

RAJYA SABHA

Tuesday, 11e 23rd April 1974/the 3rd
Vaisakha, 1896 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock.
Mr. Chairman in the Chair.

MEMBER SWORN

SHRI KAMESHWAR SINGH (Bihar)

श्री राजनारायण (उत्तर प्रदेश) : इतना फर्क है, श्रीमन् । जब यह हमारे साथ थे तो हिन्दी में बोलते थे और सत्ताधारी दल में चले गये तो अंग्रेजी में पढ़ते हैं ।

Mr. CHAIRMAN : Questions.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Review of pricing policy and Public Distribution System

- *31. SHRIMATI SUSHILA SHANKAR
ADIVAREKAR †
SHRIMATI RATHNABAI
SREENIVASA RAO ;
SHRI M. S. ABDUL KHADER :
SHRIMATI SUMITRA G. KUL-
KARNI :
SHRI K. L. N. PRASAD
DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government contemplate review of the pricing policy and the public distribution system; and

(b) if so, what are details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH) : (a) and (b) Government's economic policy, which also covers such matters as pricing policy and public distribution of essential commodities, is kept under constants review, and changes are made as and when necessary. In respect of the pricing of commodities, Government is advised by such expert bodies as the Agricultural Prices Commission, the Tariff Commission and the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices. *Ad hoc* Committees are also appointed from time to time, as for example, in the case of petroleum products.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri-nati Sushila Shankar Adivarekar.

As regards the system of public distribution, the Planning Commission had, last year appointed a Committee on Essential Commodities and Articles of Mass Consumption; the Report of the Committee is presently under examination.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA SHANKAR ADIVAREKAR : Sir, it is learnt that the Finance Ministry is proposing a 7-point short term programme to check the ever-increasing menace of inflation which has reached the dangerous level. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what these measures are and how they propose to make them effective in order to smash the parallel economy and to fight the price spiral which is very important to bring down the prices of essential commodities like foodgrains, cloth, fuel, etc.

SHRI K. R. GANESH : I am not sure whether this particular question which the hon. Member has asked really falls into this question. It will more naturally fall into the next question, i.e. Question No. 32, which relates to the increase prices as result of budget levies and other factors. Still Sir, I can give a reply to that.

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right, give a reply.

SHRI K. R. GANESH : The various measures taken by the Finance Ministry for controlling the inflationary tendencies and price spiral and its deleterious effect on the economy are that in the budget certain fiscal measures have been initiated limiting the deficit-financing to a much lower level of 125 crores, the Reserve Bank has a policy of credit restraint, market borrowings have been appreciably increase and other steps like import substitution have been initiated. Then last year expenditure was reduced approximately by Rs. 400 crores. These are some of the measures which have been initiated to come to grips with inflationary pressures.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA SHANKAR ADIVAREKAR : Public distribution system exists only in urban and industrialised areas. It does not come into the picture at all so far as other areas are concerned. In the rural areas specially there is absolutely no public distribution system.

SHRI K. R. GANESH : As already indicated in the reply, the Planning Commission has set up a committee popularly known as

Dharia Committee to go into this question of public distribution system for articles of mass consumption. This Committee has submitted its report in December 1973 and the report is now under examination.

SHRIMATI RATHNABAI SREENIVASA RAO : The difference between the fair price and open market price of certain commodities like sugar where the dual pricing system is followed is so great that sometimes the open market price is treble or four times higher and it thus savours of black market. Will the Government take steps to fix a ceiling on the open market prices of such commodities and narrow the gap or strengthen the public distribution system and give up the dual pricing policy altogether ?

SHRI K. R. GANESH : As the House is aware, as far as sugar is concerned, wherever dual pricing system exists, certain quantities of sugar are taken as levy and distributed through the public distribution system at a much lower price. The open market price is higher than this. While there may be defects in the system and while there may be some malpractices by which one category of commodity may go to the other category by and large this has proved to be a correct policy so far as commodities such as sugar are concerned.

DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN : Government has recently surrendered to the landlord lobby by withdrawing the wholesale trade takeover of wheat. They have scuttled completely the proposal of taking over rice trade and other commodities such as coarse grains. In view of this surrender to the landlords I would like to know how the Government propose to ensure supply of essential commodities such as wheat, rice and coarse grains sugar and kerosene to the common people at reasonable prices. What is the mechanism by which they propose to ensure that these commodities are available to them? Without monopoly procurement of the surplus wheat and rice, how do they propose to make these articles available to the consumers at reasonable prices ? Do they have any policy in this regard or is it a question of having no policy at all ?

