which intervenes in the cotton trade sufficiently. It is a long-range problem. I am not just talking of this year. It should

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have the resources and the constitutional authority to work out a remunerative price and pay it to the producer. Otherwise, they will not get a remunerative price. The consumer will pay a high price and the speculators and the millowners will rule the roost as they have done up till now.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Now, you will have to wind up.

SHRI S. G. SARDESAI (Maharashtra): At any rate, so far as cotton is concerned, it is not even their claim that they go into the cost of production. Why do you say these kinds of things? It is not a question of what price was prevalent the previous year and some sort of adjustment this year without going into the cost of production. I want a decisive proof that they do not go into the cost of production, it lies in this that the floor price which they fix year after year is always very much lower than the prices which ruled even when the cotton price collapsed. I want to understand what sort of cost of production is this, which does not become operative even in the worst year for cotton. I can understand it if the Agricultural Prices Commission's price is higher, but even when the cotton prices collapse, the APC's Price is much lower than the collapse-price. Are we going to be told that when prices collapse the agriculturists do not suffer? These are the realities. (*Time bell rings*). I am finishing. I do not want to repeat any of the points made. My only point is this. I do not want the Government to give us an assurance that the entire constitution and resources of the Cotton Corporation and the question of calculating the cost of production will be actually gone into. It should not be in this haphazard fashion. Somehow or other we may pass this year, but at least such a thing has not taken place in the last five or six years.

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA : The main point which Mr. Sardesai has made out I have already referred to in connection with Mr. Tyagi's point, namely, the unreasonable difference between the

growers price and the mills price accounted for by the operations of the speculators, traders and middle-men. It should be minimised and, if possible, eliminated. The whole idea of establishing the Cotton Corporation of India or supporting the Maharashtra Government's monopoly cotton purchase scheme is just to bear out the point he has made.

SHRI S. G. SARDESAI : No, no. It is not in the articles of association.

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA : I am coming to that. There are many articles, aims and objects. If you put them together and look into the history and practice of the last three years you will find that the Cotton Corporation of India was established precisely to see that cotton price does not crash. It was crashing in 1971-72 and immediately after that.

SHRI S. G. SARDESAI : That is not so.

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA : I may tell you it was in 1971-72, in the wake of the Indo-Pak war, when the cotton price was falling, particularly in Punjab and Rajasthan, the Corporation was formed. If you look into its formation history you will find that the motivation is to help the farmer. And they did not sell necessarily at market prices. They do not work as an ordinary trading organisation. They have sold their cotton sometimes below the market price, in order to stabilise the market price. So, it is not that simple, I do not know just at the moment if the words 'remunerative price' or 'stability' are there or not in the Articles of Association. The steps taken in the last three years will bear out the fact that they have been working as a sort of really public undertakings selling cotton. This is one thing. Even today they are making purchases of long staple cotton in Andhra Pradesh, in Tamil Nadu and in some other areas where the price did pose really a serious problem. We naturally agree with the objective that the Cotton Corporation of India should set before itself. But because of the credit squeeze we cannot do what

we like. But I would submit one point also—we are all for helping the poor cotton growers or even the middle level cotton growers and unwittingly we should not patronise or back the very big growers of cotton who have got very good prices and we should not intentionally support their high price. That will be a very bad cause indeed.

SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI (Maharashtra I) : I have a few questions to ask. First of all, (he estimates of cotton crop and for that matter, any agricultural crop including food seems to go wide of the mark from the actual position. Why is it so? For instance, in regard to cotton he was thinking in terms of 55 lakhs of bales and now we are having nearly 65 lakhs of bales. Every year we are going wrong on our estimates. The Government must have a machinery by which we must get the correct estimate so that we may be able to plan our requirements in advance.

Secondly, I would like to know; If the prices of cotton have fallen substantially, what is the policy of the Cotton Corporation of India in giving price support? When will it start buying? What is the fund at the disposal of the Corporation? We are told all the while by the hon. Minister that the credit squeeze being there, the money supply being very meagre at their disposal, they have not been able to help the growers to a great extent but only to some extent. I want to know who is going to support the cause of the cotton growers. The mill-owners can come and meet the Finance Minister and the Commerce Minister and put their case before them. The cotton growers cannot afford to come from their districts to Delhi and put across their case before the Finance Minister or the Commerce Minister, with the result what some of the MPs who are in touch with them have to take up this matter with the hon. Ministers. I do not want to say that too much money should be given to them. But due credit should be given to stabilise the prices to the Cotton Corporation of India, and the hon. Commerce Minister must use his influence with the hon.

