

random. It has also been suggested that as a preliminary step, a Commission may be set up to go into the details with the object of formulating a uniform Civil Code.

NOMINATIONS TO THE PANEL OF VICE-CHAIRMEN

MR. CHAIRMAN: I want to make an announcement. I have nominated the following Members to the Panel of Vice-Chairmen:—

1. **Shri S. S. Mariswamy**
2. **Shrimati Purabi Mukhopadhyay**
3. **Shri V. B. Raju**
4. **Shri Ram Sahai**

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

DEATH OF A NUMBER OF PERSONS IN DELHI ON MARCH 31, 1972, DUE TO LIQUOR POISONING

SHRI M. K. MOHTA (Rajasthan): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Home Affairs to the death of a number of persons in Delhi on March 31, 1972, due to liquor poisoning.

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. B. RAJU in the Chair)]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI K. C. PANT): Sir, on the morning of 31st March, 1972, it was reported by the Director/Principal of the Maulana Azad Medical College to the Chief Secretary, Delhi Administration that 3 cases of seizures on account of taking spurious liquor had been admitted to the Irwin Hospital. The Police and Excise Departments were immediately directed to enquire into the circumstances. During the course of that day, and on subsequent days, further reports of more admissions in the various Hospitals and of deaths, were received. Till 07.00 A.M. this morning 72 cases had been received for admission in the Irwin, Wellington, Hindu Rao and Safdarjung Hospitals and the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Delhi. In addition, one dead body was recovered while

it was being taken for cremation. Till that time, 46 persons had died, one had absconded from the hospital and two had been discharged. 24 patients are still under treatment. An investigation into the causes of death is being made by the Excise and Police Departments. So far, the report of the Chemical Examiner has been received only in respect of the viscera of one deceased. In this case, methyl alcohol has been detected both in the viscera and the blood of deceased. In other cases, the report of the Chemical Examiner is awaited. In one other case, the person affected has stated that his physical condition deteriorated after consumption of rum, an Indian made foreign liquor. It is suspected that these deaths have occurred due to the consumption of spurious liquor containing deleterious material which can be fatal. A firm conclusion can be, however, arrived at only after the report of the Chemical Examiner has been received.

The Police have registered till 7 A.M. this morning 8 cases under Section 304A and other Sections of the I.P.C. 5 arrests have been made so far. Some other suspects are reported to be absconding. The investigation is in progress.

The stocks of methyl alcohol and thinner with 78 shops have been sealed. The total quantities involved are 21,098 litres of thinner and 7571 litres of Methyl Alcohol.

After the receipt of the report of the Baweja Commission, the Delhi Administration is reviewing the whole Excise Policy in order to determine the future course of action. In regard to recommendations which could be implemented forthwith, instructions have been issued by the Delhi Administration to the Excise and Police Departments. Licences will hereafter be needed for Methyl Alcohol and thinner. Licences will be given after very thorough checking. The cases of the existing permit/licence holders of denatured spirit and specially denatured spirit will all be reviewed. Three (3) licences have already been suspended and show cause notices have been given to 35 others. The U.P. Government have been requested to ensure that there is superior supervision at the time of mixing of denaturants to the spirit in the distilleries. The wholesalers are requested to report to the Excise authorities when they receive consignments of denatured and specially denatured spirit and they cannot release these materials for sale till samples are

[Shri K. C. Pant]

taken and analysed by the Forensic experts. No supply will be given to permit holders unless they have rendered sufficient and adequate proof for the use of the spirit and satisfactory disposal of the products made out of it. Regular accounts of sales have to be kept. The Excise staff have to regularly check the entries in the Sales Registers of the retail sellers and to satisfy themselves that the purchases are genuine. Disciplinary action is being taken against the officers of the Police and Excise Departments who have been reported to be guilty of dereliction of duty. Keeping in view some of the comments made in the report of the Baweja Commission, Delhi Administration on the basis of enquiry has suspended a District Excise Officer, three Excise Inspector and Station House Officers of Police Stations of Kamla Market, Pahar Ganj and Defence Colony. Disciplinary action against other persons will follow after their responsibilities have been fixed.

SHRI M. K. MOHTA: Sir, it is really tragic that for the second time this year a tragedy of this magnitude has hit the Capital. And yet, the authorities are still said to be investigating the matter. May I ask the hon. Minister whether, after the last tragedy, when nearly 100 people had died, it was not thought desirable and necessary to tighten up the administration to such an extent that there would be no recurrence of this tragedy and whether it is not a fact that it is precisely to the negligence of the authorities in question that a second tragedy has occurred? May I ask the hon. Minister who are the five persons who have been arrested? Are they bootleggers or sellers of liquor or policemen or any other persons in the employment of the Delhi Administration or the Government of India? What is the charge against them? Then, Sir, may I ask the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that the Finance Department of the Delhi Administration has strongly urged the scrapping of prohibition altogether for reasons of revenue and also for stopping this illicit trade in liquor? Has the Government come across reports of canning or bottling of toddy which is done in Singapore? It will be very beneficial in the sense that a beverage of very low alcoholic content would be made available to the public at reasonable prices and people would not be forced to go and buy the hot liquor from such

bottleggers, liquor which is injurious to them. If this report has come to the knowledge of the Government, may I know whether it has been evaluated and whether the Government thinks it necessary to take some such action in the country itself with a view to avoiding this health hazard? There are my question.