SHRI K. R. GANESH : Without going into the aspect of surrender to the landlords and all that . . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : All right. Instead of surrender, you can use 'affection for the landlords'.

SHRI K. R. GANESH : The House is aware . . .

SHRI NIREN GHOSH : Or you can use 'embrace of the landlords'.

SHRI K. R. GANESH : The House is aware that the policy of wheat take-over had to be adjusted as a result of certain realities of the situation and as a result of certain experiences gained. I will not be able to convince either Dr. Kurian or Shri Bhupesh Gupta that . . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : On a point of personal explanation.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Later.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Are we impervious to conviction ? You argue it out and try to convince us. On the contrary, you yourself are not convinced.

SHRI K. R. GANESH : Sir, it is not possible to argue during Question Hour. Otherwise Sir, it is possible . . .

SHRI NIREN GHOSH : They also belong to the same party . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Niren Ghosh, please sit down. If you interrupt now, I will not call you.

SHRI K. R. GANESH : Otherwise, Sir, it is possible to argue.

DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN : Sir, the honourable Minister should give proper reasons.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Sir, let him convince you at least.

SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHARAN : Sir, apart from you, is the honourable Minister himself convinced ?

SHRI K. R. GANESH : Sir, I was explaining that this policy of wheat trade take-over had to be adjusted on the basis of certain realities of the situation and on the basis of . . .

(Interruptions)

DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN : Adjustment means surrender.

SHRI K. R. GANESH : Sir, let me finish my answer.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Dr. Kurian, let him finish his reply.

DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN : Mr. Ganesh, you have given a bonanza to the landlords.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, Mr. Ganesh, please finish your reply.

SHRI K. R. GANESH : Sir, I was trying to explain that the policy had to be adjusted on the basis of certain realities of the situation and on the basis of the behaviour of the farmers, the other elements involved in this situation. Sir, it was an attempt at a major structural change and the Government had to adjust it and there is no question of giving up the public distribution system because, Sir, it is the intention of the Government to procure as much of wheat and the other foodgrains as is necessary for maintaining the public distribution system.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, Mr. Om Prakash Tyagi.

SHRI JAGJIT SINGH : How can you distribute when you do not have anything ?

SHRI KAMESHWAR SINGH : Sardar Saheb must be hoarding the wheat and that is why he says that we do not have anything. Does he know that ?

(Interruptions)

DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN : You collect money from the landlords for the elections.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down, Dr. Kurian.

SHRI KAMESHWAR SINGH : We have not collected money for the elections. You people collect money and that is why you know it.

SHRI JAGJIT SINGH : Sir, I want to go on record...

MR. CHAIRMAN : How can you when I have not called you ? Please sit down.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH : They have surrendered to the landlords.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, Mr. Om Prakash Tyagi.

श्री ओ३म प्रकाश त्यागी : समापति महोदय, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या उन को यह जानकारी है कि कच्चा माल और उस से तैयार माल जो है उन दोनों के मूल्यों में कोई ताल-मेल नहीं है। उदाहरण के

लिए कपास और उस से बने हुए कपड़े को लीजिए या गन्ना और उस से बनी हुई चीनी के मूल्य को निर्धारित करते समय सरकार कौन सी नीति रखती है ? उन दोनों के मूल्यों में जमीन आसमान का अंतर है। तो मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस का कारण क्या है और क्या भविष्य में सरकार आश्वासन देगी कि कच्चा माल और तैयार माल के मूल्यों में ज्यादा अंतर नहीं होगा और उन के मूल्य एक अनुपात से निश्चित किये जाएंगे। और दूसरे मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि जिस प्रकार से फैक्ट्रियों में तैयार किए हुए माल के उत्पादन के आधार पर आप मूल्य को निर्धारित करते हैं उसी प्रकार क्या किसानों के माल पर भी इसी प्रकार उत्पादन लागत को ध्यान में रखते हुए आप उस का मूल्य निर्धारण करने की नीति को अपनायेंगे ?

