

(b) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE) : (a) Yes, Sir. The survey was on "fall in fertiliser off-take."

(b) The preliminary estimates of consumption of fertilisers made by the States for Kharif, 1969 indicated an increase of about 13% in fertiliser consumption over that of consumption in Kharif, 1968. Thus, while in absolute terms there was an over-all increase in fertiliser use, the rate of increase is lower than planned.

The main reasons ascribed in the Press report have been inadequate credit, rigidities in the distribution system and the inadequacy of promotional efforts.

Remedial measures have, however, been initiated. Some States like Har-yana have revived the system of giving taccavi loans. The nationalised banks are encouraged to provide greater credit facilities to agriculture including the marketing and application of fertilisers. A scheme for guaranteeing risks in the financing of fertiliser marketing is also under consideration.

To boost up sale of fertilisers through a large number of outlets, the system of licensing of dealers has been replaced by the system of registration so as to enable manufacturers to have more sale points. Establishment of a Fertiliser Promotion Council is under active consideration of Government; it will be a joint venture between the manufacturers and the Government whose function will be to intensify demonstration programmes, soil testing services, spread use of fertilisers through publicity and audio-visual means, etc.

It may, however be pointed out that the initial failure of monsoon in some of the heavy fertiliser consuming States like Tamil Nadu and Mysore, floods in Andhra Pradesh, late snow in Jammu and Kashmir, belated rains in West Bengal etc. also contributed to tardy rise in the consumption of fertilisers to some extent.

TPUMPING OF UNDERGROUND WATER IN STATES

1256. SHRI THILLAI VILLA-LAN :
SHRI G. A. APPAN :
SHRI S. SIVAPRAKASAM :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of India have any specific proposal to pump underground water for irrigation purposes during this year in the various States; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE) : (a) Government of India do not undertake any scheme for the construction of tubewells for irrigation purposes as this is a State responsibility.

(b) In view of (a) above, this question does not arise.

12 NOON

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

REPORTED ACUTE SCARCITY OF VANASPATHI OIL IN THE COUNTRY AND THE SHARP RISE IN ITS PRICES

श्री निरंजन वर्मा (मध्य प्रदेश) : श्रीमन्, मैं देश में वनस्पति तेल की अत्यधिक कमी तथा इस के मूल्यों में भारी वृद्धि के समाचार की ओर खाद्य तथा कृषि मंत्री जी का ध्यान आकर्षित करता हूँ।

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN) in the Chair]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE) : Mr. Vice-Chairman, until February, 1970, the supply position in respect of vanas-pati had been fairly satisfactory all over

■•Transferred from the 26th, March, 1970.

the country. However, as raw oil prices, which had touched an unseasonal high of Rs. 4500-4700 per tonne by the end of February, kept rising further, some of the factories reportedly found it uneconomical to maintain full production at the higher levels of oil prices, and market their product at the prices notified on the 8th February 1970. A few of them are stated to have curtailed or suspended production for some days. This has led to shortages developing in some places, particularly in the hard-fat eating areas like Haryana, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi; and reports of high prices being charged for the available supplies have been appearing in the Press.

Government were deeply concerned at the situation as it developed, and sought the assistance of the State Governments in the matter of ensuring compliance with the notified prices and equitable distribution of the available supplies. Discussions were also held with the industry on the steps necessary to normalise production and supply position. Having regard to the substantial rise in oil prices which had occurred since the price of vanaspati was last revised on 8th February, it was decided to review the position so as to bring vanaspati prices in line with the oil prices during the latter part of February 1970. As a result of the review, an increase in prices of vanaspati, to the extent of 30 paise per kg., has been allowed with effect from 18th March 1970.

The high prices of edible oils in the country are due in part to the fall in groundnut production during 1969-70 for the second year in succession from the production of 57.31 lakh tonnes in 1967-68, coupled with the fact that the present year commenced with little or no carry-over stocks of oil. In order to relieve the situation, Government are taking urgent measures for stepping up imports of edible oils from whatever source they may be available for which free foreign exchange has been secured. According to the arrangements already made soyabean oil and rapeseed will start arriving from early May and about 55,000 tonnes (in terms of oil) will be completed before July. All efforts are being made to arrange for larger supplies.

It is hoped that with the increase in vanaspati prices now allowed, and the additional supplies of oil expected in the near future, the factories will attain full

production almost immediately and the position would soon be normalised.

