

lakh tonnes each month from November 1971.

2. The Food Corporation is also arranging open storage of about 10 lakh tonnes of paddy under polythene covers.

3. It has also taken steps to get go-downs with a capacity of about a million tonnes constructed through private parties agreeing to furnish guarantee of occupation for 3 to 5 years,

4. The Food Corporation is also considering the question of constructing some temporary storage accommodation to meet the immediate requirements.

5. Every effort is being made to speed up the pace of progress of the foodgrains go-downs construction programmes by the various agencies, and to overcome the difficulties in the way of quicker pace of construction.

PROCUREMENT PRICE OF RICE

221. SHRI SITARAM JAIPUJA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE/^{fa Vp% be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is a fact that the Agricultural Prices Commission has recommended that the procurement price of rice should remain unchanged during this kharif seasons;

(b) what is the procurement price of rice in each State; and

(c) the reaction of the State Government to the Commission recommendations ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री SHRI ANNA-SAHAB SHINDE) : (a) The Commission recommended that the price of paddy and rice fixed for 1970-71 be continued during 1971-72 season in all States except in the case of Jammu & Kashmir, Orissa and Tamil Nadu where a marginal increase of Re. 1/- in the

price of standard variety paddy was recommended.

(b) A statement is attached.

(c) The State Governments generally agreed that the procurement prices of paddy and rice should continue at the last year's level. The recommendation of the Agricultural Prices Commission regarding marginal adjustment in price of rice and paddy in the case of Jammu & Kashmir, Tamil Nadu and Orissa was also accepted by the State Governments.

STATEMENT

Procurement prices for rice in the various State during 1971-72 season

Name of State	Standard Variety	Procurement Price for 1971-72
1. Andhra Pradesh	Akkulla	80.32
2. Assam	Winter Sali	—
3. Bihar	Coarse	95.25
4. Gujarat	Sathi	85.34
5. Haryana	Begmi	85.50
6. Kerala	Palghat Matta	85.88
7. Madhya Pradesh	Gurmatia	83.00
8. Maharashtra	Coarse	81.00
9. Mysore	Coarse (Raw)	74.30
10. Orissa	Common	—
11. Punjab	Begmi	85.50
12. Rajasthan	Suthersaul	—
13. Tamil Nadu	Kattaisamba	—
14. Uttar Pradesh	Grade III	89.00
15. West Bengal	Common	91.20

12. NOON.

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

RISE IN PRICES OF VARIOUS COMMODITIES

श्री लाल बाडवानी (दिल्ली) : सभापति महोदय, मूल्यों में, विशेषतः अत्यावश्यक वस्तुओं के मूल्यों में हुई वृद्धि जिसका स्थिर तथा निम्न आय के वर्गों के लोगों पर प्रतिकूल प्रभाव पड़ रहा है, की ओर मैं वित्त मंत्री का ध्यान दिलाता हूँ और उनसे प्रार्थना करता हूँ कि वह व्यक्तव्य दें।

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I share the anxiety of the Hon. House regarding increase in the prices of essential commodities in the recent months and the hardships caused to the people, belonging particularly to the lower income and fixed income groups. Several factors like large influx of refugees from Bangla Desh, widespread floods and droughts in various States and also to some extent the levies imposed in the last Budget have contributed to the price increase in the recent months. As a result, between end-May and end-October 1971, the Wholesale Price Index rose by 4.1 per cent while the Consumer Price Index moved up from 224 in May, 1971 to 238 in September 1971. As compared to the position a year ago, the general index of wholesale prices has shown rise of 4.6 per cent. However, the Wholesale Price Index shows a decline in the month of October.

The increase in food articles over the year has been moderate and there is some satisfaction that the buffer stock of food-grains with the Government is of the order of 7.5 million tonnes. In the case of pulses, production has not been keeping up with the demand. The prices of oilseeds and edible oils have also risen in this period but their level is lower than what it was last year. Price of gur has risen due to lower production last year. Anticipations of lower sugar production in 1971-72 consequent on a decline in the acreage under sugarcane, account for an increase in sugar prices. In the case of other consumer goods, raw material shortage has been the principal factor for the rise in prices. The cotton crop although better than last year, is still not sufficient for our requirements.

During the slack season (April to October), seasonal factors become operative and a general uptrend in prices is a usual phenomenon. As I have observed earlier, this year the seasonal pressure has been aggravated by a number of additional factors. Government have taken several steps to check the increase in prices. The textile mills have been asked to increase their production of controlled cloth and in order to prevent malpractices in the sale of such cloth, Government have also issued orders that the consumer price should be marked on every

metre length of controlled cloth. To keep the cotton price in check, considerable imports of cotton are also being resorted to. Raw materials other than cotton which are in short supply are edible oils and certain varieties of steel, both of which are being imported in substantial quantities. Apart from I credit control and direct physical control over a number of commodities, steps have recently been taken to check speculative activities through amendment of the Forward Contracts (Regulation) Act and forward trading, including trading in non-transferable specific delivery contracts in edible oils and oilseeds, has been suspended, and future trading in gur has been banned. To meet the increased expenditure on refugees, steps are being taken to restrict non-Plan expenditure both at the Centre and in the States, and to raise additional resources. In a recent Conference of the Chief Minister, the question of additional mobilisation of resources by the States to meet the extra expenditure on refugees was also discussed and as a result several State Governments as also the Central Government have taken measures in that direction. Major foodgrains are being sold at fixed prices through a network of fair price shops in the country and the States have been advised to further strengthen the public distribution system. In view of the rising trend in sugar prices, the availability of bank credit to sugar mills and trade has been further curtailed in August, 1971. The validity period of release orders was reduced from 45 to 30 days and the sale of sugar by factories to registered dealers and stocking of sugar by traders has also been restricted. Long-term measures to increase the productivity and yield of commercial crops are also being pursued vigorously and steps are being taken to step up the production of oilseeds, raw cotton and pulses. Research activities for developing new strains and hybrid seeds are being intensified. It is hoped that these measures will have a perceptible impact on the price level in the coming months.