SHRI K. R. GANESH : Sir, the honourable Member is aware that as far as the agricultural commodities are concerned, the prices of these commodities are fixed by the Agricultural Prices Commission and the Commission takes all the factors into consideration such as the cost of inputs and various other things and it fixes the prices on which the Government takes a decision. Sir, in fixing any price, two aspects will have to be considered. One is the remunerative return which the producer may have and the other factor is that the consumer should not be placed at the mercy of the market mechanism and should not be allowed to pay a very heavy price. These are the two objectives on the basis of which the price is fixed. Now, as far as the agricultural products are concerned, the Agricultural Prices Commission, which is a high-powered body, goes into all these details and fixes the price.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, Mr. Krishan Kant.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : Sir, I want to know whether the honourable Minister has seen the statement made by the honourable Minister of Agriculture, Shri Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed, which says that the distribution system will be restricted to food next year. If it is so, I want to know whether this is the policy of the Government and that is why they have given up the wheat trade take-over on account of which the vulnerable sections of society and the fixed income groups will not be able to get wheat and the other coarse grains at a fixed rate.

SHRI K. R. GANESH : Sir, it is the intention of the Government to have public distribution system and provide this public

distribution system direct procurement as well as the levy which might be introduced to the traders.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : But didn't Mr. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed say about restricting it ? I think Ministers function together in the Government of India . . .

SHRI K. R. GANESH : I shall find out what my senior colleague has said about this.

As far as the general question is concerned, I have already indicated that the Planning Commission committee under the chairmanship of Shri Mohan Dharja has submitted a report, which is under examination . . .

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : But what is the policy of the Government of India about it ?

SHRI K. R. GANESH : I have already indicated that it is the intention of the Government to maintain the present public distribution system.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH : Sir, the hon. Minister has said that the report has been submitted and that it is under consideration. What are the contents of the report ? How is it that apart from the essential commodities of mass consumption, the prices of industrial raw materials that are necessary for production—like cement, steel, and coal—have gone up by leaps and bounds ? What is this policy ? This is a scandalous policy . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have put your question. Sit down now . . .

SHRI K. R. GANESH : I do not have the details of the report of the Committee . . .

SHRI NIREN GHOSH : Sir, I seek your protection. He said that the Planning Commission committee has submitted its report; it is under consideration. And now he says that he cannot give the details of that . . . (*Interruptions*). There are other questions also that I have put. I asked: How is it that all other industrial raw materials that are necessary for production have gone up by leaps and bounds and there is a widening gap?

SHRI KAMESHWAR SINGH : Sir, on a point of order. I would like to know if he is asking a supplementary or he is making a speech. If he is making a speech, then we should also be allowed to make speeches . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : Don't interrupt like this.

SHRI K. R. GANESH : The hon. Member has raised questions of price hike. As far as industrial raw materials are concerned, various steps are taken to meet that either by import substitution or various other measures that are being taken.

श्री राजनारायण : क्या सरकार इस नतीजे पर पहुंची है कि सरकार ने किसी भी वस्तु की विक्री, कीमत और लागत की कीमत, दोनों में तारतम्य स्थापित करके, कोई दाम नीति निर्धारित नहीं की है, चाहे वह एप्रिकल्चर प्राइस कमिशन हो या चाहे कोई और सुन्दर नाम दे दिया जाए ? मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ श्रीमन्, आपके द्वारा कि सरकार की मूल्य नीति क्या है ? यह इसमें प्रश्न है लेकिन सरकार ने अपने उत्तर में अब तक कही भी स्पष्ट नहीं किया कि सरकार की मूल्य नीति यह है ऐसा क्यों है ? जैसे, गल्ला 105 रु० विन्टल खरीदा जाए और 140 रु० विन्टल तक बेचा जाए—क्यों ? हम लोग किसान हैं और . . .

श्री सभापति : अब आप किसान हैं तो प्रश्न करिए . . .

श्री राजनारायण : प्रश्न ही कर रहा हूँ। इस प्रश्न को कृपा करके समझने की क्षमता रखिए।

श्री सभापति : . . . और लोगों को भी मौका दें।

श्री कामेश्वर सिंह : वे तो भाषण देते जा रहे हैं। मुझे भी इस पर भाषण देना है।

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right. Don't interrupt.