श्री निरंजन वर्मा : श्रीमन्, गरीब आदमियों के लिये देश भर में वनस्पति तेलों की महंगाई के कारण बहुत कठिनाई हो गयी है और वह कठिनाई और भी ज्यादा उस समय पड़ गयी है जब कि सरकार की तरफ से इस विषय में अत्यन्त निष्क्रियता बढ़ती गयी। मैं मंत्री जी से इस विषय में कुछ स्पष्टीकरण चाहूंगा।

क्या यह बात सही है कि 7 मार्च को उत्तर प्रदेश की मंडियों के अंदर भाव बढ़ाने के लिए व्यापारियों ने हड़ताल करने की धमकी दी थी और क्या उन्होंने इस प्रकार की वास्तव में कोई धमकी दी? दूसरे, क्या यह बात भी सही है कि केन्द्रीय सरकार ने दो लाख टन मूंगफली के तेल का सुरक्षित भंडार रखने की योजना बनायी है और उसका एक बड़ा भारी प्रभाव बाजार पर पड़ा जिसके कारण वनस्पति तेलों में और उस के भावों में महंगाई आयी और उसके कारण सब से पहले दिल्ली क्लाय मिल ने अपने तेलों का भाव, उनके कंसर्न ने इन तेलों का भाव बढ़ाया? क्या यह बात भी सही है कि हमारे खाद्य मंत्री श्री जगजीवन राम जी ने गुजरात में कहा था कि अगर राज्य सरकारें तेल मिलों का राष्ट्रीयकरण करेंगी तो केन्द्रीय सरकार कोई हस्तक्षेप नहीं करेगी और इस कारण तेल के बाजार में, वनस्पति मिल मालिकों में खलबली मच गयी और वे अब इस उद्योग को बंद करने के लिए उत्सुक हैं और उसके परिणामस्वरूप वनस्पति के तेलों की अपेक्षा मूंगफली के परिष्कृत तेल, रिफाइन्ड आयल पर प्रभाव अधिक पड़ा और उसकी मांग मुल्क में अधिक हो गयी है और उसकी महंगाई का एक कारण यह भी है? पांचवीं बात यह कि क्या तेल का बाजार ऊंचा होने के कारण, या वनस्पति तेलों में महंगाई आने का एक कारण यह भी है कि अमरीका से तेलों की आमद बहुत बढ़ गयी है और वहां से सोयाबीन का तेल यहाँ बहुत अधिक मात्रा में पहुंच गया है और उसका प्रभाव भारत वर्ष के मार्केट पर भी पड़ा है?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : Sir, I do not think the honourable Member should draw any unnecessary inference from the statement which the honourable Minister has made about nationalisation of the vanaspati industry. As far as the reference of the honourable Member to the buffer-stock is concerned, I wish there had been some buffer-stock. As regards the reason attributed by the honourable Member for the rise in the prices of the buffer-stock that it is because of the holding of two-lakh-ton buffer-stock by the Central Government, Sir, the information of the honourable Member is not correct. Then he has also made a reference to the fact that the prices of soyabean oil in the USA and other countries have spurted up. He may have his information. But there is, of course, difficulty in getting soyabean oil. This year there is a firm commitment for the import of 46,000 ton soyabean oil from the USA and the import will take place during the next two or three months. As far as that aspect is concerned, I do not think there would be any difficulty in the immediate future. As I have already mentioned in my main statement, some free foreign exchange has also been made available to my Ministry so that raw oil can be made available from other countries also. Then, I have also explained in my main statement why this problem came up. There was some discontent among the manufacturers because the oil prices went up while the Government had not revised the prices of vanaspati production. Sir, now a settlement has taken place and my latest information is that most of the factories have started producing vanaspati. Most of them have increased their production and I hope within the next few months full production will be there and the availability is going to be easy. I expect that the problem of acute scarcity would not be there.

छाद्य तथा कृषि मंत्री (श्री जगजीवन राम) :

मेरे अहमदाबाद के वक्तव्य का इतना असर हुआ था कि दूसरे दिन वहां के लोगों ने बताया कि दो, तीन रुपये भाव में गिरावट आ गयी। लेकिन मैं खुलासा कर देना चाहता हूं कि वहां संवाददाताओं ने मुझ से सवाल किया था कि भारत सरकार वनस्पति तेल के कारखानों का राष्ट्रीयकरण करने जा रही है? मैंने उत्तर दिया था कि ऐसा कोई विचार नहीं है। उस

के बाद एक और प्रश्न पूछा गया था कि क्या कोई राज्य सरकार अगर उनका राष्ट्रीयकरण करे तो आप का क्या रख होगा, तो मैंने कहा था कि उसमें मुझे कोई ऐतराज नहीं होगा।