Finance Minister for that. Only Rs. 10 crores. It does not cover even one district of any State, let me tell you frankly. Therefore, some way should be found.

Also, now that a distinguished trade union leader, Mr. G. Ramanujam, has become the Chairman of the Corporation, I would like to know who are his non-official and official advisers. After all, the Cotton Corporation has to be run with some advisers with the Chairman. And I would like to know if the Government has decided upon who they are.

Then, Sir, what would be the relationship between the cotton prices and the textile prices and the profits of the textile industry and the bonus payable by the textile industry to workers?

Why I am asking is this. He said in his reply that he wants to look after the consumer's interest, and very rightly so. I have nothing to say against it. But the Calling Attention mentioned about labour also. Now, if more cotton prices are going to be given, also textile prices are to be given more; with inflation increasing and with the cost going up, it will affect the labour.

Another point that I want to know is whether the fall in cotton price has not yet affected the industry and the bonus payable by the textiles; if so, how it is reflected?

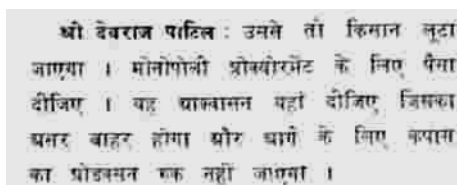
Finally, Sir, everybody knows Gujarat is the last to give its cotton crop. It comes after February. Therefore, I hope the Government has taken care of the Gujarat crop. May I know whether the Government will keep cushion for the Gujarat cotton growers? I shall be grateful if the hon'ble Minister enlightens me on these points.

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA : Sir, most of the points raised by Mr. Babubhai Chinai have been answered by him. For example, he asked about the funds with the Cotton Corporation. And he has already answered that saying that they have Rs. 10 crores. He has also said

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that Rs. 10 crores is not enough for purchase purposes even for one district. So he knows the problem very much.

SHRI D. D. PURI (Haryana): Wind up the whole thing then. Why hold out false hopes? Wind up the whole thing.



PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA: Sir, we have already said and said rather in detail that we have a plan to purchase more cotton. Therefore, we set up more centres. We recruited more people, trained more people. And now what has happened? Every day the Plan targets are changed providing for importing food. That upsets our plan. So in the face of this difficult situation if we advance the logic of despair in this thing, it may be good but not good for the public itself.

Mr. Chinai asked whether we can set apart more funds for purchase operations. Sir, I have already said that our objective is to strengthen the public sector or the co-operative sector purchasing institutions and take more credit from private trade channels. One of our objectives would be to make more money available for the Cotton Corporations and less to the traditional trade channels. We will see to it how it can be done and we are engaged in an exercise with the concerned Ministries. We have the advice of the people formally or informally including the advice of knowledgeable people like Mr. Bhubhai Chinai.

I must say, Sir, that the Cotton Textile Corporation has made profit and if they reduce profit and as a result the price is reduced heavens would not fall over the cotton mills. They should agree with that. Instead of that they are raising a hue and cry and making much noise which has no substance. Sir, the Government is very much against this sort of creating an at-

mosphere of panic and depression which is not warranted by the real situation. The Government will very strongly oppose any idea of cut back in the production which is not justified at this stage. But other suggestions are suggestions which we will look into.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH (West Bengal): Sir, I would like to know whether the appointment, because he is even now General Secretary of the INTUC, is a political appointment, because he is even now General Secretary of the INTUC? I would like to know whether it is not a fact that between 1961 and 1971, in a decade, raw cotton prices have doubled? Mr. Chattopadhyaya took over in February, 1973. Between February 1973 and August 31, 1973, the wholesale price index rose by 202 points. In one decade, cotton prices doubled and during one year of his tenure, they again doubled. It is something fantastic. He did not spell out the figures." I have spelled out these figures.

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA: I have mentioned it.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: The index reached 408 on August 31, 1974, a rise of 202 points since February 1973. In whom has this fantastic profit gone? Have the poor and medium peasants got it? I do not think so. The speculators, the big sharks and the landlords have got it. Your Ministry has benefited them. I make that charge.