श्री राजनारायण : श्रीमन्, हम तो पार्लियामेन्टरी पद्धति को मानते हैं। कोई आदमी खड़ा होकर हाऊल करने लगेगा तो मैं बैठ जाऊंगा।

श्री सभापति : आप अपना सवाल तो खत्म करे।

श्री राजनारायण : मेरा सीधा सवाल यह है कि गल्ले की कीमत नीति सरकार कैसे निर्धारित करती है। क्या गल्ले की विक्री की कीमत लगान, बीज, खाद, पानी सबके खर्चों को जोड़ कर कुछ पुराने लायक, कुछ पुरस्कार देते हुए, तय की जाती है ? एक।

श्री सभापति : एक ही प्रश्न।

श्री राजनारायण : सुना जाए।

(*Interruption*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please don't interrupt.

श्री राजनारायण : मैं आपको बिल्कुल अपनी बात बता दू कि हम इन लोगों से लड़ेंगे नहीं क्योंकि मैं इनका कोई महत्व नहीं समझता, हम लड़ेंगे जब प्रधान मंत्री आएंगी

श्री सभापति : मैंने उनको कह दिया ।

श्री राजनारायण : अगर आप उनको नहीं बैठा पाएंगे . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. Please sit down. You should not interrupt him like this. राजनारायण जी आपने सवाल पूछ लिया ?

श्री राजनारायण : आप इन लोगों को नहीं बैठा सकते तो मैं भी बैठने से इनकार करता हूँ । मैं देख चुका कि ये लोग शराफत से पेश नहीं आएंगे । इसलिए निहायत अदब से बैठने से इनकार करता हूँ ।

श्री सभापति : आपने सवाल पूछ लिया ?

श्री राजनारायण : सवाल नहीं पूछा । कृषिजन्य पदार्थ और करखनिया पदार्थ इन दोनों की कीमत में क्या सरकार न्याययुक्त सन्तुलन स्थापित करती है, जैसे कृषि-जन्य पदार्थ है गन्ना, करखनिया पदार्थ है चीनी, कृषिजन्य पदार्थ है रुई, करखनिका पदार्थ है कपड़ा . . .

(Interruption)

श्री सभापति : राजनारायण जी, अब आप हद्द से बढ़ रहे हैं ।

श्री राजनारायण : मैं बहुत ही अदब से निवेदन कर दूँ कि मैं हाउसिंग से दबने वाला नहीं हूँ ।

श्री सभापति : हाउसिंग का सवाल नहीं है ।

श्री राजनारायण : आप सवाल पूरा नहीं होने देते । ये लोग बाधा डालते हैं, इनको आप बैठने को कहते हैं, ये बैठते नहीं । . . .

श्री सभापति : : राजनारायण जी, मैंने इनको बैठा दिया ।

(Interruption)

श्री राजनारायण : देखिए मैं कामेश्वर सिंह से नहीं लड़ूंगा मैं इनकी हैसियत जानता हूँ । खाने-पीने के लिए चला गया कांग्रेस में ।

(Interruption)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please don't interrupt like this. We have not done even one question.

श्री राजनारायण : क्या इनकी हाउसिंग चलेगी ?

(Interruption).

SHRI S. P. GOSWAMI: He is suffering from some mania. All the time, he says, "Prime Minister, Prime Minister." What for and out of context why he is bringing her name while she is not even present in the House.

SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA: Why should he bring in the name of the Prime Minister?

श्री श्रीमान प्रफुल्ल गोस्वामी : इसका विभाग खराब हो गया है । प्राइम मिनिस्टर को बोलता है । इसके विभाग को ठीक करना होगा ।

Mr. Chairman, Sir, may I request you to control him. Why should he be allowed to disturb the business of the House and why he wants to waste the valuable time of the House?

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right, sit down. You cannot stand when I am standing. Now no one will interrupt any more. Let the business of the House go on.

SHRI K. R. GANESH: Sir, the main thrust of the question of the hon. Member was that according to him there is no principle which the Government follows in relation to fixation of prices.

SHRI RAJNARAIN: That is not my question.