SHRI K. C. PANT: Sir, the first point of my hon. friend is with regard to the previous deaths and whether they were still under investigation. In regard to these deaths, 14 persons had been arrested and since then the investigations have proceeded. And in all these cases, there are 7 cases which have been registered against various persons. Investigation in all these cases has been completed and challans have been put in court. Sir, the Administration has certainly tried to tighten all the joints of the administration so that this kind of tragedy may not recur. Now, they have issued various instructions. I have mentioned some of them. And I have been informed, because I specifically checked on this point as to whether there was any possibility of those same persons who were responsible for the previous occurrence or who are suspected to be responsible, whether it is possible that any leakage could have taken place there. I am informed by the Delhi Administration that there is no possibility of that happening. This must be a fresh network which has been occurring, not of that one or the old one, which has not been detected. But, certainly, they say there is no possibility of the previous network having been used again.

Sir, in the course of attempts of the Administration in various directions, since the appointment of the Baweja Commission, till 31-3-72 the recovery of illicit liquor through the agency of the policy was as follows. I quote this just to indicate that I fully share the anxiety and the sorrow expressed by my hon'ble friend.

Total number of cases registered	624
Total number of persons arrested	670
Recovery of illicit liquor	15,825½ bottles
Recovery of Haryana Excise liquor	3,458½ "
Recovery of whisky	33 "
Recovery of Delhi Excise liquor	30 "

	Bottles	
Recovery of XXX Rum	11	"
Recovery of spirit	338½	"
Recovery of U.P. Excise liquor	4	"
Recovery of other liquor	31½	"
Recovery of country made liquor	10	"
	<hr/>	
	19,741	"
	<hr/>	
Stills	7	
Recovery of Lahan	394 K.G.	

Sir, he asked me about the five persons who are arrested. These are bootleggers. That is what he wanted to know. That is the information with me. He asked about scrapping of prohibition. This is a matter of excise policy which will have to be considered by the new Executive Council which has been recently elected. They will have to go into this matter of excise policy. He asked me whether it is possible that there is not enough liquor to go round and, therefore, people are taking resort to this kind of poisonous liquor. I cannot say categorically that this is the only reason. Certainly, that is one of the reasons that the demand is more than the supply. But then we are wanting to restrain consumption of alcohol. It is a matter of deliberate policy. So we are caught in the horns of a dilemma, whether to increase the free consumption or to facilitate consumption of alcohol or to impose restrictions which may lead to those who are habituated to taking resort to consuming liquor which is deleterious to their health and can be fatal. But the other aspect is that denatured alcohol is much cheaper than liquor and sometimes this also may lead people to select some kind of denatured alcohol which may be rectified for purposes of drinking.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal):
There are people perhaps more competent to speak on the subject than I am. But since they are not asking any clarification let me do so.

First of all, this is the third time when such a thing occurred and so many people died. The first tragedy took place in 1969 when 40 people died as a result of drinking spurious liquor. Then, before the election, 110 people died. Now we have got another 35 people or so dead as a result of this thing. During all these three years, the Delhi Administration does not seem to have taken any effective steps to stop that. The last two tragedies have taken place in

quick succession. Now what the hon-ble Minister has considered preventive measures are not at all satisfactory and I am afraid they are not going to stop it. First of all, I would suggest that the present prohibition policy in force in Delhi should be scrapped and there should be a different type of policy, if you like.

Sir, 20 years ago, Congressmen, sitting in the Constituent Assembly, decided that there should be prohibition and many of them, after passing the Constitution, went to take drinks. That is a different matter. We are not going into that aspect now. The present policy in Delhi should be changed and it should be replaced by a new policy. My suggestion in this connection would be that the Government should directly open country liquor shops in different areas in Delhi where these things go on. It should not be left to other agencies so that bootlegging and all kinds of malpractices do not take place. Well, recognise the reality. People drink here. They drink country liquor here. Why send them to death, send them into the hands of those people who kill them? It is better to take charge of the whole thing. Therefore, it is necessary to scrap the present policy and to have country liquor shops opened in those areas where people take country liquor. That should be done. Secondly, Sir, I should suggest that the present excise machinery should be overhauled completely. There are a lot of bad things here. Sir, the Executive Councillor in charge of it should be held responsible. Now that there has been a change of administration in Delhi, we shall watch for some time. Otherwise, I would have said: the person in charge is responsible; he should pay the penalty for deaths of this kind. Now that the Congress has taken over recently, he may be given a little more time. I agree that he may be given a little more time. But the machinery should be completely overhauled. Thirdly, the misuse of methyl alcohol that is being done should be completely stopped. Even that has not been stopped.

Now, these are the steps that should be taken, apart from the penal action that you may take in future against the police and other officials. Sir, bootlegging has become a very flourishing profession. Bootlegging is a flourishing profession run by our Maharashtra people, some people in Maharashtra, not you; I know if you take liquor, you would go to the foreign liquor shop.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI (Maharashtra): Why only Maharashtra? It may be in West Bengal also.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Mr. Morarji Desai had a fad—prohibition—and stupidly, naively, crudely he implemented or sought to implement the policy. . .