श्री मानसिंह वर्मा: (उत्तर प्रदेश) : श्रीमन्, छाद्य सामग्री में जितना हेर फेर वनस्पति के भावों में बराबर हुआ करता है, शायद ही किसी दूसरी वस्तु में होता हो। मैं समझता हूं कि महीने, दो महीने में बराबर उसका भाव कभी कम होता है और कभी ज्यादा होता है, लेकिन प्रायः ज्यादा ही होता है, कम तो शायद ही कभी होता हो। तो मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से पहले तो यह जानना चाहता हूं कि वनस्पति के घी में पिछले तीन वर्षों में कितनी बार प्राइस रिवीजन हुआ है और उस रिवीजन में कितनी बार भाव कम किये गये हैं और कितनी बार भाव बढ़ाये गये हैं? दूसरे, क्या यह सच नहीं है कि क्योंकि सरकार ने एक बहुत बड़ा मूंगफली के तेल का भंडार रखने का निश्चय किया है उसके कारण भी भाव बढ़ गये हैं?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: Sir, the prices are revised from time to time. The honourable Member should appreciate that raw oil, mainly groundnut oil, is used in the manufacture of vanaspati. And the prices of groundnut oil are sometimes depressed and sometimes they go up. The price of vanaspati is revised depending upon the level of prices of ground-nut oil. Formerly the Government of India was following the system of revising the oil prices every fortnight. I have no information as to how many times the prices were revised during the last three years. But I can say that from June, 1969 to March the prices were revised seven times. It is not correct that every time it is increased. For instance, in June it was Rs. 85.42 per tin of 16.5 kgs., in November it was Rs. 77.17 and in December it was Rs. 76.02. Then the raw oil prices increased and there has been an upward revision, e.g. the January figure is Rs. 80.15, the February figure is Rs. 83.45 and the March figure is Rs. 88.40. But I may submit for the information of the House that since January, 1969 raw oil prices have increased by 42 to 47 per cent, while

the vanaspathi prices have increased by 30 to 34 per cent. So the increase in the vanaspathi prices is much lower than the increase in the groundnut prices.

श्री मानसिंह वर्मा : श्रीमन्, मेरे दूसरे प्रश्न का जवाब नहीं आया। मैंने यह पूछा था कि क्या सरकार मूंगफली के तेल का एक बहुत बड़ा भंडार बनाना चाहती है जिसके कि कारण प्राइसेज पर असर पड़ा है।

श्री जगजीवन राम : इसका जवाब मैं दे दूँ, इससे भ्रान्ति फैल रही है, क्योंकि पहले भी प्रश्न पूछा गया कि कई लाख टन का भंडार हम बना रहे हैं। सवाल यह है कि भंडार बनाने का हमने अपना नहीं सोचा था लेकिन हमने एक दिन बात करते हुये मिल मालिकों से कहा था कि अच्छा होगा कि जो वनस्पति कारखानों के मालिक हैं और उनकी जो एसोसिएशन है वह इस तरह की सिचुएशन से, इस तरह की सम्भावनाओं से, बचने के लिये जब सीजन होता है तब अपनी तरफ से कुछ इसका भंडार बना ले और जब कमी हो तब अपने मेम्बरान के दमियान उसका वितरण किया करे। उन लोगों ने प्रश्न किया था कि जो रुपये की आवश्यकता हो तो इसके ऊपर मैंने कहा था कि इसके लिये रिजर्व बैंक से इंतजाम करा सकते हैं। अभी उधर स्टॉक बना भी नहीं और सरकार की तरफ से कोई विचार भी नहीं है लेकिन बात यह है कि तेल के बाजार में बहुत से स्पेकुलेटर्स लोग हैं और यही कारण है कि हमारी परेशानी बढ़ती है।

श्री जगत नारायण : (हरियाणा) : वाइस-चेयरमैन महोदय, आपको याद होगा कि जब हम अंग्रेज से लड़ाई लड़ रहे थे आज़ादी की तो महात्मा गांधी से ले कर के बाबू जगजीवन राम जी तक ने और मेरे जैसे मामूली कांग्रेस के वर्कर ने भी यह एलान किया था कि जब देश को आज़ादी मिलेगी तो यहां दूध और घी की नदियां बहेंगी, कोई दिक्कत नहीं होगी लेकिन अब हालत तो यह है कि दूध तो मिलता ही नहीं, खालिस घी भी नहीं मिलता और यह जो वनस्पति घी है उसकी भी यह हालत है जो कि

मैं बाबू जी की नोटिस में आपकी वसातत से लाना चाहता हूँ कि मेरा ड्राइवर तीन दिन तक सिर्फ दो किलोग्राम वनस्पति घी लेने के लिये सुपर बाजार जाता रहा है, तीन दिन तक कतार में खड़ा होता रहा लेकिन जिस वक्त 40 आदमी ले चुकते थे तो उसको कह देते थे कि घी नहीं है, जाओ कल आना, वह फिर दूसरे दिन गया तो यही कहा गया कि फिर आना और तीसरे दिन भी कहा गया कि फिर आना, घी नहीं है, चौथे दिन जब कि वह सुबह ही वहां जा कर कतार में खड़ा हुआ तब जा कर के कहीं उसको घी मिला। तो इस तरह की दिक्कत है और तमाम लोग वहां से वापस लौट आते हैं। यह हालत है सुपर बाजार की। और बाजार में तो हालत यह है कि साढ़े सोलह किलोग्राम का टीन जो है वह 20 रुपये प्रीमियम देने पर जिस वक्त चाहें खरीद सकते हैं, और खुला घी भी जब चाहें ले सकते हैं लेकिन उसकी ज्यादा कीमत देनी होगी, ज्यादा कीमत पर खरीदना होगा। यह मैं वजीर साहब की नोटिस में लाना चाहता हूँ। तो इस हालत को मद्देनजर रखते हुये गवर्नमेंट क्या कर रही है कि लोगों को यह घी, यह वनस्पति घी, तो मिल सके।