यह मेरा प्रश्न नहीं है ।

श्री सभापति : आप बैठिये । अगर वह सवाल का जवाब देकर सैटिफाई नहीं करेंगे तो मैं फिर पूछूंगा । 25 मिनट हो गये, एक सवाल में इतना टाइम जाया हो गया ।

SHRI K. R. GANESH: Sir, the hon. Member gives an instance that the procurement price of paddy or wheat has been fixed at a particular level and then the market price of the commodity is available and, therefore, is there any relation between the two or any policy to bring about a harmony between the two and to reduce the difference between them. That is the thrust of his question. Sir, as I tried to indicate earlier, as far as the agricultural products are concerned, the prices are fixed by the Agricultural Prices Commission. The Agricultural Prices Commission takes into account various factors. It takes into account the cost of inputs, long-term trends of prices, prices of competing crops and other factors. And its recommendations are designed to give a picture of both the current position and the emerging trends, Sir in the course of the last few years, the Agricultural Prices Commission has been fixing the prices of some of the food crops. And they have come to this conclusion that there has to be a minimum support price which should be fixed at the time of sowing so that the farmer may be able to decide the cropping pattern and that the procurement price has to be fixed near about the time when the crop actually comes to the market. This question has been gone into by the Planning Commission also. The Planning Commission, in their Draft Fifth Five Year Plan, indicated the policy guidelines on the basis of which some of these prices have got to be fixed. I have

the extract with me but I don't think I should take the time of the House to read from the extracts of the Draft Fifth Five Year Plan the guidelines that they fixed on the basis of which the prices have got to be fixed. May be, I am not in a position to convince the hon. Member of the correctness and the judiciousness of the Government's pricing policy, which the statutory bodies have been adopting and which is gone into by the Planning Commission. As already indicated earlier, it is not correct to say that there is no policy because it is also necessary to know that if the prices at which a commodity has to be got from the primary producer is escalated beyond a particular level, then, Sir, there is bound to be a tremendous amount of suffering as far as the consumers are concerned. Therefore, in the beginning I have indicated that the two objectives have to be kept in view and there has to be a harmony between the two—the producer should get a remunerative price and the price at which this commodity is available in the market should be such that the consumers are not out to any hardship. Otherwise, it would mean a tremendous pressure on exchequer itself and it will amount to a large-scale deficit financing. So, Sir, I have tried to convince the hon. Member as best as I could.

श्री राजनारायण : श्रीमान् हमारा प्रश्न का केवल एक हिस्सा आया। मेरा प्रश्न यह है कि क्या सरकार...

(Interruption)

SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA : Sir, we all protest. We cannot allow disruption of the proceedings like this.

DR. R.K. CHAKRABARTI : Sir, we are not getting any chance to put questions.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down.

श्री राजनारायण : मेरा प्रश्न यह है श्रीमान् कि खेती से जो वस्तुएँ पैदा होती हैं और वही जो परिवर्तित स्वरूप में कल कारखानों से पैदा होती हैं, जिन को हम कहते हैं कृषि-जन्य पादार्थ और कारखानियाँ पदार्थ, उन दोनों की कीमतों में कोई न्याय-युक्त सगति है ? और लागत और उन की बिक्री में यह एक और डेढ़ का अंतर हो ऐसा जो हमारा सुझाव था उस पर सरकार अमल करने को तैयार है या नहीं है ?

SHRI K.R. GANESH : Sir, I have already answered that question.

SHRI RAJNARAIN : आप समझ गए ? उत्तर हो गया ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, Mr Ganesh you have answered that question. I cannot go on with this question for one hour.

आप का जवाब हो गया। आप बैठिये।

Yes, Mr. Kulkarni.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : Sir, may I know..

श्री भैरोसिंह शेखावत : मैं तो बार बार खड़ा हो रहा हूँ।

श्री सभापति : बहुत से लोग हैं जो बार बार खड़े हो रहे हैं। आप बैठिये।

श्री भैरोसिंह शेखावत : या तो आप तय कर लीजिए कि जो ज्यादा बोलेगा उसी को ज्यादा चांस मिलेगा। मैं शुरू से ही आप का ध्यान खींच रहा हूँ।

श्री सभापति : सब को तो मैं इजाजत नहीं दे सकता।

श्री भैरोसिंह शेखावत : मैं ने सब से पहले सप्लीमेंटरी के लिए हाथ उठाया था। आइन्दा मैं भी इसी तरह से करूँगा।

श्री सभापति : आप करोगे तो करिये।

श्री भैरोसिंह शेखावत : हम अपना चांस तो नहीं छोड़ने वाले हैं।

MR. CHAIRMAN : May I tell the hon. Members that I have noticed their desire to proceed to the next Question. If they keep on repeating the same thing, it will not be possible.