He said there is dearth of funds. I stand for complete monopoly purchase of cotton at a remunerative price which should be gone into and fixed by a commission in which trade unions and kisan organisations are represented so that the poor and medium peasants are not cheated. Now, is it a fact or not that between 1960-1971, cotton mills exported a total of Rs. 695 crores worth of cotton textiles, but during the same 12 years, the Government spent a total of Rs. 1,383 crores in foreign exchange on account of imports of raw cotton, cotton textile machinery, chemicals and dyes for this industry? The so-called cotton textile export amounts to a net loss.

of Rs. 688 crores in foreign exchange. There is no gain ; it is a net loss of foreign exchange. Why have you spent these vast sums of foreign exchange, vast sums of our money ? Why is not money available ? Why does this credit squeeze come in ? Is it not a fact that the raw cotton that is imported is not meant for export ? The textiles that are made out of it are superfine varieties made for the upper strata. I have every doubt if any exports is made from the two lakh bales of so-called medium staple cotton. You export only from the Indian raw cotton. Why are you wasting money on importing two lakh bales of medium staple cotton ? This money can be utilised. Then Government subsidy to the cotton mills during these years exceeded Rs. 416 crores. So the net loss of foreign exchange is more than Rs. 600 crores and Government subsidy is more than Rs. 400 crores.

Then you plead there is no money. Poor and medium peasants should not be allowed to sell in distress. You have to provide for them. At the time of distress sale, you must make the total purchase. In other words, you should see to it that distress sales are taken over completely and fully purchased by the Cotton Corporation of India. So, there is no lack of funds. Your entire policy is monopoly oriented and Kulak oriented. That is the reason for this. This steep fall has not been to the extent that it will hurt Kulaks. I differ on this. I want to ask : Would you stop subsidy to the cotton textile export and would you stop importing of cotton any more? For export, you use only Indian cotton and not imported cotton. Your entire policy is anti-Indian, monopoly oriented and Kulak oriented. Ordinary peasants and lower and medium growers are fleeced. You have to change your entire policy.

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA : Sir, cotton price has increased in the last few years considerably. If we take 1961-62 as the base year, then the rise between then and 1972-73 has been 277 per cent. So, higher price has gone to the cotton growers. No doubt about it. I would like

to submit that we do not import cotton in a big way, as is suggested here. We have not imported any cotton this year. We are thinking of importing ...

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: Can you give figures for the last ten years so that we can find out the average ?

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA: Certainly, but not just now. Our cotton import is due to historical reasons ...

SHRI NIREN GHOSH : You give the figures for 1971.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Wait a minute.

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA:

Sir, he does not believe in waiting. We have not imported any cotton at all. This year we are proposing to import very little quantity of cotton for export purposes ...

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: Why?

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA : I say with all the responsibility on the floor of this House that it will be used for export purposes. Home market price is so high and our goods are not competitive in that condition and therefore export aspect has to be taken into account because of the good price ...

SHRI NIREN GHOSH : Coming to my point ...

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA : I am remembering your point. I am not an old man to forget it. One by one I will answer. Since our textile goods have been fetching good price, we have dispensed with cash assistance. Cash assistance is not from Government fund. This idea should be forgotten. It is mainly from industries and partly from the market development fund. Even that is being reduced to make the industry stand on its own legs. I would like to make it very clear that we do not like to give cash assistance.

6 p.M.

Because of the inflationary situation also, the Government has drastically reduced the cash assistance. Independent of that,

I Prof. D. P. Chattopadhyaya.] we believe that every industry and industrial exports should stand on their own legs. Therefore, we do not encourage cash assistance. Because of the very difficult situation, as I said earlier. Sir, this year our exports have come down to 250 and it may be 180 or 190. Something extraordinary has to be resorted to perhaps this year. Sir, it is factually not correct to say that the Government has spent more foreign exchange on the cotton imports, etc. compared to the export earnings. Between 1971-72 and 1973-74 the picture is ... [ol lows :

In 1971-72, we imported 5.5 lakh bales of cotton and the price was Rs. 125 crores. The cotton textile exports were about Rs. 152 crores. . . .

SHRI NIREN GHOSH : Sir, I have got the figures. . .

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA : You have more facts and figures and, therefore, you will be in better position to argue. In 1972-73, we imported Rs. 80 crores worth of cotton and we exported to the extent of Rs. 175 crores. In 1973-74, we imported 1.5 lakh bales only and our cotton textile exports were of the order of Rs. 300 crores. So, we have imported, as I told, during these three years, only about Rs. 250 crores worth of cotton and that too in a gradually decreasing fashion. So we imported cotton worth Rs. 250 crores during the last three years—I repeat that Rs. 250 crores worth of cotton was imported during the last 3 years—and 'last year we imported' only 1.5 lakh bales and our exports during these years mounted to Rs. 627 crores and it would not be correct to say, Sir, that we imported more. . .