बाबू जी ने अभी कहा कि उन्होंने यह कभी नहीं कहा कि हम नेशनलाइज कर रहे हैं लेकिन मैं समझता हूँ कि यह वनस्पति इंडस्ट्री ऐसी है जिसको कि गवर्नमेंट को सब से पहले नेशनलाइज करना चाहिये ताकि कम से कम लोगों को यह घी तो मिल सके जब कि पहले आप वायदा करते रहे हैं कि घी और दूध की नदियां बहेंगी।

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : Sir, in view of the shortage in the supply of vanaspathi, some anti-social elements may be exploiting the situation and the facts narrated by the hon. Member about black-marketing, etc. may be true. But, as I have already explained, this situation developed because the producers curtailed their production but now most of the factories are going into production and the availability would ease in the near future and perhaps the situation which was described by the hon. Member may no longer be there.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT (Haryana) : May I know from the hon. Minister what is the percentage of production of Dalda or vegetable ghee by the four concerns—Hindustan Levers, DCM, Tatas and Birlas ? May I also know whether it is not a fact that last year before the Government increased the prices these* manufacturers by their monopoly control increased the prices and later on forced the Government to increase the prices ? Is it not a fact that Hindustan Levers are playing the whole mischief ? I do not think we should be sorry if we talk about its nationalisation. Is it also not a fact that in 1947 the Economic Programme Committee of the AICC headed by Jawaharlal Nehru had recommended that any industry the output of which is to be sold in more than two or three States should be taken over in the public sector ? May I know from the Government what steps it is taking to take over this industry in the public sector or at least the co-operative sector should be encouraged to take over this industry so that the monopoly control over prices and distribution is cubed ? Then, Sir, may I know whether the Government of India have examined how they have increased their profits—these four concerns—and whether the Government of India have gone into their balance-sheets, etc ? Will the Government of India appoint an enquiry committee to find out their profits and how they are playing with the life and health of the people of India ?

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE : Sir, as far as giving encouragement to the co-operative sector is concerned, I have all my sympathies for the hon. Member.

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM : If Mr. Krishan Kant goes into the field of starting and organising some co-operatives, I think he will make a wonderful success of them and we will give many licences and the public sector will not be necessary in that case. -

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE : Sir, as far as the profits or shares of the manufacturing concerns are concerned, I will require notice. As far as the present increase is concerned, may I submit for the information of the hon. Member that from 1968 onwards there is a statutory control on prices ; there is the Vegetable Products Control Order and if anybody contravenes the provisions of it, then Government will not

hesitate to take severe action against him, big or small ? Then, Sir, as far as the examination of the manufacturing expenses of these concerns is concerned, we have referred the matter to the Tariff Commission which is examining the whole matter and also the cost of production of vanaspati.

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE : Sir,

श्री आर० पी० खेतान : (बिहार) : क्या माननीय मंत्री जी यह बतलायेंगे कि मिल वाले जो रा-मैटीरियल रखते हैं तो उन्हें कितने दिन का अपने पास स्टॉक रखने की इजाजत दे रखी है। और दूसरे यह कि जो प्राइस फिक्स की जाती है वह क्या रोज रोज की मार्केट प्राइस, बाजार का भाव ले कर के किया जाता है या किस तरह से यह प्राइस फिक्स की जाती है। मैंने सुना है कि जिन मिलों के पास ज्यादा फाइनेस की छूट है वह तो ज्यादा माल खरीद लेते हैं और जिनके पास फाइनेस नहीं है वह माल नहीं खरीद पाते और इसकी प्राइस जो फिक्स की जाती है वह डे टु डे के आधार पर की जाती है, तो क्या मंत्री जी यह बतायेंगे कि इसकी क्या प्रणाली है और किस तरह से ये भाव फिक्स किये जाते हैं।

as far as the procedure of fixation of prices is concerned, as I was submitting a few months earlier, the prices were revised every fortnight but then the Government took the decision that revision of prices every fortnight was not very expedient. So later on it was decided to revise the prices every two months. But after having negotiations with the manufacturers as a result of stoppage, etc., now the arrangement arrived at is that prices will be revised every two months subject to the proviso that if there is a substantial increase in the prices of raw oil in between, then the prices will be reviewed in between.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN) : Let me finish the list first. Professor Nurul Hasan is not there. Mr. Bhargava.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA (Uttar Pradesh) : Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister what comprises the West Zone, whether all the raw materials are available in the West Zone and what were the special reasons for

the price increase of 25 Paise per kilo, in the West Zone only, and how is it that the price rise meant disappearance of *vanaspati* from all the Zones. Not only in the West Zone but in all the Zones it became a scarce commodity. What were the special reasons for allowing this much increase in the West Zone ? How is its disappearance from all the Zones explained ? Was it the acute shortage of the raw materials in a particular place, or was it all over India ? If it was all over India, why was this increase allowed only in the West Zone ? I would like to know all these things.