श्री भैरोसिंह शेखावत : आप एक मेम्बर के पक्ष में हो जायें और दूसरे के पक्ष में न हों, यह तो ठीक नहीं होगा।

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, no, please sit down. It is my discretion. Do not talk like this. You seem to be new to this House. You have to talk properly. You cannot talk like this. This is not done in the House.

SHRI RAJNARAIN श्रीमान्, आप को गुस्से में नहीं आना चाहिए। श्रीमान्, वह सदस्य न्यू-कमर हैं और यहाँ बहुत से न्यू-कमर हैं। आज जो पांच पांच आदमी न्यू-कमरों एक साथ खड़े हो रहे हैं। आप पहले उन को रोकिये।

MR. CHAIRMAN : Well, I will call any Member whom I think necessary to be called.

SHRI RAJNARAIN : यह ठीक है।

श्री सभापति : मैं सब को रोक रहा हूँ, आप देख रहे हैं।

श्री राजनारायण : आप का कहना कोई मान रहा है ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, Mr. Kulkarni.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he is aware that the Dharia Commission was appointed to inquire into the pricing system of essential commodities as well as the public distribution system. The main thrust of the recommendations of the Dharia Commission was on dual pricing system of essential commodities, especially of those which were of mass consumption. I want to know whether this Report has been gone into and whether the principle of dual pricing policy is being extended to other commodities and whether the public distribution system is being strengthened because it seems that the prices of industrial raw materials and agricultural raw materials have no relation whatsoever with the final price which is being paid by the consumers to the final producers. I want to know whether the Government desires to review this pricing policy so that it benefits both the consumer and the producer of the product.

SHRI K.R. GANESH : Sir, as I have already indicated, the Dharia Committee's Report is under examination.

SHRI A.G. KULKARNI : You stated earlier that you had not read it.

SHRI K.R. GANESH : Yes, I have not read it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Under examination does not mean that he has read it. Yes, Mr. Ganesh.

SHRI K.R. GANESH : Sir, the second question was in relation to the public distribution system. I have already indicated.

SHRI A.G. KULKARNI : Sir, the basic point was : what is the relationship between the cost of basic raw material of a thing and the final price being paid by the consumer to the producer ?

SHRI K.R. GANESH : Sir, in my replies to the questions of the hon. Members earlier I have tried to answer that it is the basic policy of the Government to fix up prices in such a way that the producer is benefited and that he gets a remunerative price as well as that the consumer is not left absolutely at the mercy of the producer. These are the twin objectives

which have to be borne in mind in having a judicious pricing policy.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Shri Bhupesh Gupta.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : No, Sir I do not want to put a question.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Shekhawat. Now, this is the last question.

श्री मेरोसिंह शेखावत : सभापति महोदय, मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि नई खाद्य नीति की घोषणा होने के पश्चात् सरकारी प्रवक्ताओं के नाम पर समाचार-पत्रों में जो इस बात के समाचार प्रकाशित हो रहे हैं कि सरकार देश के अन्दर जो दो लाख दुकानें हैं सरते मूल्य पर पाल वितरण करने की, उसमें कमी कर रही है और इस बात का भी संकेत मिला है कि दो लाख की संख्या घटा कर एक लाख की जा रही है तो यह बात कहा तक सही है और क्या यह मोहन धारिया कमेटी के ऊपर आधारित है ?

SHRI K.R. GANESH : Sir, I do not have this particular information as the hon. Member has said whether it is intended to reduce the number of 2 lakh fair price shops that exist. It is, however, the intention of the Government to continue the public distribution system by supplying these shops with the essential things required either by procurement or through levy.

SHRI B.S. SHEKHAWAT : My particular question is कि नम्बर रेड्यूस किया जा रहा है ।

SHRI K.R. GANESH : I will require notice for this question.

Rise in prices of essential commodities

*32 SHRI KRISHAN KANT : †

SHRIMATI SARASWATI
PRADHAN :

SHRI KALI MUKHERJEE :
DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN :

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA :
DR. Z. A. AHMAD :

SHRIMATI SUMITRA
G. KULKARNI :

SHRI V. B. RAJU :

SHRI NIREN GHOSH :
SHRI GURMUKH SINGH

MUSAFIR :

SHRI J. S. TILAK :

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR :
SHRI A.G. KULKARNI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

† The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Krishan Kant.