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: Sir, I seek your protection. He has bypassed my points and I am sorry for that. Two points I made. One is that the imported cotton was not used for export and that was used for making superfine variety of cloth sold in the internal market. The export market was fed with the home-grown cotton. Is 't a fact or not? Then, there are imports, machinery, dyes,

chemicals, import entitlements and all that. Give me the figures for these things.

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA: Sir, I have already submitted all these things. If not now, atleast later I will supply him these things. Sir, I have said that our policy is to eliminate imports, and, therefore, last year we have imported only 1.5 lakh bales as compared to a very high figure in the past. We want to reduce cash assistance and imports and we have succeeded. But I entirely agree with him that our policy should be to depend more and more on our own cotton and textile machinery and indigenous materials and we have been following that policy.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Rajnarain.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: I concede your point. But do you concede the point of mine about the loss in foreign exchange and subsidy and all that?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have already called Mr. Rajnarain.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: How can you rebut my figures?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Yes, Mr. Rajnarain.

श्री राजनारायण: श्रीमन्, हमारी मुसीबत इसमें इसलिए बढ़ गई कि सरकार न तो समस्या को समझ रही है और न समस्या का हल जान रही है और विरोध पक्ष के बहुत से सम्मानित सदस्य न तो समस्या को समझ रहे हैं और न समस्या का हल सुझा रहे हैं। कहीं से एक जुज ले लेते हैं और उसी जुज को लेकर के सारे होल को देखना चाहते हैं। इसलिए मैं सरकार से बहुत सफाई के साथ कहूंगा कि इस प्रकार के एक सहानुभूति सूचक उत्तर देने से क्या फायदा कि सरकार किसानों को लाभदायक दाम देना चाहती है, सरकार उपभोक्ताओं के प्रति भी सहानुभूति रखती है, सरकार देश की जनता के प्रति हादिक

सहानुभूति रखती है। ये केवल शब्द हैं। मैं कहूंगा कि माननीय संबंधित मंत्री महोदय जो इस समय बोल रहे हैं, उनकी मैं इज्जत करता हूँ, मगर वह ऐसी जगह फँस गये हैं कि वहाँ से निकल ही नहीं पाते हैं।

केवल वाक् जाल से आप इस देश की समस्याओं का समाधान नहीं कर सकते हैं। आपको वस्तु-स्थिति को समझना होगा। मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ कि इस बारे में क्या आपकी कोई पालिसी है? कृषि जन्म पदार्थों और कलकारखानों में उत्पन्न होने वाली वस्तुओं की कीमत में क्या कोई संबंध है? मैं समझता हूँ कि इस सरकार के पास कोई पालिसी नहीं है। आप ईमानदारी से कहिये कि आपकी कोई पालिसी नहीं है। चाहे किसान और रईस पैदा करने वाला मर जाये, लेकिन यह सरकार कपड़े की कीमत को बढ़ाकर मिल-मालिकों को बढ़ते रहने देगी और उनसे पैसा ऐंठते रहेगी। मैं सफाई के साथ कहना चाहता हूँ कि इस सरकार के पास आज तक कोई नीति नहीं रही है, इसने कोई नीति निर्धारित नहीं की है जिससे कि पता चले कि एग्रीकल्चर प्रोड्यूस और इंडस्ट्रियल प्रोड्यूस की कीमतों में यह रिलेशन है। मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ कि इसमें क्या पैरिटी है? यह सरकार पैरिटी सिस्टम को मानती है। एग्री-कल्चर प्रोड्यूस और इंडस्ट्रियल प्रोड्यूस में क्या पैरिटी है? आज जो किसान रईस पैदा करता है वह उसमें कितनी लागत लगाता है, इसको आप जरा देखिये। इसके अलावा जो मिलें कपड़ा पैदा करती हैं, मिल-मालिक उसमें कितनी लागत लगाता है? मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ कि जब कपड़े की कीमत तय की जाती है तो किसानों की रईस की कीमत किस प्रकार से तय की जाती है? मुझे यह अफसोस के साथ कहना पड़ता है कि श्री चट्टोपाध्याय जब सम्मानित सदस्यों के प्रश्नों के जवाब देते हैं तो कभी सफाई के साथ नहीं बोलते हैं और कहते रहे कि हम लाभदायक दाम देना चाहते हैं। बड़ाट इस लाभदायक?