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. B. RAJU): Mr. Bhupesh Gupta, that is not relevant.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA. . . which did not lead to prohibition in Maharashtra but led to large-scale bootlegging. It became one of the flourishing trades in Bombay, as everybody knows.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Yesterday they had decided to scrap prohibition.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Now it is coming here. Maybe Mr. Morarji Desai has come to Delhi. I do not know. Sir, it is there in Delhi and, therefore, we should take care of it. The way the hon. Minister is handling it is no good. Why don't you change the policy? What is the harm? Why is this hypocrisy about it? We shall not open any shops. Only in parties we shall drink and secretly, after seeing that nobody is there who may see us drinking. Everywhere we shall do these things, but we shall not open country liquor shops ourselves in order to save people! Stop this kind of bootlegging, smuggling and other things with an iron hand. But then you cannot ignore the other thing, that you gentlemen in the upper layer of the society go on drinking. I believe now the alcoholic composition of the Rajya Sabha is also changing very rapidly as a result of the elections and so on. Well, this will go on at the top. But what about the people at the bottom, the poor people? Now, I am not one of those who would like to indulge in drinking. You know very well, I have always been opposed to it personally. But I should not make it into a policy. But that is how it is being done: a kind of wrong policy is being thrust down the throat of the nation, with the result that we get bootlegging, corruption, malpractices, smuggling and so on. Now we get such large-scale death. In any other country the administration would have been hauled up. The official would have been hauled up for the kind of tragedy that has happened

But here nothing is done. Therefore, I suggest that the entire policy of prohibition requires a second look.

I am not going into the larger question. Here I only point out in Delhi the honourable Minister should not go by this kind of tinkering with the problem, issuing such orders and so on. There should be certain basic changes in the policy itself instead of Government saying that such and such a thing should not happen. Prevention should be made where the Government can intervene and effectively so. And you should plug the loopholes not in the so-called laws and regulations, but in the system itself, the system that permits such kind of things, the system which is responsible for this kind of fatal cases as happened recently. Therefore, I would like to know from the Government whether they are prepared to consider it on the lines I have suggested, and that should be the approach of the Government.

SHRI K. C. PANT: I mentioned in my earlier reply that this is a subject which is dealt with by the Executive Council of Delhi. As my honourable friend, Mr. Bhupesh Gupta, said, they have just come into the saddle and they will be considering all matters related to excise policy and whether to have prohibition, how much of prohibition to have, etc. etc., whether to scrap it. These are all matters to which they will no doubt devote their attention. I do not want to enter into an argument with him, and this is not the time to enter into an argument. But in terms of democracy, if there is a referendum in this country, I am sure the majority will not be in favour of scrapping prohibition. . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: No, my point is totally misunderstood. First of all, I do not know, it will be a dishonest voting because all of you will vote for prohibition and before and after some of you will be drinking. Not you, Mr. Pant; you know your colleagues very well. They will vote against prohibition, and carry out searches in the houses of Ministers of the Government of India and you will see how prohibition is knocked out in their own families. . .

SHRI K. C. PANT: You are excluding me.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Yes, I am excluding you.

DR BHAI MAHAVIR (Delhi) Why not you give the names?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA Do not go into their action What I have suggested here is Government should itself open country liquor shops

SHRI K C PANT As an immediate step the Delhi Administration with effect from 2-4-72 has taken over the management of the two country liquor shops in the capital That we have done because we must get to the bottom of this and must plug this loophole and we must find out exactly how this is being done This is already being done and the Excise Department has been handed over to the Chief Secretary by the Lt. Governor of Delhi These are the steps they have taken In addition, he talked of the present excise machinery I would agree with him that it needs, if not an overhaul, at least, a very serious examination as to how it should be strengthened And the new Executive Councillors are paying attention to this I myself discussed it with the Chief Executive Councillor and the Councillor concerned and both of them assured me that they are looking into this matter Seven officers have been suspended, Police as well as Excise Department, and investigations are continuing and if others are found to be responsible, action will be taken against them also He said we should stop the sale of methyl spirit I think that might be difficult Methylated spirit, ordinary denatured spirit, is required by hospitals, schools, households and others So that cannot be stopped

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA Not altogether Bring it under control.

SHRI K C PANT It should be regulated Licences should be properly accounted for A proper register should be maintained

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA That is right

SHRI K C PANT: I have already said in my main statement that licences will hereafter be needed for methyl and alcohol and thinner Licences will be given only after a thorough checking

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA What is the machinery?

SHRI K C PANT Excise staff Again thinner, I would like to point out, is used for varnish, etc It may contain 5 per cent methyl alcohol and also Ethyl Alcohol This is sometimes purchased by persons who rectify this and then drink it Because it contains a very high percentage of methyl alcohol, it cannot be rectified by ordinary methods which are used to rectify denatured spirit which contains a low content of alcohol

This mistake has also occurred in the earlier series of mishaps This is probably the reason for the deaths It is not so much due to sale through unauthorised channels or illicit distilling or bootlegging It is due to thinner or specially denatured spirit and attempts to rectify it in small batches and then to drink it

DR K MATHEW KURIAN (Kerala). This tragedy which occurred in Delhi has been the second major liquor tragedy that rocked the Capital I find it difficult to appreciate the Minister's callous way of referring to the problem and also to the remedies that he thinks are relevant for the occasion The Minister says that a certain machinery is being developed to check licences and that the Delhi Executive Council will take stock of the situation and decide on the excise policy This is not a new thing A few months ago about 100 people died because of liquor poisoning Still we have not been able to evolve a new excise policy which will check the phenomenon of bottlegging and use of spurious liquors causing deaths. I understand, that the top officials of the Delhi Administration had a meeting on April 2 to discuss measures to check the sale of spurious liquors I would like to know what were the major decisions at this meeting and what machinery they have evolved When the Minister talks of machinery for checking licences in a proper way, I would like to ask him whether it is not a fact that excise officials themselves—at least a section of them—are in collusion with these bootleggers and that is why action has been taken against some of them I would like to know from the hon. Minister what was the linkage between excise officials and the bootleggers and others in this trade who make profit at the expense of people's lives What I say is supported by a statement in today's Times of India It is reported that a dying declaration made before the Sub Divisional Magistrate by one Chet Ram of Manakpura in Karolbagh has provided certain