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE : The hon. Member seems to refer to his original question as to why the price rise was allowed in December in the West Zone alone. Now when this question was gone into at the time of the periodical review, it was found that in the North Zone the prices of raw oil had gone up by Rs. 36 per tonne, in the South Zone by Rs. 73, in the East Zone by Rs. 207 and in the West Zone by Rs. 328—over the oil base corresponding to the prevailing price of *vanaspati* in the respective Zones—and the highest increase in raw oil prices was in the West Zone, and on the basis of the previous formula, which was operative at that time, the price rise was given in that particular Zone.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN) : I think I have exhausted the list of persons who had given this Calling Attention notice. But I have got about eight names here. I think the matter has been fully discussed, and if the House....

SHRI S. D. MISRA (Uttar Pradesh) : No, Sir.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal) : Mr. Vice-Chairman, you should know, when the names are there, exhaustive discussion has not taken place.

SHRI S. D. MISRA : Also, among the names given four have been absent.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN) : As I said, I wanted to know the feeling of the House.. If they feel that we have already done it, I need not call them.

SHRI S. D. MISRA : No, Sir. We want to put questions.

SHRI PHOOL SINGH (Uttar Pradesh) : Sir, while I have no quarrel with the policy adopted by the Government, may I ask two questions ? One is, even if the Government is not in a position to nationalise the industry, will it think of taking over all the production of the mills and distribute it themselves ? The second question is : is the Government aware that the real bottleneck is with the raw material—the oil seeds have remained almost stationary for the last four or five years—and therefore the real remedy lies in increasing the production of oil seeds, and is the Government aware that all the research so far made concerns other cash crops or wheat and very little research has been done on oil seeds/

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE : There is no proposal before the Government to take over the distribution or the entire production of the factories at the moment. Then, Sir, I quite accept the views of the hon. Member when he says it is really the production aspect of oil seeds which has properly to be attended to. Unfortunately, in this country only five per cent, of the area under oil seeds is irrigated, and most of them depend upon the whims of the monsoon. On both research side and production side we are taking some positive steps, and recently my Ministry has decided to depute some teams to the States, which are growing mainly these oil seeds. They will discuss it with them with a view to taking up further measures. On research side, already some new varieties have been released and still further new varieties are going to be released. As far as intensive development of oil seeds programmes is concerned, that is already a part of the Fourth Five-Year Plan programmes.

SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS (Orissa) : Sir, I want to know from the Minister the reason for this rise in the price of groundnut oil because, last year, according to our information, the production of groundnut was very good. May I know, Sir, from the Minister whether two reasons contributed to this factor ? One was that the import of soyabean oil and rapeseed was completely prohibited and, secondly, the banks gave liberal loans for cornering and hoarding groundnut seed and oil in the

[Shi Banka Behary Das.], godowns of speculative traders. So may I know, Sir, from the Minister whether the banks will be advised not to advance enough loans to the speculative traders so that hoarding and cornering of groundnut oil and seed could be checked ? Further I want to know from the Minister....

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN) : I think you must have only one, no second, third question.

SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS : It has some relevance with that, and I am finishing.

Why is this price rise being permitted so many times in a year because, as the Minister said, I think something like ten times the price rise has been there within these two years ? So may I know why often this permission is given to these mill-owners to raise the prices, and can they not restrict it to once in a year at the most if it is absolutely necessary because of the difficulty of raw materials and other things ?

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE : As far as the activities of the speculators is concerned, the Reserve Bank has already taken some steps by restricting the misuse of credit if any section has been doing that in the country. Then as far as revision of prices periodically is concerned, may I submit for the information of the hon. Member that formerly the prices were being revised every fortnight and that system was changed and Government decided to revise the prices once in two months ? Even that led to discontent and stoppage of production by a number of factories. The present trouble arose also because one of the... (Interruptions). It was because of the steep rise in the prices of raw oil. The factories have not all this stock with them. They naturally have to purchase it from the open market. And if the prices of raw material go up and the prices of the finished products are controlled, naturally that creates some difficulty. But, as I have already submitted, we have referred the matter to the Tariff Commission for further examination, and (he Government of India would benefit from the recommendations of the Tariff Commission.