यह वर्तमान सरकार जो है, इसका अस्तित्व अगर किसी प्रमुख बात पर निर्भर है तो वह इसका गरीबी हटाओ का जो नारा था वह है जिसने इसको सत्तरुद्ध किया, और आदमी को

[श्री लाल आडवाणी]

गरीबी हटी या नहीं, अगर इसकी कोई सबसे बड़ी कसौटी है, तो वह है मूल्य। यह मानना पड़ेगा कि इस कसौटी पर कसने पर इस सरकार की विफलता बिलकुल स्पष्ट हो जाती है। अभी मंत्री महोदय ने जो वक्तव्य दिया है उसमें मूल्य क्यों बढ़े हैं, इसके कारणों की एक सूची प्रस्तुत की है और उस सूची में सबसे ऊपर है बंगला देश से आए हुए शरणार्थियों का उल्लेख, और सबसे अन्त में है बजट के कारण जो मूल्यों में वृद्धि हुई उसका उल्लेख।

मैं समझता हूँ, यह क्रम बिलकुल उल्टा करना चाहिए। सचमुच में, जिस समय बजट प्रस्तुत किया गया था उसी समय हमने आपत्ति उठाई थी कि इस प्रकार के कर अगर लगाए गए, जिनका आम आदमी पर बोझ पड़ता है तो उसके कारण इन्फ्लेशनरी ट्रेन्ड बढ़ेंगे और मूल्य बढ़ेंगे, कीमतें बढ़ेंगी। लेकिन कहा गया सरकार की ओर से, कि मूल्यों में वृद्धि नहीं होगी, और होगी भी तो मार्जिनल होगी और उसके ऊपर हम विजिलेंस रखेंगे, उसको बढ़ने नहीं देंगे। मैं सबसे पहले इस बात का स्पष्ट उत्तर सरकार से जानना चाहूंगा कि क्या यह सही नहीं है कि यह आश्वासन जो बजट के समय इस सदन को और देश को दिया गया था, उस आश्वासन को पूरा करने में सरकार विफल रही है और किसी भी प्रकार की मूल्य वृद्धि रोकने में सफलता सरकार नहीं पा सकी है ?

आज बंगला देश के शरणार्थियों को एक प्रकार की एलिबो बनाया जा रहा है, एक बहाना बनाया जा रहा है, अपनी विफलता को ढकने का। तो मैं इस सम्बन्ध में दो, तीन बातें खास तौर पर पूछना चाहूंगा। अभी पिछले दिनों में शायद फाइनेंस मिनिस्ट्री की कन्सल्टेटिव्ह कमेटी की मीटिंग हुई थी जिसमें कहा गया था कि प्राइस इन्डेक्स अभी 228 तक

नहीं पहुँचा है, 227.3 हुआ है और जब 228 पहुँच जाएगा तब हम सेन्ट्रल गवर्नमेंट इम्प्लायोज का डियरनेस अलाउन्स बढ़ाने की बात सोचेंगे।

[THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair]

क्या यह सही नहीं है कि सिर्फ मार्च के अंत में यह वृद्धि 228 से ऊपर हो गई है, और यह सूचक अंक बढ़ गया है। इस सम्बन्ध में सरकार ने क्या कोई निर्णय लिया है ? क्या डियरनेस अलाउन्स बढ़ाने का विचार किया है ?

इसी वक्तव्य में मंत्री महोदय ने कहा है कि—

"It is a matter of some satisfaction that the price increase in food articles over the year has been moderate."

आश्चर्य है कि वास्तव में खाद्य के वस्तुओं के मूल्यों में सबसे ज्यादा वृद्धि हुई है, बहुत वृद्धि हुई है, लेकिन बावजूद इसके इस प्रकार का गलत वक्तव्य किया गया है कि वृद्धि नहीं हुई है, माडरेट वृद्धि हुई है, यद्यपि इस बात को भी स्वीकार करना चाहिए कि होलसेल प्राइसेज में जब जितनी वृद्धि होती है तब रीटेल प्राइसेज में उससे कहीं अधिक वृद्धि होती है। आम आदमी का सम्बन्ध रीटेल प्राइस से होता है, होलसेल प्राइस से नहीं होता है। तो मैं इसका अर्थ जानना चाहता हूँ। मेरे पास आंकड़े हैं जिनमें स्पष्ट है कि जितने खाद्यान्न है, खाद्य वस्तुएं हैं, उन सब में वृद्धि हुई है, और जिसमें पल्सेज, दालें, भयंकर रूप से महंगी हो गई हैं। मैं समझता हूँ, इस प्रकार का प्रिसिडेन्ट पहले कभी नहीं रहा। आगे चलकर पल्सेज के दाम क्यों बढ़े हैं, अमुक वस्तुओं के दाम क्यों बढ़े हैं, इसका उल्लेख जरूर किया गया है किन्तु पहला वाक्य इतना मिस्लीडिंग है कि फूड प्राइसेज में वृद्धि नहीं हुई है। इस पर सरकार संतोष प्रकट करती है या एक प्रकार से इस बात को सरकार स्वीकार करती है कि हम न केवल विफल हुए हैं, मूल्यों की वृद्धि

रोकने में बल्कि मूल्यवृद्धि को रोकने की आवश्यकता ही महसूस नहीं करते। क्यों वह संतोष अनुभव कर रही है, इस बात का स्पष्टीकरण मन्त्री महोदय दें।

एक बात मैं और जानना चाहूंगा कि इसमें जिन कारणों का उल्लेख किया गया है कि क्यों मूल्य बढ़ हैं उनमें इस बात का कोई उल्लेख नहीं है कि आज जो राज्य सरकारें हैं, उनमें किसी भी प्रकार का अनुशासन केन्द्र नहीं रख पाया है। राज्य सरकारें साढ़े 9 करोड़ रु० का ओवरड्राफ्ट लिए हुई हैं। उसका क्या मूल्य-वृद्धि से सम्बन्ध नहीं है और इस बात का जिक्र नहीं किया गया है कि हिन्दुस्तान में पिछले दिनों में इंडस्ट्रियल प्रोडक्शन बढ़ गया है या नहीं? हम प्लान के फिजिकल टार्गट्स को प्राप्त करने में विफल हुए हैं, यह क्या प्रमुख कारण नहीं है जिससे मूल्यों में वृद्धि हुई है।

इससे भी बढ़कर मैं इस बारे में सरकार के विचार चाहूंगा कि क्या यह सही नहीं है कि इन्फ्लेशनरी में ट्रेंड सरकार के जो अनावश्यक खर्च है वह एक बहुत बड़ा काटिब्यूटरी फॅक्टर है। उनको रोकने में विफलता हो रही है और सरकार वह रोकना नहीं चाहती। इसके साथ ही साथ मैं यह भी कहूंगा कि 6 लाख रुपये की ओ राष्ट्रपति के लिए कार खरीदी गई है उसका इससे कोई सम्बन्ध नहीं है? लेकिन मैं इसको और भी बढ़कर संकेत मानता हूँ, सिम्पटम मानता हूँ। It is symptomatic of the Government's approach in those matters. कि वह आस्टेन्टेनस स्पेडिंग रोकना चाहती हैं या नहीं रोकना चाहती है मगर इसके बारे में हमें कोई प्रमाण दिखलाई नहीं देते हैं। मैं यह भी जानना चाहूंगा कि सरकारी खर्च और अनावश्यक खर्च कम करने में, आस्टेन्टेनस स्पेडिंग घटाने को दृष्टि से सरकार क्या कोई कदम उठा रही है और अगर कदम नहीं उठाने जा रही है तो इससे क्या मूल्यों में वृद्धि का सम्बन्ध नहीं है?