[Shri K. Mathew Kurian]

revelations. I would like to ask the Minister whether from this dying declaration of Chet Ram government have really been able to unearth the real linkage between the bootleggers and other persons in this trade. I cannot believe the words of the hon. Minister when he speaks about policy machinery, etc. to restrict the consumption of alcohol. The Minister asserts that it is the policy of the government to restrict the consumption of alcohol. Their prohibition policy is a very irrational frill inherited from the Gandhian days. And it is being retained even now. On the other hand, people who are in this trade are elected to Parliament and various other legislatures. They get not only the surplus votes, but in the last minute they are accepted as candidates for the ruling party. How do we believe that government will honestly implement the policy which they themselves declare. The whole question of excise policy or prohibition policy should be discussed in a rational way, leaving aside the Gandhian frill of prohibition. Then only we can solve this particular problem.

SHRI K. C. PANT: Prohibition happens to be one of the Directive Principles of State policy. It is not merely a question of individual approach to the matter. My friend asked me why excise policy was not taken up quickly. I only like to point out that the report of the Baweja Commission was received on the 13th March. This was the time when elections were going on in Delhi. And on the 18th March the new Executive Council took over. At the very first meeting on that very day they considered the Baweja Commission's report.

So, it is not as though they have been sleeping over the matter or that they have not been aware of the urgency. But, Sir, they would need some time to go into the policy aspects. I think it is fair to give some time. But, that does not mean that action which can be taken otherwise should not be taken. There I agree. And, Sir, I had already mentioned very briefly, in order to save time, some of the areas on which we have taken action and I have also referred to the recovery of the liquor and I have referred to the suspension of certain licences that have been issued and also to the samples taken from the licensed vendors to see whether there is any admixture of any such deleterious substances. But if my hon. friend likes, I can go into the details. There are 18

recommendations of the Baweja Commission which are not related to policy, but which are related to executive action and in respect of all these 18 matters, necessary instructions have been issued and I can go into each and everyone of them if you like. I can assure my hon. friend that necessary instructions have been issued except in matters of policy on which we cannot take a decision unless it has been considered first by the Chief Executive Councillor and that is a constitutional requirement.

Then, Sir, he asked me about the prohibition policy. That I had already mentioned. Then, about certain officials he asked, I had mentioned that action has been taken against certain officials and the inquiry is continuing and if others are also found responsible, action will be taken against them.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. B. RAJU). Yes, Mr. Kulkarni.

SHRI N. G. GORAY (Maharashtra): Sir, I have a question to ask.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. B. RAJU): I will call you afterwards. Already three Opposition Members have had their chances and so, now it is this side.

SHRI N. G. GORAY: That is all right.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Sir, in connection with this tragedy that has occurred, may I know whether the Government is aware that what is really necessary is a rational policy on prohibition? Actually, Sir, these tragedies are taking place in various parts of the country, particularly in Maharashtra, where some time ago 108 persons or so died. Sir, it is the misuse of the supply of industrial alcohol or the methyl alcohol to the industries that becomes the main cause of such tragedies taking place and the Government has to evolve a policy by which the supply of industrial alcohol or the methyl alcohol to the industries which gets into this business surreptitiously can be checked. Sir, there is also the collusion between the Excise officers and such type of industrialists which is taking place and in my State of Maharashtra certain steps have been taken in this connection. May I know, Sir, whether the Government, particularly in Delhi, will clamp down certain regulations whereby alcohol supply to industries for industrial use is not diverted to other channels? Another

aspect of it is, Sir, the scrapping of prohibition which is a necessity in this country, because various sources are available

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. B. RAJU) That has been already said

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI I know that But, for this purpose, it is not only the scrapping of prohibition, but it is the cheap source, alternative source, that is necessary and in this connection, in my State of Maharashtra, a policy is being discussed now as to whether the Government can have its own factory where, as in the case of a sugar factory, the molasses can be turned into cheap type of liquor which can replace this bootlegged liquor Sir, this a worthwhile suggestion to be considered by the Government so that the poor people can buy this, can afford to purchase this,

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. B. RAJU): That is all right. Yes, Mr Minister

SHRI K. C. PANT. Sir, one part of the question I have already answered. So far as the other part of the question is concerned, I have already pointed out that the UP Government has been requested to ensure superior supervision at the time of admixture of the denatured spirit in the distilleries because that is the place of mixing alcohol and denatured spirit My hon friend was referring to the point at which denaturisation takes place and if there is superior supervision by the Excise staff there, then we can check it at our point also.

At our end, as I said, the wholesalers are required to report to the Excise authorities when they receive consignments of denatured and specially denatured spirit and they cannot release these materials for sale till samples are taken and analysed by the Forensic experts No supply will be given to permit holders unless they have rendered sufficient and adequate proof for the use of the spirit and satisfactory disposal of the products made out of it Regular accounts of sales have to be kept The Excise staff have to regularly check the entries in the Sales Registers of the retail sellers and to satisfy themselves that the purchasers are genuine.