डा० भाई महावीर (दिल्ली) : श्रीमन्, मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि आप जब प्राइस रिवाइज करते हैं तो उसके लिये फार्मुला क्या होता है। जब प्राइस रिवाइज की जाती है तो किस फार्मुले के हिसाब से उसमें सारा कास्ट्स आप शामिल करते हैं ? या सिर्फ उसमें तेल का ही कास्ट लेते हैं ? इस वक्त प्रति किलोग्राम में जो यह 30 पैसा की मूल्य वृद्धि की इजाजत दी गई, तो इसमें कौन कौन से आइटम के लिये, किस किस मद के लिये, कितने कितने खर्च के मद के लिये कीमतें बढ़ाने की वजह बतायी गई है और इसमें क्या एक्साइज ड्यूटी जो नयी लगी है डिब्बों के ऊपर, जिसके बारे में यह कहा गया कि किसी एक्साइज ड्यूटी का कामन मैन के ऊपर, आम आदमी के ऊपर, कोई बोझ नहीं पड़ने वाला है लेकिन यह जो 10 पैसा 8 पैसा प्रति किलोग्राम नयी एक्साइज ड्यूटी लगने के कारण बढ़ेगा, क्या वनस्पति के निरमाताओं की तरफ से कहा गया है कि यह एक्साइज ड्यूटी बढ़ने की वजह से भी उनको कीमत बढ़ानी पड़ी है ? मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ किस फार्मुले से यह सब तय होता है। क्या उसमें इस पर ध्यान दिया जाता है कि तेल का अंश कितना है, उसमें डिब्बे की एक्साइज ड्यूटी या डिब्बे के बनने का खर्चा कितना है। और तीसरे, जो लेवर की वजह है जैसे जैसे कास्ट आफ लिबिंग बढ़ती है, उसको भी क्या शामिल करते हैं या नहीं। और अब जो नये बजट से कई चीजों की कीमतें बढ़ी हैं तो उस कास्ट आफ लिबिंग को इसमें शामिल कर दिया गया है या फिर पन्द्रह दिन के बाद यह मांग आयेगी कि खर्चे बढ़ गये हैं इस वास्ते प्राइस रिवाइज की जायें। तो मैं जानना चाहता हूँ, जब आप प्राइस रिवाइज करते हैं तो वह मैन्यु-फैक्चरर्स के कहने पर . . .

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री अकबर अली खान) : आपने कह दिया।

डा० भाई महावीर : मैं खत्म कर रहा हूँ। मैं इसलिय पूछ रहा हूँ उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय कि उनको जरा सहलियत हो। तो क्या जब आप

दाम बढ़ाते हैं तो क्या आपके पास कोई इण्डि-पेण्डेंट एजेंसी है, जो तय करती है, तेल की कीमतें बढ़ी हैं। इसलिये किया जाये या जब वनस्पति मैन्युफैक्चरर्स मांग करते हैं, तब आप करते हैं।

श्री ए० पी० जैन (उत्तर प्रदेश) : आप दिलवा तो दीजिए, महंगा ही दिलवाइये।

SHRI ANNASAHB SHINDE : Sir, the cost accounts branch of the Finance Ministry, naturally they are experts. They went originally into this problem and they evolved a certain formula. Naturally, raw oil prices constitute the major element in the pricing structure of *vanaspati*. Then the other things which is taken into consideration are the processing charges, then the packing charges, freight, return on capital, selling and distribution. The nature of the product is such that, naturally, packaging also has a very important share in the cost. Recently there has been some increase in the excise duty on the packing material, on the tins; it is very marginal but that has also gone to some extent to raise the price. For a 16.5 kilo, tin the price increase as a result of the increase in the excise duty on the container is about 40 Paise. So that means . . .

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : How much?

SHRI ANNASAHB SHINDE : Forty to forty-five paise for 16.5 kgs. So it is very marginal and negligible and I do not think it will reflect in the cost of *vanaspati*.

डा० भाई महावीर : मैं कोई नया सवाल नहीं पूछ रहा हूँ। मैं यह कह रहा हूँ कि जब आप कामन-मैन की बात करते हैं तो वह 16 के० जी० का टिन नहीं लेता है, आप उस प्रपोज़न से देखिये जिसमें एक छोटा आदमी अपनी जरूरत के मुताबिक यह चीज खरीदता है और उसी के मुताबिक आप एक्साइज ड्यूटी बढ़ाइये। आप इस चीज को मिनिमाइज करते हैं और इसकी क्या जरूरत है। क्या आपने नहीं देखा कि पिछले दो हफ्तों में बाजार में वनस्पति गरीब जनता को नहीं मिल पा रहा था और

इस चीज में काफी ब्लैक मार्केट चल रहा था। तो मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि जो दाम बढ़ाये जाते हैं, वे किस फार्मूले से बढ़ाये जाते हैं।