SHRI K. R. GANESH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is no doubt that this increase in prices is a serious matter and it is causing concern to this House and to the Government as well. Sir, in my statement itself I had indicated that it is also causing hardship to the lower income group people and it is a matter which unless checked by long-term as well as short-term measures will bring very undesirable results in the various aspects of the life of the country.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR (D<Ihi): Is it not a failure of the Government ?

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI : That was my question, Sir, because these were the assurances in this House given by the Government, namely, that they would keep vigilance, watch over the prices, that the after-effect of the Budget will not be price inflation. Z(S aft

आश्वासन दिये गये हैं उन आश्वासनों को यह सरकार पूरा नहीं कर पाई है, क्या ये इस बात के प्रमाण नहीं है ?

SHRI K. R. GANESH ; Sir, the hon'ble Member had indicated that the Government...

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR: Let him say yes or no. If he thinks it is not a failure of the Government let him say so.

SHRI K. R. GANESH: It is not possible to say yes or no to a direct question like that because then I will have to go into all the policies of the Government and the policy of the hon'ble Member's party...

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: The question is about assurances

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal): Somebody has failed. Let him say that the God has failed. Who is it ? God or man ? God evidently has not failed. Therefore, man has failed. If that is so, who is that man ?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN. He is replying to your question. Allow him to do so.

SHRI K. R. GANESH: Sir, it is not correct to say.

(Interruption)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN:
Order,
please;

SHRI K. R. GANESH: If God fails at so many places what can we do ?

AN HON. MEMBER: Government has also failed.

SHRI K. R. GANESH: It is not correct to say, as the hon'ble Member said, that the Government is trying to put the entire blame about the rise in prices on the Bengla Desh refugees. What has been indicated here is..

SHRILALK. ADVANI: This cause is first even on the list. This is trying to present to the people an impression as if that is the reason. You should have started with the Budget and admitted that the Budget set in motion inflationary trends.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is all right.

SHRI K. R. GANESH: Sir, I am submitting that the Bengla Desh refugees are not the only cause of rise in prices. This House had the honour to discuss the question of price rise earlier also. Even, I think, in the last session it was discussed. Even before the Bengla Desh refugee pressure became what it is today there has been a price rise.

There has been a price rise. It has been admitted by the Government and I am admitting to-day also that there is a price rise. There is no escape from that. Sir, the hon. Member has indicated about the Budget. It is a fact that the Budget had a fiscal deficit and there have been inflationary trends as a result of this fiscal deficit, and that has also contributed with the other factors to the price rise. We are only trying to put here that the budgetary deficit, shortage of industrial raw materials, shortage of certain other goods, as well as.....

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR: Taxes in the Budget.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI (Maharashtra): Taxes are a negligible part.

SHRI K. R. GANESH:as well as the pressure of Bengla Desh refugees, all these have contributed to the price rise. There is no difference of opinion as far as this is concerned.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI : What about overdrafts ?

SHRI K. R. GANESH: I will answer one by one. You should give me some time to answer.

The hon. Member has tried to make out that as a result of certain levies introduced in the Budget, there has been a price rise. That I do not concede. I concede that various factors such as shortage of industrial raw materials, shortfall in production, growing demand as well as inflationary pressures, have contributed to this price rise and we have to find out long-term as well as short-term measures for this.

SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI (Maharashtra) : On a point of order.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: On a point of order. , Sir, the hon. Minister should not mislead us on questions of fact. When the Budget was presented and the levies were imposed, many of us said that these levies could give rise to an upward swing in prices, immediately the prices started rising. There was no deficit financing in operation at that time. You are talking about deficit financing now. But on the morrow of the Budget there was rise in prices and this could not be attributed to deficit financing which had not yet taken place then. Now I am surprised that the hon. Minister is trying to hide the truth. Therefore, I say, "Mr. Ganesh, for goodness' sake, tell the truth,"

SHRI K. R. GANESH: I am telling the truth; I have told the truth. He wants me to emphasise one aspect of the truth. I am telling you the entire truth. I cannot emphasise what you want to emphasise I want to take all the factors into consideration.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR: Sir, he has not understood what Mr. Bhupesh Gupta has said. Please explain to the Minister what Mr. Bhupesh Gupta said.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA (Uttar Pradesh): Let Dr. Mahavir explain the point of view of Mr. Bhupesh Gupta. That will be wonderful.

SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI: Sir, my point of order is this. I want to point out

that his statement that no rise in prices has taken place due to the taxation measures is wrong. Because of the indirect taxes levied in the last Budget, there has been a rise of nearly 2 to 3 per cent in the prices and this has been stated by the Reserve Bank of India. How does he say it is not so ? He cannot contradict the Reserve Bank. Either the Reserve Bank is wrong or he himself is wrong.

SHRI K. R. GANESH : I did not say that. I was trying to contest the point raised by the hon. Member, Mr. Advani, that taxation alone is responsible...

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : He never said that that was the only factor. Why should the Minister misinterpret him ?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Let the hon. Minister complete his reply.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : We cannot allow the hon. Minister to bungle with statements which have already been recorded.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Let him have his say.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: He should not attribute things to me.

SHRI K. R. GANESH : Sir, as I have submitted, I did not say that taxation alone is responsible for it. I did not say that. I am trying to point out that a series of factors are responsible for it.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: Taxation is one.

SHRI K. R. GANESH: You are trying to emphasise one factor. Mr. Bhupesh Gupta is trying to emphasise another factor. I am trying to emphasise the totality of factors which have brought about this situation.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR: We cannot be bamboozled like this. Let him say whether he includes the taxation levies brought in the last Budget among the factors which have caused the price rise. Let him say "Yes" or "No."

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : To sum up the major factor is the promonopolistic and protected interests economic policy of the Government.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : There are numerous factors which are responsible for price rise. That is what he was saying.

SHRI PITAMBAR DAS (Uttar Pradesh) : The hon. Members want to know whether the factors that they have mentioned are also included in the factors that the government is taking into consideration.

SHRI K. R. GANESH : I have indicated it in the statement.

श्री राजनारायण (उत्तर प्रदेश) : श्रीमन् हमारा व्यवस्था का प्रश्न है। मैं दस मिनट से परेशान हूँ और मैंने -माम खोजवा डाला आपके सचिवालय के कमचारियों से, मगर हमको इस स्टेटमेंट की हिन्दी की कापी नहीं मिली। इसके अतिरिक्त श्रीमन्, यह स्टेटमेंट लिखा गया था लोक सभा के लिये क्योंकि इसमें लिखा हुआ है : "मिस्टर स्पीकर, खैर!" इसको काट कर पेन्सिल से बना दिया गया है : "चेयरमैन सर।" (व्यवधान)।

श्री उपसभापति : वह टाइपिंग मिस्टेक हो गई होगी। आप बैठिये।

श्री राजनारायण : श्रीमन्, आप जरा देखिये...