दूसरी बात मैं सम्पूर्ण पहलू की कहना चाहता हूँ। जब तक आप सम्पूर्ण को नहीं लेंगे तब तक

सिर्फ काटन के बारे में ही कैसे विचार किया जाएगा। यह खाली काटन और कपड़े का सवाल नहीं है। इसमें गन्ने और चीनी का सवाल भी छिपा हुआ है। यही सवाल गेहूँ और दूसरी सारी जीवनों-पयोगी सामग्रियों का भी है। इस सरकार की सारी नीति ही किसान विरोधी है। यह सरकार पूँजीपतियों की नीति पर चल रही है और पूँजीपतियों और उसके कानिधन से यह सरकार चल रही है। अब यह बिलकुल जर्जर हो गई है। श्री चट्टोपाध्याय का भी इसका नतीजा भुगतना पड़ेगा। मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ कि यह सरकार ईमानदारी से बताये कि क्या इस सरकार ने गेहूँ के दाम के बारे में कोई नीति बनाई है? गन्ने और चीनी को खीजिये! गन्ने की कीमत इन्होंने साढ़े आठ रुपये क्वींटल रखी है, लेकिन चीनी की कीमत बढ़ती चली जाएगी। यह हालत आप देख रहे हैं। इसलिए मैं कहता हूँ कि इस सरकार के पास कोई नीति नहीं है। इस सरकार की पालिसी देश विरोधी और किसान विरोधी है।

मैं सदन के सम्मानित सदस्यों के सामने एक उद्घरण पेश करना चाहता हूँ—

23rd October, by PTI:

"The State Agriculture Minister, Shri Bhajan Lal, stated that the cotton prices in Haryana had fallen sharply, by about Rs. 100 to Rs. 175 per bale, as the Cotton Corporation of India did not enter into the open market..."

ऐसी हालत में मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि इस सरकार की कोई पालिसी नहीं है। जब हमलोग कांग्रेस में थे तो हमने यह कहा था कि मध्यस्थों को खत्म करो, इन्टरमीडियरीज को खत्म करो ठेकादारी प्रथा को खत्म करो। लेकिन आज नवम्बर, 1974 को भी इस सरकार की ठेकादारी की प्रथा और मध्यस्थों की प्रथा चल रही है। क्यों चल रही है? इस सरकार की क्या पालिसी है? इस सरकार की कोई पालिसी नहीं है। जनहित में इस सरकार की कोई पालिसी नहीं है। कांग्रेस का 27 साल तक शासन चलता रहा है लेकिन इनकी समझ में यह बात नहीं आई

श्री राजनारायण]

है कि अगर मध्यस्थ रहेंगे इंटरमीडियरीज रहेंगे तो उत्पादकों और उनके हितों का हनन होगा उत्पादकों के हित की रक्षा इंटरमीडियरीज को रखते हुए सरकार कैसे करेगी ? फिर मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि यह काटन कारपोरेशन की नीति जो है, यह ट्रेडर्स को सीधे सीधे रूई देती है, खरीदने के बाद वह मिल-मालिक को देता है, इसको भी सरकार यहां साफ करे क्योंकि मंत्री जी ने जो उत्तर दिया है उससे अब तक यह साफ नहीं है। यह सीधे सीधे गवर्नमेंट ट्रेडर्स के द्वारा भी मिल-मालिकों को कभी कभी रूई देती है। इसके बारे में भी माननीय मंत्री जी सफाई के साथ बताएंगे कि आखिर कारपोरेशन जो रूई खरीदता है उस रूई को मिल-मालिकों के मिल में किस सिस्टम से दिया जाता है और उसके भाव क्या होते हैं ?

श्रीमन्, इसका जवाब मंत्री जी दें कि जो स्टेट अग्रीकल्चर मिनिस्टर पंजाब के बोले हैं कि 100 रु० से लेकर 175 रु० पर बेल काटन की कीमत गिरी है, इसमें कहां तक सत्यता है ? इसकी भी सफाई करेंगे :

r. Lal told newsmen here that while the price of the American quality had come down from Rs. 500 to Rs. 325 per bale, in the case of desi quality it had come down from Rs. 375 to Rs. 275 per bale."

मैं चाहूंगा माननीय मंत्री जी सफाई दें। (Time bell

श्रीमन्, आप तो इतनी जल्दी कर रहे हैं। मैं तो इन्हीं को पढ़ रहा हूं : rings)

"He said that C.C.I. was purchasing cotton in the open market in the State for the last two years. In view of the competition, the local dealers could not harass the grower who was assured of a given price. However, C.C.I.'s failure to come into the open market this year had once again put the grower in an extremely difficult position as he was not getting a reasonable price for his produce."