Therefore, Sir, from the point in the factory where it is produced till the point of retail

sale, a series of checks have been introduced which I have mentioned.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. B. RAJU) Mr Goray.

SHRI N. G. GORAY. A good deal of ground has already been covered. I would only like to ask the Minister whether he has come to any conclusion We have been following the prohibition policy for the last 24 years and it is our experience that in all the States wherever we tried this policy, a tribe of criminals is brought into existence and there is also collusion between the police and criminals Should we not seriously think of having an all-India policy? It is not only a question of Delhi or Maharashtra or any other State. Will they not think in terms of having an all-India policy, which will be a realistic policy, and will also bring in greater revenues?

SHRI K. C. PANT: Sir, this is a question more or less which was asked by Shri Bhupesh Gupta It is usual for my hon friend Shri Goray to put things differently He asked me whether I have come to any conclusion Sir, it is not a question of personal conclusion This is one of the Directive Principles of State Policy Any suggestion to change it is a suggestion for action And at this stage I cannot react to it . . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Nobody has asked him to react immediately What I gather is that Mr Goray pointed out that this matter is not being reviewed in the light of our experience during the last 24 years or so since the Constitution came into effect, so that you may come to the conclusion as to what we should do.

SHRI K. C. PANT I have followed him very well It is good that both of you agree on this point

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. B. RAJU) Mr Yadav.

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव (बिहार) :
श्रीमन्, चार घटनाएं हो चुकी हैं, एक बार 40 मर गए, एक बार 110 मर गए, फिर 46 मर गए। इस सन्दर्भ में मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि जो केसेज हुए हैं चोरी से शराब बनाने के या चोरी से शराब पीने के इन शराब पीने वालों

[श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव]

और बनाने वालों के ऊपर सरकार केस चला रही है, लेकिन मैं तो इस प्रश्न के मूल में जाकर जानना चाहता हूँ कि आजादी के पहले और आजादी के बाद कांग्रेस नशाबन्दी की बात करती रही और आज अखबार में मैंने पढ़ा कि महाराष्ट्र में नशाबन्दी की बात जो चलती थी उसको अब हटा देने की बात हो रही है, एक तरफ दिल्ली में सरे आम बड़े बड़े होटलों में, बड़े होटलों में ही नहीं, छोटे होटलों में शराब बड़े जोर से व्यवहार की जा रही है, बड़े उच्चाधिकारियों के द्वारा मंत्रिमंडल के सदस्यों के द्वारा और विधायकों के द्वारा आज शराब आम चीज होती जा रही है।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री वी० बी० राजू) :
यादव जी मुस्तसर रहे तो अच्छा है।

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव : श्रीमन्, मुस्तसर की बात पहले होती तो अच्छा था। जब भूपेशजी के लिए आपने मुस्तसर की बात नहीं की तो दूसरे को मजबूर नहीं कर सकते। मैं देख रहा था मैंने याद भी दिलाई थी आपको उस वक्त।

और अभी तो अपने मंत्री जी गप्पें कर रहे हैं, वह पूरा हो जाय तब फिर बात कर लेंगे। श्रीमन्, मेरा प्रश्न यह है कि आज बड़े जोर से प्रिविलेंट है शराब, चाहे वह देशी हो या विदेशी हो, बड़े जोर में उसका प्रचार है और उसका असर दिल्ली वासियों पर बड़े भयंकर ढंग से हो रहा है और आबादी के एक बड़े अंश में शराब पीने का प्रचलन हो गया है। अब आप ने जो कुछ केसेज की बात कही है उसके सिलसिले में मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि सरकार शराब के प्रचलन को बढ़ाने में सहयोग देना चाहती है या शराब को रोकने में सहयोग देना चाहती है? नशाबन्दी के बारे में इस समय सरकार की मूल नीति क्या है, यह मैं जानना चाहता हूँ।

दूसरी बात श्रीमन्, बम्बई में शराब की

कीमतें कम कर दी गयीं इसलिए कि वह जनता को सुविधा से उपलब्ध हो सके और चोरी से शराब न पी जाय जिसके कारण इस तरह से वहाँ किसी के मरने की नीबत न आये। आज बम्बई में भी उन्हीं की सरकार है और वहाँ केन्द्र में तो उनकी सरकार है ही; दिल्ली प्रशासन पर भी आज उनका अधिकार है। यहाँ उच्च वर्ग के लोगों में पीने की प्रथा है और शराब का प्रचलन नीचे वर्ग के लोगों में भी आ गया है। इसलिए जब तक आप ऊपर के तबके को शराब पीने से नहीं रोकते तब तक आप नीचे के लोगों को भी शराब पीने से नहीं रोक सकते। तो इसलिए कानून के द्वारा, प्रचार के द्वारा, या किसी अन्य मौलिक रीति के द्वारा आप कौन सा रास्ता अपनाना चाहते हैं या कौन सा कदम उठाना चाहते हैं जिससे कि आप विश्वास करते हैं कि हम इस कार्य को कर ले जायेंगे?

मैं अन्त में पूछना चाहता हूँ कि कांग्रेस की जो मूलमूल नीति है आजादी के पहले और आजादी के बाद कुछ दिनों तक की, क्या कांग्रेस ने उसे बदल डाला है?

श्री सीताराम केसरी (बिहार) : मूल नीति की आपको क्या चिन्ता है?