श्री उपसभापति : ठीक है, मैंने देखा है।

श्री राजनारायण : श्रीमन्, यह टाइपिंग मिस्टेक नहीं है। (व्यवधान)

श्री उपसभापति : आप बैठिये। यह टाइपिंग मिस्टेक हो सकती है।

SHRI CHITTA BASU (West Bengal): The blatant fact is that the very same statement is read out in th's House also.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : And the word "Chairman" is written in such a way as it is likely to be read as 'Chavan Sir'.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : May I take it that hon. Members are not interested in proceedings on such a vital matter as price

[Mr. Deputy Chairman]

rise? It is strange that you are raising all sorts of objections which are comparatively not so important as the subject-matter. Let the Minister reply so that others will get an opportunity to put questions.

श्री राजनारायण : आपके कहने का मतलब यह है कि यह भाषा का सवाल मामूली सवाल

श्री राजनारायण : सवाल के जवाब भी यहाँ पर हिन्दी और अंग्रेजी दोनों में होते हैं। उसी तरह से स्टेटमेंट भी हिन्दी और अंग्रेजी दोनों में होना चाहिये। इसलिये आपकी व्यवस्था हमें मान्य नहीं होगी।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : This is not a statement laid on the Table. This is a statement made by the hon. Minister.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Any hon. Minister or Member can speak in this House in any language—either Hindi or English. He has chosen to speak in English. This is only a statement made by him and it is not necessary that there should be a translated copy of that statement.

श्री राजनारायण : यहाँ उत्तर जो सवाल के रहते हैं वे भी अंग्रेजी और हिन्दी दोनों में रहते हैं। उसी तरह से स्टेटमेंट भी अंग्रेजी और हिन्दी दोनों में होते हैं। आप एक नई व्यवस्था क्यों चलाना चाहते हैं।

श्री उपसभापति : स्टेटमेंट जब सदन में पढ़ने हैं तो उसका साइमलटेनिंग ट्रांसलेशन होता है।

श्री राजनारायण : वह तो सवालों का भी होता है। सवालों का भी ट्रांसलेशन हिन्दी और अंग्रेजी दोनों में होता है।

(Interruptions)

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : There you are right, I think. I think this is not a statement laid on the Table of the House. It is a speech he is actually making. A speech can

be in any language—even in Bengali. He has a right to make his speech in English. That should not be on the same footing as a statement laid on the Table of the House.

श्री राजनारायण : पहले आप मेरा प्वाइंट समझ लीजिये। अगर हम इस प्वाइंट को कैंसिडर कर जायें तो सवाल का उत्तर भी आप अंग्रेजी में अलग दिलवा सकते हैं और हिन्दी में अलग दिलवा सकते हैं क्योंकि मंत्री जी जो उत्तर देते हैं वह अंग्रेजी में देंगे और उसका साइमलटेनिंग सली हिन्दी में अनुवाद होगा और अगर हिन्दी में उत्तर देंगे तो उसका साइमलटेनिंग सली अंग्रेजी में अनुवाद होगा, लेकिन इसका उत्तर दोनों में, हिन्दी और अंग्रेजी में, दोनों में होता है। इसलिए मैं आप से निवेदन करता हूँ कि आप इस गलत परिपाटी को न चलायें। जो भी मंत्री यहाँ उत्तर दे वह अंग्रेजी और हिन्दी दोनों में हो।

श्री उपसभापति : अच्छा. आप बैठिये।

SHRI N. G. GORAY (Maharashtra) : Sir, before the hon. Minister resumes may I make a submission ? Since this subject is so important and since many of us are really interested in making a thorough survey of the economic situation in the country, will you convert it into a discussion ?

SHRI RAJNARAIN : Yes.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : I don't think it will be possible. We have already taken much time.

SHRI N. G. GORAY : Sir, I would like to submit one thing ... (Interruption). Sir, I would like to submit that the economic situation in the country is becoming so critical that I think during every Session there should be a practice to review the whole thing. If the Government does it *suo motu*, it is all right. Otherwise, it should be a practice to debate the economic situation and make a survey. Sir, it is not the questions and answers that we want. It is so serious as you must have understood from the various Members who spoke on the subject and you will see that the Minister is really at a disadvantage. Therefore, Sir, he is trying somehow to justify the

Government stand. So, Sir, let us all apply our mind. If you are kind enough to admit it as a full-dress discussion, it will be a good thing.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : But let us now continue with the Calling-Attention motion and then we will consider this question—Yes, Mr. Minister, have you finished your reply ?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Sir, what do you think of Goray's suggestion ? He has made this submission and I also think that there should be a discussion.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Mr. Bhupesh Gupta, let us complete this Calling-Attention matter and afterwards we will consider this question about the discussion.

SHRI N. G. GORAY : Sir, if you are ready to consider this, then we will not speak today because we have so many things to say.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : It is all right. But you can have clarifications today.

SHRI N. G. GORAY : We do not want any clarifications.

SHRI K. R. GANESH : Sir, ...

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Sir, I think it would be better if you can do it.

श्री सुन्दरसिंह भंडारी (राजस्थान) : आप दूसरा आयटम शुरू कर दीजिए । इस पर जब तक पूरा डिबेट नहीं होगी । तब तक सन्तोष नहीं होगा ।

SHRI GODEY MURAHARI (Uttar Pradesh) : Sir, all those people whose name* are there want that there should be a discussion. So, why should this be done ?

SHRI K. R. GANESH : Sir, may I make a submission ? This question was raised in the other House also and the Finance Minister agreed to have a full discussion on the subject, because it is easy for the Government also, in a thorough discussion, to give its mind on the entire question. So, I am in your hands, Sir.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Sir, I suggest that as Shri Goray has pointed out, let this be taken up on a motion. In the past we have done it. The economic situation can then be debated. We can do it like that. What we are getting by way of his reply is not clarification, but confusion.

(Interruptions) SHRI N. G.

GORAY : It is an apology.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : We are getting abundant confusion.

SHRI BABULAL M. CHINAI : Sir, if you agree and when it has been agreed to in the other House also, why don't you give orders that there should be a full discussion on this so that we can discuss it thoroughly ?

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : All right. I have no objection if the Opposition wants and if the Government also agrees. I have no objection. There will be a discussion. So, we will now pass on to the next item on the agenda.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Very good.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Yes, papers to be laid on the Table. Mr. Raj Bahadur.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : Sir, on a point of order... (Interruptions). Sir, I am on a point of order. You have rightly stated that the discussion should be there. Sir, all along I have been requesting that a discussion should be there. But the usual practice in the House is that firstly you proceed with the Calling Attention Motion. Otherwise, what happens ? Suppose there is a discussion now. What is the nature of the discussion ? Who is going to initiate ? Who are all going to participate in it ?