इतना तो इन्होंने दिखा दिया कि जो श्रीभर है वह रीजनेबल प्राइस नहीं पा रहा है मगर मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं

श्रीभर रीजनेबल प्राइस कैसे पाएगा ? यह मंत्री जी कभी बताएंगे ? मंत्री जी का सम्पूर्ण ध्यान कंटाई बिल्कुल बढ़ रहा है और वह किसान हित के विरोध में जा रहा है। देखिए :

"Shri Bhajan Lal said that he had a telephonic talk with the Union Commerce Minister, Mr. D. P. Chattopadhyaya in this regard. But Mr. Chattopadhyaya told him that the C.C.I. could not make purchases earlier in view of some snag in getting finances from the Reserve Bank."

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मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि रिजर्व बैंक से फाइनेन्सेज क्यों नहीं मिले ? 27 साल शासन करते हो गए हैं, रिजर्व बैंक परचेज के लिए फाइनेंस क्यों नहीं दे रहा है ? आज फाइनेंस की कमी क्यों पड़ रही है। उसी का उत्तर हमने आज सुबह दिया था जिसको सरकार पक्ष ने बहुत लाइटली ले लिया था कि जहां 234 करोड़ रु० रेवेन्यू एक्सपेंडिचर में खर्च होते थे आजादी के साल में, वहां 1974-75 में 5,408 करोड़ रु० का रेवेन्यू एक्सपेंडिचर हो रहा है—23 गुना ज्यादा। श्रीमन्, मैं आपको एक उदाहरण दूं : एक नायिका है, उसने अपनी घर-गृहस्थी के साधन बनाए। 234 करोड़ रु० से तो नायिका रुपी सरकार का खर्चा बढ़ गया है 23 गुना। आजादी के पहले साढ़े तीन हाथ की नायिका थी, अब हो गई, 3 गुणा 23, यानी 70 गुना। तो जो पहले का घर होगा उसकी छत फट जाएगी, जो साड़ी होगी वह सरक जाएगी (Interruption) और जो पहले की चोली होगी वह फट जाएगी। जो साड़ी होगी वह सरक जाएगी और वह सरकार बिल्कुल नंगी हो जाएगी। इसलिए आज इन्दिरा कांग्रेस रुपी सरकारी नायिका नंगी हो गई।

श्रीमन्, मैं श्री चट्टोपाध्याय जी से जानना चाहूंगा कि :

He said, "However, he assured that as soon as the problem was sorted out, the C.C.I. would go ahead with the purchasing operations. The C.C.I. purchased over 30 per cent of the total cotton production in Haryana."

30 परसेंट तो सी० सी० आई० ने हरियाणा



से खरीद लिया और 70 परसेंट कहा गया ? उगाई क्या कीमत रखी, इसके बारे में सरकार के पास क्या जानकारी है ? मेरा कहना है कि सरकार के पास कोई आंकड़े नहीं हैं क्योंकि वह तो अंधकार में विचरण कर रही है और आज सरकार रुपये नायिका नंगी हो गई है। हिन्दुस्तान की जनता को यह बात जानना चाहिये और अपने भविष्य का मार्ग निर्धारित करना चाहिये। श्री जयप्रकाश नारायण जी ने जो आन्दोलन बिहार में चला रखा है, उस आन्दोलन को सारे देश में चलाने के लिए हमारे हाथ देश की जनता मजबूत करे ताकि हम सरकार को हटाया जा सके। जब तक इस सरकार को नहीं हटाया जायेगा तब तक होल स्ट्रक्चर आफ इकॉनोमी, रुई और कपड़े के दाम कभी भी नहीं सुधरेगे।

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA: Sir, Rajnarainji has made out very fundamental points but he has not raised any questions. The first point which he made out was also mentioned by some other hon. Members that there should be a reasonable relation between the growers level price and the finished goods level price. That is an unexceptionable principle and I have already agreed that it should be like that. And we are also trying to do that. I have already said that we have obtained some figures from the Maharashtra Cotton Corporation. They have calculated the figures as to what the difference is between finished goods level price and the growers level price, what the intermediaries are. What the added value is, and what the inflation value is, etc. So, we are looking into these factors. And, in fact, if you look into our Party's Resolution of June 1974, they have specifically mentioned these things. This is the fundamental point on which I agree that something should be done about that and we are looking into it. Sir, I have already said that the C.C.I. sales are not made to the traders. The C.C.I. sells only to the mills. And this is also one of the requirements of price stabilization. Sir, I also agree that more funds should be made available. And we are for that. And in that respect also, I entirely agree with him. The more the merrier. And we are trying for

it. As I said, earlier, under the financial strain that we are working, what percentage that we can purchase that depends upon what amount of funds that we get. So, in a way, we will bear it in mind.