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव : आप तो अभी आये हैं। श्रीमन्, अब तो दिल्ली में और भी सस्ती शराब होगी। अब तो आप शराब मंडार ही कांग्रेस में उठा कर ले आये हैं।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री वी० बी० राजू) :
आप अपनी बात पूरी करिये।

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव : उन्होंने कहा इसलिए जवाब दे रहा हूँ। मैं प्रश्न पूछ रहा हूँ। जहाँ कांग्रेस रोकती थी नशाबन्दी के लिए घेराबन्दी करती थी, बेचने वालों को भी रोकती थी और पीने वालों को भी रोकती थी, वहाँ आज लाखों लिटर शराब बेचने वाले को कांग्रेस यहाँ ससम्मान ला रही है...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री बी० बी० राजू) : इसका इससे कोई सम्बन्ध नहीं है।

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव : इसलिए मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ कि जो घटना घटी है ऐसी घटनाएं न घटे इसके लिए सरकार प्रचार के रूप में, कानून के रूप में या व्यवहार के रूप में कौन सा कदम उठा रही है ?

श्री के० सी० पन्त : अध्यक्ष जी, उन्होंने मुझ से पूछा कि दिल्ली में प्रोहिबिशन के सिलसिले में नीति क्या है। तो एक तो यहाँ मंगलवार को और शुक्रवार को और महीने की पहली तारीख को और धार्मिक और राष्ट्रीय छुट्टियों के दिनों में शराब पीना मना है, वे ड्राई डेज हैं, उन दिनों शराब बिकना मना है और खुलेआम शराब पीना मना है, पब्लिक ड्रिंकिंग जिसको कहते हैं वह मना है। जो कोटा है कंटी लिकर का वह 3 लाख लिटर सालाना है और उसकी दो दुकानें हैं।

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव : खुले आम पीने को क्लैरिफाई कराना चाहता हूँ। बड़े लोग क्लबों में पीने के लिए जाते हैं और छोटा आदमी अपनी झोपड़ी में पीता है। तो उसकी परिभाषा क्या है ?

श्री के० सी० पन्त : परिभाषा की बात तो मालूम हो सकती है, उसके लिए कानून हैं, नोटिफिकेशन्स हैं...

(Interruption)

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव : ऐसे नियम बनाये जाय कि जो छोटे और बड़े दोनों पर लागू हो।

श्री के० सी० पन्त : मैं किसी बहस में नहीं पड़ना चाहता, लेकिन मैं समझता हूँ कि अगर कोई कम आमदनी वाला व्यक्ति शराब पीता है तो उसके घरवालों को तकलीफ होती है और यह कोई मेरे कहने की बात नहीं है, अगर आपका संपर्क उन लोगों से हो तो उनकी महिलाओं से बात करके यह स्पष्ट हो जाता है। लेकिन खैर इस बात में मैं नहीं पड़ना चाहता।

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव : बड़े लोगों को तो कोई तकलीफ नहीं होती।

श्री के० सी० पन्त : उनकी पत्नियाँ को भी तकलीफ होती है। इसलिये मैंने तो शराब बन्दी की कोई बात नहीं कही, आप ही लोग कह रहे हैं।

SHRI TRILOKISINGH (Uttar Pradesh): Apart from the fact that public attention is drawn to this malady whenever a large number of deaths occur at one place and at the same time the fact remains that the use of illicit or spurious liquor has been admittedly increasing in this country as also shown by the figures of recovery given by the Minister a few minutes before. May I know the reason for the Government for not making the offence of selling and manufacturing illicit liquor non-bailable and making it punishable with imprisonment which may be not less than 5 years or not more than 10 years? My reasons are, if anybody were to mix water in milk, he can be sent to jail for one year but if somebody distils liquor without any licence, in other words for illicit distillation the punishment provided for is a fine of a few rupees or imprisonment which may extend up to six months. If we are really serious to stop this malady, may I know the reason for the Government not providing for deterrent punishment for those who are found dealing in or making illicit liquor?

SHRI K C PANT: This is a valid suggestion for action. I had also enquired about this, This has come to my notice and in fact I have asked the Delhi Administration to consider this aspect and put up proposals.

SHRI G A APPAN (Tamil Nadu). May I know if there is any valid statistics to show the extent of illicit liquor production Statewise and if there is, would he furnish a statement of that to this house? Further, when there is justification for distilling illicit liquor in places where we do not have prohibition, why people resort to illicit distillation even in places where prohibition is not there? In this connection will the Minister realise that most of the people resorting to this illicit distillation are very poor people and they do not have any source of income to carry on their livelihood? When the Government will be able to find out the statistics about the extent of illicit distillation in the

[Shri G. A. Appan]

whole country, will they also make provision for suitable jobs for people engaged in this? Unless it is done, is it possible for anybody to stop illicit liquor distillation? May I also know from the Minister if illicit liquor alone is responsible for this malady or were there other causes which led subsequently to deaths in the various States? I presume that some lizards must have fallen in the distilled liquor. If a small lizard falls in a boiling pot of meal or cooked curry, it can cause deaths of even thousands of people. This may be one of the reasons for such casual deaths in this liquor business. I want to know his suggestions for stopping this illicit distillation work by the poor people and how he would be remedying that.

SHRI K. C. PANT: Sir, I lack the expertise to be able to verify or deny the possibility of a lizard causing death. My hon. friend wants statistics about illicit distillation State-wise and then he goes on to say that they should be valid statistics. I am afraid if I possessed such detailed knowledge it would be criminal on my part to allow this to go on. One can only guess and as Triloki Singhji said some indication is obtained by the figures which I gave of the illicit liquor which has been recovered from various places in the last little over a month since the Baweja Commission Report was being written. Now, Sir, he said that it was for want of alternative employment that people took to illicit distillation. There may be a case of economic compulsion also but I do not think that would justify taking to this kind of activity and I do not think my hon. friend would want to justify it.