AN HON. MEMBERS : You can do it.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : How can you do it ? I can understand Shri Chinai's point. Yesterday also, Sir, the Chairman said: •Let the Calling-Attention Motion go on. You give a notice and then we can discuss."

SHRI A. D. MAN! (Madhya Pradesh) : Sir, I want to make a point.

(Interruptions).

These who have given notice of this Calling Attention motion want specific information on specific matters. They are not going to raise a general discussion on prices...

(Interruptions)

SHRI CHITTA BASU : I have got one submission to make...

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : No, one minute, please-

श्री राजनारायण ; आप आगे बढ़ गये थे, फिर पीछे न लौटिये ।

SHRI CHITTA BASU : I have got one submission to make. Mr. Advani put certain specific questions to the Government. These specific questions which have been raised by Mr. Advani require to be answered by the Government. And I also have got certain specific questions to ask on particular things, on particular aspects of the matter. That does not mean that I am not in favour of having the matter discussed in all its aspects. It should be discussed. It can be discussed. But the purpose of the Calling Attention today is to express specific concern to the Government. Therefore, Sir, I suggest that clarifications should be sought. He should give clarifications and subsequently we can discuss the motion.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : What I suggest is this. If the House agrees to this proposal, these persons would be given a chance to speak when the discussion takes place in this house.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : The point is this. The economic situation is a subject much bigger than the subject of prices; affecting certain groups of people. Therefore, Sir, this is a specific subject. Now, we felt, and rightly you pointed out, that this so. You have been very right in providing for discussion on the economic situation generally... *(Interruptions)*. Let us proceed with this...

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I think you can ask questions during the discussion... *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: In deference to the wishes of the Members, I think answer should be forthcoming in the Debate. These are hot is later questions.

SHRI SUNDER SINGH BHANDARI : That is a policy question...

(Interruptions)

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Let us go further with the debate.

SHRI K.CHANDRASHEKHARAN ;Let the clarifications proceed.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : All of you suggested that there should be a discussion

SHRI CHITTA BASU ; Not all.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : At that time nobody got up to say anything.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : I wanted to say it.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Much afterwards, and not at the proper time when the hon. Minister said that he would have no objection, when he said that there was a demand in Lok Sabha for discussion and that they are having a discussion in the Lok Sabha. At that time nobody got up. It was only after I announced that you say that you want to ask clarifications, I announced-.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : The convention of the House is that the Calling Attention goes through. It must go through.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : And the Calling-Attention was for a specific purpose.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : We would not ask questions. Let those whose names appear in the list ask for some clarifications, and know in full well that you have been kind enough to promise a discussion. I suppose the scope of their questions seeking the clarification-

cations would also be restricted. Let us go ahead with it. Otherwise, this may be cited as a precedent for stalling Calling Attention questions in future and we should not go in for it.

श्री राजनारायण : श्रीमन्, मैं भूपेश दादा से निवेदन करूंगा कि जब उनकी बात वाइस चेंबरमैन साहब ने मान ली और वह फंदर प्रोसीड कर गए, और मिनिस्टर को बुला भी दिए, कार्यवाही आगे चल गई तो अब डिपुटी चेंबरमैन के पैर कोई पीछे न खींचे। यह तो वैद प्रिमिडेंट होगा। एक बार उनकी बात मान लें, आगे बढ़ जाएं, फिर कोई उनको पीछे खींच ले, कोई मजाक हम न करें। यह सदन है, यह कोई कौड़ा की पंचायत नहीं है।

डा० भाई महावीर : आपने उन्हीं की सलाह मान कर फैसला किया था।

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : I stand by the discussion. If it is an alternative between a discussion and this stand by the discussion. (Interruptions) ' Mr. Rajnarain, you do not understand anything. Nothing sensible you understand. It is a choice between the two. I think both can go and today let us devote few minutes to this.

श्री राजनारायण : देखिए, आप अपनी व्यवस्था को बिगाड़िए मत :

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : I think there could be the discussion.

SHRI OM MEHTA : Let the clarifications smashed direct.

श्री राजनारायण : एक मर्तबा आप आगे बढ़कर, हमारे सवाल पर; पीछे क्यों लौटते हैं? और आगे बढ़कर लौटे तो कल भी लौटना होगा। एक मर्तबा खड़े होकर जो आपने एक डिजीजन दिया और कह दिया कि राजनारायण जी, मैं आगे बढ़ गया, तो अब पीछे नहीं जा सकते। यह नहीं होगा—जो जाको पिया माने वही सुहागिन मान। भूपेश गुप्त कहते हैं बढ़ो, बढ़ो, हटो हटो—ऐसी बात नहीं चलेगी। आप

अपनी मर्यादा की रक्षा कीजिए। आप फंदर बढ़े हैं, अब पीछे नहीं जा सकते। आपने श्री एन० जे० गोरे के प्रस्ताव को माना है, उन्हें सपोर्ट किया है, आप उसके मुताबिक मिनिस्टर को बुलाए हैं। अब आप पीछे लौट नहीं सकते। और अगर आपको लौटना है तो लौटिये लेकिन कल अगर...

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : If you now yield, it would look that you have yielded to heavy pressure from Mr. Rajnarain.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : I am not going to yield to any pressure,

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : I am all in favour of a discussion but, if Mr. Kulkarni insists on his right to the Calling Attention question, then I have no objection to it.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : If Mr. Rajnarain and others want a discussion, let them have it, but the existing convention is that the Calling Attention question is always gone through. And if you want to allow a discussion, I have no objection, but the clarifications to be sought on this Calling Attention question should be allowed first. Then you can give any time you like for the discussion; I don't mind, but if the existing convention of the House is sought to be broken, I want to draw your attention to it.

SHRI GODEY MURAHARI : Several times we have had postponement of a Calling Attention question and we have had it converted into a discussion. So it is wrong to say so.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : If the existing convention is broken, every time we shall raise a discussion on this breach. Let it be on record.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : When conventions are being referred to, this is not the first time that Calling Attention question is being converted into a discussion; this has been done previously. Then I would like to submit that this also is the convention that once the Chair has decided a matter and called for the next item, it is never recalled, and we never go back to the old thing. Secondly, Sir, when once you have decided to permit a discussion, then your asking the Minister whether be

[Dr. Bhal Mahavir]

would be a recable to the discussion, and then his saying that it has to be considered and that the clarifications may proceed, all this creates and apprehension in the minds of Members that probably Government may not like the discussion to take place after the Calling Attention has been gone through. So, I would like to submit that you may kindly stick to your decision already given, particularly when you gave the decision in deference to the views expressed by Mr. Bhupesh Gupta. And I do not know why he has suddenly reversed his arguments.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : I must make the position clear. I entirely agree that it is a matter for discussion. In place, Mr. Goray made an excellent suggestion, but the trouble is other Members here, they would not yield, and they say they would like to put questions and ask for clarifications. Here again, if they agree I have no objection. Here, Sir, . . . *(Interruption by Shri Rajnarain)* ... Please understand for my sake, for convenience's sake one should not try to trifle some of the conventions. In practice you have not yet converted it into a motion of discussion. We have asked it; give it up; let the motion come. If it is converted into a motion. . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : I am speaking to the Chair. Why can't you hold your tongue ?