Sir, Mr. Niren Ghosh made one point Perhaps, it might be of interest to know that although we have imported cotton from Sudan and Egypt, but we have also, on that very account, exported annually more than Rs. 100 crores worth of goods to those two countries. So, if we do not look at that aspect and only look at this aspect, this aspect might look a bit inflated... Mr. Niren Ghosh, why are you looking at the press? For a change, look to this side also.

Sir, the second point is that replenishment for dyes and chemicals, etc. is 6.5 per cent. . . . (Interruptions) Please listen. The replenishment for dyes and chemicals is 6.5 per cent of the A.P.O. value. At Rs. 600 crores, the replenishment was only Rs. 39 crores. On the basis of exports of Rs. 600 crores, only Rs. 39 crores have got replenished for dyes and chemicals. So, the figure is not that big as the hon. Member might think.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: What about the machinery?

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA: We are relying almost entirely on indigenous production . . .

(Interruptions)

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: Sir, I would like to point out that I gave the figure\* which are from the Government sources. These are not my fictitious figures.

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA: The figures are correct. But they are quoted out of the context.

श्री रणवीर सिंह (हरियाणा) : मैं मंत्री महोदय से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि देश के अन्दर जितनी कपास पैदा हुई है उस कपास को खरीदने के लिए कितना रुपया चाहिए और काटन कारपोरेशन उसमें से जितनी खरीद सकता है वह टोटल कपास की

[श्री रणवीर सिंह]

पैदावार का कितना हिस्सा है ? दूसरा प्रश्न मैं उनसे यह पूछना चाहता हूँ कि देश के अन्दर, जैसा उन्होंने कहा, क्रेडिट स्वीज कर रहे हैं, तो क्या तनख्वाह देने के लिए भी कोई क्रेडिट स्वीज है या देश की पैदावार को घटाने के लिए ही क्रेडिट स्वीज की हमारी नीति है ? मेरी मान्यता है कि देश में जो क्रेडिट स्वीज की नीति है वह स्पैकुलेशन को बन्द करने के लिए थी, न कि पैदावार को कम करने के लिए चाहे वह कपास हो, गेहूँ हो या गन्ना हो। क्रेडिट स्वीज की नीति का बढ़ाना चाहे रिजर्व बैंक या कोई इम बान के लिए लेता है तो मैं मानता हूँ कि वह देश की और हमारी सरकार की नीति के खिलाफ बात करता है। दूसरे मैं माननीय मंत्री महोदय से यह भी जानना चाहता हूँ कि पिछले साल की कपास में और इस साल की कपास में कीमत में कितना घाटा आया ? मंत्री जी ने कहा कि हिन्दुस्तान के अन्दर कपास सबसे महँगी है। मैं उनसे जानना चाहता हूँ कि दुनिया के अन्दर ट्रेक्टर किस देश में सबसे अधिक महँगा बिकता है ? दुनिया के अन्दर किस देश में डीजल सबसे ज्यादा महँगा बिकता है ? दुनिया के अन्दर इनपुट्स, चाहे वह फर्टिलाइजर हो या कुछ और, किस देश में सबसे ज्यादा महँगा बिकता है ? अगर इनपुट्स महँगे हैं तो कपास महँगी बिकती है। उसका इलाज वह सही नहीं है। क्या यह सही है कि कपास के अन्दर जो घाटा आया है वह 1100 रुपए से लेकर 2000 रुपए प्रति बल का घाटा आया है ? लक्ष्मी की कपास जो 5000 रुपए पहले बिकती थी वह अब 3350 बिकती है ; एम० डब्लू० एस० में 5000 रुपए से 3400 रुपए तक गिरावट आई है ; ए० के० की कपास 4100 से घट कर 2650 तक आ गई है। इसी तरह से एल० 147 4450 से 2900 रुपए तक गिर गई है। इसी तरह मे और कपास है जो 4500 से गिरकर 3200 पर बिक रहा है। वाई-गार्ड जो 3650 की बिकती था आज वह 2500 की बिक रही है। क्या क्रेडिट स्वीज से कहीं और गिरावट आई है ? कपास के अन्दर इतनी कीमतें गिरी