श्री सुरज प्रसाद (बिहार) : क्या सरकार यह बतलाने की कृपा करेगी कि इस देश में वनस्पति का उत्पादन कितना होता है। दूसरी बात मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या यह बात सही है कि जब कभी शादी या विवाह का समय होता है तो उससे एक या डेढ़ महीने पहले वनस्पति उत्पादन करने वाले दाम बढ़ाना शुरू कर देते हैं। तीसरी बात मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि जितने भी कंज्यूमर गुड्स हैं उनकी कीमत तब से बढ़ना शुरू हो गई है, जब से सरकार ने मोनोपोलिस्टों के खिलाफ मेजर शुरू कर दिये थे और यही वजह है कि वनस्पति उत्पादक ने भी अपनी चीजों के दाम बढ़ा दिये। तो मैं सरकार से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या वह वनस्पति का कोई बफर स्टॉक बनाना चाहती है, जिस तरह से उसने अन्न के बारे में बफर स्टॉक बनाने का फैसला किया था, ताकि जब वनस्पति के दाम बढ़ने लगें तो सरकार अपने बफर स्टॉक से उस सामान को बाजार में लाकर दामों को स्टेबिलाइज कर सके। जब अन्न का बफर स्टॉक जमा करने का सरकार ने फैसला किया था तो उसके बाद अन्न के दाम स्टेबिलाइज हो गये। तो मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि इसी तरह से क्या सरकार वनस्पति का भी बफर स्टॉक बनायेगी; जिससे इसके दाम भी स्टेबिलाइज हो जायें।

चौथी बात मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि जितने भी वनस्पति के कार नि हैं क्या सरकार उनका राष्ट्रीयकरण करने की सोच रही है।

HRI ANNASAHB SHINDE : About the buffer stock as well as nationalisation the hon. Minister has already explained the position in reply to earlier questions. As far as production is concerned, last year the production was 4,82,000 tonnes or nearly 5 lakh tonnes and the total capacity in the country is about 7.9 lakh tonnes.

SHRI S. D. MISRA : The hon. Minister just now stated that 24 nP was the increase given recently per Kg. Is it not a fact that again there is a demand since last week that there should be a further increase of 30 nP over and above, what has been given recently and if that is so, will the Minister assure us that in future, in the near future at least, there will not be that increase and that they are not contemplating to sanction that increase ? The other point in this connection is that there is a lot of discontent on the revision of prices of *vanaspati*. Why should not a Parliamentary Committee be appointed to see how the cost structure is being assessed and how the prices are going up ? Will the Minister look into that ?

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE : It have already explained that the Tariff Commission which is an expert body to go into cost structure and other things is already seized of this matter. It is going into this matter and if on the Report of the Tariff Commission which may be available during the next few months the hon. Member still has some doubts or queries he may raise them then. About the periodical price revision, whether upward or downward, I think they are inevitable depending upon the price of raw oils.

SHRI S. D. MISRA : Sir, it is a question of fact that I asked. My question was whether it is a fact that this industry has demanded from the Government a further increase in addition to what has recently been given.

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE : If there is a substantial increase in the price of raw oils then we have agreed we will revise the price.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (SHRI S. N. MISHRA) : Sir, why this hypothetical reply that if there is substantial increase and so on... Here is a definite question : whether there has been demand from the industry to increase the price further to the extent of 30 Paise per Kg. That is a definite question. Secondly, why can't a Parliamentary Committee go into the cost of production ? A Committee on which there were Members of Parliament had gone into the cost of production of steel. It is an article of common consumption ; therefore, the representatives of the people must be given an opportunity to go into the matter.

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE : Sir, on the 18th of this month a price increase has been made and I think that has been broadly accepted by the industry. There is no immediate question of any further increase but the Government of India's approach is if there is a substantial increase in raw oil prices, the Government will be prepared to go into the question and revise the price, if necessary.

SHRI C. D. PANDE (Uttar Pradesh) : Sir, I want to draw the attention of the hon. Food and Agriculture Minister himself because he has said in Gujarat that if the State Government likes, it can nationalise any industry. If it can nationalise an industry it has also the power to denationalise any industry and also to issue or not to issue licences which work has so far been done by the Government of India. If *laissez faire* is allowed to the State Governments then it will seriously affect the industrial policy of the Government of India. How far is he justified in saying that ? Is it the considered policy of the Government that the State Governments should have the right to nationalise or denationalise any industry and also to issue licences for industries ?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM : I am not going into the legal aspects. There are many industries which the State Governments are competent to nationalise like electricity etc. Let not the Member run away with the idea that the State Governments are not responsible entities. They are also responsible entities. What I said there was this. A question was put to me whether the Centre was going to nationalise the *vanaspati* industry and my answer was 'no'. Then the question was put to me that if any State Government proceeds with nationalisation what will be the position. I said I will have no objection.

SHRI C. D. PANDE : That is the objectionable thing.

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM : Those who believe in *laissez faire* will certainly think that it is objectionable but I feel that *laissez faire* itself is seriously objectionable.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN) : Mr. Joachim Alva, you seem to be so restless.

SHRI JOACHIM ALVA (Nominated) : My hon. friend, Mr. Krishan Kant, put a question to which he did not get a reply and I only wanted to pursue it. That is why I have been trying to get up ; otherwise I had no idea to participate.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN) : It is not necessary that I should give chance to everybody.