Sir, I am talking to you. If you start discussion now, it is perfectly all right. But if you do not start to discuss and convert this motion into a motion for discussion, and then if other hon. Members insist on their right, having got a particular item on the List of Business. I do not see how you can preclude them from claiming exercise of their right. It does not suit me at the moment but I will be failing in my duty if I do not point it out to you. What has been the practice ? In the past conversion took place but others resigned from it. Here, in the past, Members did not insist on their right.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : May I suggest a *via media* ? As pointed out by

I Mr. Bhupesh Gupta, there are certain Members whose names are on the Calling Attention and they are insisting that their rights will be affected because they will not be allowed to seek clarifications. So, we need not continue *this* Calling Attention. We will only allow these two or three Members whose names are here—Mr. Chitta Basu is there, and also Mr. Kulkarni.

SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI : If you are going to continue the Calling Attention, there are some Members who are not on the list. And we have also given our names to you, How can you prevent us ? That will be one-sided.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : It is a different thing. They have given a notice. They stand on a different footing than you and me...*(Interruption)*...*Sit*, I will point out the difference to you *(Interruption by Shri Rajnarain)* If Mr. Rajnarain will kindly hear me, Sir, it is entirely your discretion.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Order please.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : I do not understand all this rigmarole. It is for you to decide. It is entirely your discretion to call anyone of us, but, normally, those who give the Calling Attention notice expect priority. And since you are going partywise—you are not asking everyone from the Jana Sangh but only Mr. Chitta Basu. Mr. Kulkarni and Mr. Goray. Let them ask questions, if they want. We should accommodate by not insisting on our right. It is a simple compromise formula that I am giving you.

SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI : Sir, if you are going to continue this Calling Attention, since it is suggested that only those who are on the list should be called and not those who are not on the list but those who have already intimated to you that they will ask clarifications will be barred. I do not think it is your intention that any Member who wants to take part in the discussion or ask any clarification should be barred. Even though the names are given for a Calling Attention, you call partywise. A party may have five members and another party may

be having only one or two. In spite of that you do not call all at a time. Therefore, you have to think in terms of calling partywise, if you are going to call. But you cannot debar us from asking any clarifications.. If you want to go by your decision and continue it, I have no objection; we will have a discussion afterwards. But, we must have some clarifications as we have already intimated our names to you.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: How can you participate both in the Calling Attention and the discussion ?

SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI: We are not yielding; we say it is all right.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is a *via media* only.

SHRI OM MEHTA: I will request the Deputy Chairman to proceed with the Call Attention. This Call Attention should be proceeded with.

SHRI MONORANJAN ROY (West Bengal) ; On a point of order, Sir. I want to know whether you are giving us an assurance that there will be fullfledged discussion on the situation, vis-a-vis the price rise or not and whether...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I think the hon. Finance Minister has already stated about that.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY) : May I make a submission ?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: All right. Let us listen to the Leader of the Opposition.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: I think there should not be any quarrel on this Issue. I do not find any difference between the approaches of both sides because both of them are interested to discuss this very important question. The only point is whether they should have two discussions at two different times or one discussion at one time and I think the Government is also equally anxious to take this House into confidence because it is an issue which is concerning all of us. Therefore, Sir, I suggest to the Chair that in case these friends are very anxious to put some questions,

they may be included in the list of speakers. You can allow a general discussion. May be, the Government itself may come up with a motion and such of those friends who are there in the list must be given a chance to speak in the debate. Therefore, If you want to avoid duplication and save the time, I think one debate will do and these friends should be accommodated and the point made by my hon. friend there that it should refer to certain particular commodities will also be covered in the debate because we are dealing with the price-rise-»

SHRI N. G. GORAY: This question of particular commodities for which the prices have risen should be mentioned; otherwise there is no use at all.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: That is true. Therefore, your ruling is correct and I think we should accept your decision.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: What is the ruling ? I do not accept this position. Having gone into the Calling Attention, having admitted the names of some of the people to ask a question, and then in the middle, of it when they insist on their rights, I think it is a violation of the rules. You can give the ruling. I am not for violation of the ruling.

SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI: Sir, Mr. Bhupesh Gupta has said nearly four times on the same subject. On the same subject, he gets up at any time and he speaks. He has got the monopoly in this House. We observe rules and regulations, we respect the Chair, we have not been given proper opportunities many times, yet we do not make a grouse, But you should exercise some restraint on Mr. Bhupesh Gupta. On this very subject he has spoken 4 times and he has yet to speak for four times.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I have got to speak for ten times more.

SHRI BABUBHAI M CHINAI: Sir, I am on a point of order.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Yes, you can do whatever you like.

SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI: Mr. Bhupesh Gupta, I have not got your permission. It is the Chair to whom I am addressing...

Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Bhupesh Gupta, order please.

SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI : My point of order is this that let Mr. Bhupesh Gupta be requested that he should not disturb the House by getting up everytime when somebody has spoken.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: If you give a ruling, it is pointing against us. But we have given our point of view that in the course of the discussions, particularly Mr. Advani raised a very important question with regard to revision of the D.A. for the Central Government employees and other important issues which are very relevant to this issue and the Minister was in the midst of replying to it and now...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Mr. Chitta Basu, please sit down. I have understood you. Please sit down. When we decided that we should postpone consideration of this Calling Attention and we should have a short duration discussion...

SHRI SUNDAR SINGH BHANDARI : We wanted discussion.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : All right ; I was under the impression that the whole House wanted that way and that there was unanimity about it because the Government also accepted the proposal and there was acceptance from the Opposition benches also. Afterwards perhaps there was...

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI ; We did not change our mind at all.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Whatever it is, many Members said that they have got the right because they had given notice of the Calling Attention and that they would like to exercise their right of asking for clarifications. If the Members who have given notice insist that they should be allowed to exercise their right I think it is not proper that they should be debarred from exercising their right. As I said I was under the impression that it was the unanimous view of the House that we should not proceed with the Calling Attention but we should only have a discussion on this important matter. If the

Members who have given notice of the Calling Attention insist that they should be allowed to ask for clarifications I think at least those persons who have given notice should be allowed.

SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI : Why not others also? Others also should be allowed.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : That we will see afterwards. Now, Mr. Chitta Basu.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: Sir, the Minister has not replied.

DR. BHAI MA HA VIR : How can you call another Member when the reply has not been given ? He has no reply to Mr. Advani.

श्री राजनारायण : श्रीमान्, हमारा एक व्यवस्था का प्रश्न है। मैं यह चाहता हूँ कि यह रिकार्ड में आ जाय कि आगे कायवाही बढ़ने के बाद भी अब भविष्य में अगर कालिंग अटेंशन देने वाला कोई मेम्बर कहेगा कि हमारा कालिंग अटेंशन हो तो उसको रोका नहीं जा सकता। यह बात मैं चाहता हूँ कि बाकायदा रिकार्ड में आ जाय।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Now the Minister can reply.

SHRI K. R. GANESH ; Sir, I was replying but I was not permitted to proceed. That is why I sat down.

श्री राजनारायण : रिप्लाय तो कोई है नहीं आपके पास।

SHRI K. R. GANESH : मेरे पास जो है वही दूंगा।

Sir, there were two other points. Shri Advani raised the question of overdraft. The House is start that the Finance Minister had convened a meeting of the Chief Ministers and the Governors and there a discussion was held about fiscal regulations and fiscal discipline and it is known that the Chief Ministers agreed to bring about more fiscal discipline

and also to have extra resource mobilisation. Sir, this is a matter in which the States have got to be persuaded and a consensus has got to be reached. Their difficulties and their problems have got to be understood and as a result of this discussion certain decisions have been taken to bring about more fiscal discipline and raise more resources. As far as administrative expenditure is concerned it is also known that the Government of India has taken a series of steps to reduce non-Plan expenditure. There is a five per cent cut in non-Plan expenditure and steps have also been initiated to curtail other non-essential and non-productive expenditure.

Sir, he has made some reference to the word 'satisfaction', I would like to mention that in the statement the word 'satisfaction' is with reference to the stock of 7.5 million tonnes of foodgrains that we have in our possession. As I have indicated in the beginning this is a problem which is causing concern to the Government and the Government shares the concern of the House. The solution to the problem lies in long-term and short-term measures and certainly measures have been initiated by the Government.

श्री राजनारायण : श्रीमन्, अण्ड सरकार से कहिये कि सरकार क्लीयर करे कि लांग-टर्म मेजर्स क्या हैं और शार्ट-टर्म मेजर्स क्या हैं।

श्री के० आर० गणेश : वही कह रहा हूँ।

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI : Sir, he is making a wrong statement. He just now said that the use of the word 'satisfaction' was only in respect of the buffer stocks but here is what is said :

"It is a matter of some satisfaction that the price increase in food articles over the year has been moderate."

श्री के० आर० गणेश : लोक सभा का मत पढ़िए, यह पढ़िए।

डा० भाई सहावीर : यह दीजिए तब तो पढ़ें। फिर उसे पढ़ देने से कल सेटिस्फिकेशन नहीं था, आज हो गया।

(Interruptions)

SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI : Within twenty-four hours the tables have been turned.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI : Dearness allowance.

SHRI K. R. GANESH : Certain immediate measures have been initiated with a view to stepping up the production of oilseeds, raw cotton and pulses and certain research activities have been intensified. There has been a higher allocation for the import of some of these items. A number of commodities are subject to price and distribution control. Certain other commodities have also been included in that. About cotton textiles, I have already indicated in the statement that the mills have been asked to stamp the consumer price on every metre length. Steps have been taken to stop speculative trading. Future trading in Gur has been banned with a view to ensuring adequate supplies of cane to sugar mills. Forward trading in edible oils and oilseeds has been suspended and the Forward Contracts (Regulation) Act has been amended to remove certain lacunae, whose existence made it possible to carry on forward trading, though it had been banned or suspended. To keep the Inflationary pressures under control, a fairly restrictive credit policy has been initiated and other fiscal measures have been initiated. Steps have been taken to raise additional resources so that the inflationary pressures could be lessened.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI : Dearness allowance. I have asked about D. A. The index number has risen over 228. The promise was that if it rose above 228, there would be a revision. What is the position now?

SHRI K. R. GANESH : In reply to a question only yesterday we have indicated that the all-India consumer price index has reached 228 and according to the decision of the Pay Commission the matter is now under the consideration of the Pay Commission.

SHRI CHITTABASU : Let me ask that question first, He has said that already the all-India working class consumer price index has reached 228.6 as late as September last and naturally according to the recommend-

[Shri Chitta Basu] ations of the Third Pay Commission, the DA for the Central Government employees has to be revised forthwith automatically. Why does the Government or the Minister take shelter and say that the matter is under consideration ? It is not an option for their consideration. The Government is not left with any option. The Government is bound, in terms of the recommendations of the Third Pay Commission, to give effect to the revised D A automatically with effect from September, as has been admitted by the Government. Will the Government now assure us that this particular decision will be given effect to with retrospective effect from September last ? My other question is this. It has been sought by the hon. Minister to give an impression that the price increase is of recent origin, but the facts which are in my possession suggest...

SHRI K. R. GANESH: I did not say that.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : All right you have not said it, but it is a perennial increase. He is now satisfied that it is of a perennial nature.

1 p. M.

My figures suggest that there has been consistently a steep rise in prices of essential commodities during the last decade. If you like to learn, I can give very elaborate figures, but I am not going to do it. But please note that there is a basic fault in the economic policy of the Government; the price rise is there because the Government is following a promonopolistic and pro-capitalistic policy, and that has led to this steep increase in prices. That calls for an immediate reversal of the economic and fiscal policy of the Government. Having regard to this necessity or urgency of reversing the entire economic and fiscal policy of the Government, would the Government consider the feasibility of directing the Reserve Bank to have a thorough examination of the utilisation of the enlarged bank credit ? May I know whether the Government of India would also consider it feasible to direct the Reserve Bank to recast the credit control policies so as to reduce to the minimum the utilisation of the credit for non-productive and anti-social purposes, whether the Government would also consider the proposal to set up a price control machinery, J some- J

I thing like a price control board, in order to look into the matter in all its aspects and ; make from time to time necessary recommendations to meet the situation ? Would the hon. Minister assure the House that the Government would take immediate steps for the distribution of all the essential commodities beginning from food^rains tp other commodities of life, through Public distribution channels, and direct the State Governments to take effective steps to curb the anti-social forces, particularly the black-marketeers and hoarders, so that there can be created a condition by which an effective control over the prices can be had ? And in this connection, may I know from him what the Government contemplates in the matter of developing consumer resistance as was sought by the hon. Finance Minister some time ago ? Does he mean to say that the people should *gherao* and that the Government also would take part in this consumer resistance movement, and, if not why not ?