हैं। क्या तनख्वाहें इतनी गिरी हैं ? मैं मंत्री महोदय से यह भी पूछना चाहता हूँ कि पिछले साल के मुकाबले में डीजल की महँगाई कितनी हुई, ट्रेक्टर की महँगाई कितनी हुई ? उसके अन्दर इयूटी कितनी है। एक तो संसार के भावों की बात है। सरकार की पैसाइज इयूटी कितनी है। इसलिए मैं मंत्री महोदय से सीधा सी बात पूछना चाहता हूँ कि आपने बहुत कहा है कि आप इन-दाद करना चाहते हैं किसान की और आपने यह भी कहा है कि आप यह नहीं चाहते कि कपास की पैदावार कम हो, देश के अन्दर, लेकिन अगर नीति आपकी यह है तो कपास की पैदावार कम हुए बगैर नहीं रह सकती।

श्री देवराज पाटिल : जूट का उत्पादन कम हुआ है।

श्री रणवीर सिंह : जूट नहीं, हिन्दुस्तान के 25 साल के इतिहास को देख लें, हिन्दुस्तान का जो धादमी यह सोचता है कि कीमतों का उसकी खेती की पैदावार पर असर नहीं है, वह आर्थिक विज्ञान नहीं जानता, वह इकानामिस्ट नहीं है। इकानामिस्ट है तो पिछले जमाने का है, आउट आफ डेट है। अगर गन्ने की कीमत गिरी है तथा हमारी कपास की कीमत के मुकाबले गन्ने की कीमत कम हुई है तो उसका असर अगले साल होता है। अगले साल या तीसरे साल कीनी और गन्ने की पैदावार गिरी है। इसी तरह से अगर गेहूँ की कीमत गिरी है तो उसका असर अगले ही साल हुआ है। तो कपास की कीमत गिरी है तो अगले साल ही गिरेगी। आपका जो व्याख्यान है या मेरा व्याख्यान है यह कपास की पैदावार कम होने से रोक नहीं सकता।

तो मैं मंत्री महोदय से साफ सवाल करना चाहता हूँ कि 10 करोड़ से कितना ज्यादा आप कपास खरीद सकते हैं ? आप खरीदारी के लिए कितने करोड़ काटन कारपोरेशन को दे सकते हैं ? आज की बहन का क्या नतीजा रहेगा ? जो तोड़ हम छापने थे, वह मशीन बन्द हो गई तो वह तनख्वाहदारों के लिए बन्द नहीं है, हमारे लिए ही बन्द है ? इन तमाम सवालों का जवाब मैं चाहता हूँ।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Me wanted you to print more notes.

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA: I think, Sir, that credit squeeze and Government's anti-inflationary measures have affected not only the agricultural sector but the white-collar sector also. \*

श्री रणधीर सिंह : किसी की तनख्वाह घटी

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA: In some cases, proposed D.A. has not been given. Sometimes, D.A. has been due, but it has not been given. The impact of anti-inflationary measures has been perceived not only in this field, but in other fields also.

श्री रणधीर सिंह : अकेले रेलवे में 200 करोड़ रुपया तनख्वाह आदि एक साल में बढ़ी बताया था रेलवे मिनिस्टर ने ।

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA: He asked as to what will be the total money required if the whole production of 'Kapas' is purchased. Sir, at the current level of prices, it may be nearly 900 crores of rupees. Even if we propose to purchase 25 per cent of the production, that will need 225 crores of rupees. It will be very difficult for us because, as I have already said, we have provided only 10 crores of rupees which will not be adequate, as Mr. Babubhai Chinai said, to

purchase even the production of one particular district. This is a very difficult situation. I have assured that it is our endeavour to see that the cotton growers, particularly, the middle and the poor cotton growers, are not put to unnecessary hardship. It will be our endeavour to see that the money which ordinarily goes to the private trade channels is diverted to the Corporation sector and public sector undertakings. But I cannot quantify the amount of credit which I will get as a result of my endeavours. Sir, it will be my effort to do the maximum. I can assure you that I am very much sympathetic towards the demand of the cotton growers because if they do not get a fair price, production may be less and that may affect the industry and export. So, it is in our own national interest that we should look after the demands of these middle cotton growers and the poor cotton growers. As I said before, the price is not that low as it is sought to be made out sometimes. It is still much above the A.P.C. price level and above the price that was prevalent last year. So, though we should be very seriously concerned about it, we should not be alarmed about it.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : The House stands adjourned till 11 A.M. tomorrow.

The House then adjourned at thirty minutes past six of the clock till eleven of the clock on Friday, the 22nd November, 1974.