डा० भाई महावीर : श्रीमन्, यह दुर्घटना, पिछली बार इससे ज्यादा भीषण दुर्घटना के थोड़े समय के पश्चात्, जो घटी है एक प्रश्न जो उठता है महोदय, वह यह है कि 13 मार्च को जब रिपोर्ट आई और इस प्रसंग में मंत्री जी ने कहा है कि उस वक्त चुनाव हो रहे थे और एकजीक्यूटिव्ह कौंसिलर्स की मीटिंग नहीं हो सकती थी वह बाद में हुई, तो क्या जिस वक्त बावेजा कमीशन की रिपोर्ट में कुछ आफिसर्स के नाम लिए गए और उनके ऊपर जिम्मेवारी डाली गई, तो उस पर ऐक्शन लेने के लिए भी इतने दिन देना, इसको भी मंत्री जी जस्टिफाई करना चाहते हैं

क्योंकि इस तरह के देर के कारण, कोई ऐक्शन न लिए जाने के कारण, दोबारा यह घटना होने की परिस्थिति पैदा हुई है ?

महोदय, पिछली दुर्घटना के संबंध में यहाँ पर मंत्री जी के दल के लोगों ने भी माँग की थी कि एकजीक्यूटिव्ह कौंसिलर्स जो हैं वे इस्तीफा दें क्योंकि एक्साइज के महकमे से इसका संबंध आता है। उस वक्त हम लोगों का, कुछ एकजीक्यूटिव्ह कौंसिलर्स का भी, मत था कि यह मेन्ली ला एण्ड आर्डर प्राबलम है, रेलवे की जमीन के ऊपर झुगियाँ थी जहाँ शराब बनती रही और जहाँ इस तरह की मौतें हुई, इस वास्ते ला एण्ड आर्डर के जिम्मेवार जो लोग हैं, केन्द्रीय सरकार अगर इस्तीफे की माँग करे तो उनसे की जानी चाहिए। अब महोदय, अगर एक्साइज महकमा इसके लिए जिम्मेवार है तो एकजीक्यूटिव्ह कौंसिलर्स के ऊपर यह जिम्मेदारी आती है और अगर ला एण्ड आर्डर का है तो केन्द्रीय सरकार के ऊपर आती है। मैं जानना चाहूँगा, जो माँग उस वक्त एकजीक्यूटिव्ह कौंसिलर्स से कांग्रेस पार्टी के नेता और वर्तमान एकजीक्यूटिव्ह कौंसिलर्स कर रहे थे, क्या उस माँग को पूरा करके—यानी इस्तीफा करके—वे लोकतंत्र की एक नयी परम्परा जिसमें कि वे खुद विश्वास रखते मालूम होते थे, कायम करेंगे ?

मेरा दूसरा प्रश्न यह है. . .

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. B. RAJU): Only one clarification please.

डा० भाई महावीर : महोदय, मैं दिल्ली से संबंध रखता हूँ और इस वास्ते क्लेरिफिकेशन के लिए पूछ रहा हूँ और अगर मैं कहीं पर इर्रिलेवन्ट कहूँ तो बेशक रोकियेगा। तो दूसरी बात मंत्री जी ने कही कि उनको जानकारी नहीं है, अगर जानकारी होती तो वे इस संबंध में जरूर कार्यवाही करते। अभी अप्पन जी के प्रश्न के जवाब में भी उन्होंने कहा। महोदय, दिल्ली के संबंध में दिल्ली के भूतपूर्व लेफ्टिनेन्ट गवर्नर के साथ जो बातचीत होती थी उसमें भी कुछ

जानकार लोग रखे थे, पुलिस के ऊँचे अधिकारी भी, और उसमें यहाँ के जो पुलिस स्टेशन्स हैं उनके बंधे हुए रेट्स बताये जाते थे, पुलिस आफिसर वहाँ पर ट्रान्सफर होने के लिए कितने पैसे रिश्वत के तौर पर देने के लिए तैयार हो जाता था, *depending upon* कि वहाँ पर कितनी मात्रा में आमदनी पैदा की जा सकती है। मैं जानना चाहूँगा कि क्या मन्त्री जी इससे बिल्कुल अनभिज्ञ हैं और यदि अनभिज्ञ हैं तो यह देश के लिए बड़ी दुर्भाग्य की बात है। तीसरी चीज महोदय, जो आखिरी है और जो मैं जानना चाहता हूँ वह यह है कि आज के “हिन्दुस्तान टाइम्स” में “बूटलेगिंग” और “इल्लिसिट डिस्टिलिंग” की बात आई है। लेकिन इस रिपोर्ट में जो एक वाक्य है उससे यह प्रकट होता है कि इसमें इल्लिसिट शराब, नाजायज शराब की बात नहीं है। इसमें लिखा है :

“Apparently the spurious liquor trade in Delhi has got in its net even the normal supply channels. Until now it was believed that clandestine bootleggers alone were responsible for the tragedy ”

जो सामान्य व्यापार के साधन हैं, जो सामान्य व्यापार के द्वारा चीजे आती हैं, वह इसके अन्दर इन्वाल्व है। इसलिए महोदय, यह जो समाचार छपा है कि दिल्ली एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन ने रिकमेन्ड किया है, यह फैसला किया है कि प्रोहिबिशन को खत्म कर दिया जाय। इस प्रकार से कल की प्रेस रिपोर्ट है और मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या मन्त्री जी को इस बात की जानकारी है और क्या सरकार इस दिशा में इस तरह की दुर्घटनाओं को रोकने के लिए कदम उठाने पर विचार कर रही है ?