SHRI K. R. GANESH : Sir, this is a discussion on price increase and the h n. Member will appreciate, and he wants me to commit myself on the question of dearness allowance to the Central Government employees. I have already indicated in my reply that the all-India consumer price index has reached 28, and as per the interim report of the Pay Commission, the matter is now under the consideration ...

SHRI CHITTA BASU : Why ? You are left with no option.

SHRI K.R. GANESH : I do not agree that there is no option. The stand of the Government is, it is easier for you

SHRI CHITTA BASU : Have you understood my point ?

SHRI K. R. GANESH ; The Government does not agree with Shri Chitta Basu that automatic rise should be there. According to the interim report of the Pay Commission, the pay Commission will consider this rise and take appropriate decision and make its recommendation to the Government, That is what I am saying.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : I do not agree with you.

SHRI K. R. GANESH: That is all right. The hon. Member has indicated about the Government's economic policies being responsible for the various economic maladies. That is his viewpoint which also obviously he will not expect me to agree with. So far as bank credit is concerned, I agree with him that there has to be selective squeeze and the Government is already indicating in the various meetings of the Finance Minister with the custodians this point that for non-productive and speculative purposes there has to be credit squeeze.

As recently as two days back the Finance Minister met the Reserve Bank of India people and a decision has been taken that in this season itself the collective credit plan will be applied more vigorously. I quite agree that one of the means of putting check on prices is to see that the speculators and hoarders do not run riot with the lives of the people and that credit is not easily available to them. This is the policy which the Government has already initiated.

He has indicated about the price control machinery and immediate steps contemplated to be taken in regard to foodgrains and the enlarging of the public distribution system. Sir, these are some of the matters that are part of the general thinking of the Government. So they are out to see that some effective steps are taken.

As far as consumer resistance is concerned, yesterday in the other House the Finance Minister indicated that what he has in mind is the creation of a climate because it is not only on these commodities on which levies are introduced but even on other commodities also there is price increase. There is an element of hoarding and profiteering and black-marketing in this country. Apart from whatever regulatory measures which the Government is contemplating, which the Government has to contemplate, certain conditions have got to be created in the country in which a psychological climate against hoarding and profiteering is created. It is in this context that the Finance Minister had referred to consumer price index.

SHRI A. G. KTIJKARNI: May I know, Sir, from the Government that—do I not want to repeat the points already mentioned by the

other hon'ble Members—The basic point in all this price increase is the emphasis put on the economy and the growth of production in this country. Though the Government desires to go into the consumption items, to go into the luxury items with reference to investment in the three Plans . . . (*Interruption by Shri Rajnarain*). Should I wait for Mr. Rajnarain to go ? Please go then because this subject is not for you.

The point is that the investment in the three Plans, particularly the last one, is going into luxury items and in the production of air-conditioners, scooters, some face powders and powders or some such items; the Government is very serious in these matters because they are putting wrong emphasis on investment in this country. I should like to have an assurance from the Government that the policy of investment will be re-assessed and investment on consumption-oriented items would be stopped and would be put into items of daily necessity. The banks should give priority to these items.

In this connection the Government conception that the economy going into the capitalist hands would lay the foundation of a socialist state is a wrong emphasis and a wrong expectation. A capitalist system is not going to yield socialistic results. For that purpose the Government have to be very careful particularly in investment through the Reserve Bank.

You said something about the public distribution system this system or that system. I may submit that there is no co-ordination in the entire policy of the Government. On the one hand you say that there is the controlled cloth scheme and on the other hand you have initiated a premium of Rs. 900 per bale on the imported cotton which is used for producing coarse cloth, American cotton. There also black money is generated, and black money further generated black money and your entire policy gets washed away because it does not yield results.

The last point is all said and done, the rise in the prices of oil, cloth and other daily necessities is having a crushing effect on the middle class and poor families and because of the emergency, the people are putting up with it. But let me warn the Government that

ISHRI A. G. Kulkarni]

there may be a revolution if the prices do not come down and the Government does not keep to the programmes explained in our memorandum when we faced the elections in 1971. That is why I said that our investments should be in the matter of the daily necessities of life. People should get relief from the price rise by control of daily necessities like cloth, oil and other articles. The people are not happy with the present situation in spite of the green revolution. So, I again humbly suggest to the Government that they must give more attention to the serious situation created by the price rise and see that the prices come down, by any means whatsoever.

SHRI K. R. GANESH: The hon. Member Mr. Kulkarni, Will appreciate that it will not be possible for me now to go into the wrong emphasis in the economy as he has indicated. When the fulfilled discussion takes place on the subject, he will have an opportunity to put across his views. It is no possible for me to deal with them now in the form of an answer to a query. I agree with him that the price situation has got to be watched and unless we are in a position to make an impact on the price situation, much in this country, political stability and various other things, will be jeopardised.

I also agree with him that a capitalist hen will not lay a socialist egg. It is a truism about which there can be no two opinions. Sir, the only point I wish to make as far as the general facts about the prices are concerned is that the general index of wholesale prices had remained fairly steady from June 1970 to May 1971. From June 1971 it began to increase and the upward trend continued up to September 1971. Thereafter, a downward trend has started and the index has fallen by 1.3 per cent in the last eight weeks. Sir, This is a phenomenon which has not been observed during the last few years. We can only hope that this phenomenon will continue and there will be some stabilisation of prices. Otherwise, I agree with the hon. Member that the Government will have to come forward with regulatory and other short-term and long-term measures.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Sir, I asked about co-ordination. I mentioned about the

controlled cloth scheme. And in the recent announcement by Mr. Khadilkar about bonus, the public sector units are not getting any bonus. So, there is no co-ordination. I also mentioned about the premium on cotton. What is the co-ordination there?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Let us proceed to the next item.

SHRI GODEY MURAHARI: We will have a discussion on this.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Papers to be laid on the Table

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS (1969-70) OF MAJOR PORTS AND AUDIT REPORTS THEREON

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF

संसदीय कार्य
विभाग तथा नौवहन और परिवहन मंत्रालय में
राज्यमंत्री

OM MEHTA) : Sir, I lay on the Table: -

(a) A copy each of the following papers (in English and Hindi) under sub-section (2) of section 10 of the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963:—

(i) Annual Accounts of the Kandla Port Trust for the year 1969-70 and the Audit Report thereon.

(ii) Annual Accounts of the Paradip Port Trust for the year 1969-70 and the Audit Report thereon.

(iii) Annual Accounts of the Cochin Port Trust for the year 1969-70 and the Audit Report thereon.

(iv) Annual Accounts of the Mor-mugao Port Trust for the year 1969-70 and the Audit Report thereon.

(v) Annual Accounts of the Visakhapatnam Port Trust for the year 1969-70 and the Audit Report thereon.

[Placed in library. See No. LT—932/71 for (i) to (v)]