SHRI JOACHIM ALVA : What I want to ask the hon. Minister is that the Birlas, Tatas, Lever Brothers and DCM are amongst the ten industrial giants of India. These four people fleece the poor and hit at their stomach by manipulating and raising the *vanaspati* prices all the time. A question was asked by Mr. Krishan Kant which the Minister could not reply and that is why I got up. The Minister comes here to answer questions regarding *vanaspati* prices but he has not got a table of the profits made by these four firms in the last ten years. Apart from that you know there has been this question of colouring the *vanaspati* since a long time and . . .

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN) : You confine yourself to this.

SHRI JOACHIM ALVA : I am not going into that question ; I am only mentioning it in passing. These people are forcing the Government to revise the prices every now and then. How are you going to tackle this problem ? They say they have referred the matter to the Tariff Commission. Is this the way you deal with the problems" affecting the poor people ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : The hon. Member may not agree with the views of the Government, but that is a different matter. I have said that we have referred the matter to the Tariff Commission and it is going into the cost structure. As far as the balance-sheets and profit and loss accounts are concerned, I would require notice.

DR. (MRS.) MANGLADEVI TALWAR (Rajasthan) : As the prices of *vanaspati* are rising very frequently, whenever there is a dispute between the Government and the producer, *vanaspati* disappears from the market. This is a question of great importance to the

housewife. When there is no *vanas-pati*, no *ghee*, no *Tel* in the house and the housewife is waiting for it, you can imagine the plight of the housewife. Therefore, it is very important.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN) : That will do.

DR. (MRS.) MANGLADEVI TALWAR : As a housewife, kindly allow me to say it. I would like to know from the hon. Minister, as he is not thinking of nationalising the *vanaspati* industry, whether he is thinking of evolving any method by which the distribution, at least, is controlled. Whenever the producers want to raise the price and the Government does not agree, *vanaspati* disappears from the market. They should do something in this matter.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN) : He has answered most of these things.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : My Ministry has full sympathies for the housewives and their difficulties.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN) : You must have.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : As far as distribution control is concerned we have advised the State Governments to take necessary steps if they find that anti-social elements are likely to exploit the situation.

SHRI G. A. APPAN (Tamil Nadu) : May I know from the hon. Minister within what time the Tariff Commission will be able to report? In view of the fact that the hon. Minister has said that they are importing some quantity of *vanaspati* also, will the Government try to see that it will be able to import the raw materials for *vanaspati* from countries which can supply us the materials on barter or for rupee payment, so as to save foreign exchange for our country ? May I also know the various items of classification that go into the cost structure as evolved by the so-called cost and works accountants ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : As far as the import programme is concerned, I have already explained the position that we are importing from the

[Shri Annasaheb Shinde] USA, the USSR and Canada and if there are any other countries where edible oils are likely to be available, we are exploring all the possibilities. As far as the cost structure is concerned and which are the elements which are taken into consideration, I have already explained the position in detail.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN: (SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN): Papers to be laid on the Table.

श्री बाल कृष्ण गुप्त (बिहार) : आपने हम को समय नहीं दिया ।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN) : You came here after this, just a minute too late and all the questions in your mind have been asked.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

SUMMARY OF THE DISCUSSION OF THE TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION OF THE INDIAN LABOUR CONFERENCE

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR, EMPLOYMENT AND REHABILITATION (SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy (in English and Hindi) of the summary of the discussions of the 26th Session of the Indian Labour Conference held in New Delhi on November 12-13, 1969. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-2983/70.]

NOTIFICATIONS UNDER THE ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES ACT, 1955

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table under subsection (6) of section 5 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, a copy each of the following Notifications (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Co-operation (Department of Food) :—

(i) Notification G.S.R. No. 317/ Ess. Com./Sugar, dated the 28th February, 1970.

(ii) Notification G.S.R. No. 388/ Ess. Com./Sugar, dated the 1st March, 1970.

(iii) Notification G.S.R. No. 389/ Ess. Com./Sugar, dated the 1st March, 1970.

(iv) Notification G.S.R. No. 390/ Ess. Com./Sugar, dated the 1st March 1970.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2936/70 for (i) to (iv)].

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS (1967-68) OF THE EMPLOYEES' STATE INSURANCE CORPORATION TOGETHER WITH THE AUDIT REPORT THEREON

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR, EMPLOYMENT AND REHABILITATION (SHRI S. C. JAMIR) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table under section 36 of the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948, a copy of the Annual Accounts of the Employees' State Insurance Corporation for the year 1967-68, together with the Audit Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-2937/70.]

PROCLAMATION ISSUED BY THE PRESIDENT IN RELATION TO THE STATE OF WEST BENGAL

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Proclamation issued by the President on March 19, 1970, under article 356 of the Constitution in relation to the State of West Bengal, under clause (3) of the said article.

I also beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Order dated March, 19, 1970 made by the President under sub-clause (1) of clause (c) of the Proclamation.

I also beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Report of the Governor of West Bengal to the President recommending the issue of the Proclamation.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN) : Message from the Lok Sabha.

SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS (Orissa) : On this item I want to know from the Minister one fact, with your