श्री के० सी० पन्त : आखिरी सवाल का जवाब मैंने शुरू में दे दिया कि क्या क्या कदम उठाये गये हैं। (*Interruptions*) कदम उठा लिये गये हैं और इन्क्वायरी चल रही है और अगर जरूरी हुआ तो और भी कदम उठाये जायेंगे।

डा० भाई महावीर : नामों के बारे में।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. B. RAJU) Let him complete his answer

श्री के० सी० पन्त : उन्होंने कहा कि बवेजा कमीशन की रिपोर्ट में कुछ नाम दिये गये हैं और उनके खिलाफ कार्यवाही क्यों नहीं हुई। जहाँ तक मेरी जानकारी है उसमें नाम नहीं दिये गये हैं। उसमें उन्होंने जनरल बात कही है जिसके आधार पर इन्क्वायरी करनी पड़ी। दिल्ली एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन ने रिस्पॉसिबिलिटी फिक्स्ड की और उसके आधार पर कुछ आफिसरों को सस्पेंड किया गया।

डा० भाई महावीर : रिपोर्ट में यह दिया गया है :

“Station House Officers of the three police stations mentioned in the Baweja Commission's Report. . . ”

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. B. RAJU) You drew the attention of the Minister to it.

श्री के० सी० पन्त : यही तो मैं कह रहा हूँ कि अगर कोई एरिया बतलाई जाय तो वहाँ पर इन्क्वायरी हुई हो, रिस्पॉसिबिलिटी फिक्स्ड की जाय और फिर एक्शन लिया जाय। इसमें नाम देने या न देने का सवाल नहीं है। इन्क्वायरी हुई और रिस्पॉसिबिलिटी फिक्स्ड की गई, यह बात मैंने कही।

डा० भाई महावीर : पुलिस स्टेशनों के नाम बतलाये गये हैं।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. B. RAJU). You have asked for clarification

DR BHAI MAHAVIR: Let him not confuse it. . .

SHRI K C PANT. I refuse to yield. I cannot yield . . .

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. B. RAJU) Please do not interrupt when the Minister is replying.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR. You want him to successfully confuse the House.

SHRI K. C. PANT. Then, he says : Why not resign and who is responsible? As I indicated, the excise and police, both are responsible. The Jan Sangh was in power in the Metropolitan Council when this was known and they could have set a good example. They could have saved themselves of embarrassment if they had resigned at that time. He said that the previous Lieut.-Governor had told me that some amount of money was offered by policemen for being posted at certain places and so on. The previous Lieut.-Governor never told me any such thing. If any such thing comes to my notice and my hon. friend can tell me where this is happening, certainly I will take action. So far as the ordinary trade is concerned, as I said in my statement, some samples had been taken. These are being examined by the chemical examiner. If it is found that this is spurious liquor, certainly action will be taken, but till we get the results from the chemical examiner I cannot say anything.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR: You did not allow me to interrupt him. . .

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. B. RAJU): Please, this is not debate.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : The issue should not be confused. He may not answer it.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. B. RAJU): No debate now.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR: I will not expect an answer. I only want to say that the issue should not be confused. May I know whether the Biweja Commission specified certain police stations whose officers should be proceeded against and, if so, why no action was taken up till now? The Minister should note and explain it.

SHRI M. ANANDAM (Andhra Pradesh): The hon. Minister was pleased to announce certain measures to regulate the sale of methyl alcohol by issuing permits, licences, etc., but the difficulty is not either at the manufacturer's point or at the seller's point. Methyl alcohol is being transported from Bombay
1 P. M. and other places for long distances, more than a thousand km. and during the course of the transport, these

bootleggers in collusion with the lorry drivers remove some of the methyl alcohol and replenish it and add water to the tanks. So, what the Minister has got to do is to see that such things do not happen by removing this methyl alcohol or denatured spirit when it is transported. Will he consider that, at the time of export from the manufacturers' place the entire tank is sealed in the presence of the excise authorities and it is removed at the destination in their presence? This is more relevant than the types of remedies that he has suggested. I want him to consider this.

SHRI K. C. PANT: I do not think my hon. friend means 'methyl alcohol', he means 'ethyl alcohol' because it is ethyl alcohol which is carried. Methyl alcohol is added to that as denaturant. As far as I know when the railway wagons carry it, these wagons are sealed at the point of despatch and the seal is broken at the point of receipt in front of the excise authorities, subject to correction.

SHRI M. ANANDAM. About lorry transport, I said.

SHRI K. C. PANT: About lorries also, I presume that the excise authorities must be exercising control. I cannot offhand answer for all the States. But ordinarily when there is a substance like alcohol, a seal is put by the excise authorities at the despatch end. This is the normal custom. But this is a detail which I have to check.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

NOTIFICATIONS OF THE ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI NITI RAJ SINGH CHAUDHURY): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy (in English and Hindi) each of the following Notifications of the Election Commission of India, issued under sub-section (1) of section 9 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950.—

(i) Notification S. O. No. 5006, dated the 26th October, 1971

(ii) Notification S. O. No. 5359, dated the 1st December, 1971.